

Programs with respect to Relief and  
Rescue of Refugees: Evacuation To and  
Through Spain and Portugal

WRB-39

Evacuation of Republican Refugees from  
Spain and Portugal

WILLIAM EMERSON, CHAIRMAN  
BETH T. GANO, VICE-CHAIRMAN

EDWARD B. WITTE, TREASURER  
ALFRED F. WHITMAN, SECRETARY

## Unitarian Service Committee

25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

TELEPHONE CAPITOL 3550

CHARLES R. JOY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REGISTERED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S  
WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD  
ENDORSED BY NATIONAL WAR FUND  
THROUGH REFUGEE RELIEF  
TRUSTEES, INC.

February 24, 1945

Miss Florence Hodel  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Will you be so kind as to see that the following cable is transmitted, through consular code, to Martha Sharp in Lisbon:

"257 Embassy requests must go directly to State Department not through private agencies stop procedure for transit visas was simplified long ago stop Delvayo insists agreement with Mexican Foreign Affairs was completed stop he has made two trips for us stop where he fails nobody else could succeed stop I am sending him your cable stop if you think wise please inform international police that if we cannot procure visas for workers promptly we will close Lisbon office money desperately needed elsewhere this is serious stop has Lisbon followed instructions in our 248 stop acting reyour 418."

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

CRJ:F

Charles R. Joy  
Executive Director

373 Fisher  
2/17

February 21, 1945

Dear Dr. Joy:

The following message for you from Martha Sharp was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of February 17, 1945:

"American and British Embassies urgently request one-hundred Mexican visas. The State Department knows of this request and recommendation for simplification of American Transit visa procedure has been made for Spanish cases. It is necessary that this action be taken in order to improve agency relationships. Necessary that Delvayo urge Mexican visas and reach joint agreements with Foreign Affairs of Mexican Government and Ministry of Interior. Former agreement between Mexican Foreign Affairs and Delvayo never completed which is reason no permissions received here. Urgent someone else go if impossible Delvayo go. Immediate action required in crisis as forty Bryan cases in prison."

Very truly yours,

*ls/ Florence Hodel*

Florence Hodel  
Assistant Executive Director

Dr. Charles Joy,  
Unitarian Service Committee,  
25 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

RCH  
RBHutchinson: 2/21/45

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MES-1067

Feb 10 20  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (Lisbon W)

Lisbon

Dated February 17, 1945

Rec'd. 5:32 p.m.

Secretary of State  
Washington.

373, February 17, 1 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 326. USC 416 FOR CHARLES JOY FROM  
MARTHA SHARP

One-hundred Mexican visas urgently requested by  
American and British Embassies. This request is known  
to State Department and recommendation made that American  
transit visa procedure be simplified for Spanish cases.  
This action imperative to improve agency relationships.  
Essential that Delvayo press visas in Mexico and reach  
agreements jointly with both Ministry of Interior and  
Foreign Affairs of Mexican Government. Previous agree-  
ment Delvayo with Mexican Foreign Affairs never completed  
which reason that permissions not received here. If  
impossible Delvayo go urgent that someone else go. Forty  
Bryan cases in prison and immediate action required in  
crisis.

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

CROCKER

WTD

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

AIR MAIL

American Embassy, Lisbon.  
ENCLOSURE to despatch no. 18  
of April 18, 1945.

Copy

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION:  
held on April 11, 1945.

Mrs. Martha Sharp, Chairman of the Unitarian Service Committee,  
and  
Captain Agostin Lourenco, Chief of the Portuguese International  
Police (P.V.D.E.)

I explained that I had just come to Portugal as the Director for Spain and Portugal of the Unitarian Service Committee and that this was my third assignment. I had worked in France and Czechoslovakia, where we had always had the best relations with the Government and the Police.

Beginning about three weeks after my arrival here, refugees who came to us for help were arrested every day as they left our office. Since I did not understand why this had happened I had come to Captain Lourenco to discuss the matter with him. I explained that my committee was one financed by contributions raised all over America by United War Fund, and as such had a responsibility which other private agencies, supported by individual gifts, did not have. We represent a broad group of Americans.

Captain Lourenco said: "I will tell you frankly and sincerely why the arrests were made."

