Recognition of Latin American Passports
July 7, 1944

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: J. M. Pehle

Attached hereto are two identical proposed messages to the Legations at Bern and Stockholm dealing with the Dominican phase of our conversation yesterday. If these messages are consistent with the procedure to be adopted, I would appreciate their prompt transmission in cipher.

I would also appreciate your early advice with respect to the following details:

(1) Are the passports to be issued in this hemisphere or overseas, and if the latter, where?

(2) What information will the Dominican authorities require in order to issue such passports?

(3) When, in your judgment, is the earliest date that the passports can be put in the hands of appropriate persons in Sweden and Switzerland?

/\ J. M. Pehle

[Signature]

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

LSLesserials 7/7/44

not for distr.
Government of Dominican Republic has indicated its willingness to issue passports in limited numbers to persons in enemy-controlled areas in imminent danger of death. Please advise Department and Board promptly whether facilities are available to you for the safe delivery of such documents to such persons. It is assumed that private agencies with whom you are in contact are in position to supply names of persons. If this assumption is not (repeat not) correct, please advise. For the time being, this matter should be considered confidential and private agencies should not (repeat not) be informed of it.

This IS WGB BERN CABLE NO. 73.

3:50 p.m.
July 7, 1944

J. C. L.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 7-11-72
By R. L. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

not for deat
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON AT STOCKHOLM AND OSLER

Government of Dominican Republic has indicated its willingness to issue, in limited numbers to persons in enemy-controlled areas in imminent danger of death, passes to such persons. Please advise Department and Board promptly whether facilities are available to you for the safe delivery of such documents to such persons. It is assumed that private agencies with whom you are in contact are in position to supply names of persons. If this assumption is not (repeat not) correct, please advise. For the time being, this matter should be considered confidential and private agencies should not (repeat not) be informed of it.

THIS IS WRS STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 46

3:50 p.m.
July 7, 1944

L. S. R.
LAELESSERALS 7/7/44
TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: J. W. Pohle

Reference is made to my memorandum to you of June 9, 1944. I would appreciate your prompt advice as to the present status of the proposed program involving letters of protection to be issued by the Dominican Republic.

[Initialled] J. W. P.
Ciudad Trujillo, D. R., June 19, 1944

No. 37

Subject: Issuance of Dominican Travel Documents to European Refugees.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a memorandum of conversation between Under Secretary of State Velazquez and Mr. Newbegin with regard to the possible issuance of Dominican travel documents to European refugees. Licenciado Velazquez stated that this matter had been the subject of a conversation between Assistant Secretary of State Berle and Ambassador Copello in Washington. While expressing some surprise at the suggestion that Dominican travel documents be issued to "persons who were not entitled to them" because lacking any claim to Dominican citizenship (particularly in view of measures taken to stop this practice, which had led to so many irregularities in the past), he nevertheless indicated that the Dominican Foreign Office would probably agree to the proposal provided the same policy were adopted by the other American Republics.

The Under Secretary emphasized that he was fully alive to the humanitarian considerations involved, but he repeated that in his opinion a uniform policy should be adopted through inter-American agreement.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ ELLIS O. BRIGGS
American Ambassador

Enclosure:

1. Copy of memorandum of conversation.
Enclosure to despatch no. 37 dated June 19, 1944 from the American Embassy, Ciudad Trujillo, D. R.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

In a conversation with Licenciado Velazquez yesterday afternoon with regard to the note which the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had informed me would be sent to the Embassy (see the Embassy's telegram no. 240 of May 19, 1944) with reference to refugee children, Licenciado Velazquez informed me confidentially of a recent conversation between Assistant Secretary of State Berle and Ambassador Copello in Washington. According to his report, Assistant Secretary Berle had suggested to Ambassador Copello the possibility of the Dominican authorities issuing travel documents to European refugees who had no claim to Dominican citizenship in order to permit such refugees to travel to places of safety. Licenciado Velazquez said that the proposal had been very surprising in view of the attitude which had been previously taken by the American Government with regard to one or two instances when persons not entitled to Dominican travel documents or visas had been issued such documents under exceptional circumstances. He recalled that as a result of certain instances of this nature having been brought to the attention of the Dominican Government by the Embassy, the Dominican authorities had dismissed their remaining Honorary Consuls in Europe. Certain other officials had been transferred. In short the Dominican Government had taken a position completely in line with that of the United States and had been opposed to such practices. He said that the suggestion of Assistant Secretary Berle had been a matter for serious study in the Department of State for Foreign Affairs and that while final action had not yet been taken the Dominican Government was inclined to accept the suggestion as an exceptional humanitarian measure provided the American Government and the other American Republics should enter into an agreement to adopt it as a joint policy. He indicated clearly, however, that the suggestion was a surprising one and not in line with the normal policy of the Dominican Government.

