

Programs with Respect to Relief and
Rescue of Refugees: Other Means of
Effecting Rescues

Recognition of Latin American Passports,
Vol. 1 - Folder 3

000121

CABLES -- ACCORDING TO COUNTRIES

000122



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*Can Ref. Bk.
Mrs. Palle*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Representative, Algiers
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 20, 1944
NUMBER: 1669
X

copy only

CONTROL COPY

~~SECRET~~

From Murphy and Smith.

Reference is made herein to my cable of May 20, No. 1668.

Passport and citizenship information obtained from interview with individuals is submitted herewith, as follows:

Alexander Schweitzer y Quiroga. Born Mexico City May 8, 1919, of German father and Mexican mother. His father, Leo Schweitzer, lived in Mexico from 1903 until his death in 1927, and his mother, Consuelo Quiroga, now resides in Mexico City at Calle de Danubio 46. He is bearer of Mexican passport No. 8, issued at Berlin June 26, 1942, by the Swiss Legation.

Bruno Hecht-Sandoval. This subject was born in San Salvador, October 8, 1918, of German father and Salvadorean mother. Mother, Eva Sandoval, resides Metapan. Department of Santa SS Anna. His father was born in Germany August 8, 1886, place unknown, and from 1911 to 1928 resided in El Salvador. Since 1928 subject has lived in Cologne with father and three sisters. Stating that he and three daughters were proceeding to Lisbon and thence to El Salvador, he received letter from his father dated Madrid, March 24, 1944. He alleges that a Colonel ⁱⁿ Zepeda/Salvadorean Foreign Office is assisting his mother in

obtaining

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 7 1973

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obtaining entry of his father. While his father and sisters were free, he has been interned at Tittmoning for the past 28 months. An undated Salvadorean passport, issued by the Salvadorean Consulate General at Geneva, is in his possession.

Clementine Muller Poiry. This subject is the wife of Isidore Poiry and is the bearer of a Belgian passport, issued at Brussels on May 8, 1944, No. D-592.

Bermann Zwillenberg. Dutch. Honorary Nicaraguan Consul at Rotterdam. This subject is the bearer of Nicaraguan passport No. 2/1943 including two children and wife, issued for travel "to all countries of the world" by B. Lifschitz, Nicaraguan Consul Switzerland, on April 13, 1943. Separate passports, issued by same Consul on August 6, 1943, are possessed by wife and two children. Two documents, one dated January 10, 1939, and the other June 2, 1941, allegedly issued by Nicaraguan Secretary of State, Antonio Barquero, were in his possession. That both documents were sent to enable him to proceed to Nicaragua is claimed by him.

Mario Baretto. Father, Andres Barretto Rios, resides Calle Callao B 42, Yca, Peru. From 1938 to 1941 he studied medicine in Germany. Since 1941 imprisoned and/or interned. He is bearer of passport No. 55/413, issued by the Peruvian Consul at Hamburg September 6, 1939. He was born September 24, 1917, in Hamburg of Peruvian parents.

Julio Zizold de Valdez (Julio Zizyld de Valdez), Ytor.

Born in

000125

Born in Germany October 10, 1884, of Peruvian father and German mother. Parents both deceased. His father, Juan Zizold de Valdez was born July 12, 1860, in Areia. When an infant the subject visited Peru with his parents. He alleges that his father returned to Germany about 1887, where he resided until his death without returning to Peru. Since infancy subject has not been to Peru. He claims that the Swiss took up Peruvian passport in September, 1943. Has cousin, Sam Stern, Hotel Warwick, Sixth Avenue and Fifty-fourth Street, New York City and brother, Carlos de Valdez, residing 7250 Hillside Avenue, Hollywood, California. He is desirous of residing in the United States and claims that he is not Jewish. In conversation he appears to be anti-Peruvian. Will transmit additional information.

Otto William Strauss. This subject was born in Germany in 1892 and has naturalization certificate No. 164, issued by the Ministry of Government at Managua, March 2, 1921. From 1912 to 1921 he has been a resident of Capr Gracias a Dios, Nicaragua and is holder of passport No. 3/1938, issued February 10, 1938, by Nicaraguan Consul General, Hamburg. His wife, Regina Elsie Mai, was born September 18, 1892, in Frankfurt, and she is bearer of passport No. 19401, issued February 20, 1940, by Jose Vigevano, Nicaraguan Consular General at Amsterdam.

The

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The Couprines (Chuprines) and Gruensteins were interviewed by Miss Rodriguez, who is Secretary of the Costa Rican Legation, and she has transmitted to San Jose full particulars by cable.

Prior to the departure of the vessel, the Peruvian Consul Barcelov did not make an investigation of the status of his nationals.

CHAPIN

RECEIVED
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
MAY 11 1960

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*Ward of Be
Mr. Bell*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Mission, Algiers
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 21, 1944
NUMBER: 1638

Following is from Murphy and Smith.

We received the Department's confidential cable to Barcelona dated May 18, No. 53, in badly garbled condition, and it was not decoded and delivered to me until one hour before the ORIPSHOLM sailed on the 19th from Barcelona. The Embassy informed me at the same time that the necessary assurances had been given by the government of Spain that no refugees would be held in Spain. In view of the cable from Ambassador Hayes in Madrid stating that he was strongly opposed to any refugees remaining in Barcelona, and in view of the Department's instructions for the ORIPSHOLM to sail on the 19th upon receipt of appropriate assurances from Spanish Government, no refugees were disembarked from the ORIPSHOLM. The Zwillenberg (Zwillenberg) family and Otto William Strauss and his wife appear to be genuine refugee cases and an attempt is being made through the War Refugee Board representative to have them disembarked at Algiers. We would like to know if the Department approves their disembarkation here. We request an urgent reply.

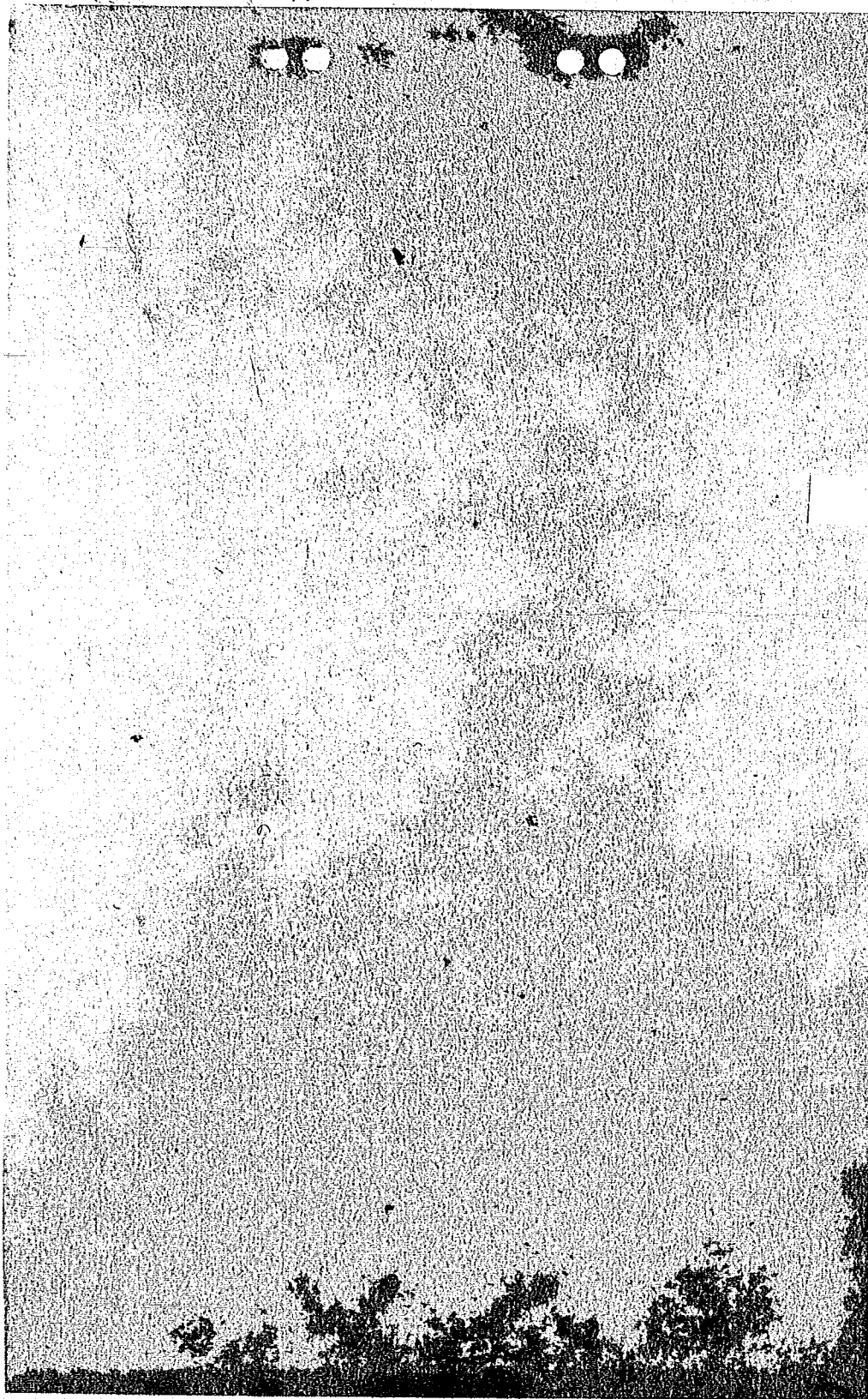
We are cabling separately information concerning doubtful cases.

CHAPIN

DCR:VAG:HL 5/22/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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B

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AIRGRAM

A-889

6:20^Xpm

June 16, 1944

AIRGRAM TO AMEMB

*BUENOS AIRES
Argentina*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
JUN 16 1944

The following instruction ~~has~~ been sent to the American Embassies in certain of the other American Republics:

"In support of the program of the Department and the War Refugee Board which has been the subject of instructions by airgram to the Embassies in various of the American Republics, the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo on May 31, 1944 adopted upon the recommendation of the United States member a resolution favoring, subject to essential reservations regarding security, the exchange of German nationals in this hemisphere against certain persons belonging to the oppressed peoples of Europe who bear documents issued by or in the name of the American Republics or other non-European states reflecting a right of admission to or protection by such Republics or states.

"The Department feels that it is essential to proceed as quickly as possible with the presentation to the German Government of concrete proposals based upon the resolution in question and hopes that the government to which you are accredited, which has presumably by this time received official notification of the Resolution from the Committee, will be willing to join in this common program with the other American Republics and this Government. The Department will be glad to learn of any initiative taken by the government to which you are accredited to implement this desirable step in strengthening the common front against the Axis.

"A suggested translation of the resolution was sent you on June 3 under cover of a letter signed by

Lt. Sanders,

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 20 1972**

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Buenos Aires
A-589

-2-

Mr. Sanders, the representative of the United States on the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense. The Department is sending you in the near future a copy of the official translation of this document. There will also be sent you in the near future an instruction outlining certain points of action in respect to the program on which your report is desired."

Full

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5.1: 10:23

6-14-44

ara WRB

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

BJR - 399
This telegram must be
paraphrased before being
communicated to anyone
other than a Government
Agency. (~~RECEIVED~~)

La Paz
Dated September 25, 1944
Rec'd 12:52 a.m. 26th.

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
SEP 25 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1708, September 25, 1 p.m.

Andrade states that no persons bearing Bolivian
documentation in which Government is interested in
the sense intended Department's airgram 337, September
1, are known to be in German occupied territory.
Andrade added that Bolivian Government continues to
investigate situation. It is my personal opinion
that there is and will be no future interest in this
subject and that the Department can disregard any
interest.

MOLAUGHLIN

WMB

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

000133

4 was by Lt. Pille

CONTROL COPY

A-337
5:40 PM
AMBASSY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
SEP 2 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

September 1, 1944

LA FAZ

The following message of August 9 has been received from
Ambassy, Madrid:

QUOTE In response to Embassy's representations Foreign
Office has formally expressed willingness of Spanish Government
to cooperate in bringing to successful conclusion proposed
arrangements for exchange on Spanish territory of German
nationals in Paraguay and Bolivia for persons in German-occupied
territories bearing documentation of those countries but has
informed Embassy orally that it is not yet in receipt of repre-
sentations on this subject from Paraguayan and Bolivian Govern-
ments whose representatives in Madrid are still without instruc-
tions. UNQUOTE

In view of earlier promises given to you in this respect
and reported in your A-288 of June 27, please urge Bolivian
officials to take speediest action necessary to enable Spain to
bring to conclusion said exchange arrangements. In this connection,
you may repeat assurances given in Department's A-221 of June 2
stating that QUOTE In contemplating such exchange negotiations,
it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited
will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on
a temporary

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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La Paz A-337 - 2 -

a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared
to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary
to route these persons to places elsewhere. UNQUOTE

HULL
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WHD:MAV:KG
9/1/44

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000135

CABLE TO AMEMBASSY, LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

The following message of August 9 has been received from Embassy, Madrid:

QUOTE In response to Embassy's representations Foreign Office has formally expressed willingness of Spanish Government to cooperate in bringing to successful conclusion proposed arrangements for exchange on Spanish territory of German nationals in Paraguay and Bolivia for persons in German-occupied territories bearing documentation of those countries but has informed Embassy orally that it is not yet in receipt of representations on this subject from Paraguayan and Bolivian Governments whose representatives in Madrid are still without instructions. UNQUOTE

In view of earlier promises given to you in this respect and reported in your A-288 of June 27, please urge Bolivian officials to take speediest action necessary to enable Spain to bring to conclusion said exchange arrangements. In this connection, you may repeat assurances given in Department's A-221 of June 2 stating that QUOTE In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary to route these persons to places elsewhere. UNQUOTE

4:25 p.m.
August 31, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel,
Laughlin, Lesser, Mamm, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

RA.
Rakinsiar 8/30/44
L.S.T.

