

*La Guardia Case*

000354

La Guardia Case

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000355



000356

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

CENTRAL SERVICES  
1945 MAR 21  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

March 19, 1945

DC/L  
LIAISON

5 p.m.

JP  
This telegram must be  
rechecked and before being  
communicated to anyone  
other than a Government  
Agency. (SECRET)

**CONTROL COPY**

STOCKHOLM,

STOCKHOLM.

512 X

Mayer Latourville has telegraphed me requesting that you  
be asked by telegraph to rush every possible aid  
to his sister, Mrs. Hanna Glueck, reported to  
be in a German concentration camp. The Mayer had lost  
contact with her for over three years. He has undertaken  
to meet all expenses.

Mayer's secretary states that Mayer's source of informa-  
tion is statement by C.I. New York on basis of report from  
Stockholm.

C.I. states its news and lectures Bureau at New York  
received plain language message 111355 signed by you to  
effect that Legation was receiving queries about presence of  
Mrs. Glueck in a camp and asking that confirmation be obtained  
from Mayer. Mayer informed C.I. he would take up matter through  
the Department.

As indicated, the Mayer has no information to indicate  
in which camp his sister is detained. The Department has  
requested additional identifying data regarding Mrs. Glueck

for

000357

-2- #512, March 19, 5 . . . , to Stockholm.

for possible use by Department or War Refugee Board in rendering her assistance.

Please report fully all information available to you on this subject with recommendations regarding action which might be taken by Department or War Refugee Board. State cost reply.

000358



000359

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-1344

No paraphrase necessary  
(SECRET)

Stockholm

Dated March 20, 1945

Received 11:40 p.m.

Secretary of State, DC/L  
Washington. LIAISON

**CONTROL COPY**

US URGENT.

1088, March 20, 6 p.m.

With reference my wire 1080 March 20, 6 p.m.,  
following is text of letter dated March 3 received by  
me March 20 apparently written on board SS DROTTNINGHOLM  
by Mrs. Helen Cohen and addressed to Mayer Fiorello  
La Guardia of New York:

"Dear Mr. La Guardia,

My release from the concentration of Rawensbrueck  
came so suddenly that I who saw your sister almost hourly  
hardly an opportunity to ask her what to tell you.

At my arrival to Helsingborg, Sweden, I immediately  
in contact with the local representative of the United  
Press and, after making sure his discretion, confided to  
him your sister's message which I asked him to forward.  
I have just learned from Mr. H. Uxkud~~en~~ the Stockholm  
representative of the United Press that you got the  
message which makes me very happy.

Now I want to tell you briefly what I know about

your sister.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000360

-2-#1088, March 20, 6 p.m., from Stockholm.

your sister. Last summer in July I believe, she was fetched from her flat in Budapest by two Gestapo men. When her husband returned and learned what had happened he immediately took steps in order to clear up what he thought was an unfortunate mistake with the result that he was arrested too.

Both were first sent to the ill-famed concentration camp of Mauthausen near Linz. After some time your sister was transferred from there to Ravensbrueck near Fuevstenberg, Mecklenburg where she still is.

We were permitted to write once every month. Your sister wrote five times to her husband without ever receiving a reply. She is especially worried because she is equally without any news from her daughter Joan Denes, her daughters husband and her baby. She does not know whether her daughter was sent to Auschwitz, one of the 'liquidation camps' (Vernichtung-Slager) or whether she remained in Budapest where according to some reports half million civilians died during the fighting.

Your sister and I lived in Block 2 a so called elite block where she was kept as special prisoner which had the advantage that she was excepted from hard labor. She was not however exempted from the terrible ordeal of standing at attention. We were waked up every morning at

4:30 by

000361

-3-#1088, March 20, 6 p.m., from Stockholm.

4:30 by sirens, had to dress in great haste, to build our beds (the German military term for making beds) line up in any weather, rain or storm, frost or snow, on the main road of the camp and wait there until all the men of the camp, around 24,000, were counted.

After the prisoners of all 32 barracks were counted followed another call, the Arbeits Vermehrungs Appell, call to increase work. From this second call your sister was exempted and allowed to return to the barracks.