R. N.

Ciudad Trujillo, D. R.
June 19, 1944
JUN 9 - 1944

TO: Mr. Barlo
FROM: J. X. Pehle

Reference is made to our conference at your office on June 3.

Attached heretofore for your consideration there are respectively (a) a proposed form of letter to be issued by the Minister of the Dominican Republic upon receipt of an application for a passport; (b) a proposed form of letter to be issued by an American consular officer upon the receipt of an application for the replacement of an immigration visa now expired by lapse of time; and (c) a proposed form of letter to be issued by an American consular officer upon the receipt of an application for an immigration visa.

I would very much appreciate your early comments with respect to the attached.

(Signed) J. X. Pehle

Attachments: 3

Y. S. L.
LSLessentials 6/8/44
This will acknowledge that an application for a passport of
the Dominican Republic for you and the following members of your
family:

is registered with the Legation of the Dominican Republic in
such Legation being duly authorized for
such purpose by the government of the Dominican Republic.

This will also acknowledge that, in view of the foregoing, the
addressee and the above-named members of his family are deemed by
the government of the Dominican Republic to be subject to all duties
and obligations generally incumbent upon, and entitled to all rights
and privileges and to the protection generally accorded to Dominican
nationals residing abroad; provided, however, that the addressee
hereof or one of the members of his family named above personally
appears before a consular officer of the Dominican Republic no later
than three years after the date hereof for the purpose of completing
the formalities attendant upon said application.

Foreign governments and authorities are hereby requested to
extend to the addressee hereof and to the above-named members of his
family the treatment, facilities and courtesies to which Dominican
nationals are entitled in the territory under the jurisdiction of
said governments and authorities.

/signture/

Bakainar 6/8/44
This will acknowledge that application has been made on your behalf and on behalf of the following members of your family:

for the replacement of the United States immigration visa heretofore issued to you and which has expired by lapse of time.

Please be advised that most sympathetic consideration will be given to such application promptly upon your appearance before a consular officer of the United States for the purpose of completing the details attendant upon such application.

LSLesserials 6/3/44
This will acknowledge that a application has been made on your behalf and in behalf of the following members of your family:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

for the issuance of a United States Emigration visa.

Please be advised that most sympathetic consideration will be
given to such application promptly upon your appearance before a
consular officer of the United States for the purpose of completing
the details attendant upon such application.
I have your memorandum of May 31 referring to mine of May 27. This is the first intimation that I have had that you never supported the idea that you could get passports from the Dominican Republic. On the contrary, I received the distinct impression from our several conversations on the subject that you not only supported the idea, but were prepared enthusiastically to pursue it and to see whether it was practicable.

While the inference is, I suppose, permissible, it is not at all clear from your memorandum that the issuance of passports by the Dominican Republic was actually discussed by you with the Ambassador, and rejected by him. In this connection, I think you ought to know that we have been informed by an American of the utmost reliability and who stands in close relation to the Dominican government, that it is possible that President Trujillo might issue four thousand blanket passports for rescue purposes. Our informant has stated that in his opinion the matter deserves study, and has suggested that it be explored either by Ave Warren or Ambassador Briggs. This information came to us on the heels of information received from another, and totally unrelated source to the effect that President Trujillo is prepared to make available for rescue purposes between three and four thousand Dominican passports or certificates of citizenship (which is not quite clear) provided the Department of State indicates to the Dominican Ambassador in Washington (who is said to be fully advised of President Trujillo's position in the matter) that such action would be welcomed.