"Here in Portugal we make a distinction between refugees from the war and Spaniards who have no reason to leave their country which is as 'tranquille' as Portugal. As the head of the police charged with the responsibility for all foreigners within our state I have a responsibility to know who is here. The refugees - Jews and others who come - are examined and if we find they are not dangerous to our state we allow them to live in residence forcees at Ericaira or Caldas. We do not put them in concentration camps as they do in other countries. Here we trust them better. But the Spanish refugees who come here are obviously politicals who are against the Spanish Government. Since I am responsible for the foreigners within this state I must examine them too in order to know who they are and whether they too are dangerous to the state. It has been my experience that all the Spaniards whom we have examined we have found to be communists. They are plotting against the security of our state by making propoganda and by their activities. We have a long frontier between Spain and Portugal which we are unable to patrol. We can only take people when we find them and examine them. There has been an organized activity on the border between Spain and Portugal to bring Spaniards clandestinely across that border and to hide them in houses in Portugal (I interrupted here to say that our committee had never helped the clandestine passage of any Spaniard in any way from Spain to Portugal). But, he added: "Some of the American committees here, the Israelites have helped to hide these people when they arrived. The head of the Hicem I have talked with on the subject - I have said to him, my dear friend Dr. So and So (I interrupted with, Baruel, he is a friend) - I do not object to your

helping

helping these people, when they get here, but I do object to your hiding them, finding them places to stay after they get here."

"You are now here - and so I am trying to explain everything from the beginning. Since 1860 - before my time, there was an ancient agreement of friendship between the Portuguese and Spanish governments that each would return the citizens of the other state. For this reason and because I do not wish to have groups of these persons working against Portugal I must know where they are and see that they leave the country. Besides you cannot tell how dangerous these people may really be."

"Quite a while ago a member of the British Embassy came to see me about allowing these Spaniards to go to Morocco and Canada. I told him I would be glad to arrange for their release. I have made an agreement with the British Embassy to allow persons to leave Portugal for whom they have been able to arrange the papers. We agreed on this emigration and the next day when I telephoned to ask the British representative when he would bring the authorization of his government he told me that he had received a telegram saying that the British Government had changed this plan and it would not be possible for them to go to Canada or Morocco. It is obvious, you see, that the British don't want Spanish communists any more than we do."

I asked if he were willing to allow the Spaniards to go - if arrangements were made for them to go to other countries, such as Mexico. He said "Certainly", all he wanted was not to have Portugal endangered by communists. "I have talked about these matters with the British and American Embassies, but I am perfectly willing to deal with you directly in all these matters. We do not need to go through the embassies. "Nous combinerons" something for these refugees and your committee can come to me directly with your requests. I will get all the information together about the refugees here as well as the Spaniards and will invite you to return to discuss these matters."

I said here that there was a second matter I wished to discuss - that of the prisoners. As you know, my committee gives money and clothing and cigarettes to persons in prison. A few weeks ago Dr. Schwerin was told by the chief of the prison at Caxias that he has 20 men incommunicado and that if Dr. Schwerin would give him the money he would see that these persons received it. I asked if it would not be possible for us to know who these men are, to have permission for Dr. Schwerin to see them and give them what they need, that since they are in prison there is no reason why they should not be spoken to and helped. The Ministry of the Interior has just allowed me to receive 1 ton of clothing for distribution to the refugees and I would like to be able to see that some of the men at Caxias get some. He promised to get the list of these and to discuss this matter at our next meeting.

I then asked him if he would prolong my visa for Portugal which expires next week and allow me also a re-entry permit

for

for Portugal when I am in Spain. He said he would see that I had a residence card which would obviate the matter of a visa and got me the paper to sign on and told me he would apply for the reentry permit and gave me the assurance I would receive it before I left Portugal which would allow me to get it in Madrid from the Portuguese consul. He promised to help me all he could and said he would invite me back as soon as he has all the necessary information to discuss cases. I asked him if he would also designate a special person to discuss individual cases. He agreed to do this too.

En passant I mentioned as a kind of joke the fact that a man came to us saying he was a Spaniard who had been sent by the Mexican Embassy, who was in need of help. We detected his Portuguese accent and finally he broke down and confessed that he really was a Portuguese. Two days later the same man returned as the policeman in charge of a prisoner. He held his hand before his face in shame, to try to hide himself, but we recognized him. A few days afterwards he bowed to me in a cafe - and it was the same man! Captain Lourenco laughed, and then said: "That certainly was a stupid thing to do, wasn't it?"