Your sister's health is as is to be expected under the circumstances not good. She suffers from rheumatism and asthma. Her nerves too are in a bad state. When she heard that I too whom she had got attached had to leave she almost had a nervous breakdown. The food was of such poor quality that we all were more or less sick mostly from lack of vitamins. Only those who got Red Cross parcels kept in relatively good shape.

Your sister had the opportunity to apply for repatriation to the United States because of her American citizenship but she refused to do so because her husband and daughter were not allowed to accompany her. I hope you can help her by arranging an exchange of the whole family.

I would be very glad to hear from you. You can write  
me in care

000362

-4-#1088, March 20, 6 p.m., from Stockholm.

me in care of Mr A. Darosa, United Press Lisbon, Rua Asuncao  
58. After my repatriation to Istanbul, I hope soon to  
be able to join my children who live in San Francisco,  
California. On my way there I shall take the liberty of  
calling on you to tell you all you would like to know  
about your sister.

My address in USA is Helen Cohen, care of Mr Julius  
Zentner, Cathedral Apts., San Francisco. My children are  
Henry Lowell and Reva Maria Lowell to be reached at same  
address.

I just learned that my husband has not yet been  
exchanged with me and I fear that he is in the concentration  
camp of Buchenwald near Weimar Germany.

With very best regards, I am yours.

Helen Cohen". 76.76

JOHNSON

TMB

000363



000364

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WAR-PROBLEMS  
SPECIAL DIVISION

March 21, 1945

WRB - Mr. Warren

There are attached copies of correspondence relating to the sister of Mayor La Guardia who is held in the Ravensbrueck camp in Germany.

It is suggested that these copies be forwarded to the War Refugee Board for such action as they may deem it proper to take supplementing that already taken by the Department.

*Ref*  
A. E. C.

*To War Refugee Board*

SWP:AEClattenburg:BB

000365

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: Stockholm  
TO: Department of State  
DATE: March 20, 1945, 6 p.m.  
NUMBER: 1080<sup>X</sup>  
SUBJECT: Mrs. Glueck, Mayor LaGuardia's sister

A letter addressed by Mrs. Helen Cohen to Mayor LaGuardia of New York was received today from a United Press representative, Herbert Ukkull. Mrs. Cohen apparently is a Turkish national who was liberated in a recent exchange between Turkey and Germany.

The letter, which is self-explanatory both as to the writer and as to Mayor LaGuardia's sister, Mrs. Glueck, contains the only information we now have about her. However, Mrs. Cohen apparently wrote the letter in good faith. The original will go forward in the next pouch, but in the meantime its text is quoted in full in my next succeeding telegram and I should appreciate it if the Department would forward the message to the Mayor.

Newspaper reports issuing from Gothenburg to the effect that a sister of Mayor LaGuardia is being held in Germany in a concentration camp unquestionably originated with Mrs. Cohen. Every possible effort will be made by the Legation to obtain as soon as possible and telegraph to the Department the information requested in the Department's telegram of March 19, 5 p.m., no. 512, sent at the instance of Mayor LaGuardia inquiring as to the possibility of sending immediate aid to his sister.

JOHNSON

000360

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

EK-1344  
No paraphrase necessary.

Stockholm  
Dated March 20, 1945  
Rec'd 11:40 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

US URGENT.

1088, March 20, 6 p.m.

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following is text of letter dated March 3 received by  
me March 20 apparently written on board SS DROTTNINGHOLM  
by Mrs. Helen Cohen and addressed to Mayer Fiorello  
La Guardia of New York:

"Dear Mr. La Guardia,

My release from the concentration of Rawensbrueck  
came so suddenly that I who saw your sister almost hourly  
hardly an opportunity to ask her what to tell you.

At my arrival to Helsingborg, Sweden, I immediately  
in contact with the local representative of the United  
Press and, after making sure his discretion, confided to  
him your sister's message which I asked him to forward.  
I have just learned from Mr. H. Uxkudl the Stockholm  
representative of the United Press that you got the  
message which makes me very happy.