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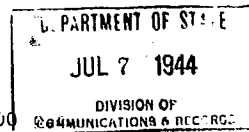
SECRET

FROM: La Paz, Bolivia

DATE: June 26, 1944

REC'D: July 7, 8 AM

Secretary of State,
Washington.



A-250, June 27, 1944, 5:00

Reference Department's secret airgram A-221 of
June 2, 4:35 p.m.

In response to requests made in compliance with
the Department's directives, the Bolivian Minister of
Foreign Affairs informed me orally on June 24 that he
would be very glad to cooperate by complying with the
requests at the top of page 4 of the airgram under
reference; that he gives the approval of the Bolivian
Government as requested in the last new paragraph of
page 6 of the Department's airgram under reference;
and that he would immediately communicate with the
local representative of the protecting power along the
lines of the first new paragraph on page 7 of the air-
gram under reference.

RECORDED

ERL/erb

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Control

VERONA.

W. J. ...
Bl / ...

A-243
X

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
JUN 20 1944
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Copy only

AMERICAN EMBASSY
La Paz Bolivia

CONTROL COPY

The following instruction has been sent to the American Embassies in certain of the other American Republics:

"In support of the program of the Department and the War Refugee Board which has been the subject of instructions by airgram to the Embassies in various of the American Republics, the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo on May 31, 1944 adopted upon the recommendation of the United States member a resolution favoring, subject to essential reservations regarding security, the exchange of German nationals in this hemisphere against certain persons belonging to the oppressed peoples of Europe who bear documents issued by or in the name of the American Republics or other non-European states reflecting a right of admission to or protection by such Republics or states.

"The Department feels that it is essential to proceed as quickly as possible with the presentation to the German Government of concrete proposals based upon the resolution in question and hopes that the Government to which you are accredited, which has presumably by this time received official notification of the Resolution from the Committee, will be willing to join in this common program with the other American Republics and this Government. The Department will be glad to learn of any initiative taken by the Government to which you are accredited to implement this desirable step in strengthening the common front against the Axis.

"A suggested translation of the Resolution was sent you on June 3 under cover of a letter signed by

H. S. Sanders,

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 20 1972**

000138

LA PAZ
A-243

-2-

Mr. Sanders, the representative of the United States on the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense. The Department is sending you in the near future a copy of the official translation of this document. There will also be sent you in the near future an instruction outlining certain points of action in respect to the program on which your report is desired."

Hull

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SECRET 6-14-44

ARA - WRB

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A- 231

4:35 P M

SENT BY SECRET AIRGRAM

AMEMBASSY,

LA PAZ (BOLIVIA)

FOR THE PERSONAL AND
OFFICER IN CHARGE.

June 2, 1944

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF

JUN 4 1944

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

INFORMATION OF THE

CONTROL COPY
Secret

In reference to your A-212 of May 16 and to clarify the nature of the problem with which the Department's A-161 of May 1 is concerned, as well as for your information and guidance in further informal approaches, there is given below the text of circular airgrams of May 1 and May 11:

May 1, 1944, 7:38 p.m. The following airgrams have been sent by the Department to the American Ambassadors in certain South American countries and are repeated to you for your information:

March 31, 1944, 1:06 p.m. "Information has been received that there are in enemy-occupied Europe a number of persons holding passports issued in the names of various Latin American countries including the country to which you are accredited. Our information is that in a large number of cases such persons are interned under conditions which are immeasurably better than the treatment they would receive if they did not have such passports. It is reported that without such passports, such persons would be transported to Poland and death.

The plight of these refugees was the subject of a memorandum presented

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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Lu Poy A 221

- 2 -

presented to the Department by the Polish Ambassador in Washington on December 24, 1943, in support of the request of his government that this Government intercede on humanitarian grounds to save the persons concerned from deportation to Poland by interceding to prevent the withdrawal of these passports in cases in which they may have been improperly issued.

The following are excerpts from a report of Dr. Kullmann, Vice Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who has recently made an exhaustive investigation of the matter in Switzerland: QUOTE
It is estimated that 4,000 (passports) have been issued from Switzerland and it is known that others have been issued from other neutral countries including Sweden. Some informants estimated the total number to be as high as nine to ten thousand but some thought that it did not exceed 5,000. In Switzerland it (the securing of the passports) was organized by private individuals and reached such proportions that the Swiss Federal Government had to intervene. Legal action was taken against several of the organizers and at the same time enquiry was made regarding the authority of some of the representatives of the South American states to carry on these transactions.

There seems

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See Page A 221

- 3 -

There seems little doubt that the German authorities are aware of what has been going on, but for reasons of their own they have hitherto not adopted a general policy of withdrawing the passports. While in many cases the possession of these documents has afforded the owners protection against persecution and even special treatment in some of the camps, in other cases they have afforded no protection at all and particularly so where the persons concerned were not interned. Originally the German authorities seem to have cherished the hope that the persons with these South American passports might constitute a basis for the exchange of German nationals in South American countries and it is not improbable that they still have vague hopes of this. Other reasons have been suggested for their lack of consistency. Recently however they have been making enquiries through some of the protecting powers of the South American Governments concerned regarding the genuineness of the documents and they have been submitting lists of persons concerned with a view to verification UNQUOTE

Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, on the basis of the foregoing recommends that the Latin American Governments in whose names such passports have been issued,

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- 4 -

issued, be approached on two points, NOTE (first) that the Government should refrain from withdrawing the passports which have been issued and (second) that if and when the protecting power on the request of the German authorities submits lists of persons with such passports they should instruct the protecting power that the passports have been confirmed UNNOTE

Although the Department does not condone the unauthorized issue of passports, it does not follow that the Department should withhold its intercession in a situation in which the lives of so many persons are at stake. The Department and the War Refugee Board agree with the German Government that where thousands of human lives lie in the balance because of war conditions and enemy persecutions, appropriate steps should be taken to avoid the nonrecognition by the Germans of such passports.

* The Department understands that these passports, appearing on their face to have been issued by competent officials, are valid until they are cancelled. While the Department agrees that the Government to which you are accredited is entirely within its right in cancelling such passports, it urges that the right of cancellation be not exercised until the holders shall have reached a place of safety.

000143

Le Poy A221

- 6 -

safety, so that the act of cancellation shall not be, in essence, condemnation of the holder to a terrible death. All that is here asked is that the Government to which you are accredited deal with the question at a time when it shall occasion the least possible measure of human suffering.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airmgram, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the government to which you are accredited. Such report as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.

April 11, 1944, 11:00 a.m. Minister Harrison at Bern has informed us that the Swiss Foreign Interests Division has advised him informally that the Spanish government had been requested by the Germans to inquire into the bona fides of certain Latin American passports, held by internees in enemy-controlled territory and that the Latin American governments have denied responsibility as well as any claims of the persons holding such passports. Please approach appropriate officials of the government to which you are accredited and inquire whether it has received any such inquiries through the government of Spain or otherwise from the Germans with respect to the validity of passports held by such internees and if such

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- 6 -

such inquiry has been made, please ascertain the nature of the response, if any.

In view of the perilous situation in which these internees find themselves, the conclusion has been reached that perhaps the only way of safeguarding the lives of these unfortunate victims of Nazi persecution is forthwith to initiate through proper channels negotiations for an exchange of nationals for which these people will be eligible. In contemplating such exchange negotiations, it is not expected that the government to which you are accredited will physically admit any such persons into its territory even on a temporary or tentative basis. This Government is prepared to take full responsibility for all arrangements necessary to rouse these persons to placed elsewhere.

Proceeding on this basis, please approach the government to which you are accredited with the request that it give its approval to the Government of the United States approaching the German government through appropriate channels with a view to initiating such negotiations. Please also advise appropriate officials of the government to which you are accredited that similar requests are being made of other Latin American countries, it being the hope of this Government that it will be put in a position to initiate exchange

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See Page A 221

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exchange discussions on a hemispheric basis. Please also advise such officials that in any exchange negotiations that may be entered into, it is of course understood that unquestioned citizens of the United States and of the Latin American countries will be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled to priority over others.

Please also request the government to which you are accredited, on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German government through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality to whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently applied by analogy.

In view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned find themselves, you are requested to act with the greatest possible dispatch.

Finally, we communicate to you, for communication to the government to which you are accredited, the substance of a cable which the Department has sent to our Minister at Bern as follows: QUOTE

Although

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See Page A221

- 8 -

Although the motives of the Germans in according better treatment to Jews of Polish origin holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries are not too clear, it would appear that they include (1) some hope that they might be considered exchange material against Germans in the Western Hemisphere and (2) some fear that their ill-treatment might afford the Latin American countries a pretext for further limiting the freedom and economic activities of Germans resident in such countries.

The measure reported in your ~~1953~~¹⁹⁵⁵ of March 30 may be an indication that Germany is beginning to doubt whether such Jews are considered exchange material and whether their treatment would affect the treatment of Germans in Latin America. This Government regards it as essential that these doubts be promptly and effectively dispelled.

Accordingly, please request the good offices of the Swiss Government in informing the Germans that this Government is undertaking discussions with Latin American countries for a further exchange of Germans in the Western Hemisphere for persons in German-controlled territory and that in this connection, the United States considers that all persons in Vittel and elsewhere holding passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin American countries

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L. Poy A221

- 9 -

countries will be eligible for such exchange.

Simultaneously, please request the appropriate Swiss authorities to advise the Germans that in the meantime this Government expects that these persons will be accorded the same rights, privileges and immunities that the German government expects will be accorded to Germans in the Western Hemisphere. You may add that a considerable number of German civilians interned by various Latin American countries have been placed by such countries in the custody of the United States and are presently in such custody within continental United States.

For your information, the substance of this message is being communicated to our Missions in the Latin American countries concerned. We are also making inquiry of such Latin American countries with respect to the authenticity of the information informally conveyed to you by the Swiss Foreign Interests Division which you referred to in your 1994 of March 31 UNQUOTE

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR.

You are instructed to memorize the contents of this airgram, burn the document and discuss the matter orally with the government to which you are accredited. Such reports as you submit to the Department on this subject should be by secret courier.

April 22, 1944,

000148

Le Roy A221 - 10 -

April 22, 1944, 7:30 p.m. "Referring to the Department's circular airgrams of April 11, 11:00 a.m., and of March 31, 1:05 p.m. the following is the substance of a message received from London by Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, who is now in Washington: QUOTE According cables Jewish Agency, Jerusalem, new commander Vittel Camp advised March 20 about 250 to 300 internees holding South American passports that they were not recognized by government concerned. It is alleged these persons already isolated for deportation which caused panic and despair. Agency here has partial list of people affected, mostly Polish Jews previously put on list of veteran Zionists, Rabbis, et cetera, for grant of Palestine certificates. Agency trying to obtain from Colonial Office formal assurance to Swiss protecting power that these persons placed on Palestine exchange list in order to stave off deportation UNQUOTE

In view of the imminent danger which faces the persons involved, and in the light of this Government's deep concern for their welfare, you should communicate to appropriate officials of the Government to which you are accredited the urgency with which favorable responses and active measures along the lines described in our circular airgrams of April 11 and March 31 are needed.

You may

000149

La Paz A221 - 11 -

You may also wish to inform such officials that in addition to the approach to Switzerland referred to in our circular airmgram of April 11, we have also requested Ambassador Hayes similarly to approach the Spanish Government. Please keep the Department promptly advised of all developments in this matter".

May 11, 1944, 7:30 p.m. "With reference to previous communications from the Department and the War Refugee Board regarding protection of refugees with Latin American documents in German-held territory, you are informed that pursuant to our instructions the Legation at Bern has advised the Swiss Government with respect to claims to American citizenship by refugees in German-controlled areas as follows:

NOTE The Department will undertake fully to investigate any claim to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within territory under enemy control, upon receipt from the Swiss Government of all pertinent information available to the Germans relative thereto. The claimant must be presumed to be a United States citizen and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities to which such citizens are entitled while any particular claim to United States citizenship is under investigation by the Department and until the Swiss Government is specifically advised by the
Department

000150

NAPAZ A221 - 12 -

Department to the contrary, with the exception that until the Department so authorizes financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended UNQUOTE *

You are authorized to advise the government to which you are accredited of the foregoing if you think it will help to obtain its effective cooperation in rescuing refugees with Latin American documents.