Coming back to your memorandum, however, the procedure that you outline is new and untried, and therefore of uncertain value in the matter of saving lives. Although it bears some resemblance to a plan heretofore suggested to me for possible use in connection with
persons to whom this Government had issued or was at one time prepared to issue immigration visas, the resemblance is, as you must perceive, wholly superficial. Moreover, on analysis, it would appear that the type of letter envisaged by your proposal may involve serious risks to the addressees. Unlike a passport, such a letter cannot be said to raise even the slightest inference of nationality; on the contrary, since it would be in response to an application for a passport and would not be affirmative in character, it might, with some justification, be taken as a refusal, subject to the usual possibility of reconsideration. Certainly there would be nothing in the letter as you outline it that would indicate that the Dominican Republic considered that the applicant had made out even a prima facie case. Under these circumstances, it would seem the most wishful of wishful thinking to expect that the Germans would give any consideration to an insistence that the Dominican Republic be permitted to pass on the claim. Worse than that, however, such a letter might constitute an invitation to the Germans to ask their intended victim to show them the evidence that he would present to the nearest Consulate if he were free to visit it. Furthermore, in view of recent reports from Ankara with respect to the fate of Hungarian Jews who applied for visas at the Turkish Consulate at Budapest, it is clear that if these people are to be saved they must turn up with documents which raise some presumption of non-continental nationality, and not letters which indicate they have tried unsuccessfully to secure such documents.

All in all, I do not think the proposed letter is even a fair substitute for a passport. Consequently, I would appreciate it if you would pursue the passport matter further, or indicate that you have no objection to our doing so ourselves,
TO: W. Berle
FROM: J. A. Fehle

We are informed by a person whom we have good reason to believe to be reliable and to have substantial contact with the government of the Dominican Republic that it is possible that President Trujillo might issue four thousand blanket passports for rescue purposes. Our informant states that in his opinion the matter deserves study, and suggests that it might be explored either by Avra Harren of Embassy Briggs. This information comes to us on the heels of information received from another source to the effect that President Trujillo is preparing to make available for rescue purposes between three and four thousand Dominican passports or certificates of citizenship (which is not quite clear) provided the Department of State indicates to the Dominican ambassador in Washington (who is said to be fully advised of President Trujillo’s alleged willingness) that such action would be welcomed.

In view of the constantly recurring suggestions concerning the availability for rescue purposes of passports of the Dominican Republic, I strongly urge that this matter be followed up promptly to the end that either passports be procured or the Ghost of this proposal finally laid to rest.

T.S.L.
LSLessorials 6/4/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date, SEP 27 1972
TO: Mr. Berle  
FROM: J. W. Pehle

I have your memorandum of May 31 referring to mine of May 27. This is the first intimation that I have had that you never supported "the idea that you could get passports from the Dominican Republic." On the contrary, I received the distinct impression from our several conversations on the subject that you not only supported the idea, but were prepared enthusiastically to pursue it and to see whether it was practicable.

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persons to whom this Government had issued or was at one time prepared to issue immigration visas, the resemblance is, as you must perceive, wholly superficial. Moreover, on analysis, it would appear that the type of letter envisaged by your proposal may involve serious risks to the addressees. Unlike a passport, such a letter cannot be said to raise even the slightest inference of nationality; on the contrary, since it would be in response to an application for a passport and would not be affirmative in character, it might, with some justification, be taken as a refusal, subject to the usual possibility of reconsideration. Certainly there would be nothing in the letter as you outline it that would indicate that the Dominican Republic considered that the applicant had made out even a prima facie case. Under these circumstances, it would seem the most wishful of wishful thinking to expect that the Germans would give any consideration to an insistence that the Dominican Republic be permitted to pass on the claim. Worse than that, however, such a letter might constitute an invitation to the Germans to ask their intended victim to show them the evidence that he would present to the Hungarian Consulate if he were free to visit it. Furthermore, in view of recent reports from Ankara with respect to the fate of Hungarian Jews who applied for visas at the Turkish Consulate at Budapest, it is clear that if these people are to be saved they must turn up with documents which raise some presumption of non-continental nationality, and not letters which indicate they have tried unsuccessfully to secure such documents.

All in all, I do not think the proposed letter is even a fair substitute for a passport. Consequently, I would appreciate it if you would pursue the passport matter further, or indicate that you have no objection to our doing so ourselves.
June 3, 1944

GRANDMA'S OFFICE

Mr. Berle's Office, Department of State

June 3, 1944, 11 a.m.

Present: Mr. Berle and Secretaries Fable, Field, Lesser and Friedman.

A. Mr. Fable mentioned the suggestions made in our letter of March 16
and our memorandum of May 2 regarding the U.S. visa status with respect to:

1. persons who had U.S. immigration visas issued to them after recent controls adopted, but whose visas expired before they could leave.

2. persons arriving for visas after recent controls adopted, but are not eligible for the same.

3. relatives of U.S. citizens who have non-native or first preference immigration status.

4. immediate families of resident aliens serving in the U.S. Army.