Now I want to tell you briefly what I know about  
your sister.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

SPECIAL WAR PROBLEMS  
DIVISION  
MAR 21 1945  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

000367

-2-#1088, March 20, 6 p.m., from Stockholm.

your sister. Last summer in July I believe, she was fetched from her flat in Budapest by two Gestapo men. When her husband returned and learned what had happened he immediately took steps in order to clear up what he thought was an unfortunate mistake with the result that he was arrested too.

Both were first sent to the ill-famed concentration camp of Mauthausen near Linz. After some time your sister was transferred from there to Rawensbrueck near Fuevstenberg, Mecklenburg where she still is.

We were permitted to write once every month. Your sister wrote five times to her husband without ever receiving a reply. She is especially worried because she is equally without any news from her daughter Joan Denes, her daughters husband and her baby. She does not know whether her daughter was sent to Auschwitz, one of the 'liquidation camps' (Vernichtung-Slager) or whether she remained in Budapest where according to some reports half million civilians died during the fighting.

Your sister and I lived in Block 2 a so called elite block where she was kept as special prisoner which had the advantage that she was excepted from hard labor. She was not however exempted from the terrible ordeal of standing at attention. We were waked up every morning at

4:30 by

000360

-3-#1088, March 20, 6 p.m., from Stockholm.

4:30 by sirens, had to dress in great haste, to build our beds (the German military term for making beds) line up in any weather, rain or storm, frost or snow, on the main road of the camp and wait there until all the men of the camp, around 24,000, were counted.

After the prisoners of all 32 barracks were counted followed another call, the Arbeits Vermehrungs Appell, call to increase work. From this second call your sister was exempted and allowed to return to the barracks.

Your sister's health is as is to be expected under the circumstances not good. She suffers from rheumatism and asthma. Her nerves too are in a bad state. When she heard that I too whom she had got attached had to leave she almost had a nervous breakdown. The food was of such poor quality that we all were more or less sick mostly from lack of vitamins. Only those who got Red Cross parcels kept in relatively good shape.

Your sister had the opportunity to apply for repatriation to the United States because of her American citizenship but she refused to do so because her husband and daughter were not allowed to accompany her. I hope you can help her by arranging an exchange of the whole family.

I would be very glad to hear from you. You can write me in care

000367

-4-#1088, March 20, 6 p.m., from Stockholm.

me in care of Mr A. Darosa, United Press Lisbon, Rua Asuncao  
58. After my repatriation to Istanbul, I hope soon to  
be able to join my children who live in San Francisco,  
California. On my way there I shall take the liberty of  
calling on you to tell you all you would like to know  
about your sister.

My address in USA is Helen Cohen, care of Mr Julius  
Zentner, Cathedral Apts., San Francisco. My children are  
Henry Lowell and Reva Maria Lowell to be reached at same  
address.

I just learned that my husband has not yet been  
exchanged with me and I fear that he is in the concentration  
camp of Buchenwald near Weimar Germany.

With very best regards, I am yours.

Helen Cohen". 76.76

JOHNSON

TMB

000370

For Essential Return to ZWP  
501 - 17th Street

THIS TELEGRAM  
MUST BE PARAPHRASED  
BEFORE BEING COMMUNICATED  
TO ANYONE OTHER THAN A  
GOVERNMENT AGENCY

Dated March 19, 1945

RECORDED  
Mayor F. H. LaGuardia,  
City Hall,  
New York, New York.

5 p. m.

Restricted

LEGATION,

STOCKHOLM.

512

Mayor LaGuardia has telegraphed me requesting that you be asked by telegraph to rush every possible aid ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~Swiss~~ to his sister, Mrs. Emma Glueck, reported to be in a German concentration camp. The Mayor had lost contact with her for over three years. He has undertaken to meet all expenses.

Mayor's secretary states that Mayor's source of information is statement by OWI New York on basis of report from Stockholm.