The Legation at Bern has also been instructed to request Swiss authorities to obtain from Germany immediate return to Vittel of previously deported refugees with Latin American documents. The Embassy at Madrid, pursuant to our instructions, has obtained assurance that Spain will endeavor to arrange for return of deported refugees to Vittel.

It is essential that demarche of Madrid Embassy be supported by similar urgent representations of other American republics in Madrid on various points covered in our circular airmail of April 11 and other relevant communications. Please act accordingly and advise us of results.

Hu77

MULL

gln

WMB:BNV:OMH
5/31/44

WCA

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AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

Reference your A-212 of May 16.

In order to clarify the nature of the problem with which Department's A-161 of May is concerned and for your information and guidance in further informal approaches, there are repeated to you circular airgrams of May 1, 7:35 p.m. and May 11, 7:30 p.m.

May 30, 1944
10:35 a.m.

JB7 *129.*
BAK:jp 5/29/44

000152

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 28 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND PROPAGANDA

AIRGRAM

FROM LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

DATED MAY 16, 1944

REC'D: MAY 22 3:00

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-212. May 16, 1944, 5:00 p.m.

Reference Department's airgram A-161, May 1, 1944,
10:45 a.m. concerning efforts to remove from Axis-
dominated territory Jews with Bolivian identification
documents.

I mentioned this matter unofficially to the Minister
of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivian Provisional Govern-
ment and he said that he did not recall having heard of
any bona fide Bolivian Jews, either naturalized or
native-born, who are now in Axis-dominated territory.
The Foreign Minister, Sr. Enrique Mulleresso, asked me
if I would find out as much as possible concerning the
identity of such Jews. Accordingly, it would be appre-
ciated if the Department could supply this office with
available information on the subject.

RF./mvs

WOODWARD

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000153

CONTROL COPY

War Refugee
SENT BY ~~██████████~~ COUNTESS
B. Kelly

A-161
10:45 A.M.
SENT BY ██████████ PROGRAM
AMBASSY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 3 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

May 1, 1944

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA
FOR THE PERSONAL AND ██████████ INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADOR

The Department has been apprized that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews holding Bolivian documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Bolivia is reported to have replied that these persons would be received in Bolivia.

In transmitting the above for your information, the Department authorizes you to let it be known unofficially in appropriate quarters that the helpful intention of La Paz reported by Vatican, if carried out in fact, will be thoroughly appreciated here.

In addition, we transmit for your information an excerpt from a circular airmail to some Latin American Republics, dated April 11, as follows:

QUOTE Please also request the government to which you are accredited

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000154

En Page A -161 - 2 -

are accredited, on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German government through the protecting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality to whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently applied by analogy. UNQUOTE

You may let it be known unofficially in appropriate quarters that action along these lines is considered by this Government as the only effective means to save the persons concerned.

HULL

GEW

HULL

WRB:GLW:OMH
4/28/44

ANA

000153

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY AT LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

The Department has been apprised that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews holding Bolivian documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Bolivia is reported to have replied that these persons would be received in Bolivia.

In transmitting the above for your information, the Department authorizes you to let it be known unofficially in appropriate quarters that the helpful intention of La Paz reported by Vatican, if carried out in fact, will be thoroughly appreciated here.

In addition, we transmit for your information an excerpt from a circular airgram to some Latin American Republics, dated April 10, as follows:

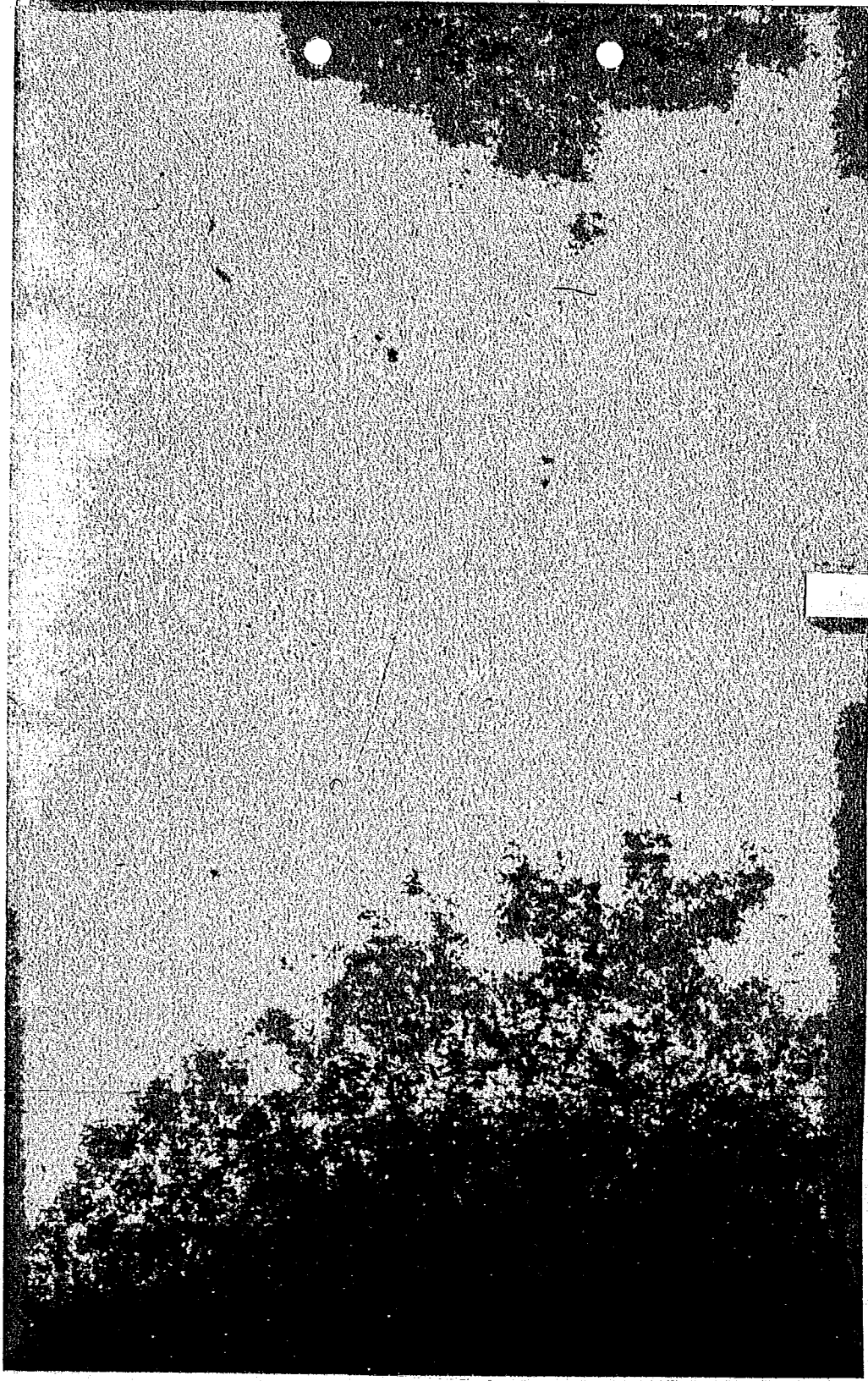
QUOTE Please also request the government to which you are accredited, on humanitarian grounds, affirmatively to approach the German government through the protesting power with a demand that the lives of all persons holding passports issued in its name or claiming its citizenship on the basis of consular documents be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality to whom the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is currently applied by analogy. UNQUOTE

You may let it be known unofficially in appropriate quarters that action along these lines is considered by this Government as the only effective means to save the persons concerned.

April 24, 1944
2:15 P.M.

RA. L.S.L.
BAKzin:jp 4/22/44

000154



D

000157

*Recognition of
L. A. Passports*



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 WRB
Treasury
Files

UNRESTRICTED

No. 11,230.

Santiago, December 5, 1944.

Subject: Chilean Government has communicated to German Government the fact that the United States Government is empowered to negotiate exchange of claimants to Chilean nationality for German nationals in this hemisphere.

3. Inter Refugee Board (Germany)
1. How Mr. Sandy
3 WRB

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, by its Note Verbale No. 2517 of October 24, 1944, the Embassy asked the Foreign Office whether the Chilean Government had communicated to the German Government, through its protecting Power, the fact that the United States Government was empowered to negotiate exchanges of claimants to Chilean nationality for German nationals in this hemisphere. The Embassy suggested that, if such action had not yet been taken, the Chilean Government might wish to request the Swiss Government through the Chilean Mission at Berne to inform the German Government that such authorization had been granted to the United States Government.

There has been received from the Foreign Office a Note Verbale in reply, in which it is stated that instructions have been cabled to the Chilean Legation in Berne in the sense of the suggestion contained in the Embassy's Note Verbale.

The Foreign Office adds that, in accordance with conversations held in May 1944, the Government of Chile reserves the right to authorize or to deny entrance into Chile of bearers of Chilean passports who may take advantage of the exchange.

Respectfully yours,

Claude G. Bowers
CLAUDE G. BOWERS.

GDA:red

701

000158

PARAGRAPH OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Santiago
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 30, 1944
NUMBER: 952 X

CONTROL COPY

*1st copy of file
(Mr. Beble)*

*1 copy only
File*

Reference is made herewith to your circular air-
gram of May 11.

I am informed formally by letter from Hernandez
that in the case of Bern and Madrid he has taken action
desired by you in airgram under reference.

HOWERS

*We still need particulars.
Let's wait a while,
then ask for them.*

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. M. [unclear] Date SEP 20 1972

000154

2 copies
Control to Model

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
MAY 16 1944

██████████ BY COURIER

May 11, 1944
7:50 p.m.

SENT BY ██████████ CIRCULAR AIRGRAM

FOR THE PERSONAL AND ██████████ INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADORS AT SANTIAGO, SAN JOSE, HABANA, QUITO,
SAN SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, FORT-AR-LENOX, NEGUCIA-LPA,
HAERHUA, ASSUNICION, MONTEVIDEO AND CARACAS.

With reference to previous communications from the Depart-
ment and the War Refugee Board regarding protection of refugees
with Latin American documents in German-held territory, you are
informed that pursuant to our instructions the Legation at Bern
has advised the Swiss Government with respect to claims to
American citizenship by refugees in German-controlled areas as
follows:

QUOTE The Department will undertake fully to investigate any
claim to United States citizenship, asserted by any person within
territory under enemy control, upon receipt from the Swiss Govern-
ment of all pertinent information available to the Germans relative
thereto. The claimant must be pronounced to be a United States citi-
zen and must be accorded all the rights, privileges and immunities
to which such citizens are entitled while any particular claim to
United States citizenship is under investigation by the Department
and until the Swiss Government is specifically advised by the
Department to the contrary, with the exception that until the

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972
Department

000160

CIRCULAR, May 11, 7:30 P.M.

-2-

Department so authorizes financial assistance may not (repeat not) be extended UNQUOTE.

You are authorized to advise the government to which you are accredited of the foregoing if you think it will help to obtain its effective cooperation in receiving refugees with Latin American documents.

The Legation at Bern has also been instructed to request Swiss authorities to obtain from Germany immediate return to Vittet of previously deported refugees with Latin American documents. The Embassy at Madrid, pursuant to our instructions, has obtained assurance that Spain will endeavor to arrange for return of deported refugees to Vittet.

It is essential that demarche of Madrid Embassy be supported by similar urgent representations of other American republics in Madrid on various points covered in our circular airmail of April 11 and other relevant communications. Please act accordingly and advise us of results.

HULL
(GLW)

Sent to: Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador,
Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay
and Venezuela.

WRB:MMV:ku
5/9/44

CCA

BOL

HPA

WCA WIS

AAB

A-B

S/CR

000161

CONTROL COPY

RECEIVED BY COURIER

A-296

12:40

SENT BY [REDACTED] AIRGRAM

AMEMBASSY,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 3 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

May 1, 1944

SANTIAGO (CHILE).

FOR THE PERSONAL AND [REDACTED] INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

With reference to the Department's circular airgrams of March 31, April 11 and April 22, the Department and War Refugee Board are informed that a certain number of Jews, mostly of Polish origin, now in German-controlled territory, hold passports and consular documents issued in the name of Chile. It is requested therefore that you attempt to obtain cooperation of Chilean authorities in American efforts to save these people in the same manner in which the cooperation of other Latin American countries has been requested, whose documents are found to have been issued to Jews in German-held territory.

Department understands that Vatican had also attempted to work out relief measures for Jews in German-held territory holding Chilean documents. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Chile is reported to have replied that instructions to verify and recognize passports have been issued.