After some discussion, it was agreed that we should arrange such sort of
mechanism whereby application in made by agents for the removal or reissue
of visas to persons in categories (1) and (2), and requiring letters are
issued to the applicant through secret channels which will be as strong
as they possibly can be without committing the United States to the
issuance of visas. While no specific mention was made of categories (3)
and (4), nothing was said that would foreclose the adoption of similar
procedures as to them.

B. Mr. Fable next took up the matter of transit visas for Spanish
Republicans in hiding in Portugal (the subject of conversation since March
and of our memorandum of May 24) for whom Mexican immigration visas
are available. Mr. Berle said (1) that he did not believe those people were
in danger although twelve had been caught and returned to Spain to be shot;
(2) he understood from Ambassador Mencken that Mexican visas were not
available for these people; and (2) the project has been not several times and there has always been a misunderstanding to reveal the names of the people involved. Mr. Serle was advised that if there were no doubt that they were in no danger they were of no interest to us except in the extent that their removal would facilitate the reception of other refugees, but that in his own statement it would be clear that they were in danger. He was informed of Mr. Valday's report. Mr. Serle had talks with the Mexican president and if our information that the Mexican government at Minat has been authorized to issue the visas. In his third point, Mr. Serle was advised of the possible dangers believed to be involved by all those connected with the matter. If the access of the refugees was an indication of the contingencies possible.

After some discussion it was agreed to report our inability to make any decision in view of the issues involved until such a decision is taken at such a time, to advise the embassy at Mexico City that we are doing.

C. Mr. Serle next took up a matter of statute for some (no. 25) of May 15 to extend the air expresses (No. 4471) to offer the Mexican president a note that it would be desirable to have a meeting with representatives to be made to the Colombian government about border in every territory held by Colombia and United. Mr. Serle was not to be familiar with this matter, but suggested he was on the right track to deal with and that it would be necessary to have a real problem involved, it was agreed not to approach them as an other Latin American governments. It was agreed that efforts would be made to ascertain whether there were any such Colombian passports outstanding. When asked why this message was sent out as a cable, while our messages to Latin America on the same subject were sent out as air wires because of an alleged security problem as to cable communications, Mr. Serle was at a loss for an answer.

D. The next subject of discussion was the project to secure Dominican passports. Summed up, Mr. Serle's position was (1) this Government could not ask the Dominicans to issue passports to non-citizens as that would be dishonest; (2) this Government could not tell the Dominicans that "it had no objection" to the issuance of such passports as that phrase connotes approval in diplomatic jargon; (3) if the Dominicans asked whether they should issue such passports, our answer might be that that is a question solely for the Dominicans to decide. There was then some discussion of the application for passport and letter-of-charge proposed made in Mr. Serle's communiques of May 21, and its deficiencies were made clear. Mr. Serle
then reached a more detailed and meaningful letter of response, which seemed to take the complaint somewhat better than indicated in Mr. Berke's view. It was indicated that we did not think the request of a substitute for the simple, but that it was worthwhile trying. It was agreed that we would get a new, better version. It was indicated that another version of the text was ready and that it was confident that it would be used in the instance appropriately.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PEHLE

I refer to your memorandum of May 27. As you know, I have never supported the idea that you could get passports from the Dominican Republic.

Conversations with the Dominican Ambassador have developed a suggestion which, however, may cover the ground. This is that applications may be filed for Dominican passports. The applications would be made by an appointed representative of the Jewish interests in Bern; the same procedure might also be followed in Spain or Portugal. The Jewish representative would virtually act as agent for the persons for whom he made application.

The Dominican Embassy might then issue letters acknowledging the receipt of the application, stating that they would take cognizance of it, that they would insist upon the right to pass upon this claim, and requesting the addressee to present himself at the nearest Dominican Legation (Bern or Madrid) to have his claim examined. The result of this would be that the addressee could not be dealt with as a non-Dominican without violating the Dominican right to pass, for itself, on claims made upon it.

These letters could then be distributed to the addressee through the underground.

The Dominican Ambassador is wiring his Government to see whether this arrangement would be satisfactory, and as soon as I hear from him I shall let you know. He has been told that time is of the essence.

It may be added that if this plan works so far as the Dominican Republic is concerned, it might be used by certain other countries.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972
Obviously secrecy is of the essence, for if the Germans knew any such documents were on the way they would probably kill the addressees in advance of the arrival of any such letters. The danger of espionage, both in Spain and in Switzerland, has to be taken into account.