OWI states its News and Features Bureau at New York received plain language message 111355 signed by you to effect that Legation was receiving queries about presence of Mrs. Glueck in a camp and asking that confirmation be obtained from Mayor. Mayor informed OWI he would take up matter through the Department.

As indicated, the Mayor has no information to indicate in which camp his sister is detained. The Department has requested additional identifying data regarding Mrs. Glueck

for

000371

for possible use by Department or War Refugee Board in rendering her assistance.

Please report fully all information available to you on this subject with recommendations regarding action which might be taken by Department or War Refugee Board. State cost reply.

GNP:AM:Sttenburg:fig

3/14/45

WHD

CS/W

MOB

2 (Mr. Watson)

100372

C O P Y

CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
New York 7, N.Y.

March 14, 1945

Hon. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thanks so much for your kind note of March 12th,  
1945.

The information we received was first from the  
United Press, Stockholm, and later from the OWI. The United  
Press message gave the following information: Gemma Glueck  
is imprisoned at Rawenbrueck, near Fuerstenberg, Mecklenburg.  
Her address is #44 - 139 Block Two (the word Two is as near  
as could be deciphered).

A subsequent message indicates she is badly in  
need of food and vitamin tablets. I assume, of course,  
that money would do her no good in a prison camp, but the  
Red Cross or your representatives would know better, and  
as I stated before I would gladly reimburse for any assist-  
ance given.

My sister, of course, is United States born.  
She married many years prior to the Cable Act and therefore  
lost her citizenship. She is married to a Hungarian subject.

Sincerely yours,

(s) F. H. LaGuardia

M a y o r

000373

SWP  
501 - 17th St.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 13, 1945

SUBJECT: Mayor LaGuardia's sister, Mrs. Gemma Glueck

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Watson - S  
Mrs. Coben, personal Secretary to Mayor LaGuardia  
Mr. White - SA/M  
Mr. Clattenburg - SWP

COPIES TO:

1-1403

Mr. Clattenburg called Mr. Watson and inquired whether the Secretary's office wished to telephone Mayor LaGuardia to obtain the following necessary additional data regarding Mrs. Glueck:

- Birth year and birthplace
- Last known address
- Present address
- Nationality
- Source of report

Mr. Watson requested that SWP make the call and charge it to the Department as official business.

Mr. Clattenburg called the Mayor's office. The Mayor was away for the day and his personal secretary who was cognizant of the matter did not come in until noon. She stated that the Mayor had obtained his information from OWI which had it from the American Legation at Stockholm and that the Mayor had no further data. She agreed to obtain the identifying data regarding Mrs. Glueck and said she would telegraph them to SWP.

Mr. White with considerable difficulty obtained from OWI the information that the report to the Mayor was based on a plain language message no. 111355 to the OWI News and Features Bureau at New York, referring to queries being received by the

Legation

000374

Wswu  
DEBY  
SUBJECT:  
BY/IC/15/112

Legation and asking that confirmation be obtained from the Mayor. The Mayor refused to discuss the case with OWI and said he would take the case up with the Department of State.

SWP:AEClattenburg:fig

000375

COPY

INCOMING TELEGRAM

15WU A 51

CD New York N Y 331P Mar 11 1945

Hon Edward R Stettinius Jr

Secretary of State Washington

Will you kindly cable American Minister in Sweden to rush  
every possible aid in money or otherwise to my sister,

Gemma Glueck, reported to be in German concentration camp  
Had lost contact with her for over three years.

Will reimburse any expense. Will send money to you if you  
desire advance.

F H LA GUARDIA

608PM

000376

March 12, 1945

Dear Mayor La Guardia,

I have just received your telegram of March 11th asking that we rush every possible aid to your sister, Mrs. Gemma Glueck, who is reported to be in a German concentration camp. I shall look into this immediately and have everything possible done for her within our power.

I am advised that the agency which is most likely to be able to be of assistance to you is the War Refugee Board and I am asking the Board to do all it can to be helpful.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable  
F. H. La Guardia  
Mayor of New York City  
New York, New York.