Please verify above information and emphasize that Department's request does not (repeat not) involve immigration but, on the contrary,

contains

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000162

BY COURIER

A-296

12:40

Sitting

-2-

contains assurances that Chile will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned even on a temporary basis. Accordingly, we hope that Chile, in the interests of humanity, will postpone any questioning of said documents, meanwhile requesting Germans to accord holders treatment to which Chileans are entitled, and will also agree to the persons concerned being considered exchange material for German nationals held in this hemisphere provided such holders of Chilean passports are sent to havens elsewhere than in Chile.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon the Chilean Government the extreme urgency with which this Government views the necessity of acting favorably without delay on proposals previously submitted and detailed in the airgrams under reference. You should impress upon Chilean officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations would result for Chile from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Chilean authorities should not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

Please advise Department of the result of your efforts.

HULL

VRB:GLW:KG
4/28/44

ARA

S/LR

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000163

AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

Department and War Refugee Board are informed that a certain number of Jews, mostly of Polish origin, now in German-controlled territory, hold passports and consular documents issued in the name of Chile. It is requested therefore that you attempt to obtain cooperation of Chilean authorities in American efforts to save these people in the same manner in which the cooperation of other Latin American countries has been requested, whose documents are found to have been issued to Jews in German-held territory.

To this end, circular airgrams of March 31, 11:05 p.m., of April 10, 11:00 a.m., and of _____ are being repeated to you, and you are requested to take action in accordance therewith.

Department understands that Vatican had also attempted to work out relief measures for Jews in German-held territory holding Chilean documents. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Chile is reported to have replied that instructions to verify and recognize passports have been issued.

Please verify above information and emphasize that Department's request does not (repeat not) involve immigration but, on the contrary, contains assurances that Chile will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned even on a temporary basis. Accordingly, we hope that Chile, in the interests of humanity, will postpone any questioning of said documents, meanwhile requesting Germans to accord holders treatment to which Chileans are entitled, and will also agree to the persons concerned being considered exchange material.

In the light of the above assurances, please impress upon the Chilean government the extreme urgency of acquiescing in our requests and of acting upon them without delay. You should impress upon Chilean officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat not) responsibilities or obligations would result for Chile from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Chilean authorities would not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

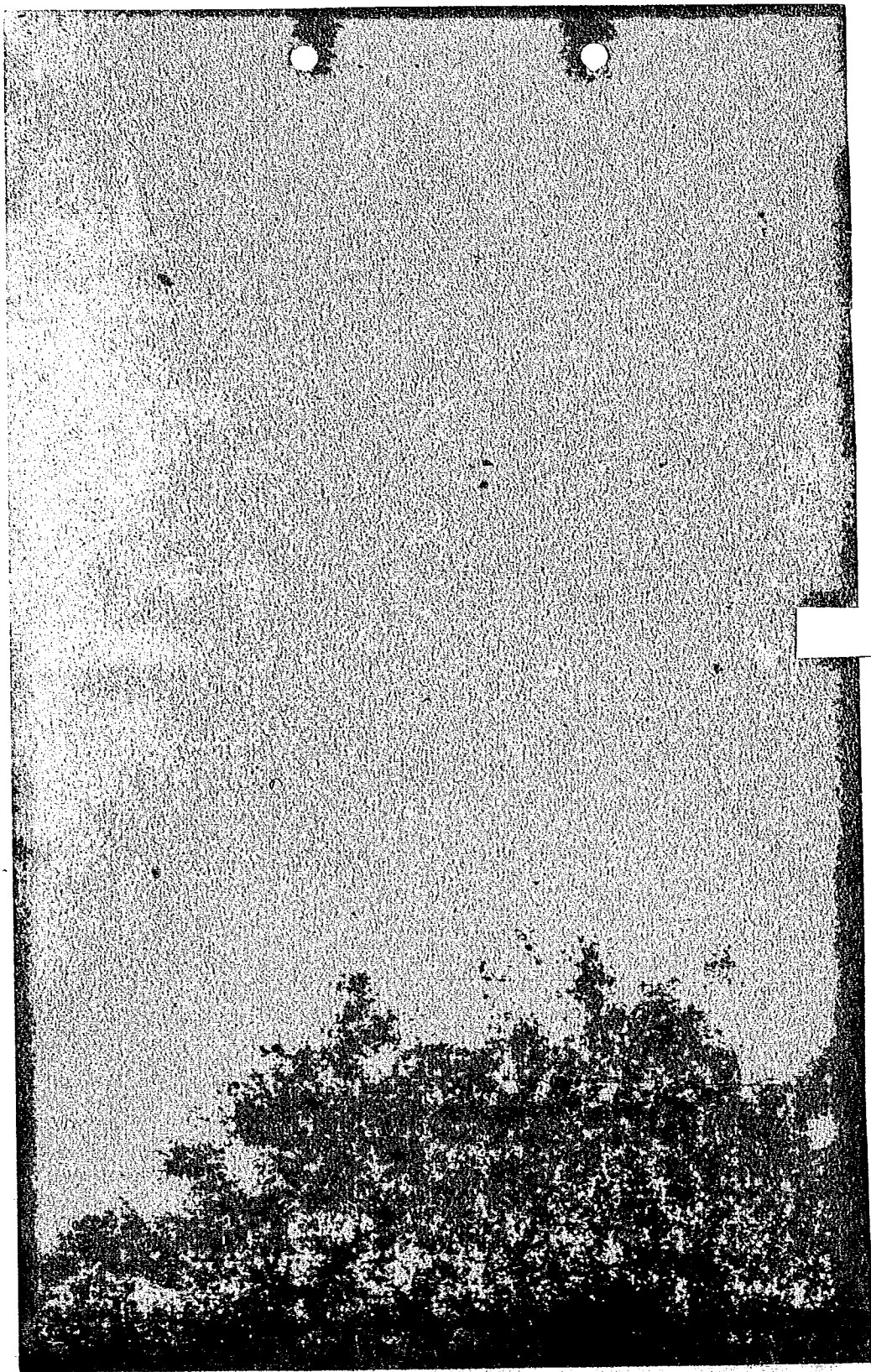
Please advise Department of the result of your efforts.

April 25, 1944
4:15 p.m.

Rg. L.S.L.

BAkzin:jp 4/25/44

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000165

CONTROL CUF

Prof. ...

From:

Bojota

Date: May 22, 1944

Rec'd: May 30 8am

Secretary of State,
Washington.

492, May 22, 6 pm

I have informed the Minister of Poland of the substance of the Department's confidential telegram no. 650 of May 17, 6 pm, regarding measures which might be taken for the protection of certain insurance at Vittel, France. The Minister seemed to find the Department's policy in this matter an entirely reasonable one, and indicated he would refrain from sending his proposed notes to the Governments of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador; but would refer the matter back to his government which in turn might consider the Department's suggestion that the Polish Government consult the Inter-American Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense in regard to the matter.

In the absence of further developments or instructions I do not contemplate taking any further action in the matter.

W. H. C.

840.1
PST/11

000166

*was Ref. Sec.
JWD Keller
1 copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: Amembassy, Bogota
DATED: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 659
x

Careful study has been given to the matter referred to in your April 29 letter to Keith and in your airgram of April 28, 1944, no. A-401.

It is the opinion of the Department that, in light of Resolution XX of the Emergency Advisory Committee for Political Defense at Montevideo the approach of the Polish Government, as suggested in the draft communication of your Polish colleague, might be embarrassing to other American republics. It is felt by the Department that the Government of Poland would best be advised to take up this matter first with the Committee with a view to obtaining a recommendation supplementing Resolution XX by the Committee to the American republics.

It is noted by the Department that in the draft Polish communication ~~in~~ the last sentence asserts that the exchange of nationals would not take place but that the lives of the persons in question would be saved by a mere declaration. First-hand information from Berlin is possessed by the Department to the effect that an empty declaration will not

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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will not be regarded by the German Government as satisfactory in respect to these individuals and it is further confronted by the fact that about a dozen of such persons are being placed in the current exchange of nationals with Germany in place of bona fide nationals of the American republics nominated for inclusion in this exchange by them. Arrangements to find a haven for these persons are being made.

It is requested that you carefully explain the foregoing to your Polish colleague and inform him that we are thoroughly sympathetic to the achievement of the purpose he has in mind but the Department believes that the particular method of approach suggested by him is not the wisest at this particular moment for the reasons given. You may inform him that strong representations concerning individuals in question have been made by the United States Government and there are being made through various channels other efforts in their behalf.

HULL
(AAB)

RECEIVED
GENERAL BOARD

000168

*2- War Refugee Bd
(Mr. B. L.)*

KEM **CONTROL COPY**

AIRGRAM
Bogota
Dated April 28, 1944
Rec'd 9 a.m., May 9th.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-401, April 28, 7:15 p.m.

The Minister of Poland has today consulted me in regard to the following matter. According to information he has received a number of Jews now interned at Vittel, France, bear passports of South American countries, although many of them are of Polish citizenship. It appears that until March 20 the German authorities respected these passports, but that on that date they ordered the deportation of these persons, which may well mean their death. Accordingly, as a humanitarian measure and with a view to saving the lives of these people, the Polish Minister proposes to address a note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, and identical notes to the governments of Venezuela and Ecuador (to which he is likewise accredited) inquiring whether those governments would be disposed to issue a public declaration to the effect that those governments would be willing to accept interned citizens of their respective countries in exchange for German nationals now in these countries. According to the Minister's information, such a declaration by South American countries might well have the effect of deterring the German authorities from taking harsh measures against the internees at Vittel.

The Polish Minister understands that such an exchange under present conditions is impracticable and cannot take place. However, the mere declaration by these governments, he hopes, would serve a useful purpose in preventing inhuman acts. Before forwarding his proposed notes to the governments of Colombia, Venezuela

0001159

-2- #A-401, April 28, 7:15 p.m., from Bogota,

Venezuela and Ecuador, he has consulted the Embassy to seek assurances that such a proposal on his part would be consistent with the policy of the United States Government. He adds that the American Minister at Bern is informed of the foregoing, and presumably can furnish such further information as the Department may desire.

In view of the fact that the Polish Minister has kindly offered to hold in abeyance his proposed notes to the governments of Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador, pending an expression of the Department's views, it would be appreciated if telegraphic instructions could be forwarded to the Embassy at the earliest possible moment. At the same time, it is suggested that these instructions be repeated to our Embassies at Caracas and Quito.

DANIELS

840.1
PCD/hl

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F

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2
FROM
Havana

San Ref Bd
(Mr. Deble)

Dated September 19, 1944

Rec'd September 21, 5 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

A-2095, September 19, 10:10 a.m.

Reference Department's A-1551, September 1.

Essential portion of note from Ministry of State dated September 16 received today, in reply to Embassy's note based on Department's airmgram under reference, reads in translation as follows:

C Although the data on Golanter are not sufficient to enable a quick search, since it is a humanitarian matter the Government of Cuba desires to avail itself of the good offices of the Government of the United States of America to the end that all possible protection be given to Golanter through the means which the North American Government uses in similar cases.

The Ministry will continue the investigation started in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in order to verify the exactness of the information and the Embassy will be duly informed."

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State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 7 1973

000172

~~RESTRICTED~~

September 7, 1944

No. 2311

X

To the

Officer in Charge of the American Mission,
Bern.

The Secretary of State encloses a copy of a despatch no. 1780 dated August 16, 1944 from the Embassy at San Jose transmitting a copy of a note, in Spanish text and translation, from the Costa Rican Foreign Minister in which he requests that the Swiss Government be asked to forward an appropriate protest to the German Government against its treatment of certain persons who possess Costa Rican documentation.

The Officer in Charge is requested to transmit to the appropriate Swiss authorities a copy of the Foreign Minister's note and to ask that the Legation be informed of the date when the protest based upon the Costa Rican Foreign Minister's request is communicated to the German Government. This information should be communicated to the Department as soon as possible after its receipt.

Enclosure:

From San José, Costa Rica, no. 1780,
August 16, 1944, with enclosure.

REPRESENTATION COSTA-RICAN

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 War Refugee Board
J. F.

San José, Costa Rica,
August 16, 1944.

No. 1780

Subject: Claimants to Costa Rican Nationality
Removed from the Internment Camp at
Vittel, France.

3 War Refugee Board (Costa)
3 W R B

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

CONTROL COPY

Sir:

With reference to the Department's instruction
no. 607 of July 24, 1944, transmitting a list of the
claimants to Costa Rican nationality who were removed
from the internment camp at Vittel, France, I have the
honor to enclose herewith a copy and translation of a
note received from Foreign Minister Acosta on the sub-
ject.

It will be seen that the Minister for Foreign
Affairs reiterates his previous assurance that the
Costa Rican Government will consider as valid docu-
mentation held by such persons which was issued in the
name of Costa Rica. Moreover, he requests the United
States Government to ask the Swiss Government to address
a protest to Germany along the lines recommended in the
enclosure to the Department's instruction under refer-
ence. It will also be noted that he indicates a desire
to obtain the exchange of certain nationals in whom the
Costa Rican Government is particularly interested.