AIR MAIL

*3 War Refugee Board  
(Dressway)*

Lisbon, February 14, 1945

No. 1475

Subject: Spanish Republican Refugees in Portugal

*3 War Refugee Board (Dressway)  
1 War (Mr. Bundy)  
3 WRB (State)*

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

**CONTROL COPY**

Sir:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's telegrams Nos. 1819 (WRB) of June 24, 1944, 4 p.m., and 1820 of June 24, 1944, 5 p.m., concerning the situation of Spanish Republican refugees in Portugal and the attempts being made to secure Mexican visas for them. In substance, the War Refugee Board stated that the Mexican Government had authorized the Mexican Minister in Lisbon to issue 500 residence visas for Spanish Loyalist refugees, presumably without the necessity of prior reference to Mexico City. The Department authorized the extension of certain facilities to the refugees in question in respect of transit certificates, including an endeavor to process the cases in the United States within a week.

The authority of the Mexican Minister in Lisbon to issue the 500 visas in question did not materialize and, in the meantime, the situation of Spanish Republican refugees in Portugal became more precarious. American relief societies, notably the Unitarian Service Committee, have been giving assistance to this class of people and, in some cases, have supported them in hiding in order to avoid their arrest at the hands of the Portuguese police, which carries with it the danger of deportation to Spain, with the attendant possibility of execution or, at least, long periods of detention.

The Portuguese authorities have become especially exercised in respect to Spanish Republican refugees, have in the last six weeks discovered the hiding places of numerous Spanish Loyalists and have arrested and imprisoned many of them. The Embassy's Military Attache has obtained highly reliable information to the effect that the Portuguese International Police (P.V.D.E.) is strongly aroused at the aid which has been extended to this class of refugees by the American relief societies and by the Unitarians in particular. There have been made available to the Embassy by the Military Attache photostats of signed statements made to the Police by several of the men detained in which they admit that their means of livelihood in Portugal came from the Unitarian Service Committee.

The British Embassy is also interested in assisting the Spanish Republican refugees and especially in avoiding their being returned to Spain by the Portuguese authorities. The

most

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972



most practical means of attaining this objective would appear to be the securing, for at least those individuals whose position has now become dangerous locally, a destination outside of Portugal. In view of the present situation a member of the staff of this Embassy discussed the matter with General Francisco Aguilar, Mexican Minister in Lisbon, who appeared sympathetic. It was suggested to General Aguilar that if he could obtain authority to grant as many as 100 visas to Spanish Republicans the situation of those in the gravest danger might well be solved thereby.

The Mexican Minister ascribed his failure to obtain the authorization to issue the visas mentioned in the Department's telegram No. 1819 of June 24, 1944, to the fact that the Mexican Home Office had not consulted the Mexican Foreign Office concerning the matter. General Aguilar is accordingly requesting the Foreign Office in Mexico City to authorize the issuance of 100 visas and, at the same time, is describing to the Mexican authorities the precarious position of the Spanish Loyalists detained in Portugal. Of especial interest is General Aguilar's assertion that from Spanish, as well as Portuguese contacts, he has learned in detail of the existence of a confidential agreement between the Spanish and Portuguese police authorities which provides, inter alia, for a complete exchange of information concerning the nationals of one country apprehended in the territory of the other, and for the delivery upon request to the police officials of either country of their nationals arrested in the other's territory. While many rumors in regard to such an agreement have long been current in Lisbon, there seems to be no doubt now of its existence. The British Embassy is of the same mind on this subject. For the reason that the Spanish Republicans are thus not protected by their status as political refugees, the danger of their present situation is readily understandable. General Aguilar is also inviting the attention of the Mexican Foreign Office to this phase of the matter.

Tentative arrangements have been made for the drawing up of a complete list of all Spanish refugees known to be in Portugal, together with such information as will enable a local security check to be rapidly made by the Legal Attache of this Embassy, in conjunction with his British colleague. No names will be submitted to the Department for clearance in transit to Mexico which have not first been cleared by local security officials. In addition, it is not anticipated that the list will include nationals other than Spanish.

The comments of the Department and of the War Refugee Board on the foregoing would be appreciated. It is believed that the assistance of the American Embassy in Mexico City might be helpful in obtaining a favorable reaction to the Mexican Minister's request.

