Please note, program No. 2810 letter Bonna has regard to the DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972

U.S. Immigration Visas for Refugee Children in Switzerland: August-November December 1944
Telegram Received

March 10, 1944

For urgent delivery-in Special

N. S. Revenue

From: Department

Date: March 10, 1944
Pursuant to Part 56.55 (A) (16) of the regulations of November 19, 1941, as amended regarding aliens entering this country, the following special instructions for issuance of visas to refugee children are issued in an endeavor to cause the Swiss to provide refuge for additional refugee children from France.

During the present quota year American consular officers in Switzerland are authorized to issue in the aggregate up to four thousand immigration visas to refugee children arriving from France in Switzerland on or after January 1, 1944 and before July 1, 1944. Upon specific instruction from the Department the latter date may be extended. In issuing the visas, consular officers should pay no regard to availability of means of transportation to the United States or to religion, nationality or stateless status. When issued, the children shall be under 16 years of age; they are subject, of course, to the statutory immigration requirements of Section 3 of the Act of February 5, 1917 except that, since the Attorney General has found that satisfactory arrangements for their support have been made, they may be considered to have met the public charge requirements. Regarding the determination of questions under Section 58.47 of the regulations of November 19, 1941 as amended regarding entry of aliens into the U.S., the existence of the relationship which is described in Section 58.48 thereof shall not be considered. Replace visas may during the same quota year be issued to those children who under this instruction are still qualified therefor and who at the time such replace visas are issued are still under 16 years of age. The Department intends, subject to the immigration laws, to assign numbers from next year's quota to cover visas issued under this year's quota in pursuance of this instruction, and to repeat the process each succeeding year until at least six months after the present hostilities between Germany and this country have ceased. The intention is, thus
children who are issued visas under this instruction, excepting those who in the interim reach the age of 16, will continue to hold visas until transportation to the United States becomes available. Furthermore, the foregoing assumes no pertinent adverse change in present immigration laws. Cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthday in the interim and who desire new or replace visas should be reported to Department for further instructions. Children who are under the age of 14 need not be registered and fingerprinted.

Consulate General Zurich will be supervisory and control office for assignment of quota numbers to offices in Switzerland which have, or to which Zurich can furnish, equipment for issuing immigration visas. The Consulate General is allotted for this purpose the following inclusive non-preference quota numbers:

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**Quotas:**
- Belgian: 65 to 234
- Czechoslovak: 265 to 514
- French: 145 to 444
- German: 1051 to 3430
- Netherlands: 187 to 466
- Polish: 1084 to 1683.

The visas may be issued at the rate of 25% of each allotment per month.

Zurich should submit telegraphically at the end of each month consolidated quota reports, returning any unused numbers and giving quota number, name of child, place and date of issuance of visa. Telegraphic request should be made if additional quota numbers are desired for the countries mentioned or for any other country. An estimate of the quota numbers which will be needed for the fiscal year 1944-45 should be submitted telegraphically before June 1. Please inform consular officers in Switzerland. You should advise the Swiss authorities of this instruction, stating that the United States Government earnestly hopes that the Government of Switzerland will take such action, direct and indirect, as will facilitate and expedite the movement of children to Switzerland from France. You may also inform the Swiss Government that arrangements will be undertaken by the War Refugee Board to finance if necessary the provision of maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression who arrive in Switzerland. You are requested to report the reaction of the Swiss and to keep the Department informed of developments which may be of interest in this matter.

HULL
No. 1580

The Legation of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Federal Political Department and has the honor to inform the Federal Political Department that it is in receipt of special instructions from the Department of State dated March 18, 1944, which provide for the issue of United States immigration visas to certain minor refugee children now in Switzerland, or who may hereafter find refuge in this country.

Specifically, American consular officers in Switzerland have been authorized by the Department of State to issue before July 1, 1944, a total of 4,000 immigration visas to refugee children who have arrived or may hereafter arrive in Switzerland from France on or after January 1, 1944, and prior to July 1, 1944. The latter date, the Legation has been informed, may be extended under specific instructions from the Department of State. The visas may be issued by American consular officers without regard to availability to the children of means of transportation to the United States and to religion, nationality or possible lack of national status, but it is

To the

Federal Political Department,

Bern.
is prescribed that the children shall be under sixteen years of age at the time when the visas are issued. Visas also are to be issued subject to the statutory immigration requirements of the United States interpreted by the Attorney General of the United States in the light of present emergency requirements. Administrative arrangements are provided so that children who may receive visas under these instructions, with the exception of those who in the meanwhile reach the age of sixteen years, will continue to hold their visas until transportation to the United States becomes available. In the cases of children who have passed their sixteenth birthdays in the interim, and who desire new or replaced visas, report is to be made to the Department of State in order that further instructions may be obtained.

It is further indicated in the instructions received by the Legation that the American Government is disposed to make provision for action after July 1, 1944, similar to that described in the foregoing, the details of which, however, are of necessity to be worked out hereafter.

The Department of State remarks that the instructions described in the foregoing are premised on the assumption that no change in the present immigration laws would affect the procedure instituted.

In requesting the Legation to inform the Swiss authorities in the foregoing sense, the Department of State also requests the Legation to remark that the United States Government earnestly hopes that the Government of Switzerland may take such action, direct and indirect, as will facilitate
facilitate and expedite the movement of children to Switzerland from France, having in mind the desire and purpose of the Government of the United States to afford permanent immigration facilities to the number of children indicated, as soon as conditions permit.

The Legation is further requested to inform the Government of Switzerland that arrangements will be undertaken by the War Refugee Board of the United States to finance, if need be, the provision of maintenance for refugees from enemy oppression who may arrive in Switzerland.

If the Federal Political Department is disposed to comment on the subject of the present communication and to indicate in what measure the proposal of the United States may be of assistance to the Government of Switzerland in disposing of this phase of the refugee problem, the Legation holds itself in readiness to communicate the substance of such comment to the Department of State.

The Legation avails itself of this occasion to renew to the Federal Political Department the assurance of its highest consideration.

Bern, March 22, 1944.

JKH/mjb
PARAPHRASE

With reference to your 891 of March 18, I have handed M. Pilet-Golaz a note informing him appropriately in the premises. As directed this has also been communicated to the Zurich Consulate General and other Consulates.