Respectfully yours,

Fay Allen Des Portes
Fay Allen Des Portes

✓ Enclosures:
Copy and translation of
Foreign Minister's Note
1836-B of August 11, 1944.

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DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 11-11-72
By R. ... SEP 20 1972

RECEIVED
RECEIVED
8/16/44
K. E. F.

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AIR MAIL

Enclosure 1 to despatch no. 1780
of August 16, 1944, from the Embassy,
San José, Costa Rica.

(C o p y)

REPUBLICA DE COSTA RICA
SECRETARIA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES

No. 1836-B

San José, 11 de agosto 1944

Señor Embajador:

Tengo el honor de anunciar a Vuestra Excelencia el recibo de su atenta nota No. 312 de 31 de julio último, en la que se sirve comunicarme que varias personas que aducen su calidad de costarricenses, de apellidos Lichtmann, Wetzstein, Rosshandler, Mandelbaum y Lidenbaum, han sido trasladadas del campo de internación de Vittel, Francia, por las autoridades alemanas, a lugares ignorados; y en relación con esa noticia, esa Embajada resume las gestiones realizadas respecto de las personas que están en condiciones análogas, por presentar documentos de identificación que los funcionarios alemanes discuten y señalan como de ilícita procedencia.

Ciertamente el Gobierno de Costa Rica, en las notas que Vuestra Excelencia oíra, ha sostenido que considera eficaces y valaderos todos los documentos que numerosos individuos europeos han mostrado para obtener el amparo de nuestra bandera, ya que no tiene noticia de que hayan sido denunciados como inválidos, ni ha recibido pruebas fehacientes de esa invalidez; y en tanto tales denuncias y pruebas no se produzcan y no sean calificadas por las autoridades nacionales han de considerarse los pasaportes y documentos emanados de sus funcionarios como buenos y bastantes a los fines de su expedición. De manera que mi Gobierno exige para los portadores de pasaportes y documentos de identificación extendidos por sus autoridades, toda la protección que les confieren, como ciudadanos de una nación beligerante, muy conocidas reglas de Derecho Internacional y, particularmente, la Convención de Ginebra sobre Prisioneros de Guerra.

No puede admitir mi Gobierno que el de Alemania asuma la calificación de tales documentos y juzgue por sí si sus poseedores los obtuvieron lícita o ilícitamente, para atribuirles o negarles, según el caso, la nacionalidad costarricense y el tratamiento humanitario correspondiente. Aceptar esa potestad, sería dejar a los nacionales expuestos a las crueldades y arbitrariedades de los agentes de los Estados que los tengan presos o internados, a pretexto de que la documentación que exhiben no les merece fe en lo que hace a la nacionalidad que reclaman. Y eso es imposible.

Mi Gobierno suplica al de Vuestra Excelencia se sirva solicitar al de Suiza, que representa sus intereses en Alemania y los territorios ocupados por fuerzas alemanas,

hacer

Excelentísimo Señor
don Fay Allen Des Portes
Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario
de ESTADOS UNIDOS, San José.

000175

hacer de conocimiento del Gobierno Alemán su más enérgica protesta por la conducta observada en esta materia por los funcionarios alemanes: contra la calificación de los documentos costarricenses de identificación poseídos por numerosos prisioneros e internados civiles; contra el traslado sin previa notificación de los mismos, a lugares ignorados, de suerte que ni el Gobierno Protector ni el Comité de la Cruz Roja Internacional, puedan vigilar el tratamiento que se les da; contra la forma inhumana con que se les ha tratado, en violación de elementales sentimientos de piedad y de estipulaciones de pactos aceptados solemnemente por Alemania. Por ejemplo, este Despacho tiene noticias privadas de que al prisionero Doctor don Jorge Cordero Arias se le ha sometido a muy rudos trabajos y a trato violento, no obstante que el Gobierno de Suiza y el Comité de la Cruz Roja Internacional no han podido informar ni del lugar exacto en donde se encuentra ni de su salud y demás condiciones de vida, habiendo sido solicitados esos datos por mi Gobierno insistentemente.

Por el mismo medio, mi Gobierno exige del de Alemania, que dé noticia de cada una de las personas en referencia, de su paradero y su salud, así como de todas aquellas otras que, sin haber sido designadas por su nombre y apellidos en ninguna nota, han reclamado que se les tenga como costarricenses con fundamento en documentos expedidos por funcionarios costarricenses y luego han sido separadas de los sitios en donde estaban para conducir las a lugares no conocidos. Igualmente exige que sean devueltas a los domicilios o campos de concentración civil anteriores, a fin de poder darles la protección establecida o de incluirlos en los canjes convenidos para su repatriación.

Al dejar constancia de su protesta por el proceder irregular del Gobierno Alemán, como inhumano y violatorio de las normas admitidas por los Pueblos Civilizados, y al formular las demandas que quedan expuestas, mi Gobierno hace presente su justo acatamiento a tales normas en todo momento respecto de los prisioneros y detenidos civiles como súbditos de Alemania, lo que ha sido reconocido sin reservas por el Delegado del Comité de la Cruz Roja Internacional y los propios interesados.

El Gobierno de Costa Rica confía en que el de Alemania admitirá la razón de sus protestas y demandas y concederá a los documentos emanados de sus funcionarios todo el valor que tienen, el mismo que en Costa Rica se ha dado a los extendidos por autoridades alemanas; y que en consecuencia, se abstendrá en lo futuro de negarles validez o discutírsela siquiera, por ser este asunto de exclusiva incumbencia de los agentes nacionales; y espera, del mismo modo, que procederá a devolver a los domicilios y a los campos de concentración civil en donde se hallaban, a los detenidos que ha enviado a lugares ignorados. Particularmente invoca una vez más, el cumplimiento del convenio para el canje de prisioneros militares o detenidos civiles celebrado, respecto de los costarricenses: Jorge Cordero Arias y familia; Carlos Gamboa Rodríguez; Rodrigo Gómez Cordero; Roxana y Azyadée Tinoco Lara; Antonia Jiménez Bonnell de Charbonell y su hija; Carlos Collado Martínez; y Alberto Gutiérrez Benavides, los dos últimos en Italia y los otros en Francia y Bélgica.

AIR MAIL

- 3 -

Al agradecer por anticipado a Vuestra Excelencia la atención que se sirva dar a la presente, ruegole aceptar el testimonio de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

(r) JULIO ACOSTA

000177

Enclosure 2 to despatch no. 1780
of August 16, 1944, from Embassy,
San José, Costa Rica.

(Translation)

REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

No. 1836-B

San José, August 11, 1944.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's courteous note No. 312 of July 31 last, in which you were pleased to communicate to me that various persons claiming Costa Rican nationality, named as follows: Lichtmann, Wetzstein, Rosshandler, Mandelbaum and Lidenbaum; have been removed from the internment camp of Vittel, France, by the German authorities to unknown places; and with respect to this information, the Embassy outlines the measures taken with regard to persons in analogous circumstances as a result of presenting documents of identification which the German officials dispute and designate as of unlawful origin.

Certainly the Government of Costa Rica has confirmed, in the notes cited by Your Excellency, that it will consider effective and valid all the documents which numerous European individuals have submitted in order to obtain the protection of our flag, since it has no notice that these documents have been denounced as invalid, nor has it received authentic proof of such invalidity, and while such denunciations and proofs are not produced and qualified by the national authorities, the passports and documents emanating from its officials must be considered valid and sufficient for the purposes for which issued. Consequently my Government demands for bearers of passports and documents of identification issued by its authorities all the protection conferred upon citizens of a belligerent nation by the well-known rules of International law, and particularly the Convention of Geneva, with respect to Prisoners of War.

My Government cannot admit that the Government of Germany may assume the qualification of such documents and pass upon per se whether or not its possessors obtained them legitimately or illegitimately, in order to attribute or deny to them, as the case may be, Costa Rican nationality and the corresponding humanitarian treatment. To recognize this prerogative would be to leave (our) nationals exposed to the cruelties and arbitrary actions of the agents of the States which hold them as prisoners or internees, on the pretext that the documentation submitted does not merit credence as establishing the nationality which they claim. And this is impossible.

My Government begs Your Excellency to be so good as to entreat Switzerland, which represents its interests in Germany and the territories occupied by German forces, to bring to the attention of the German Government its most energetic protest against the conduct displayed in

AIR MAIL

this

000178

this regard by the German officials: against the qualification of the Costa Rican documents of identification in the possession of numerous civilian prisoners and internees; against the transfer of the same without previous notice to unknown places, in such a manner that neither the Protective Government nor the Committee of the International Red Cross can watch over the treatment which is meted out to them; against the inhuman manner in which they (these prisoners) have been treated, in violation of (the most) elementary considerations of mercy and the stipulations of agreements solemnly subscribed to by Germany. For example, this Ministry has private information that in the case of Dr. don Jorge Cordero Arias the prisoner was subjected to hard labor and violent treatment, although the Government of Switzerland and the Committee of the International Red Cross have not been able to give information either as to the exact place in which he was or concerning his health or other living conditions, in answer to the insistent entreaties for such data by my Government.

By the same method, my Government demands from the German Government that it give news of each of the persons under reference, concerning his whereabouts and state of health, as well as with regard to all others who, without having been designated by name or surname in any note, have demanded that they be considered as Costa Ricans on the strength of documents issued by Costa Rican officials and subsequently have been removed from the location in which they were, to be conducted to unknown places. It is further demanded that they be returned to their domiciles or to the former civilian concentration camps in order to accord them the established protection or to include them in the exchanges (of prisoners) agreed upon for their repatriation.

In declaring its protest against the irregular procedure of the German Government, as inhuman and violating the accepted rules of Civilized Peoples, and in formulating the demands exposed, my Government calls attention to its (own) strict compliance with such rules at all times with respect to the prisoners and detained civilians who are subjects of Germany. This attitude has been recognized without reserve by the Delegate of the Committee of the International Red Cross and the interested parties themselves.

The Government of Costa Rica trusts that the Government of Germany will concede the justice of its protests and demands and will accord to the documents issued by its officials the full value inherent in them, just as was accorded in Costa Rica to the documents drawn up by the German authorities; and that, consequently, the German Government in future will abstain from denying their validity or otherwise subject them to discussion, for this matter is the exclusive concern of (our) national agents; and it hopes, in the same way, that it will proceed to return to their domiciles and to the civilian concentration camps in which they formerly were kept the

prisoners

AIR MAIL

000179

prisoners which it has sent to unknown places. It particularly invokes anew the fulfilment of the agreement for the exchange of military prisoners and civilian internees which was approved with respect to the following Costa Ricans: Jorge Cordero Arias and family; Carlos Gamboa Rodríguez; Rodrigo Gómez Cordero; Roxana and Azyadée Tinoco Lara; Antonia Jiménez Bonafil de Charbonell and her daughter; Carlos Collado Martínez; and Alberto Gutiérrez Benavides, the last two in Italy and the others in France and Belgium.

Thanking Your Excellency in anticipation of the attention which he will be pleased to give to the present communication, pray accept the testimony of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

(signed) JULIO ACOSTA

MM-mm

AIR MAIL

000180

Asked Warren
to get us a copy of
A-1483.
Sept. 12

Files

Warren

copy of

B.A.

Files 2 - War Ref Bd
Mr. Bell

SECRET
DIVISION OF
Negotiations
SEP 10 1944
MAIL ROOM

RECEIVED: September 2, 1944

CONTROL COPY

Reference Department A-1551, September 1, 5:30 p.m. from the War Refugee Board.

1) The classification called for in Department's A-1229 of July 21 was set forth in Embassy's A-1527, August 30, 2:10 p.m.

2) The Ministry of State was advised by note dated August 25, 1944 of the information regarding Julian GILBERT set forth in Department's A-1483, August 21, 11 a.m.

3) The Ministry of State is being advised by note of further information concerning Julian Gelernter set forth in Department's A-1551, September 1, 5:30 p.m. with the additional statement that the Embassy would be pleased to receive any suggestion which the Ministry of State might wish to make with respect to such action as might be taken by the United States Government in this case in fulfillment of its assurance that it would insist *via* the Cuban Government that the latter accord American documented nationals the same treatment as it expects for its nationals in the Western Hemisphere.

4) In view of the attitude of the Cuban Government with respect to this general problem made manifest to the Embassy on several occasions, I do not feel that it would be advisable to approach the Ministry of State again at the present moment regarding a request by it to the Swiss Government. I shall, however, keep this matter in mind and will bring it to the attention of the competent Cuban authorities whenever the opportunity offers. I shall not fail to keep the Department informed of further developments.

NUPER

711
HEH/haf

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 7 1973

000182

I was Col. Ed. Keller

CONTROL COPY

X
A-1551

5:30PM

AMEMBASSY

HULLANA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
PROPERTY, PASS & RECORDS

September 1, 1944

The following is from War Refugee Board.

1. Reference is made to Department's A-1229 of July 21. The clarification requested therein is still awaited.

2. Amlegation Bern cabled that Julian Gelernter, a Cuban, born on February 21, 1908, in Warsaw, Poland, has been moved by German authorities from internment camp Clermont. It is believed that German authorities will consider him a stateless Polish Jew and condemn him to deportation and death.