Respectfully yours,

For the Ambassador:

*Edward S. Crocker*  
Edward S. Crocker  
Counselor of Embassy

HLR:rm  
Copy to Embassy, Madrid  
Copy to Embassy, Mexico City

*Woe. to + from Spain -  
Español Republic  
Refugees*  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
CENTRAL SERVICES  
TELEGRAPH SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION

February 5, 1948  
*Quor. Ref. Tel.  
File*

57b  
Distribution of true  
replies only by  
special arrangement

1948 FEB 7 PM 2 P.M.

AMEMBASSY

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

**CONTROL COPY**

LISBON

221

The cable below is WRS 135.

Please deliver paraphrase of following message to  
Louise Payson from Dr. Charles Joy of Unitarian Service  
Committee:

QUOTE 263 Mexico City informs us fifty visas for  
Bryan cases now available in Lisbon. UNQUOTE

GREW  
(Acting)  
(clw)

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

WRS:MMV:KG  
2/5/48

VE

VD

RECEIVED  
FEB 8 11 50  
FEB 8 11 50

RECEIVED  
STATE DEPT. COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

CABLE TO AMERICAN LEGATION, LISBON, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

Please deliver following message to Louise Payson from Dr. Charles  
Joy of Unitarian Service Committee:

QUOTE 253 MEXICO CITY INFORMS US FEW VISAS FOR BRYAN  
CASES NOW AVAILABLE IN LISBON. UNQUOTE

THIS IS WRB LISBON CABLE NO. 135.

3:30 p.m.  
February 3, 1945

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois,  
Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, O'Dwyer, Files

*copy made  
USC 2/3/45  
RS  
RDrury 2/2/45*

*see Unitarian  
Committee  
see cables to  
Paris 2/3*

DEPA

3985

November 16, 1944

Dear Dr. Joy:

The following message for you from Elisabeth Dexter was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of November 13, 1944:

"369. Reurtel 232, 31st of October. Difficulty is not with regard to United States transits but lies with non-receipt of authorization for Mexican visas. Here the Legation of Mexico is still without authority for issuance 500 visas promised last June for Spanish Republicans. So far six individual visas have been granted covering total of 12 persons, but these only to persons having in Mexico influential friends. Here meanwhile pressure increases; numerous arrests; some deported and said to have been shot."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehl

J. W. Pehl  
Executive Director

Dr. Charles Joy,  
Unitarian Service Committee,  
25 Beacon Street,  
Boston 8, Massachusetts.

RW

RDrury 11/16/44



October 25, 1944

Dear Dr. Joy:

The following message for you from Elisabeth Dexter has been received through the American Embassy, Lisbon, under date of October 23, 1944:

"Unitarian 355. Yesterday there were arrested seven Spanish Republicans, and it is likely that there will be a general round-up and deportations. If authorization cannot be obtained soon for Mexican visas, it may be too late. It is urgent that a reply be telegraphed at once."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Charles Joy,  
Unitarian Service Committee,  
25 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Mass.

hd 10/25/44



ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

In reply refer to  
VD 840.48 Refugees/9-2244

October 9, 1944

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I refer to your letter of September 22, 1944 concerning cablegram 2876 of September 14, 1944 from the Embassy at Lisbon, Portugal regarding the transit visa cases of five families which had been referred to the Department under the arrangement relating to the issuance of such visas to Spanish and non-Spanish Republican refugees in Portugal.

In reply to the cablegram referred to, the Department telegraphed to the Embassy at Lisbon on September 19, 1944 requesting the names of the persons involved and stating that authorizations for the issuance of visas had been sent by airgram for Mrs. Clara de Cabezas and her child, August 28, 1944; for Jose Ferrando Sanmartin, September 6, 1944, and for Carlos Mendoza Palecios, September 18, 1944. It was added that authorization was being sent to the Embassy by telegraph on behalf of Joaquin Blanch Gomez, his wife and daughter, and that a communication would be sent shortly regarding Belarmino Toral Taibo and his family. In reply, a cablegram dated September 20, 1944 was received from the Embassy stating that the persons referred to in the Embassy's message of September 14, 1944 were identical with those in the Department's communication. It was added that Mr. Taibo and his family had left for Canada on September 16, 1944 as they had obtained Canadian visas and that they were included in a group of persons destined for Canada to whom transit visas had been issued to permit them to

travel

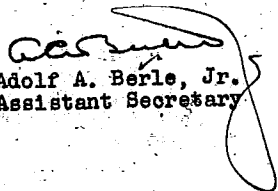
Mr. John W. Pehle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Executive Office of the President,  
Washington 25, D.C.



travel through the United States.