S:HW:BJS

000377

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
THE SECRETARY

March 12, 1945

SWP  
Mr. Flitt

Subject: Telegram from Mayor LaGuardia

Attached is a self-explanatory telegram from Mayor LaGuardia, together with a copy of my acknowledgment.

I would appreciate it if you would do everything possible to assist Mayor LaGuardia in sending aid to his sister.

Would you be good enough to communicate immediately with the War Refugee Board and ask them to be of assistance? In addition, I would appreciate it if within the next few days you would have a letter drafted for my signature to Mayor LaGuardia outlining the steps we have taken in this case.

(s) E. S.

000378

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
THE SECRETARY

March 12, 1945

BWP  
Mr. Plitt

Subject: Telegram from Mayor LaGuardia

Attached is a self-explanatory telegram from Mayor LaGuardia, together with a copy of my acknowledgment.

I would appreciate it if you would do everything possible to assist Mayor LaGuardia in sending aid to his sister.

Would you be good enough to communicate immediately with the War Refugee Board and ask them to be of assistance? In addition, I would appreciate it if within the next few days you would have a letter drafted for my signature to Mayor LaGuardia outlining the steps we have taken in this case.

(s) E. S.

000379



000380

DEPT. OF STATE TELEGRAM CENTER

*2 War Ref. Bd  
(O'Ringer)*

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: AMERICAN LEGATION, STOCKHOLM  
DATED: March 23, 1945  
NUMBER: 538 X

CONTROL COPY

It is stated by Mayor La Guardia that his sister, a native of the United States, became a Hungarian subject by marriage. She is in need of vitamin tablets and food and that her address is No. 44-139, Block 2 at Ravensbrueck. Mayor La Guardia wishes her sent vitamin tablets and food.

GREW  
(Acting)

SWF:AEClattenburg:BB

Paraphrase

DC/L:MLG  
3-27-45 *mlk*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000381



000382

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

March 30 1945  
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES

1945 MAR 31 PM 4 19

*War Ref. Bd.*

*O. Sawyer*

CONTROL COPY

US URGENT

AMERICAN

DC/L  
LIAISON

BERN  
1273

The following for Harrison from War Refugee Board is WRB 482.

The War Refugee Board is informed that Mrs. Gemma Glueck, born April 21, 1881, in New York City, is currently detained by the German Government at Ravensbrueck near Fuerstenberg Mecklenburg, address 44 - 139 Block Two.

Please request Swiss authorities to take all appropriate action to safeguard her from further enemy persecution and to secure her removal from Ravensbrueck to a civilian internment camp.

Please immediately request ICRC (1) to direct War Refugee Board food parcels to her and (2) arrange to have Mrs. Gemma Glueck included in an evacuation of internees from Ravensbrueck outlined in Bern's No. 1727 of March 22.

Kindly arrange to have McClelland advised of the contents of this cable upon his return to Switzerland. It is urgently requested that a report on the action taken on this request be forwarded to the War Refugee Board at the earliest possible moment.

For security reasons the text of this message must be classified guarded.

WRB:EMV:LM  
3/30/45

WE

PD

STETTINIUS  
(GLW)

SMP

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 111-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000383

US URGENT

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board is informed that Mrs. Gemma Glueck, United States citizen by birth, born April 21, 1881, in New York City, is currently detained by the German Government at Ravensbrueck near Fuerstenberg Mecklenburg, address 44 - 139 Block Two.

Please request Swiss authorities to take all appropriate action to safeguard the life of this United States national from further enemy persecution and to secure her removal from Ravensbrueck to a civilian internment camp.

Please immediately request ICRC (1) to direct War Refugee Board food parcels to her and (2) arrange to have Mrs. Gemma Glueck included in an evacuation of internees from Ravensbrueck as outlined in Bern's No. 1727 of March 22.

Kindly arrange to have McClelland advised of the contents of this cable upon his return to Switzerland. It is urgently requested that a report on the action taken on this request be forwarded to the War Refugee Board at the earliest possible moment.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 482

10:30 a.m.  
March 29, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files.