In view of promises given to you and reported in your A-1294 of June 16, please endeavor to obtain specific request of Cuban Foreign Office to Swiss authorities to demand for Gelernter and any other persons similarly situated treatment to which Cuban nationals are entitled.

The assurances given by this Government in Department's Circular Airgrams of March 31 and April 11 will apply to the case of Gelernter and all other persons similarly situated.

WBS:MAN:KG
9/1/44

HULL
glw
GOA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 7 1973

000183

A-388

7:38 PM

6:35 M

CONTROL COPY

August 18, 1944

*5 War Ref
Bul (M. Perle)*

American Embassy,
San Jose.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AUG 20 1944

Department's despatch ~~no. 607~~, July 24, 1944.

Celia Mandelbaum, number seven on the list under
reference should read Sylvia Helena Mandelbaum.

Hull
cc c

END:RCW:FAH

8/16/44

WRP ~

000184

*Used Ref Board
ms/Plle
copy only*

REPRODUCTION OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, San Jose
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATE: May 18, 1944
NUMBER: 306

~~SECRET~~

Reference is made herewith to May 17 telegram
No. 3 from Department.

Will admit Chuprines but not Grunsteins.

DES PORTES

RECEIVED
DEFENSE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAY 23 11 11 AM '44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Davis For MAR 7 1973

000185

W. R. Board
copy only

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: Amembassy, San Jose
DATED: May 17, 1944
NUMBER: 223

CONFIDENTIAL

Madrid was informed by the Department, upon the basis of your telegram of May 13, 1944, no. 299, that Grunsteins and Chuprines would be admitted into Costa Rica and their embarkation on GRIPSHOLM was authorized. It is requested that in view of the Embassy's telegram of May 16, 1944, no. 304, you urgently ask the Government of Costa Rica to confirm that Costa Rica will admit these persons.

HULL
(JHK)

RECEIVED
MAY 18 1944
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MVB BELGEE BOV

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 7 1973

000185

EMBASSY
LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

San José, Costa Rica,
May 16, 1944

No. 1409

CONTROL COPY

Subject: Costa Rica consents to uphold validity of
all Costa Rican passports held by persons
whose lives might otherwise be in danger.

[Redacted] L 38 W.R.B.
J.W. [Redacted]
[Redacted]

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

W.W. [Redacted]

Sir:

With reference to my telegram no. 304 of May 16,
4 p. m., concerning the precarious situation of a
number of persons holding passports issued in the
name of the Costa Rican Government and the Costa Rican
Government's agreement to uphold the validity of such
passports, I have the honor to enclose the original
note, No. 948-B of May 15, 1944, from the Foreign Of-
fice, together with the translation of that note, con-
firming the verbal assurance which had previously been
given to me by the Foreign Minister Echandi.

1/
2/

While the matter was taken up orally with the For-
eign Minister, he requested that a written note present-
ing the views of the United States Government be sent
him for the archives. The enclosed note is his reply.

The attached note does not state specifically that
the persons holding these Costa Rican passports may be
considered eligible as Costa Rican citizens for inclusion
in the exchange of German and Costa Rican nationals, but
I have received verbal assurances from the Foreign Office
that the language of the note implies such an inclusion
since the Costa Rican Government cannot deny citizenship
to the holders of such passports at the same time they
uphold the validity of the passports. However, while
the note in question also omits specific mention of the
fact that the Costa Rican Government would not welcome
the holders of such passports to Costa Rican territory,
this connotation is likewise brought out in the second
sentence of the first paragraph of the Foreign Minister's
note where he refers to the fact that the United States
Government will assume the responsibility for all the
arrangements necessary for the transportation of such
persons to non-Costa Rican territories.

15037

PS/CH

The Foreign Minister appears to be of the opinion
that his note No. 948-B gives the Costa Rican Government's
consent to all the recommendations set forth in the

Department's
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 20 1972**

000187

Department's secret airgrams of March 31, April 11 and May 1 and 10, and unless the Department thinks it advisable or necessary I shall not approach him again to formulate a demand addressed to the German Government, through the protecting power, that the lives of all persons holding Costa Rican passports be safeguarded and that they be given all rights, privileges and immunities accorded to civilian internees of enemy nationality to which the Geneva Conference regarding the treatment of prisoners of war is applied by analogy, since the United States Government is the channel of communication for the Costa Rican Government to the Swiss Government which is protecting Costa Rican interests.

Respectfully yours,

Fay Allen Des Portes

Enclosures:

- 1) Original note dated May 15, 1944 from Costa Rican Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- 2) Translation of note.

SRT-mm

000188

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch No. 1400
of May 16, 1944, from the
Embassy at San José.

República de Costa Rica
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

982-3

San José, 15 de mayo de 1944.

Señor Embajador:

Tanto el honor de arribar a Vuestra Excelencia el recibo de su muy atenta nota No. 251, estrictamente confidencial, de fecha 15 de este mes, en la que se sirve recabar la opinión del Gobierno de Costa Rica respecto de la posibilidad de mantener su valor legal a varios pasaportes poseídos por europeos, generalmente poloneses y judíos, sobre cuya legítima expedición pudiera haber alguna duda, a fin de proteger a sus tenedores contra actos de crueldad de las autoridades alemanas. Agrega Vuestra Excelencia que su Gobierno asumirá la responsabilidad para todos los arreglos necesarios al traslado de los portadores de tales pasaportes a territorios no costarricenses, en goce de todos los derechos que por analogía les otorga la Convención de Ginebra sobre Prisioneros de Guerra.

Muy complacido comunico a Vuestra Excelencia la conformidad de mi Gobierno con el procedimiento indicado en su expresada nota, ya que, en tanto no haya constatación eficiente de motivos de nulidad de los pasaportes en referencia, han de tenerse por válidos en razón de haber sido expedidos por funcionarios consulares costarricenses, particularmente, si así se cumple un deber de humanidad.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para reiterar a Vuestra Excelencia los sentimientos de mi más alta y distinguida Consideración.

Julio Acosta

Excelentísimo Señor
Fay A. Des Fortes
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario de Estados Unidos
C I U D A D.-

Copy: mc

000189

Enclosure No.2 to despatch No.140
of May 16, 1944 from the
Embassy at San José. C.R.

Republic of Costa Rica
Ministry of Foreign Relations

44-B

San José, May 15, 1944.

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency of the receipt of your very courteous, strictly confidential note of the 15th instant, by which you request the opinion of the Government of Costa Rica with respect to the possibility of preserving the legal value of various passports possessed by Europeans, mainly Poles and Jews, in connection with which there may be some doubt with respect to the legality of their expedition, in order to protect their holders against acts of cruelty of the German authorities. Your Excellency asks that your Government will assume the responsibility for all the arrangements necessary for the transportation to non-Costa Rican territories of the holders of these passports by virtue of analogous rights granted to them by the Geneva Convention with regard to prisoners of war.

I am very pleased to communicate to Your Excellency the agreement of my Government with the procedure indicated in your above cited note, since, and until there has been effective proof of the reasons for the invalidity of the passports under reference, they are to be held valid by reason of their having been issued by Costa Rican consular officials, particularly if a humane act is thereby fulfilled.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the sentiments of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

Julio Acosta

His Excellency
Fay A. Des Portes
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the United States.

Translated by: mc
Checked by: sxt

000190

was Ref BA

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, San Jose
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 16, 1944
NUMBER: 304

CONTROL COPY

~~SECRET~~

RECEIVED
MAY 16 1944
STATE DEPT.
RECEIVED

Formal consent to upholding validity of all Costa Rican passports held by persons whose lives may otherwise be in danger has been given by the Costa Rican Government. On the understanding that they do not come to Costa Rica, such persons may be declared eligible for exchange.

In regard to Jules Grunstein and wife (see my cable of May 13, no. 299) no special mention has been made and, although they are not eligible for entry into the country until written assurances are received, they should be considered in the category of persons holding valid Costa Rican passports.

The original note will be transmitted by despatch to follow.

The foregoing message is in reference to Embassy's despatch 1279, April 17 and Department's secret airgrams dated May 1 and 10.

DESFORES
DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date MAR 7 1973

000191

Adw

*File
Wier Ref'd*

Released for distribution
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

(m. 6. 1. 4)

FROM: American Embassy, San Jose
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: May 13, 1944
NUMBER: 299

*for
Copy only*

~~SECRET~~ CONTROL COPY

You are advised that of the six persons which the German Government approved, Manuel Cano de Castro and Cano de Castro nee Maure, believed to be his adopted son, are bona fide nationals. There is doubt about Pedro Chuprine and his wife and apparently Jules Grunstein and wife have no claim to Costa Rican citizenship. According to verbal assurances of the Foreign Office, all four will be admitted to Costa Rica, however, and absolutely minimum amounts of money may be extended them. I will cable as soon as confirmatory note is received. Also the Foreign Office wants to know why the Swiss Government did not propose the children of Jorge Cordero Arias, although it understands that Mrs. Cordero has died.

Since their relatives here have funds, advances may be made to all persons ^{whom} the Swiss Government has proposed.

DES PORTES

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. ... MAR 7 1973

000192

CONTROL COPY

A-229

11:10am

SENT BY [REDACTED] AIRGRAM

May 10, 1944

2 - War Refugee Bd
4/10/44
[REDACTED] BY COURIER

EMBASSY,

SAN JOSE (COSTA RICA).

FOR THE [REDACTED] INFORMATION OF THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
AD INTERIM.

The Department and the War Refugee Board are gratified by the results reported in your 1279 of April 17. Please convey to the Costa Rican authorities this Government's appreciation of their inclination to cooperate on the lines indicated in the Department's airgrams of March 31 and April 11.

Since only quick action can save the victims, you are requested to press for a note to the Protecting Power regarding the validity of documents and the treatment of bearers as soon as possible. We are also awaiting a formal notification from Costa Rica to the United States indicating their approval of our declaring the persons concerned eligible for exchange, subject to the assurances contained in the Department's airgram of April 11.

Hull

Eck

HULL

WRB:MMV:KG
8/8/44

CGA

1-13

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000193

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

Department and War Refugee Board gratified results reported in your 1279 of April 17. * Please convey Costa Rican authorities this Government's appreciation of their inclination to cooperate on lines indicated in Department's airgram of March 31 and April 11.

Since only urgent action could save the victims, you are requested to press for a note to the Protecting Power regarding validity of documents and treatment of bearers as soon as possible. We are also awaiting a formal notification from Costa Rica to United States indicating its approval of our declaring the persons concerned eligible for exchange, subject to the assurances contained in Department's airgram of April 11.

May 6, 1944
2:50 P.M.

BA. L.S.T.

RLSmith:BAksln/jp 5/5/44

000194

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Refugee
Office
MAY 1 1944

A-211
x
4:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

MAY 1, 1944

SENT BY [REDACTED] COURIER

AMEMBASSY,

SAN JOSE (COSTA RICA).

Refer to Department's circular airgrams of March 31, 1:06 p.m., of April 11, 11:00 a.m. and of April 22, 7:30 p.m. The Department has now been apprized that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews holding Costa Rican documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Costa Rica is reported to have replied that it is disposed to recognize passports issued by its Consuls only to the extent of eight families, and that these families would be allowed to remain in Costa Rica only for the duration of the war, unless the persons concerned are either farmers or industrialists.

At the time this reply is reported to have been given to Vatican, the assurance contained in our circular airgram of April 11 had evidently not (repeat not) yet reached Costa Rican government. It is therefore felt advisable to reiterate the assurance of this Government that Costa Rica will not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical admission to any of the persons concerned in the event of exchange or of any other procedure

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000195

A-311

4:00 p.m.

-2- *San Jose*

leading to their release. Under these assurances, Costa Rica would not (repeat not) be asked to permit any of these persons to enter its territory even temporarily, unless it so desires. Accordingly, the numerical limitation stated in Costa Rican reply to the Vatican seems no longer justified, and the hope is expressed that Costa Rica will agree to act in the sense of our circular airgram of April 11 without any numerical limitations whatsoever.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon the Costa Rican Government the extreme urgency with which this Government views the necessity of acting favorably without delay on proposals previously submitted and detailed in the airgrams under reference. You should impress upon Costa Rican officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations would result for Costa Rica from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Costa Rican authorities should not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

HULL

WRB:GLW:KG
4/27/44

ARA

000196

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY AT SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

Refer to Department's circular airgrams of March 31, 1:05 p.m., of April 10, 11:00 a.m. and of _____.
The Department has now been apprized that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted to work out relief ~~measures~~ for Jews holding Costa Rican documents and interned by Germany. Apparently, the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange was raised in addition to the question of recognition of documents. Costa Rica is reported to have replied that it is disposed to recognize passports issued by its Consuls only to the extent of eight families, and that these families would be allowed to remain in Costa Rica only for the duration of the war, unless the persons concerned are either farmers or industrialists.