The delay which elapsed between the despatch of the messages from the Embassy at Lisbon, and the receipt of the Department's visa authorizations was occasioned in part by the fact that messages were sent by airgram. All the cases which have been referred by the Embassy at Lisbon to the Department have been checked and authorizations sent to the Embassy. Arrangements have been made to communicate by telegraph in future cases in order to expedite action. Although it may not always be possible to clear future cases within the period of a week, you are assured that action will be expedited as much as possible in order that visas may be issued by the Embassy with the least possible delay.

Sincerely yours,

  
Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary

25, D.C.

In reply refer to  
VD 840.48 Refugees/9-2244

October 9, 1944

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travel

Mr. John W. Pehle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Executive Office of the President,  
Washington 25, D.C.

travel through the United States.

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Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary

DEPARTMENT

September 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Cahill:

The following message for you from Elisabeth Dexter was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of September 25, 1944:

"336. On September 23 Clara Quiroz and daughter Joaquin Blanco wife and child and Jose Ferrando San Martin departed on SS Lourenco Marques for the United States en route to Mexico.

"It is suggested that the closest Mexican Consulate be consulted also Cooks with regard to assistance Philadelphia and the journey to Mexico. Will you please help with the needed funds and we will repay from funds for transportation which are on hand in Lisbon. Probably money for Quiroz is on deposit with Cooks. Information regarding Quiroz should be sent by you to Ernesto Espino Avenida Alvaro Abregon 308, Mexico City."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Edward Cahill,  
Unitarian Service Committee,  
25 Beacon Street,  
Boston 8, Massachusetts.

RDrwy 9/29/44

Copy of 2000  
and 1947/1948  
100 1977000  
Case No. 1584111

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*S - War Ref*  
*Bel (M...)*  
*Message put*  
*19/21/44*  
*RF*

FMH-233  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Lisbon  
Dated September 25, 1944  
Rec'd 4:33 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SEP 27 1944

2976, September 25, 11 a.m.

FOR EDWARD CAHILL BOSTON FROM ELIZABETH DEXTER

This is WRB 203 Unitarian 336.

Clara Quiroz and daughter Joaquin Blanco wife  
and child and Jose Ferran do San Martin left September  
23 on SS LOURENZO MARQUES for United States en route  
Mexico.

Suggest you consult nearest Mexican Consulate and  
Cooks regarding assistance Philadelphia and trip to  
Mexico. Please assist with necessary funds which we  
will repay from transportation funds on hand Lisbon.  
Funds for Quiroz probably on deposit Cooks. Send  
information re Quiroz to Ernesto Espino Avenida Alvaro  
Abregon 308 Mexico City.

NORWEB

**CONTROL COPY**

WSB

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

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972**

11002

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

BJR - 838  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Lisbon  
Dated September 20, 1944  
Rec'd 8:08 p.m.

*7-War Ref Bd (im)*  
*(Belle)*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SEP 29 1944

2938, September 20, 5 p.m.  
Names referred to in Embassy's 2876, September 14

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

are identical with those in your telegram 2554 September  
19, for which many thanks. Airgram authorizations  
for Cabezas family and San Martin arrived September 16  
and transit visas have been issued. Now having serious  
difficulties with Portuguese police regarding their  
exit visas. This is WRB 198. Patecios and Gomez  
family authorizations not yet here.

Family Belarmino Toral Taibo left for Canada  
September 16 having suddenly received Canadian visa,  
and United States transit visa given them automatically  
as part of group. Could not wait here longer.

Hereafter will telegraph names when airgrams are  
sent.

NORWEB

JHB:WVC

**CONTROL COPY**

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

11002

SEP 22 1944

My dear Mr. Barlow:

Reference is made to your letter of June 3, 1944 (your reference 7B) concerning the issuance of United States transit visas to Spanish and non-Spanish republican refugees in Portugal, who desire to go to Mexico by way of the United States. You recommended in your letter that the following procedure be adopted in connection with the issuance of such visas:

"Accordingly, it is suggested that the name of each person, the date and place of his birth, and information as to whether or not he is or has been a Communist, together with other available data, be furnished by the interested persons either to the Department or to our consuls who will be instructed to forward the data to the Department by air mail or by cablegram. The applicants themselves need not appear at the consulates until their cases shall have been cleared and authorization sent to the consuls for the granting of transit certificates. Arrangements can be made in the Department to check the cases and to forward the authorizations to the consuls promptly."