1. M. Pilet, after reading my note and stating that he would make reply, pointed out that children refugees were permitted to enter Switzerland. Also he recalled the continuing desire of the Swiss to receive the children for purposes of rehabilitation. Reference was made by him to Mr. Dinglefoot's proposal that asylum be given to 100,000 children, and to request of the International Government Committee for Refugees on behalf of the British and American Governments that the Swiss endeavor to obtain permission from Vichy for permission for them to come to Switzerland and/or exit permits for 5,000 children. As regards financial assistance, Mr. Pilet believed this was not needed. Cotton, wool, etcetera for clothing, except shoes, might be required. Minister Stucki had taken up matter of permission from Vichy and would report results of his efforts upon return here in a few days. Opposition from the German side was to be expected, as indicated by past experience.

2. Statement by a reliable authority in welfare organization who is familiar with the general problem of child refugees in Switzerland that subject to confirmation he estimates the number of less than 100 refugee children who have arrived in Switzerland from France to date since January 1, 1944.

It seems doubtful, moreover, whether there will be a possibility of filling more than lesser percentage of quota allotted for present quota year, unless facilities for clandestine movements can be improved in France.
Le Département politique fédéral a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note verbale de la Légation des États-Unis d'Amérique du 22 mars 1944 relative à l'octroi de visas d'admission aux États-Unis d'enfants réfugiés en Suisse.

Le Département politique n'a pas manqué d'informer les services fédéraux compétents de celles des indications contenues dans la note de la Légation des États-Unis qui sont susceptibles de les intéresser.

Le Département saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à la Légation l'assurance de sa haute considération.

Berne, le 30 mars 1944.

A la Légation des États-Unis d'Amérique,

Berne.
TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Department  Date: March 31, 12 p.m., 1944.
No.: 1089  Received: April 1, 3 p.m.

Paraphrase

Refer to Department’s telegram no. 891, March 18.

Following is from the War Refugee Board for the Minister.

Department requests you immediately to inform Sternbuch, Reigner, Saly Mayer and other representatives of American Welfare Agencies in Switzerland of the availability of approximately 4,000 United States visas for refugee children under 16 years of age. You should stress the fact that it is important that such representatives treat this information strictly confidential.

HULL

/\nf
In triplicate

Cod in FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Yates Date SEP 25 1972

Berne.
The following telegram is from the War Refugee Board for Minister Harrison.

Department requests you to inquire of the appropriate Swiss authorities whether they feel that their present negotiations respecting the immigration from France for refuge in Switzerland of Jewish and other children would be aided by similar approaches by the Governments of Portugal and Eire. The Board will consider the wisdom of this Government's requesting the Portuguese and Eire Governments to associate themselves with the Swiss approach if the Swiss Government believes that such approaches by the Governments of Portugal and Eire would be helpful and would not embarrass their own efforts.

You are requested to report by telegraph the results of your inquiry.

HULL

/np
In triplicate

Copy in FA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Fiske Date_ SEP 25 1972
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department

Date: April 3, noon, 1944
No: 2045

Code: [redacted]

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference your 1089, March 31.

Expedition of your action on my telegram 1754 of March 22 would be of assistance to all of us here and would enable us to better correlate our efforts. Informal notification has already been given to Riegner, Lowry and organizations interested in movement of refugee children from France. The Consul General is convening consuls today at Zurich to organize and simplify routine of visa issue, which will be worked out with the assistance and cooperation of welfare groups, naturally.

HARRISON

JKH/mjb
Para. in single copy

[Redacted]
Following from Consulate General, Zürich.

On April 3 a conference of visa officers from the Basel, Bern and Geneva Consulates was held here. If no objection is perceived by the Department, it is proposed to facilitate the issuance of immigration visas to refugee children referred to in your 891 of March 18, 3 p.m., to the Legation in Bern, on the production of the evidence which follows:

1. A statement from the Federal Police of Switzerland which shows the date and place of entry into this country.

2. A birth certificate, or, if this is not available, the inclusion in the above statement from the Federal Police of the place and date of birth as given on entry into Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Police are very cooperative and will give such statements readily).

3. A medical certificate from a doctor approved by the Consulate.

4. Three photographs.

5. A passport or, if available, other travel documents; otherwise not.

6. $10 fee.

Upon re-issuance only photographs and fees will be required. It is expected that refugee organizations will present practically all children to the Consulates.

It is reported by Dr. Donald Lownie of the Y.M.C.A.
who is on the committee of refugee organizations in Switzerland, that since January 1, 1944 about 120 refugee children under 16 years of age have entered this country from France, and that the most optimistic estimate is that before June 30 less than 1000 more may enter. Dr. Lowrie reports that the Swiss authorities have been most cooperative and last November agreed, in a confidential manner, to accept 1500 unaccompanied children but difficulties on the French side of the frontier have increased greatly. Due to the strictness of the German border control, it is most unlikely that any children will come in from Germany. The Swiss, Dr. Lowrie says, also confidentially agreed in February to allow "passers" with children to remain for 24 hours in Switzerland and that it is not certain as yet that the Swiss will require American immigration visas for these children. So far none have applied.

HARRISON

SEW:mf
In quintuplicate
Copies to Consulates (Basel, Bern, Geneva, Zürich).
DEPARTEMENT POLITIQUE FEDERAL
Division des Affaires Étrangers

Berne, le 6 avril 1944.

Mon cher Ministre,

Au cours d'un de nos derniers entretiens, vous vous êtes intéressé au sort de la demande que le Comité intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés nous a adressée au début de l'année. Il s'agissait de déterminer si les autorités de Vichy seraient disposées à laisser franchir la frontière à des enfants de parents déportés et menacés à leur tour de la même mesure. Les Gouvernements des États-Unis et du Canada avaient, en effet, renouvelé leur offre d'accueillir respectivement 5000 et 1000 enfants de cette catégorie.

Je crois vous avoir déjà dit que notre Légation à Vichy avait été chargée de poser la question au Gouvernement français et que les perspectives d'une réponse favorable paraissaient devoir être très incertaines.

Nous venons malheureusement d'être informés que, malgré les efforts de M. Stucki, la décision du Président Laval était négative. Aucune explication ne nous ayant été fournie, je ne suis pas en mesure de vous indiquer les motifs de ce refus.

Nous nous faisons naturellement un devoir d'informer le Comité intergouvernemental de ce qui précède, afin qu'il puisse à son tour renseigner le Gouvernement des États-Unis et le Gouvernement britannique, qui avaient conjointement inspiré cette initiative.