At the time this reply is reported to have been given to Vatican, the assurance contained in our circular airgram of April 10 had evidently not (repeat not) yet reached Costa Rican government. It is therefore felt advisable to reiterate the assurance of this Government that Costa Rica will not (repeat not) be expected to grant physical admission to any of the persons concerned in the event of exchange or of any other procedure leading to their release. Under these assurances, Costa Rica would not (repeat not) be asked to permit any of these persons to enter its territory even temporarily, unless it so desires. Accordingly, the numerical limitation stated in Costa Rican reply to the Vatican seems no longer justified, and the hope is expressed that Costa Rica will agree to act in the sense of our circular airgram of April 10 without any numerical limitations whatsoever.

In the light of these assurances, please impress upon the Costa Rican government the extreme urgency of acquiescing in our requests and of acting upon them without delay. You should impress upon Costa Rican officials that since failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved, and that since no (repeat no) responsibilities or obligations would result for Costa Rica from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Costa Rican authorities would not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

April 24, 1944

2:15 p.m.

BA. G.L.

BAkain:RLSmith/jp 4/21/44

000197



CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

San José, Costa Rica,
April 17, 1944.

*3 to Man - Refuge
Board Files*

No. 1279

Subject: Views of Foreign Minister regarding subject
matter Department's Secret Airgrams of
March 31 and April 11.

[REDACTED]

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to the Department's secret airgrams of March 31 and April 11, 1944, I have the honor to advise the Department that on April 15th I discussed the subject matter thereof with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He stated that our conversation was most opportune since he had been contemplating taking an early opportunity to recommend to President Calderón Guardia a complete investigation of all outstanding Costa Rican passports. It had been his original intention of declaring the invalidity of a number of these passports and the restriction of others to limited periods of validity only.

The Minister stated he thoroughly understood the situation and would be inclined to cooperate with the Department along the lines recommended in view of the humanitarian considerations involved. As he stated, there was no other alternative but to attempt to save the people concerned from harsh treatment by the Germans.

As suggested, I recommended that the Foreign Minister address the German Government through the protecting power as soon as possible along the lines suggested in the Department's airgram of April 11. I shall remind him of this matter either to-day or tomorrow.

Respectfully yours,

Edward G. Trueblood
Edward G. Trueblood,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

EGT:mo

15308 PS/CH

DECLASSIFIED
State Department, 1-11-72
By R. K. Parks Date **SEP 20 1972**

000198

CONTROL COPY

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

W. M. ...
file 5.1



San José, Costa Rica
March 7, 1944

No. 1163

2 27 R B
3 4 1944
1 11 1944
Ch

SUBJECT: Alleged Costa Ricans in the civilian
internment camp at Vittel, France.

The Ambassador has the honor to refer to the Department's instruction No. 224 of February 10, 1944, transmitting a report on the civilian camp at Vittel, France which stated that thirty-six persons of Costa Rican nationality were being held in that camp, and to quote below the reply of the Foreign Office stating that the Costa Rican Government is of the opinion that the thirty-six persons claiming Costa Rican nationality have no legal right to do so:

"The Secretary of State in the Office of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America to whom he is very grateful for the copy which he sent him with the three-person note No. 193 of February 16, of a report made by a representative of the Swiss Government regarding the civilian internment camp at Vittel, France, and from which it is understood that there are thirty-six persons of Costa Rican nationality in this camp, although this Ministry of State believes that it concerns persons who have obtained these passports from the hands of authorities who did not carry out their duties because of pecuniary expediency.

"Alberto Barranti approves the opportunity to renew to Suñor Sen. Portet the sentiments of his elevated and distinguished consideration."

In this connection reference is made to the Embassy's despatch No. 1505 of March 9, 1943.

711.5

SRT/yr

E.G.

000199



G

000200

DEPARTMENT OF
STATE
COMMUNICATIONS

AIRGRAM

180
5:00 PM Ref
Bd/M...
[Handwritten signature]

From: American Embassy, Habana, Cuba

Dated: August 30, 1944

Rec'd: August 31, 5p.16.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

A-1927, August 30, 2:10 p.m., 1944.

Reference Department's airgram 1229, July 21,
5:40 p.m., 1944.

Embassy has made several efforts to ascertain from Foreign Office whether the instructions mentioned in Embassy's airgram 1294 of June 16 were sent to Madrid or to Bern. Unfortunately these efforts have not up to the present time met with success; the Foreign Office continues reluctant to show much initiative in this matter.

I shall not fail to inform the Department if any further information is forthcoming from the Cuban Government.

NUFER

GGA/dso

711 Refugee Exchange

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000201

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
Secretary of State
Washington
1944 AUG 7 PM 2 52

REC'D: August 4, 1944
REC'D: August 7, 8 am

COMMUNICATIONS
No. A-1697 AND RECORDS, 2:20 a.m.
(LIAISON)

Reference by despatch no. 7429, July 24, 1944 regarding Germans in Cuba available for exchange for persecuted minorities in Europe. The Office of the Legal Attaché, under date of July 31, furnished the Embassy with a cable obtained from a confidential source, translation of which reads as follows:

File

"CDAL7 CD Madrid Exteriores Via LU CABLES
169 19 2330

Jul 20-44

"Char. é d'Affaires of Spain, Habana
Habana.

All with reference to despatch no. 280 of 23 December 1943: German Embassy interested your kindly ascertaining exact number of German subjects interned and not interned residing Cuba who wish to return, informing them in case they decline that they cannot count hereafter on subsidy of German Government. Reference Embassy adds that on basis number of Germans to be repatriated, request you propose to Cuban Government now exchange including men military age and Cuban subjects who at German initiative were transported to Spain more than a year ago and whose departure it has not been possible to permit by German Government because of failure obtain necessary safe conducts from North American and British Governments. Reference Embassy indicates that it may be stated that German Government is willing to permit departure same number Cubans of military age as Germans qualified military service in Cuba reference Embassy likewise

stating

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000202

stating that in occupied territories there are 110 Cubans of whom 70 are of military age, reference Embassy being interested telegraphic reply on first point which proposes exchange.

(sgd) JORDANA."

Inasmuch as the Spanish text of this communication appears defective in some respects it is quoted herewith:

"Con referencia su despacho 280 de 23 Diciembre 1943: Embajada Alemana interesa se sirva averiguar número exacto súbditos alemanes internados y no internados residentes Cuba que quieran regresar comunicándoles caso negativo no podrían contar en adelante con subvención de Gobierno Alemán asiada citada Embajada a que a base número alemanes a repatriar. Luego a Ud. proponer a Gobierno Cubano nuevo cabeza incluyendo hombres edad militar y súbditos cubanos que por parte alemana fueron trasladados a España hace más de un año y cuya salida no se había podido autorizar por Gobierno Alemán por falta contrapartida con objeto conseguir salvo-conductos necesarios de Gobierno Norteamericano y Británico. Señala datada (sic) Embajada que podría indicarse que Gobierno Alemán está dispuesto a permitir salida mismo número cubanos de edad militar como alemanes aptos servicio militar de Cuba manifestando igualmente citada Embajada que en territorios ocupados se encuentran 110 cubanos de ellos 70 de edad militar interesando mencionada Embajada respuesta telográfica sobre primer punto que propone canje.

JORDANA. -"

RUFER

A-1229

BY COURIER

5:40 PM
XXXXXX

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 23 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

July 21, 1944

AMEMBASSY,
HAWAII

CONTROL COPY

The following is from the War Refugee Board.

The Department and the Board are highly gratified by the results reported in your A-1294 of June 18. Please convey the appreciation of this government to the Cuban authorities. The substance of your communication is being transmitted to the American Embassy, Madrid, with a request to support the Cuban desires.

The only question in connection with your message arises from the fact that Cuba's protecting power vis-a-vis Germany is Switzerland therefore instructions are being sent to Cuban Embassy in Madrid. Please clarify this and advise. Would also appreciate learning the date when the promised instructions were actually sent.

Hull
JHC

HULL

AMEMBASSY
7/19/44

OOA

WE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000204

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR BRADEN, HABANA, CUBA

Department and Board highly gratified by results reported in your A-1294 of June 16. Please convey this Government's appreciation to Cuban authorities. Substance of your communication being transmitted to Embassy Madrid with request to support Cuban requests.

The only question in connection with your message arises from fact that Cuba's protecting power vis-a-vis Germany is Switzerland whereas instructions are being sent to Cuban embassy in Madrid. Please clarify and advise. Would also appreciate learning dates when promised instructions were actually sent.

10:15 a.m.
July 15, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Stewart, Central Files, Cable Control Files

RA. L.S.P.
BAKzin:ar 7/14/44

000205

~~SECRET~~ BY COURIER

XXXXXX A- 1127 X

XXXXXX 4:30PM

Sent by ~~SECRET~~ AIRTEL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 13 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

CONTROL COPY
1944

AMER BASSY,

HABANA (CUBA).

FOR THE PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~ INFORMATION OF THE
AMBASSADOR.

Reference is made to your A-1127 of May 26. We appreciate the Cuban intention of informing ^{the} Embassy in Washington that the Cuban Government would not permit the validity of any of its passports to be questioned by the Germans. However, it is essential that such communication be also addressed by Cuba to its protecting Power for transmission to Germany. If this communication has not yet been made, please urge that it be speedily transmitted.

The reservation made to you orally by the Minister of State and intended to be omitted from the communication to the Netherlands Embassy should also, of course, be omitted from the communication to the protecting power.

Please advise whether Cuba has consented to the exchange negotiations pursuant to Department's A-738 of May 2.

Stettinius

ACTING

WRB:BNV:KG
6/9/44

COA

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000206

AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, HAVANA, CUBA

Reference is made to your A-1127 of May 26. Appreciate Cuban intention of informing Netherlands Embassy in Washington that the Cuban Government would not permit the validity of any of its passports to be questioned by the Germans. However, essential that such communication be also addressed by Cuba to its protecting Power for transmission to Germany. If this communication has not yet been made, please urge that it be speedily transmitted.

The reservation made to you orally by the Minister of State and intended to be omitted from the communication to Netherlands Embassy should also, of course, be omitted from the communication to the protecting power.

Please advise whether Cuba has given her consent to exchange negotiations pursuant to Department's A-738 of May 3.

June 8, 1944
5:15 p.m.

Rh. L.S.P.
Bakins:er 6/8/44

000207

duw

Copy only

AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

FROM Embassy

Habana ✓

Dated June 16, 1944

Rec'd June 20, 8 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

CONTROL COPY

A-1294, June 16, 9:35 a.m.

Reference is made to Department's airgrams A-898 of May 31, 7 p.m. and A-968 of June 10, 4:50 p.m.

Representations referred to in Embassy's airgram A-1071, May 19, 3 p.m. made by the Cuban Embassy in Madrid were primarily concerned with the return of deportees to Vittel. However, after further consultation today with the Minister of State on the entire matter raised in the Department's airgram A-738 of May 3 and circular airgram of May 11, he has informed me orally that instructions, similar to the communication given by the Cuban Government to the Netherlands Embassy in Washington (see Embassy's airgram A-1127, May 26, 9:20 a.m.) will be given to the Cuban Embassy in Madrid--namely to request the protecting power to inform the German Government that the Cuban Government would not permit the validity of any of its passports to be questioned by the Germans. The Minister assured me that, as in the case of the above-mentioned communication to the Netherlands Embassy, no mention would be made by the Cuban Embassy in Madrid of the Minister's previously made oral reservation to me, namely that, if conclusive proof were presented regarding the falsification of a Cuban passport, he could not insist upon its recognition since to do so might endanger the holders of legitimate passports. The Minister added that no reference would be made to the possibility that some of the passports in question might be falsified.

The Minister also said that he would instruct the Cuban Embassy in Madrid to have the protecting

power

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

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000208

power request the German Government to accord holders of documents issued in Cuba's name the same treatment that the Germans hope will be received by her nationals in the Western Hemisphere.

The Minister also indicated that the Cuban Government is agreeable to all holders of documents issued in Cuba's name being considered exchange material for German nationals held in this hemisphere provided such holders of Cuban passports as the Cuban Government desires be sent to havens elsewhere than Cuba.

The foregoing represents the positive action taken on the matter by the Minister of State who I feel has been as cooperative as could be expected, particularly since the Cubans are, of course, primarily interested in repatriating their own bona fide nationals.

BRADEN

711
EMH/goh

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000209

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
MAY 31 1944
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

~~BY COURIER~~

Files

A- 898

7:00 P M

May 31, 1944

SENT BY AIRMAIL

EMBASSY,
HABANA (CUBA)

CONTROL COPY

Reference is made to your A-1071 of May 19.

It is not clear therefrom whether the Cuban Embassy in Madrid is making representations concerning the return of deportees to Vittel only or regarding entire matter raised in Department's A-738 of May 3 and circular airmail of May 11. Please advise on this point. If the latter is not yet achieved, please continue your efforts in this direction.