Pursuant to your suggestion, cable 1819 of June 24, 1944 was sent to Lisbon advising the Legation and the Board representative to follow the procedure suggested by you and further advising them that a check of such cases and advice of the action taken will occur as promptly as possible. Cases will be cleared within one week after receipt, it is expected. In Department cable 1824 of June 24, 1944 the Legation was also advised that the Department would "make an effort to process the cases within a week and if no objection appears the Legation will be authorized to grant transit certificates provided no objection appears on security grounds and also provided the applicants first secure Mexican visas."

In view of the foregoing, I was very much surprised to learn from cable 1876 of September 14 from Lisbon (a copy of which is attached hereto) that in the cases of 5 families, covering 11 individuals, who had been granted residence visas by the Mexican Government, the State Department had failed to advise the Legation

of any action taken by it although in all except one case the required data had been sent by the Legation from a month to 5 weeks ago. As pointed out in the cable, such long delays not only imperil the lives of the refugees involved but also create a bad impression upon the Mexican Legation and may discourage the granting of further Mexican residence visas.

I would appreciate it, therefore, if the Department would take steps to see to it that in the future efforts are made to process these cases within a week after receipt of the required information, in accordance with the assurances given the Board and the Legation at Lister.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Adolph A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of State,  
State Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Original signed  
by Mr. Pehle*

*ms JB 7*  
MS:arv/Ab 9/20/44



PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: American Embassy, Lisbon  
DATED: September 19, 1944  
NUMBER: 2554  
X

**CONTROL COPY**

For identification purposes, it will be helpful to have the names of the persons referred to in your cable of September 14, no. 2876. The records of the Department indicate that the following visa authorizations were sent by airmail:

Jose Ferrando Sammartin, September 6, 1944.

Carlos Mendoza Palecios, September 18, 1944.

Mrs. Clara de Cabezas and her child, August 28, 1944.

Joaquin Blanch Gomez, wife and daughter, being sent by cable.

You will be informed shortly concerning Belarmino Toral Talbo being checked now.

HULL

VD:EBC:LBG

Paraphrase DCR:VAG 9/21/44  
SEP 21 11 50

WASHINGTON D.C.  
478 GEEBCEE BOULD  
RECEIVED

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

*Proposed cable  
not received  
file*

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

**CONTROL COPY**

FBM-980  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (W)

Lisbon  
Dated September 14, 1944  
Rec'd 5 p.m.

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

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2876, September 14, 5 p.m.  
WRB 190.

Mexican Government has granted visas for five families, eleven individuals, and airgrams have been sent by Consular Section with complete data for transit visas for each. In all except one case data sent over month ago - earliest eight weeks. Despite statements URTELS 1819, June 25 and 1820, June 26 that case should be processed in week, no visas or replies have been received here. This creates bad impression by Mexican Legation as all these cases were of special interest to Minister and may discourage granting further visas. All individuals are in imminent danger imprisonment and deportation.

Please attempt discover and remove present obstacles.

NORWEB

JT

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

DEPARTMENT

INCOMING

FILED

SEP 2 1944

Dear Mr. Bragg:

The following message for you from Elisabeth Dexter was received through the American Legation in Lisbon under date of August 31, 1944:

"Am very disturbed regarding nonreceipt of remittance for August for the Spanish Republicans in Portugal. This fund is already \$1200 over-drawn and current expenditures amount to over 3000 a month which can be seen from the monthly reports. The need will increase until these people actually depart for Mexico but after that it will be less. Possible imprisonment and starvation are faced by over one hundred individuals, and in some cases death, unless the funds needed are forthcoming."

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Raymond Bragg, Chairman,  
Unitarian Service Committee,  
23 Beacon Street,  
Boston 8, Massachusetts.

✓  
RW  
RDury 9/2/44

From: [illegible]  
Date: [illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

*War Ref Bd*  
*(my cable)*

*P.M. [illegible]*

**CONTROL COPY**

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.  
Dated August 31, 1944  
Rec'd 6:44 p.m.