Ce faisant, nous recommandons, dans l'intérêt même de la poursuite par la Suisse de la contribution qu'elle s'efforce d'apporter au soulagement des souffrances engendrées par la guerre, que sa démarche et la réponse négative dont elle a été l'objet soient rigoureusement soustraites à toute publicité, aussi bien en Amérique qu'en Angleterre.

Croyez, je vous prie, mon cher Ministre, à mes sentiments de haute considération et de cordial dévouement.

Son Excellence (signed) BONNA.

Monsieur Leland Harrison,
Ministre des États-Unis d'Amérique,
Berne.
Bern, April 24, 1944.

Dear Mr. Woods:

The Legation would be glad to learn what progress has been made in the issue of immigration visas to children coming from France, having reference to previous correspondence on the subject. Should you have in prospect a telegram to the Department, or if you have already reported thereon, a copy of such a telegram would suffice for our purposes.

Sincerely yours,

J. Klahr Huddle,
Counselor of Legation.

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General,
Zurich.

JKH/mjb
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PARAPHRASE

Telegram No. 5 from the War Refugee Board.

For Minister Harrison and McClelland.

Please refer to your telegram No. 2315, of April 14, 1944. With reference to the first paragraph of your telegram, we would appreciate clarification as to whether the second approach of the Swiss Government to Laval will consist of formal request for exit permits for children or request that children be permitted to go to Switzerland for temporary sojourns. The information requested above is necessary inasmuch as the War Refugee Board is planning request to Eire and Portuguese Governments for parallel action in view of non-objection on the part of M. Pilet-Golaz. The proposed second approach of the Swiss Government is obviously within the framework of the original inter-governmental committee request for such action and is therefore desired by the Government of the United States. The Board will welcome any additional suggestions you may have for facilitating the emigration from France of orphaned and abandoned children subject to enemy persecution.

For your information, you are advised that instructions have been sent to consular officers in Spain and Portugal for issuance of 1000 visas to children similar to those transmitted in the Department's No. 891, of March 18. Canada and Australia, as well as the appropriate American Republics, are being approached with suggestions that they make similar offers to the Swiss Government to issue visas to children.

HULL

/signed in triplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972
Dear Mr. Huddle:

With reference to your letter of April 24, 1944, I have to report that there have been no developments regarding the issue of immigration visas to children coming from France since the telegram which the Legation sent to the Department for the Consulate General on April 6, 1944.

There have as yet been no applicants for such visas but the refugee organizations have been informed through Dr. Lowrie of the Y.M.C.A. of the possibility of obtaining them, and the Consulate General and the other Consulates in Switzerland are ready to issue them whenever there is a demand.

One quarter of the quota numbers allotted were returned to the Department by cable on April 12, 1944, with a statement that no visas had been issued. Similarly a second quarter of the quota numbers is being returned today.

Sincerely yours,
For the Consul General:

Maurice W. Altshuller
American Consul

J. Klahr Huddle, Esquire,
Counselor of Legation,
American Legation,
Bern.
Reference is made to the Department's no. 1459 of April 27, 9 p.m., and no. 5 of the War Refugee Board.

In order to clarify the situation, I discussed with Minister Bonna the possibility of obtaining permission for children to come to Switzerland. Minister Bonna said that it was his understanding that Minister Stucki, in approaching the French, had not restricted the request to exit permits for Spain only but had endeavored to obtain a general permission for the children to leave France. If this is so, permission to come to Switzerland would have been included. However, Bonna said that in order to be certain he would make inquiry of Stucki. Latter left last week for Vichy. It was also pointed out by Bonna that for some time now children had been refused permission to come for temporary sojourn (rehabilitation) to Switzerland.

Developments in the matter will be reported by the Legation.

HARRISON

LH:mk:mf
In duplicate
Mr. Mac Lelland
American Legation
Berne

Dear Sir,

According to the agreement we made to-day by telephone I have the advantage to remit to you enclosed a copy of a cable I received yesterday from the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores in Managua.

I have acknowledged receipt of this cable to-day by wire and have asked for telegraphic instructions about the age-limit and whether visas can be delivered also to children living actually in other countries or only to children already domiciled in Switzerland. I will not fail to let you know the result of this intervention.

Yours sincerely

J. D. Lifschitz
El Vice-Consul de Nicaragua en Berna (Suiza)

Enclosure
CONSULADO
DE LA
PÚBLICA DE NICARAGUA

BERNE,

No ___

Copy

autorizó visar pasaportes para entrar Nicaragua hasta 100 niños refugiados sin distinción religión ni nacionalidad de acuerdo representante junta refugiados guerra agregado legación americana esa punto mantenga validez visas hasta ser posible transporte entre Nicaragua y Suiza = relaciones
La situation dramatique des enfants juifs demeurant en France n’a cessé de s’aggraver durant ces derniers mois. Voici quelles sont ses caractéristiques dominantes :

Données statistiques :

Avant la guerre, en 1939, on comptait en France sur une population juive de 240 000, environ 50 000 enfants jusqu'à 16 ans (une statistique précise n’a pas pu être établie parce que le recensement effectué par l’État ne donnait pas les indications nécessaires). Pendant la guerre, avec l’arrivée des réfugiés de Belgique et les déportés d’Allemagne (Gurs), le nombre des Juifs s’est accru jusqu’à 270 000, et celui des enfants s’est élevé approximativement à 55 000.

Pour juger combien d’enfants juifs jusqu’à 16 ans sont restés maintenant en France, il faut tenir compte des mouvements suivants :

N’ont pas donné suite à l’exigence du gouvernement pour le recensement juif en 1940, environ 1/4 des enfants, soit 13 - 14 000

Déportés 20 - 22 000

Emigration, refuge en Suisse et en Portugal, retour en Belgique 8 - 8 000

41 - 44 000

Des enfants juifs enregistrés en 1940 par le gouvernement, il en est resté 11 à 14 000. L’organisation CSE en a placé, après avoir changé leur identité, dans des familles et institutions non-juives, près de 4 500.

Le nombre de ceux qui sont cachés avec leurs parents est de 2 000 environ,

et celui des enfants cachés avec leurs familles par leurs propres moyens est évalué approximativement à 2 000 ou 3 000.

Les autres continuent à vivre en France en ayant conservé leur identité.