G.O.(
Adolf A. Berlé, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary
TO:  Mr. Berle

FROM: J. S. Pehle

You will recall our discussions in your office and on the telephone with respect to the possibility of securing passports of the Dominican Republic for persons in enemy-controlled Europe who are subject to enemy persecution. You suggested that when there was made available to you a short list of the names of such persons, you would undertake to see, on an experimental basis, whether obtaining such passports for such persons was feasible. Attached hereto is a list of fifteen families, together with such biographical data as is available to us.

We have been advised by apparently well-informed persons that insofar as people in Poland are concerned it is of the utmost importance that no word of the issuance of such passports should reach the German authorities, and that if passports are to be made available to such persons, they should be transmitted through secret channels which are known to us and, I dare say, to you. Since the same caveat may also be applicable to persons in other countries, I would appreciate your advising me when, as and if the passports are available, but before any effort has been made to get them to the persons listed.

(2) J WO

LSLesserials 5/25/44
(1) Mrs. Gertraud van Tuin
Born: July 4, 1891 in Germany.
Nationality: Naturalized Hollander.
Last known address: Lager Bergen-Belsen, bei Celle (Hannover).

(2) Helene Salomon
Born: August 9, 1877, in Mukaveco, Czecho-slovakia.
Nationality: No information except as above.
Nationality: March 18, 1886, in Mukaveco, Czecho-slovakia.
Last known address: No information except as above.
Last known address: 16 Rue des Veggies, Brussels, Belgium.

(3) Joel Teitelbaum
Born: 1896
Nationality: Assumed to be Hungarian
Last known address: Sátamarnasáti, Hungary

(4) Joshua Buczak
Born: 1892
Nationality: Assumed to be Hungarian
Last known address: Galanta, Hungary

(5) Erna Lemberger
Born: 1904
Married, his wife
Born: 1915
Soch, Mother
Born: 1936
Mango, son
Born: 1946
Another child name unknown
Born: 1941
Nationality: Assumed to be Hungarian
Last known address: Szerence, Hungary

(6) Juda Rosen
Born: 1888
Nationality: Assumed to be Hungarian
Last known address: Szerelhid, Hungary

Life and family: No further information.
(7) Zalman Leib Teitelbaum

Born: 1912
Nationality: Assumed to be Hungarian
Last known address: Maramuresiget, Hungary
Girl and two children aged five and two. No further information.

(3) No further details.

(9) Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum

Age: Over 40 years old
Judita, his wife
Age: 42
Aron, son
Age: 13-14
Nationality: Assumed to be Polish
Last known address: In Warsaw

(10) Hersch Berlinecki

Age: 32
Nationality: Assumed to be Polish
Last known address: In Warsaw
Date and child. No further information.

(11) Aron Lewin

Born: 1879
Doba, his wife
Born: 1882
Paula, daughter
Born: 1903
Hadasa, daughter
Born: 1911
Nationality: Assumed to be Polish
Last known address: Theodore Place 4 Leszno, Poland
(14) Perle Elater
Age: 31
Nationality: Assumed to be Polish
Last known address: In Warsaw

(15) Reya Shapiro
Born: 1872
Sora Rachel, his wife
Born: 1874
Dr. Szymon Shapiro, son
Born: 1876
wife Rachel
Littamir, son
Born: 1930
Nationality: Assumed to be Lithuanian
Last known address: Paneriu g-vo 15 Villjampoole, Lithuania

(16) Abramie Grossklaia
Born: 1881
Leizer, son
Born: 1912
Israelie Chaima, son
Born: 1914
Arla, son
Born: 1918
Riva, daughter
Born: 1921
Miriam, daughter
Born: 1925
Leila, daughter
Born: 1927
Itzchok, son
Born: 1927
Nationality: Assumed to be Lithuanian
Last known address: Paneriu g-vo 15 Villjampoole, Lithuania

(17) Abrahem Itzchok Bloch
Born: 1892
Reche, his wife
Born: 1899
Chasia, daughter
Born: 1922
Chale, daughter
Born: 1924
(15) **Abraham Itschok Bloch** (Con't.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Last known address</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leiser, son</td>
<td></td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Assumed to be Lithuanian</td>
<td>Telsiai, Lithuania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miriam, daughter</td>
<td></td>
<td>1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearl, daughter</td>
<td></td>
<td>1932</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Juda, son</td>
<td></td>
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