KEM-659  
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement. (W)

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

SEP 1 1944  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

2691, August 31, 6 p.m.

THIS WIRE 171. FOR RAYMOND BRAGG, BOSTON, FROM ELISABETH DEXTER UNITARIAN-323.

Seriously disturbed nonreceipt August remittance for Spanish Republicans in Portugal. This fund now \$1200 overdrawn and current expenditures over 3000 per month as you will see from monthly reports. Until these people actually leave for Mexico, need will increase although after that occurs will be less. Over one hundred individuals face possible starvation and imprisonment, some death, if returned to Spain, unless funds are forthcoming.

WPS JMS

NORWEB

*Message sent  
9/1/44  
R.V.*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

IC-996  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.  
(██████ W)

Lisbon

Dated: August 29, 1944

Rec'd 4:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2657, August 29, 1944 noon (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

Referring first paragraph agree that rescue operations through Spain and Portugal now unnecessary and unwise. Have communicated your decision all private organizations concerned and they all state that no further efforts will be made to rescue either children or adults from France through Spain and are so notifying their representatives. Reurtel 2331 WRB 81, August 24. THIS WRB 166 FOR PEHLE FROM DEXTER.

Answering your inquiry unfinished tasks before WRB here are (A) evacuation Spanish Republican refugees from Portugal on which mere beginning has been made. Reurtel 1819, June 24 and following telegrams same subject. Mexico City and Washington both dilatory. If political situation should change this task unnecessary. Should not take more than three months if responses come quickly. Procedure once established by Board might be left to consular section in less than three months. (B) War Refugee Board should help with evacuation to Palestine of Jewish refugees now in Spain and Portugal. Indications now are that ship may be available October. (C) WRB should probably be represented here as long as Lisbon remains headquarters for Europe for private American agencies. All agencies planning to leave but time for departure will depend on when they can enter France or Switzerland. (D) While Government has feelings with Portugal if every effort were made within next few weeks to evacuate as many as possible of refugees now here and to see that best possible arrangements were made for care of residue. In view various notes sent Portuguese Government at instigation of WRB, Board has moral if not legal obligation to assist every way possible.

NORWEB

EDA

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Boronstein, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

LC - 989

Lisbon

Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.

Dated August 29, 1944

W)

Rec'd 5:03 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

2657, August 29, noon (SECTION TWO)

(E) In view Embassy's assurances to Portuguese Government, arrangements should be made for any Hungarian Jewish refugees who arrive here. Very doubtful their arrival however.

Believe all above could be accomplished or put in trains or that they could be cared for by regular diplomatic staff within three months possibly two.

Suggest that Dexter and Widen could at end of that period or possibly before (one) go to France representing WRB if Mann's negotiations admit that possibility; (two) accept any assignment elsewhere which WRB or Department makes; (three) if Unitarian Service Committee desires their services here or elsewhere they could return to previous employment; (four) if no longer needed in Europe by WRB, Department or USC they be returned home and resign from service. Urge once more importance of American representative in France whether under WRB or other auspices as soon as possible to prevent duplication of refugee situation that occurred in Italy. Hope Mann's trip England will result in staff going there soon.

(END OF MESSAGE)

NORTEE

WES

EH

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Alcin, Cohn, DuBois, Drury, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lessor, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Sargoy, Standish, Weinstein, Cable Control Files

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-78  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

ARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

*7- War Ref. Bd  
Mr. Bellet*

1944 AUG 21 AM 10 15

For security reasons the  
text of this message must  
be closed by 1944  
August 19, 1944  
Liaison Rec'd 10:18 a.m.

MAE-75  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. COMMUNICATIONS  
RECORDS

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

*File  
JB7*  
**CONTROL COPY**

2561, August 19, 11 a.m.

X  
THIS IS WRB 158.

Reference Spaniards in transit Mexico (REURTEL  
1820, June 26).

First application airgrammed July 25 name Clara  
de Quiros and daughter. No reply to date despite statement  
in 1820 that clearance would be made within week.  
Prompt service these transits imperative.

NORWEB

WTD

LMS

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-1-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Wm. Ref. Bd. (Mr. Peble)  
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

LC - 940  
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement (W)

Lisbon

Dated Aug 2, 1944

Rec'd 8

COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (LANSBORN)

1944 AUG 4 AM 9 57

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF

For security reasons the text of this message should be closely held.