Au fur et à mesure qu’augmentent les arrestations de Juifs et que les moyens d’existence s’épuisent, le nombre d’enfants tombant à la charge des organisations juives s’élève. Les premiers mois, on comptait une moyenne mensuelle de 250. La grande majorité des enfants placés dans les familles ou institutions juives, environ 95 %, est composée d’enfants dont les parents ont été déportés.
Consequences des dernières mesures.

En raison même de l'aggravation inquiète de la terreur qui ne s'arrête plus ni devant les adolescents, ni devant les petites, voire même les tout-petits, et qui est renforcée jour après jour par l'action des miliciens qui comprennent des hommes de tous les milieux aux coups de la vie intérieure des villes, villages, bourgs et échus, le sauvetage des enfants juifs devient un des problèmes les plus angoissants de l'heure. Des ordres d'arrestation et de déportation individuels sont lancés contre des enfants âgés de moins de deux ans et des nourrissons littéralement arrachés aux seins de leurs mères. Afin d'empêcher la méfiance vis-à-vis des policiers, pouvant à la fin, ce sont des femmes, fonctionnaires de la Gestapo, qui sont envoyées pour procéder aux arrrestations des enfants. Grâce à un système raffiné de délaissement et de torture, employé dans une égale mesure par la Gestapo et la milice, des collectivités entières d'enfants ont été arrêtées et déportées en bloc sans qu'il soit possible d'avoir le moindre renseignement sur leur destin ultérieur. Dans les dernières semaines, de nombreux adolescents ont été fusillés sans autre forme de procès de manière que des familles entières ont été exterminées (Lorraine, Corrèze, Haute-Vienne, événements du mois de mars 1944, Savoie février 1944).

Une surveillance implacable est exercée contre les organisations qui se chargent d'évacuer les enfants masculins et contre les convois se dirigeant vers la frontière. Patrouilles fréquentes, limites, chiens spécialement dressés sont lancés contre eux.

Néanmoins, le mouvement d'évacuation a dû être intensifié les derniers temps eu égard au danger mortel pesant sur les pupilles des hommes et créches et les enfants dépourvus dans les familles. On a tenté non sans un certain succès à reprendre l'évacuation d'adolescents vers l'Espagne. L'effort physique éprouvé et l'obligation de passer par une zone interdite d'une profondeur de 25 à 30 km limite cette voie strictement aux jeunes de 18 ans, et encore doivent-ils être suffisamment résistants. Pour les garçons jusqu'à 16 ans et les fillettes qui doivent être évacuées par convois, seule la Suisse est en ligne de compte.

Sur le contingent d'enfants, au nombre de 1000 à 1500, dont l'entrée a été prévue pour les prochains mois sur la base de l'autorisation fédérale du mois de décembre 1943 comportant comme limite d'âge 15 ans pour les garçons et 18 ans pour les filles, 350 enfants sont arrivés dans la période du 19 janvier au 4 mai 1944. Le mouvement continue. Il est à craindre que...
les mesures de police continuellement renforcées tant à l'intérieur du pays que dans les trains et les postes frontaliers nécessitent l'adaptation de nouvelles méthodes de transfert qui pour être sûr doit se faire suivant et d'une manière fort prudente. On doit s'attendre à un ralentissement sérieux du rythme d'évacuation pendant une période d'une durée difficile à prévoir.

De l'examen de la situation présente résultent différentes conséquences pratiques:

1) Il n'est pas probable, sauf une modification radicale de la situation militaire et politique en France, que le contingent de 1500 enfants puisse être atteint. Mais il n'est pas douteux que si cette éventualité heureuse se présentait, la Suisse continuerait sa politique d'accueil vis-t-vit de ces nouveaux groupes d'enfants. En attendant, le nombre des enfants, arrivés en Suisse depuis le 1er janvier 1944 dont 60 à 70 % environ sont des enfants isolés, constitué et constituera pour longtemps encore une minorité certaine par rapport à ceux arrivés en Suisse entre le mois d'août 1942 et le 31 décembre 1943.

2) Pour ces motifs, ce sont les 3700 enfants arrivés jusqu'en décembre 1943 dont le sort préoccupe le gouvernement fédéral, et parmi eux les 700 à 1000 enfants abandonnés par suite de la mort, de la déportation ou de la disparition de leurs parents. Si le gouvernement fédéral, par suite de la disposition limitative jointe à l'estoir des visas (enfants arrivés depuis le 1er janvier 1944) n'avait pas la certitude d'être libéré du souci de ces enfants après la guerre, l'entrée ultérieure d'enfants et la situation de ceux déjà arrivés risquait d'être compromise. Il paraît par conséquent conforme à l'intérêt des enfants, que poursuit apparent sans la mesure de s'assurer représentée par l'estoir de visa, d'étendre son bénéfice à tous les enfants réfugiés en Suisse qui ne pourront pas rentrer avec leurs parents ou leurs familles dans leur pays d'origine ou d'adoption, quelle que soit leur date d'entrée en Suisse.

3) Au fur et à mesure que les mesures de persécution et d'extermination atteignent leur but, la proportion d'enfants abandonnés parmi les enfants arrivant en Suisse augmentera progressivement. Étant donné le nombre d'enfants menacés, demeurant en France, qui se trouvent dans un état d'abandon complet, il y a lieu de se préoccuper de leur sort actuel et de leur possibilité d'émigration.
Le nombre de ces enfants dépasse, à l'heure actuelle, le nombre total de visas accordés par les pays d'outre-mer pris dans leur ensemble.

Les chiffres ont été révélés en avril dernier par l'organisation non gouvernementale en Suisse, qui a déclaré que les enfants avaient été victimes d'une vaste opération de déportation en provenance de divers pays d'outre-mer. Selon les sources, les enfants ont été emmenés dans des centres de rétention, où ils ont été soumis à des conditions de détention inhumaines. Les nombreuses demandes d'asile ont été rejetées, sans que les enfants n'aient eu aucune défense légale.

En réponse à ces informations, une enquête a été ouverte par les autorités suisses, qui ont demandé des explications à l'organisation non gouvernementale. Les représentants de l'organisation ont assuré que ces enfants avaient été victimes de violence et de mauvais traitements, et ont demandé des mesures urgentes pour protéger les droits de ces enfants.