*JH - Closed with  
of Files*  
PJMcC:hd 3/29/45

000384

US URGENT

CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON, BERN, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The War Refugee Board is informed that Mrs. Gemma Glueck, United States citizen by birth, born April 21, 1891, in New York City, is currently detained by the German Government at Ravensbrueck near Fuerstenberg Mecklenburg, address 44 - 139 Block Two.

Please request Swiss authorities to take all appropriate action to safeguard the life of this United States national from further enemy persecution and to secure her removal from Ravensbrueck to a civilian internment camp.

Please immediately request ICRC (1) to direct War Refugee Board food parcels to her and (2) arrange to have Mrs. Gemma Glueck included in an evacuation of internees from Ravensbrueck as outlined in Bern's No. 1727 of March 22.

Kindly arrange to have McClelland advised of the contents of this cable upon his return to Switzerland. It is urgently requested that a report on the action taken on this request be forwarded to the War Refugee Board at the earliest possible moment.

PJMcG:hd 3/28/45

6

000386

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

PEM-1177  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (SECRET-W)

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES

Dated April 1, 1945

1945 APR 2 AM 9 25  
REC'D 2:00 p.m.

*Handwritten signatures and initials*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DC/L  
LIAISON

**CONTROL COPY**

1923, April 1, noon

WRB FROM MCCLELLAND

I will immediately take whatever action is possible.

(Department's 1273, WRB'S 48, March 30) with a view  
to safeguarding and getting relief to Emma Glueck reported  
at present detained at women's concentration camp at  
Ravensbrueck. Matter will personally be discussed with  
ICRC early next week.

I, however, respectfully draw Board's attention to  
practical impossibility of initiating successful action  
in behalf of individuals at present stage of developments  
in Germany.

Legation's section of American interests will take  
Mrs Glueck's case up with appropriate Swiss authorities.

HARRISON

JT

For security reasons, the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000387

7

000388

April 3, 1945

Dear Mayor:

I am very pleased to advise you that in response to our cable to Bern of March 30, 1945, we have received the following reply from the Board's representative in Switzerland under date of April 1:

"I will immediately take whatever action is possible with a view to safeguarding and getting relief to Gemma Glueck reported at present to be detained at the concentration camp at Ravensbrueck. I shall personally discuss the matter with the International Red Cross within the next few days.

"The Legation's section of American Interests is also taking up Mrs. Glueck's case with the appropriate Swiss authorities."

I shall, of course, keep you advised of any further developments in the matter.

Sincerely yours,

*Bill*

(Signed) ~~William O'Dwyer~~

William O'Dwyer

Hon. F. H. LaGuardia,  
Mayor of New York City,  
New York, New York.

FH:ve  
8/3/45

*JLH - per request of  
Gen. O'Dwyer*

000389

5

000390

2 War Ref. Bd.

EXAMINED BY TELETYPE RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: April 4 1945  
NUMBER: 1256 >

**CONTROL COPY**

~~SECRET~~

The following is for the War Refugee Board and the Department.

With regard to possibilities of obtaining the release from German concentration camp of the sister of Mayor La Guardia, Mrs. Gemma Glueck, and her husband and child, we have had discussions with the Foreign Office of Sweden and certain other persons.

You are referred to my messages, Nos. 1080 and 1088 both dated March 20, and Department's messages 512 and 538, dated March 19 and March 23 respectively. The prospects that this release could be effected through indirect contact with individuals who have accomplished such releases on previous occasions with certain German officials are fairly good. In obtaining either complete release or special protection for groups or particular persons in which the Government of Sweden was interested, Kersten and Kleist have been very helpful to the Government of Sweden, for instance. Kersten and Kleist have been the subject of numerous previous telegrams from the Legation. Definite instructions from the Department on this question

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000391

question, however, would be appreciated prior to contacting such persons and with consideration of possibility of charge of favoritism which might be produced among certain groups in the United States by such negotiations and the character of persons with whom it will be necessary to deal. It does not seem that there are official or legal means of obtaining the release of these individuals.

Although of necessity transportation and ultimate delivery is not certain, arrangements for sending vitamins and food packages to Mrs. Glueck have already been completed.