For your information and guidance, the Embassy at London has stated that the British Minister at Habana ~~NOTE~~ has been instructed to assure the Government of Cuba, that the recognition of Cuban passports issued to Jewish persons in countries under enemy control is welcomed by His Majesty's Government and latter appreciates the Cuban Government's reply to the Vatican regarding this matter. ~~UNQUOTE~~

Hull
ghw

HULL

WRB:DMV:CMH
5/30/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000210

AIRGRAM TO AMBASSADOR BRADEN, HABANA, CUBA

Reference is made to your A-1071 of May 19. It is not (repeat not) clear therefrom whether Cuban Embassy in Madrid is making representations concerning return of deportees to Vittel only or concerning entire matter raised in Department's A-738 of May 3, circular airgram of May 11, 7:30 p.m. and ___ of _____. Please advise.

If latter not (repeat not) yet achieved, please continue your efforts in this direction.

For your information and guidance, London Embassy informs Department that British Minister at Habana QUOTE has been instructed to assure the Government of Cuba that the recognition of Cuban passports issued to Jewish persons in countries under enemy control is welcomed by His Majesty's Government and latter appreciates the Cuban Government's reply to the Vatican regarding this matter. UNQUOTE

May 29, 1944
2:05 p.m.

BA. Rbh.
BAkad:jp 5/26/44

000211

FROM:

HABANA

DATED: May 26, 1944

REC'D: May 29; 9 a.m.

CONTROL COPY

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-1127, May 26, 9:20 a.m.

X
In bringing up with the Minister of State today the contents of the Department's secret airgram A-542 of May 23, 12:31 p.m., the Minister said that he was taking positive action regarding the matter by informing the Netherlands Embassy in Washington that the Cuban Government would not permit the validity of any of its passports to be questioned by the Germans. However, he observed that, if conclusive proof were presented regarding the falsification of a Cuban passport he could not insist upon its recognition since to do so might endanger the holders of legitimate passports. The Minister said that he is not transmitting this reservation to the Netherlands Embassy.

BRADEN

711

BR/ja

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000212

~~SECRET~~ BY COURIER

A-133

1:31

7/24
May 23, 1944 *Sept 1944*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAX W. WALKER
DIRECTOR
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SENT BY ~~██████████~~ AIRGRAM

EMBASSY,

HABANA (CUBA).

FOR THE PERSONAL AND ~~██████████~~ INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

The Department and the War Refugee Board appreciate the information contained in your A-668, and are pleased to learn that the Cuban authorities will not, during the duration of the war, raise the question at issue of the validity of passports.

The critical nature of the situation makes it vital however that the documents in reference be upheld should their *not be* ~~validity be challenged~~ *considered as open to challenge* by Germany. Please urge the Cuban Government therefore to take the positive actions outlined in the Department's A-738 of May 3, and to uphold its attitude in the face of possible German challenge.

~~No way can be perceived in which these measures would endanger the position of holders of regularly acquired documents.~~ It is understood ~~never~~ that, in any exchange negotiations which may be entered into, unquestioned citizens of Cuba will be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled to priority over others. Please so advise Cuban officials.

Your attention is again drawn to the assurances given in the

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000213

HABANA A-842 -2-

the Department's circular airgram of March 31 and April 11 and to the stand taken by this Government regarding refugees claiming American citizenship as outlined in the circular airgram of May 11. You are requested to urge speedy action, in view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned find themselves. Please inform the Department of any developments.

HULL
OLW

WRB:MIV:KG
6/22/44

OC:1

000214

AIRGRAM TO AMERICAN EMBA.SY, HABANA, CUBA

Department and War Refugee Board appreciate information contained in your A-968, and are pleased to learn that the question of validity of passports at issue will not (repeat not) be raised by Cuban authorities during the period of the war.

It is felt, however, that the critical nature of the situation makes it vital that the documents in question be upheld in case their validity is challenged by Germany. Therefore, please urge the Cuban government to take the affirmative actions outlined in Department's A-738 of May 3, and to uphold its attitude in face of possible German challenge.

Department and Board can perceive no (repeat no) way in which these measures would endanger the position of bearers of regularly acquired documents. Moreover, please advise Cuban officials that in any exchange negotiations that may be entered into, it is of course understood that unquestioned citizens of Cuba will be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled to priority over others.

Your attention is again drawn to the assurances given in Department's circular airgrams of March 31 and April 11 and to stand taken by this Government regarding refugees claiming American citizenship as outlined in circular airgram of May 11.

In view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned find themselves, you are requested to urge speedy action. Please advise Department of any developments.

May 20, 1944
11:35 A.M.

Ba. L.S.R.
BAKzin:RISmith/jp 5/18/44

000215

A-842

██████████ BY ██████████

██████████

(CUBA).
██████████ PERSONA AND ██████████

██████████ and the ██████████ stated ██████████
██████████ in ██████████ and are pleased to learn
██████████, during the duration of the
██████████ of the validity of passports.

██████████ of the ██████████ it is noted
██████████ in reference should not be considered
to open to ██████████. Please urge the Cuban Government at this
time to take the positive actions outlined in the Department's
A-738 of May 3, and to uphold the attitudes in the face of possible
██████████.

It is understood that, in any exchange negotiations
which may be entered into, unquestioned citizens of Cuba will
be considered by this Government as being in a category entitled
to priority over others. Please so advise Cuban officials.

Your attention is again drawn to the assurances given in
the Department's circular airgrams of March 31 and April 11
and to the stand taken by this Government regarding refugees
claiming American citizenship as outlined in the circular
airgram of May 11. You are requested to urge speedy action,
in view of the imminent danger in which the persons concerned
find themselves. Please inform the Department of any develop-
ments.

RMI
GEM

WRB:MMV:KG
5/22/44

CCA

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Akstin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuPois,
Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Laxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks,
McCormack, Sargoy, Smith, Stendish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000210

CONTROL COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 18 1944
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVED
MAY 19 1944
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

File

Secretary of State,
Washington.

7-1471, May 19, 3 p.m.

Department's secret circular airgram, May 11,

7:00 p.m.

After being informed of the last two paragraphs
of the Department's airgram, the Ministry of State
states that it is requesting the Cuban Embassy in
Madrid to make urgent representations.

BT:DLH

711.6

.../JE

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000211

CONTROL COPY

FROM:

HABANA

DATED: May 6, 1944

RECEIVED: May 9 10am

Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

A-968, May 6, 11 a.m.

Reference Department's airmail 736, May 3, 2 p.m.,
1944.

Ministry of State advises that it has been approached by Netherlands Embassy in Washington rather than by the Vatican regarding this matter. The Cuban Government has advised Netherlands Embassy that question of validity of the passports will not be raised by this Government during the period of war. However, if the German Government makes an issue of the fact that certain of these passports were improperly issued to persons who are not Cuban citizens, the Cuban Government will be unable to extend its protection. Ministry of State points out that bearers of such passports are really in a more favorable position than those other persecuted persons who did not by illegal means obtain passports to which they were entitled; that, if the Germans raise the issue, failure to take measures against persons who have acquired illegal passports will endanger position of bearers of legally acquired passports.

Categorical answer regarding possible eventual immigration to Cuba of bearers of illegal passports appears not to have been given to the Netherlands Embassy. The Cuban Government will apparently defer solution of this problem until persons involved are outside enemy territory.

Cuban Government has asked Netherlands Embassy in Washington to supply names of persons bearing passports illegally issued but Embassy has not yet supplied this information.

DAWSON

GGA/dac-hmf

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000218

CONTROL COPY

2 - War Rel Bd
(Mr. [redacted])
[redacted] AX COURIER

A- 738

2:00 p.m.

SENT BY [redacted] AIRMAIL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 5
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

May 3, 1946

AMERICAN MISSION,
Havana (Cuba).

FOR THE PERSONS AND [redacted] INFORMATION OF THE AMBASSADOR.

Reference is made to your GL-49 of March 1. Department has been apprised that Papal Nuncio de Bern informed Minister Hamilton that Vatican had attempted to seek out relief measures for Jews in German-held territory who face imminent danger of deportation to Poland and death. It is understood that some of these Jews have been found, or may be found, to hold passports or consular documents issued in the name of Latin American republics. These such documents have been given recognition by country in whose name they were issued, they have in the past afforded some protection to the persons holding them.

In view of this Government's policy with respect to victims of enemy oppression, the Department has been particularly gratified to learn from the Bern report that when approached by the Vatican, Cuba replied that passports issued in her name to Jews in German-held territory, would be recognized by Cuba if Great Britain and the United States have no objection.

Please verify above information. If correct, please convey to

381

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 20 1972

000219

Hahn A 738-2

the Cuban authorities the Government's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no objection to Cuban recognition of such documents.

Department understands that, in approaching China, Vatlean raised the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange in addition to the question of recognition of documents.

It is not clear what position Cuba took on this point. Please ascertain Cuba's attitude. If Cuba is not agreeable to the admission of such persons holding Cuban documents, please emphasize that Department's request with respect to opening discussions concerning exchange does not involve immigration but, on the contrary, contains assurances that Cuba will not be expected to admit persons concerned even on a temporary basis. At any rate, we hope that Cuba, in the interests of humanity, will postpone until after the war any questioning of said documents, and in the meantime, request Germany through the protecting power to accord holders of documents issued in Cuba's name the same treatment that Germany hopes will be received by her nationals in the Western Hemisphere, and will also agree to the persons concerned being considered exchange material for German nationals held in this hemisphere provided such holders of Cuban passports are sent to havens elsewhere than in Cuba.

To acquaint you fully with this Government's attitude in this matter,

000220

Hull memo A-733 -8-

matter, circular airmgram of March 31, 1:05 p.m., of April 11, 11:00 a.m., and of April 22, 7:30 p.m. which have been sent to various Latin American republics, are being repeated to you by separate circular airmgram, and you are requested to urge Cuban authorities to act accordingly in connection with those and other Nazi victims in German-controlled territory who have been found or may be found, to hold documents issued in the name of Cuba.

In the light of the above assurances, please impress upon the Cuban government the extreme urgency with which this Government views the necessity of acting favorably without delay on these proposals. You should impress upon Cuban officials that failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved. If appropriate, you may add that since no responsibility to receive the people concerned would result for Cuba from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Cuban authorities should not whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

Please advise Department of the result of your efforts.

HULL

VRB:GLN:KG
5/1/44

ARA

000221

AIRGRAM TO AMBASSADOR BRADEN AT HABANA, CUBA

Reference is made to your 6149 of March 1. Department has been apprised that Papal Nuncio at Bern informed Minister Harrison that Vatican had attempted to work out relief measures for Jews in German-held territory who face imminent danger of deportation to Poland and death. It is understood that some of these Jews have been found, or may be found, to hold passports or consular documents issued in the name of Latin American republics. Where such documents have been given recognition by country in whose name they were issued, they have in the past afforded some protection to the persons holding them.

In view of this Government's policy with respect to victims of enemy oppression, the Department has been particularly gratified to learn from the Bern report that when approached by the Vatican, Cuba replied that passports issued in her name to Jews in German-held territory, would be recognized by Cuba if Great Britain and the United States have no objection.

Please verify above information. If correct, please convey to the Cuban authorities the Department's appreciation of Cuban attitude and the assurance that the United States has no objection to Cuban recognition of such documents.

Department understands that, in approaching Cuba, Vatican raised the question of eventual immigration as result of possible exchange in addition to the question of recognition of documents.

It is not (repeat not) clear what position Cuba took on this point. Please ascertain Cuba's attitude. If Cuba is not (repeat not) agreeable to the admission of such persons holding Cuban documents, please emphasize that Department's request with respect to opening discussions concerning exchange does not (repeat not) involve immigration but, on the contrary, contains assurances that Cuba will not (repeat not) be expected to admit persons concerned even on a temporary basis. At any rate, we hope that Cuba, in the interests of humanity, will postpone until after the war any questioning of said documents, and in the meantime, request Germany through the protecting power to accord holders of documents issued in Cuba's name the same treatment that Germany hopes will be received by her nationals in the Western Hemisphere, and will also agree to the persons concerned being considered exchange material.

To acquaint you fully with this Government's attitude in this matter, circular airgrams of March 31, 1:05 p.m., of April 10, 11:00 a.m., and of _____, which have been sent to various Latin American republics, are being repeated to you, and you are requested to urge Cuban authorities to act accordingly in connection with Jews and other Nazi victims in German-controlled territory who have been found, or may be found, to hold documents issued in the name of Cuba.

In the light of the above assurances, please impress upon the Cuban government the extreme urgency of acquiescing in our requests and of acting upon them without delay. You should impress upon Cuban officials that failure to act would almost certainly spell death for the persons involved. If appropriate, you may add that since no (repeat no) responsibility to receive the people concerned would result for Cuba from acquiescence in our requests, we would be sorely disappointed if Cuban authorities would not (repeat not) whole-heartedly cooperate with our efforts to save these people.

Please advise Department of the result of your efforts.

April 29, 1944
10:30 a.m.

R.A. L...
BA:RLS:LESerials 4/28/44

100223