De plus, une série de initiatives ont été prises pour soutenir les enfants victimes de ces violations des droits de l'homme. Les organisations de soutien aux enfants ont demandé des réparations financières pour les enfants et ont appelé à une meilleure protection des droits de l'homme.

En conclusion, il est essentiel de poursuivre l'enquête pour découvrir les responsables de ces violations des droits de l'homme, et de prendre des mesures pour protéger les droits des enfants victimes de ces actes inhumains. Il est impératif de garantir que ces enfants soient protégés et qu'ils reçoivent les services nécessaires pour leur bien-être.
Dear Mr. Woods:

The receipt is acknowledged of Mr. Altaffer's letter of the 1st of May, addressed to Mr. Huddle, which has been turned over to me for answering. I hope to be able to talk to you personally in the near future about this whole question of immigration visas for refugee children at present in Switzerland, but in the interim I should like to pass on to you the substance of a wire which we sent today to the State Department:

No children have been presented to the Consulates yet to receive their visas for the following reasons. The organizations responsible for these children in Switzerland wish first to conduct a thorough investigation of each child's case to determine eligibility for emigration to the United States. This began early in April, and aims particularly at securing as accurate information as possible as to the whereabouts of the child's near relatives. As soon as the examination of the individual cases from this point of view is completed, all children considered eligible will be presented to our Consulates in Switzerland.

Of all the refugee children at present in Switzerland, there are only between 700 and 1,000 who can be considered as eligible for our visas, primarily because they are children whose parents have either died, been deported, or have disappeared.

Between January 1st and May 4th of this year about 350 Jewish children under sixteen have entered Switzerland from France. About 90 per cent of these children are abandoned,

Sam E. Woods, Esquire,
American Consul General, Zurich.
abandoned, and are therefore considered eligible for United States visas by the organizations concerned. It is doubtful whether the number of children who are able to reach Switzerland from France by the first of July, 1944, will reach even 600.

In view, therefore, of the small over-all number of refugee and emigrant children at present in Switzerland eligible for United States visas—at maximum 1500, including arrivals up to May 4th—we have asked the Department if it would not be possible to consider our visas as available to all these children rather than just to those who have entered Switzerland since January 1st, provided of course that this would be in harmony with our immigration laws.

With kind personal regards to you,

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.
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<th>Nationalité</th>
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*This list shows 281 without parents.
Cher Monsieur,

Comme convenu, nous vous adressons sous ce pli un résumé statistique des enfants arrivés ici durant la période allant du 1er janvier au 5 mai 1944.

Nous avons consigné sur une feuille à part les catégories d'enfants selon l'année d'âge intéressant les dispositions d'émigration. Comme on voit, le nombre d'enfants âgés de 14 à 16 ans est assez élevé, de sorte que la question de la limite d'âge d'émigration atteinte avant la date d'émigration se poserait si la plupart de ces enfants n'étaient pas d'origine française.

Cette dernière constatation — proportion élevée d'enfants français susceptibles de réintégrer leur pays parmi les enfants arrivés depuis le 1er janvier 1944 — confirme le grand intérêt qu'il y a de tenter d'étendre le bénéfice des visas américains sur les enfants arrivés avant 1944.

Il n'en est pas moins vrai que le problème des enfants qui auront atteint l'âge limite avant leurs possibilités de départ touchera un grand nombre d'entre-éux et mérite de retenir toute l'attention.

Bien cordialement vos.

[Signature]
Enfants réfugiés entrés en Suisse sans parents.

Période du 1.1 au 5.5. 1944.

(Ce tableau ne comprend que les enfants passés par le Camp des Charmilles (Genève)

10.5.1944

Havre any been sent directly to l'orphelinat en Romandie (sic) for instance froti Croutte.
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1ère colonne : Garçons
2ème colonne : Filles
3ème colonne : Total par nationalité.

1. Une grande partie des enfants français ont acquis cette nationalité par naturalisation et sont nés de parents étrangers.

2. La rubrique "apatrides" comprend également les enfants de nationalité indéterminée ou inconnue.
Reference Legation's 2123 April 6th, the following is for WRB and Visa Division from McClelland.

The following reasons no visas have been issued.

Annexe

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<th>14 à 16 ans</th>
<th>17 à 18 ans</th>
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<tr>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TELEGRAM SENT

To: Department
Date: May 16, 9 a.m., 1944
No: 3107
Code:

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Legation’s 2123 April 6th, the following is for WRB and Visa Division from McClelland.

For the following reasons no visas have been issued to refugee children to date. The organizations which are officially responsible for all refugee and emigrant children now in Switzerland desire first to conduct a thorough investigation of each case to determine the eligibility of the child for emigration overseas. This was begun early in April and particularly aims at securing as accurate information as possible concerning the whereabouts of the near relatives of the child. The organizations are concerned also with the advisability of emigrating children whose parents have been deported to the East but who cannot at the same time be considered as dead. In some cases therefore the question arises whether it will not be advisable to plan for a waiting period after the cessation of hostilities until it can be determined by various channels whether the parents are still alive in Europe. Doubtless such waiting would be in Switzerland and in this case the assurance of material assistance from overseas for the children here would be desirable. All children unequivocally eligible for emigration to the United States can begin receiving their visas as soon as investigation of individual cases from this angle is completed.

At present there are approximately 3500 refugee and emigrant children under 16 years of age in Switzerland who prior to January 1, 1944 arrived here. Between 700 and 1000 of these 3500 children only can be considered as abandoned due to death, deportation or disappearance of parents and consequently in the first instance eligible for part of the 4000 United States immigration visas. Not only the relief organizations but also the Swiss authorities desire...
post-war emigration possibilities especially for this group. The paramount concern of the Swiss in the whole refugee problem is assurances that the number of refugees liable to remain on their hands after the war be reduced to a minimum. Question which is vital from their point of view has an important bearing on their whole policy regarding the admission of additional refugees.

About 350 parentless Jewish children under sixteen have entered Switzerland clandestinely from France between January 1 and May 4, 1944. Along with parents or relatives about 125 more entered. Although the border control measures on German-occupied side, particularly in the Haute Savoie area, are becoming increasingly stringent they continue to arrive irregularly in small groups. As all movements of persons are strictly controlled it is progressively more difficult for organizations effecting rescue, primarily the Jewish "Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants" to bring children within striking distance of the border on the French side. The Haute Savoie area is now a "zone interdite". Recently arrived children in the Geneva area were brought through the Departments of Ain and Bellegarde as a safer route. This rescue work, with the coming military operations, will naturally become more difficult than now if not impossible, a factor in general which will operate more against the arrival of refugees in Switzerland than the limited Swiss measures of "refoulement". It is doubtful for this reason that the number of even 600 children eligible for visas will be able to reach Switzerland by July 1, 1944 from France.