JOHNSON

DC/L:GPW:AN

4-5-45

000392

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: April 4 1945  
NUMBER: 1256

The following is for the War Refugee Board and the Department.

With regard to possibilities of obtaining the release from German concentration camp of the sister of Mayor La Guardia, Mrs. Gemma Glueck, and her husband and child, we have had discussions with the Foreign Office of Sweden and certain other persons.

You are referred to my messages, Nos. 1080 and 1088 both dated March 20, and Department's messages 512 and 538, dated March 19 and March 23 respectively. The prospects that this release could be effected through indirect contact with individuals who have accomplished such releases on previous occasions with certain German officials are fairly good. In obtaining either complete release or special protection for groups or particular persons in which the Government of Sweden was interested, Kersten and Kleist have been very helpful to the Government of Sweden, for instance. Kersten and Kleist have been the subject of numerous previous telegrams from the Legation. Definite instructions from the Department on this question

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

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question, however, would be appreciated prior to contacting such persons and with consideration of possibility of charge of favoritism which might be produced among certain groups in the United States by such negotiations and the character of persons with whom it will be necessary to deal. It does not seem that there are official or legal means of obtaining the release of these individuals.

Although of necessity transportation and ultimate delivery is not certain, arrangements for sending vitamins and food packages to Mrs. Glueck have already been completed.

JOHNSON

*Handwritten notes:*  
A... od...  
e in...  
1945

DC/L:GPW:AN

4-5-45

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CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK 7, N.Y.

April 6, 1945. g

My dear General:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 1945. I appreciate your interest. As you will see in the correspondence with the State Department, I will gladly reimburse for any expenditures. I suppose ~~the~~ money will do no good now but as soon as Germany surrenders, if any money is necessary to get her out and to a decent place to live, I shall reimburse at once.

I will not write until I am sure that a letter from me will not cause retaliation. I would appreciate it if I could get her address as soon as hostilities cease.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Truelli".

~~M a y o r .~~

Brig. General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Office of The President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D.C.

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DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

Distribution of this telegram  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( )

April 12, 1945

8 p.m.

*Mar 27 1945  
C. Day*

1945 APR 14 AM 9 35

CONTROL COPY

AMLEGATION

CG/L  
LIAISON

STOCKHOLM

678 X

The following for Olsen and Johnson from Department  
and War Refugee Board is WRB 852.

Reference your No. 1256 of April 6, 1945.

Department and Board are of the view that steps should  
not (repeat not) be taken to effect release of Mrs. Gemma  
Glueck through indirect contacts.

STETTINIUS  
(GLW)

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded.

WRB:MMV:EG  
4/12/45

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 27 1972**

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CABLE TO JOHNSON AND OLSEN, STOCKHOLM, FROM DEPARTMENT AND WAR  
REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 1256 of April 6, 1945.

Department and Board are of the view that steps should not  
(repeat not) be taken to effect release of Mrs. Gemma Glueck  
through indirect contacts.

THIS IS WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 352

4:30 p.m.  
April 11, 1945

~~Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Cohn, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, Hutchison,  
McGormack, Oldroyd, Files.~~

*JH*  
FH:hd 4/11/45

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*War Ref Bd.  
(Ordeger)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Stockholm  
TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
DATED: (Undated) Received May 2, 1945  
NUMBER: 1634

**CONTROL COPY**

Please refer to cable of April 12 from the Department, Number 67B.

Whisler, American Red Cross representative, has been advised by Mrs. Max M. Dixon and Mrs. Gabriel Powell Trütz, two refugees who claim to be citizens of the United States and who are members of a group of refugees whose release from the concentration camp at Ravensbruck and whose evacuation from Germany by way of Denmark to Sweden were accomplished by Swedish Red Cross expedition headed by Count Bernadotte, that at Ravensbruck they knew the sister of Mayor La Guardia, and they stated that with no explanation given she was removed very suddenly from this camp about two or three weeks ago. An effort is being made by this Legation to secure additional information in this matter.

JOHNSON

DC/L:LCW:

5-3-45

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

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