Provided it would be in harmony with our immigration laws would it not be possible to consider our visas as available to all children rather than just to those who have entered country since January 1st in view of the small overall number of refugee and emigrant children at present in Switzerland eligible for United States immigration visas - at a maximum 1500, including arrivals up to May 4, 1944. A further reduction in the number of eligible children is the fact that at least 10 percent of them will have passed their 16th birthday by December 31, 1944. A possibility such as the above would constitute a valuable if small concrete gesture by our government toward alleviation of the Swiss refugee problem after the war and any other steps we might desire to take to persuade Switzerland to admit additional refugees would be facilitated.
American Consulate General
Zürich, May 16, 1944.

Dear Mr. McClelland:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 1944, regarding immigration visas for refugee children in Switzerland.

I am glad to know that you are taking up this matter and will be pleased to hear the results of your proposition to the Department that children who entered Switzerland before January 1st also be considered eligible for these special immigration visas.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

Roswell D. McClelland, Esquire,
Special Assistant to the Minister,
American Legation,
Bern.
Monsieur Roswell McClelland

BERNE

Cher Monsieur McClelland,

Nous vous envoyons ci-joint copie de la lettre que nous avons reçue du Consulat du Nicaragua.

Avec nos meilleurs sentiments

Annexe.
Hochgeehrte Herren,

In sofortiger Beantwortung Ihrer wertigen Zeilen vom 11. Mai 1944 teile ich Ihnen hierdurch ergebenst mit, dass es mir tatsächlich gelegen ist von meiner Regierung in Managua die Bewilligung zu erteilen für hundert Kinder ohne Unterschied der Religion, Rasse oder Nationalität, Einreisevisum nach Nicaragua auszustellen, wobei ich das Recht habe einerseits solche Visen an Kinder, die sich in der Schweiz oder abseits befinden, auszustellen, und andererseits dieselben so lange im Kraft zu belassen, bis eine effektive Transportsmöglichkeit aus der Schweiz nach Nicaragua vorhanden sein wird.

Gestützt auf ein weiteres Telegramm meinerseits, ermächtigte mich meine Regierung, diese Vergünstigungen auch auf jugendliche Personen zwischen 16 und 18 Jahren auszustellen, ohne dadurch die oben erwähnten Zahl von Hundert zu übertreffen.

Die Visen werden ausgestellt im Einvernehmen mit dem zum Flüchtlingsattache der amerikanischen Gesandtschaft in Bern erwählten Herrn Roswell McClelland, früher Genf nunmehr in Bern.

Ich kann Ihnen die erfreuliche Mitteilung machen, dass gemäss bei mir eingegangen inoffiziellen Berichten, auch andere süd- und zentralamerikanischen Staaten, diesem guten Beispiel ja nach deren Aufnahmefähigkeiten folgen wollen und werden.

Wir haben uns mit Herrn McClelland in Verbindung gesetzt und sind im Prinzip darüber einig, dass wir diese Visen vornehmlich an Personen ausstellen, die sich in einer gefährlichen Lage im Auslande befinden, um diesen auf solche Weise die Einreise in die Schweiz zu ermöglichen, wonselbst sie abwarten könnten, bis eine Transportmöglichkeit vorhanden sein wird. Wir hoffen, dass das Schweizerische Bundesrat solchen Kindern, für die somit die Ausreise weder garantiert ist, auch die Erlaubnis zur Einreise in die Schweiz gewähren wird.

Andererseits wäre die Ausstellung von Visum an Kinder, die sich bereits in der Schweiz befinden, unseres Erachtens eine Vergeudung dieser heute so seltenen Artikels.

Selbstverständlich sind wir zu jeder Zeit gerne bereit, Ihre Anregungen und Vorschläge entgegen zu nehmen und diese in Würdigung der besonderen Stellung Ihrer hochgeschätzten Organisation, jeweiligen in gebührende Erwägung zu ziehen.

Es wäre vielleicht gut, wenn Sie sich mit Herrn McClelland in Verbindung setzen würden.

Mit den besten Grüssen und aller Fürsorge
(Schluss)

(Dr. B. Lifschitz)
Mr. Mac Clelland
American Legation
Berne

Dear Sir,

As I have already told you by telephone to-day, our Government has authorised us to deliver visas for children up to 18 years and without regard whether they do already live in Switzerland or not.

According to your suggestion we have informed to-day the Swiss Political Department and we have got in touch with the Organisation OSE. We have noted that you have no special propositions to make actually as to the names of children such visas should be delivered to, and that we can settle this question directly with the interested organisations. Anyhow, we should be glad to follow your suggestions if you will have to make such propositions later on.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Lifschutz
Vice-Consul
U.S. IMMIGRATION VISAS

*for refugee children in S/land*

June, July and August
November 1 and December
1944

Action parallel to that taken by the United States in this matter is being contemplated by a number of Latin American governments. The War Refugee Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with details of offers to the Swiss from these governments which may provide for children who entered Switzerland before the date mentioned. Should it appear with some clarity after consultation with the Minister and the appropriate Swiss authorities that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by the issuance of visas to children who entered before January 1, please inform the Board.

With reference to the Legation’s telegram No. 283 of May 3, please advise us whether Minister Bonia has received any additional information with regard to the efforts of Minister Stucki at Vichy.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-1144

HULL By R. H. Furks Date SEP 25 1972

In quadruplicate/re copy in FA 2 10 AI
For McClelland from the War Refugee Board.

No. 39. Reference is made to the last paragraph of your telegram No. 3107 of May 16, 1944.

Inasmuch as the principal motivating force behind the authorization to issue visas was the encouragement that such authorization might give to the Government of Switzerland to permit acceleration of the entry of additional children, the War Refugee Board feels that the issuance of visas to children who entered Switzerland prior to January 1, 1944 would not accomplish the purpose for which the visas were made available. Backward revision of the January 1 date might assure the Swiss authorities that some refugee children at present in Switzerland would not remain there after the war, but it would not focus the attention of the Swiss on the relationship between the admission of additional children and the availability of American visas.

Action parallel to that taken by the United States in this matter is being contemplated by a number of Latin American governments. The War Refugee Board hopes in the near future to furnish you with details of offers to the Swiss from these governments which may provide for children who entered Switzerland before the date mentioned. Should it appear with some clarity after consultation with the Minister and the appropriate Swiss authorities that the movement of children into Switzerland would be accelerated by the issuance of visas to children who entered before January 1, please inform the Board.

With reference to the Legation's telegram No. 2810 of May 3, please advise us whether Minister Bonna has received any additional information with regard to the efforts of Minister Stucki at Vichy.

In quadruplicate/re...
Cher Monsieur McClelland,

Nous nous permettons de vous envoyer ci-joint notre Table No 2 des enfants entrés en Suisse sans parents du 1er janvier au 7 juin 1944.

Veuillez croire, cher Monsieur McClelland, à l'assurance de nos sentiments les meilleurs.

Annexe.

Nous avons une petite note pour vous en rajouter.

Apatrides  G  13  12  2  1  23
d'origines diverses et de nationalité indéterminée  F  8  7  1  51
Totaux  21  20  9  4  51

Divers (2)  G  7  5  3  4  19
F  12  8  2  -  22
Totaux  19  13  5  4  41

317
**Enfants entrés en Suisse, sans parents, entre le 1er janvier et le 7 juin 1944.**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jusqu'à 13 ans inclus</th>
<th>14 - 16</th>
<th>17 - 18</th>
<th>19 ans et au-dessus</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) F</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>199</td>
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<tr>
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<td>46</td>
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<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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<td>G</td>
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<td>19</td>
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(1) Une grande partie des enfants français sont nés de parents étrangers.
(2) Hollandais, Belges, Luxembourgois, Hongrois, Tschèques, etc.
(***) G = garçons  F = filles  T = total.
PARAPHRASE

Department's No. 891 March 18 to Bern.

The provisions mentioned in telegram under reference, relative to the issuance of immigration visas to refugee children, are extended to July 1, 1945. Consulate General Zurich is allotted, for issuance July through October, the following non-preference quota immigration numbers: German 609 to 3008; Belgian 81 to 200; French 83 to 382; Polish 162 to 761; Czechoslovak 63 to 312; Netherlands 81 to 360. Twenty-five per cent per month. A further allotment will then be made. Please keep the Department informed regarding developments. Inform consuls.

HULL

In sextuplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Presa Date SEP 25 1972

In duplicate

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Presa Date SEP 25 1972
Approximately 16% of the Swiss children were without parents as of 3/17, and France and the United States immigrated 16% of the refugee children in 1946. The Swiss government’s role and the number of refugee children remain unclear.

Regardless of the influx of additional refugee children in 1946, the Swiss government’s role in the children’s emigration remains unclear. The Swiss government received additional information from the United States about children eligible for emigration, but it is unclear whether the children were actually eligible. The Swiss government has asked for additional information regarding the children, but the information has not been received.

R.D.M.
PARA PHRASE

Following for WRB from McClelland.

Irrespective of availability of overseas emigration visas the Swiss authorities have always permitted entry of refugee children from France (in principle boys to the age of sixteen and girls to the age of eighteen).

With reference to the Legation's telegram 3107 of May 16, the suggestion embodied therein that our United States immigration visas be made available to all eligible refugee children at present in Switzerland rather than only to those who have entered the country since the first of January, this year, was motivated by the belief that assurance that a certain block of refugee children would not remain here after the war would encourage the Swiss to admit additional adult refugees.

Approximately 505 refugee children under sixteen years without parents have entered Switzerland from France between the date January first and June seventh. The smallness of this number is due to the disturbed situation in the Haute Savoie and Jura regions along the frontier between Switzerland and France and particularly to the disruption in France of all regular transportation. These factors make it very difficult to bring children up to the frontier and will undoubtedly continue to do so to an increasing degree. The tempo at which these children arrive is primarily determined by these factors.

HARRISON
Census of refugee children at present in Switzerland for whom overseas emigration is desirable after the war, including those who have arrived both before and since January 1, 1944, now complete. Organizations entrusted with children are beginning second stage involving careful selection children based on various countries of destination. Understandable opposition is being encountered, however, among older children, many of whom do not wish to leave Europe until in possession more precise information fate their deported parents. Expected that within two months organizations will start presenting children to our consulates for special U.S. immigration visas. Total number will probably not exceed 500. Unfortunately availability these visas has been able influence only slightly arrival more children from France for reasons previously outlined.

HARRISON
Referring to the Legation's 4530 of today's date, please see Legation's 4297 of July 6 and the Department's 2236 of July 1.

From McClelland for the Visa Division and WRB.

HARRISON

RDM: no
In duplicate
Copy to RDM
To: Department                  Date: July 26, noon, 1944
No: 4775 (No. 1309 to London)  
Code: 

Charged to:

PARAPHRASE

Reference Department's 2351, July 8 and London's 198, July 1. Following has been repeated to London.

A reply has been received from the International Committee of the Red Cross on July 21st with reference to the proposal that ICRC approach the German Government with reference to the willingness of the Government of Sweden to receive refugee children from any part of Europe controlled by Germany. In substance, the reply states as follows:

"Since the Hungarian Government as a result of steps taken by the International Committee has just given assurance that certain categories of Jews would be permitted to leave Hungary, among them all children under 10 years of age, we consider that action such as you have suggested should now be undertaken. With the importance of the whole problem in mind, we are approaching the Government of Germany as well as of Sweden and certain other neutral governments.

"It is understood from information received from the Legation of the United States on July 6th that the Government of the United States considers that the International Committee should select the children. This proposal requires very careful consideration because of the various technical difficulties and great responsibility involved, as is known to the American and British Governments. The ICRC, however, will report the results of its examination of this particular problem as well as the answers which may be received as a result of its approaches to the various governments."

HARRISON

JMKH/mjb
In single copy

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 25 1972
Schweizer Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder

Zentralstelle: Claridenstrasse 36, Telefon 70800

Betreff: Alleinstehende Kinder,

Sehr geehrter Herr McClelland,

Über Fräulein Hoermuth hören wir, dass Sie gerne die Namen der "tatsächlich alleinstehenden Kinder" schon jetzt haben möchten.

Wir haben gerne Kenntnis genommen, dass Sie und Ihr Land ein so aktives Interesse für diese armen Kinder haben und werden uns glücklich schätzen, möglichst viele davon den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika anvertrauen zu dürfen.

Leider können wir Ihnen im Augenblick aber nur mitteilen, dass unser Schweizer Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder sich mit der Ueberprüfung aller, auch die des Schweizerischen Roten Kreuz, Kinderhilfe, unterstehender, in der Schweiz lebender Flüchtlingskinder bis zu 12, bei den Emigrantenkinder bis zu 18 Jahren, beschäftigt. Wir werden alle in Frage kommenden Vorarbeiten machen, um nach Kriegsende raschst Klären zu können, ob die verschollenen, deportierten oder zum Teil nur versteckten Eltern noch am Leben sind, oder ob nächste Verwandte an deren Stelle treten wollen. Erst wenn dies für jedes Kind festgestellt ist, wird man von "tatsächlich alleinstehenden Kindern" sprechen und Namenlisten aufstellen können.

Sobald ich im September die Arbeit wieder voll aufnehme, werde ich frisch mit Ihnen die ganze Frage einmal durchsprechen zu können, sei es in Zürich oder in Bern und bitte Sie mich wissen zu lassen, ob Sie anfangs September einmal nach Zürich kommen werden.

Bis dahin grüsst freundlich

Dr. Nettie Sutro
Bern, August 11, 1944.

Dear Dr. Sutro:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th of August regarding the procedure for the selection of abandoned children for whom emigration to the United States will probably be desired. I quite agree with you this is a difficult question which cannot be solved satisfactorily until probably after the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

I should be happy to talk to you about this whole matter when you return from your vacation, and may quite possibly be in Zurich early in September. I should appreciate it if you would telephone me at my office in Bern, telephone number 30914, between Tuesday afternoon and Friday evening of any week, so that we can arrange a meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell D. McClelland,
Special Assistant to the American Minister.

Dr. Netti Sutro,
Comité Suisse d'aide aux enfants d'émigrés,
Claridenstrasse 36,
Zurich.
To: Department  
Date: November 17, 1944  
No.: 7589  
Code: Clear - NLT

For WRB from McClelland.
Department's 891, March 18 5 p.m.

I have recently been approached by organizations responsible in Switzerland for care of refugee children which are anxious to know whether 4,000 US immigration visas authorized in Department's wire under reference will still be available after the war.

Any information you could secure concerning this question would be appreciated.

HARRISON

RDMCC

In quadruplicate.
In triplicate to files

Copy. in FA
Authorization to which you refer was given for the purpose of encouraging Swiss willingness to receive refugee children by concrete U.S. action assuring their evacuation. Accordingly, the authorization will remain in effect as long as necessary to influence Swiss action with respect to refugee children seeking admission to Switzerland to escape enemy persecution. Whether in order to accomplish this purpose it will be desirable to continue the authorization for a period beyond the time when flight from enemy persecution is necessary, is a matter on which the Board would appreciate your views.

Of course, visas issued pursuant to this authorization are subject to the assurances with respect to replacement contained in Department's 891 March 18.

Any visa thus issued to be valid after the war should be renewed now.

In duplicate to files

re

Copy + Tc

STETTINIUS ACTING

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 25, 1972
Dear Hélène Simon Hetzmuth:

Dear Mr. Gurvic:

You will recall that some weeks ago you asked me to cable to Washington to inquire whether the 4,000 U.S. Immigration Visas originally granted for refugee children in Switzerland who had come from France on or after January 1, 1944 (and later this was extended to children who might arrive in Switzerland from Hungary). I sent off a wire on November 17th, and a few days ago I received very much the type of answer which I expected. The War Refugee Board informed me that the original purpose of these visas was to encourage the Swiss authorities to receive in their country children who were in danger of their lives in adjoining occupied territories. Naturally, after the cessation of hostilities with Germany, this original purpose would no longer be present (i.e., such children would no longer be compelled to flee for their lives.) At the same time the WRB called to my attention the fact that provisions had been included in the original grant of 4,000 visas for the replacement or renewal of all visas granted to children (provided these children were still under 16 years of age) up to a period of 6 months after the cessation of hostilities between the United States and Germany, or until such time as transportation to America was available.

In the light of this information it would seem to me that it would be the better part of wisdom for your organisation and others interested in sending a certain number of refugee children to the United States to present these children here in Switzerland for their U.S. visas before the end of our hostilities with Germany. At least the child will then be in possession of a visa which is renewable. Whether the child actually ever leaves for America is another thing. And you certainly must have a small number of children now whom you could present. Anyway think the matter over, as I have a feeling that after the war with Germany is over these visas "en bloc" may quite possibly be cancelled.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Lazar Gurvic
Union OSE

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister
Bern, December 8, 1944.

Dear Mademoiselle Hohermuth:

I believe that on the last occasion that we saw each other I told you that, on the request of Mr. Currie of the OSE, I had cabled to Washington asking whether the 4000 U.S. Immigration Visas for refugee children who entered Switzerland from France (and also from Hungary) on or after January 1, 1944 would still be valid after the war, that is that the whole "bloc" on principe would hold. The War Refugee Board, as I somewhat expected, cabled back that the original purpose of these visas had been to encourage Switzerland to receive on her territory refugee children who were in danger of deportation in France. The inference from their wire was that once hostilities with Germany were over and the danger of deportation no longer existed, these visas would in all probability be cancelled. At the same time the WRB called to my attention that any child who had received a visa and who was still under 16 years of age could have that visa renewed or replaced up to a period of six months after the termination of hostilities between the United States and Germany, or until such time as transportation facilities to the United States from Switzerland were available. In the light of this information, as well as of the possibility that all these visas might be cancelled after the war, would it not perhaps be the better part of wisdom for the SHAEF and the OSE and any other competent and interested organizations to at least present these children for whom there is little doubt that you will want them to go to America for their U.S. visas before the end of the war with Germany. At least these children would have visas which could be renewed; and whether the child actually used the visa would be another question.

I write this to you in the nature of a personal reflection on this whole question as I feel it might be worth while for you to think this matter over with your colleagues. I should be happy, of course, at any time to talk it over with you.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Melle B. Hohermuth
Aide aux Emigrés
37, Quai Wilson,
Geneva.

Roswell D. McClelland
Special Assistant to the American Minister.