Secretary of State, Washington.

2385, August 2, 3 p.m.

THIS IS WRB 134

CONTROL COPY

Conference today with Mexican Minister, representatives Unitarian Committee and consular section arranged details procedure matter covered Department's 1819, June 21 and 1820, June 26. Consider possible take care of situation accordance Department's suggestion.

However before granting visas Mexican Minister must await clarifying telegram from Mexican Foreign Office which he expects soon. Also, and more important, he thinks it unwise actually grant visas until his credentials have been accepted by Portuguese Government. In this Embassy concurs.

Little time is being lost however as preliminary security checking by both Mexicans and Americans can be done in interval. Please ensure no publicity whatever this project in America.

NORWEB

DECLASSIFIED State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

WTD WFS

By R. H. Parks Date SEP-15 1972



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

7-14-44 Ref Bd  
(Mr. [unclear])

HIS-429  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. ( [unclear] )

Lisbon  
Dated July 31, 1944

Rec'd 9:50 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

**CONTROL COPY**  
This message must  
be closely guarded.

2360, July 31, 6 p.m.

Dexter interviewed Mexican Minister today and he is sympathetic but there appears to be some differences still to be straightened out between Mexican Ministry of Interior and Mexican Foreign Office. This VRB 129 (REURTEL 1819, June 25). He is telegraphing Mexico immediately for complete instructions and in interval lists and procedure being worked out jointly. Minister is convinced need of prompt action.

NORVEB

RR

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS  
(LIAISON)

1944 AUG 2 AM 9 59

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972**

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
CONFIDENTIAL  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

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

Col. 3789

CONTROL COPY

LL-153  
Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement.  
[REDACTED] W)

Lisbon  
Dated July 24, 1944  
Rec'd 3 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2275, July 24, 3 p.m.

THIS WRB lll.

Portuguese police increasingly active in apprehending  
and returning Spanish Republican refugees. REDEPTELS  
1819 and 1820, June 24 and 2007, July 17. Urge that  
Mexican Minister be advised by his Foreign Office to  
grant visas promptly on arrival; also to intervene  
with Portuguese for exit permits after visas secured.  
Otherwise situation may be catastrophic.

NORWEI

RB  
MRM

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

*Wm. P. ...*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

Distribution of  
true reading only by  
special arrangement

**CONTROL COPY**

War Refugee Board

July 17, 1944

EMBASSY,

7 p.m.

LISBON.

2007

The following WRB cable 57 is for Dexter.

Please refer to your 2009 of June 28 concerning  
failure of Mexican Legation in Lisbon to receive  
instructions concerning the 500 residence visas.

The Board has been advised that General Candido  
Aguilar, the new Mexican Minister to Portugal who is  
expected to arrive in Lisbon the end of this month,  
has full authority to grant the 500 residence visas to  
persons whom he approves. Please confirm this with  
General Aguilar as soon as possible after his arrival  
and make no comment about it until such confirmation.

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

HULL  
(GLW)

WRB:MMV:KG S/CR WE MA  
7/14/44

VD  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972**

RECORDED  
200  
CABLE FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD TO MINISTER NORWED AND DEXTER, LISBON,  
PORTUGAL.

Please refer to your 2009 of June 29 concerning failure  
of Mexican Legation in Lisbon to receive instructions concerning  
the 500 residence visas.

The Board has been advised that General Candido Aguilar,  
the new Mexican Minister to Portugal who is expected to arrive in  
Lisbon the end of this month, has full authority to grant the 500  
residence visas to persons whom he approves. Please confirm this  
with General Aguilar as soon as possible after his arrival and make  
no comment about it until such confirmation.

THIS IS WAR REFUGEE BOARD CABLE TO LISBON NO. 57

10:15 a.m.  
July 14, 1944

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

MJMarkuro 7/13/44

*MJ Markuro*

*d*

JUL 15 1944

Dear Mr. Cahill:

Reference is made to my letter of July 12, 1944, concerning the 500 Mexican residence visas for Spanish Loyalists in Portugal.

I have been advised that Mr. del Vayo has now spoken to General Candido Aguilar, the new Mexican Minister to Portugal, who is stopping over in New York City while enroute to Lisbon, and has been informed that the General has full authority to grant the 500 residence visas.

Very truly yours,

Wm. W. Fehle  
J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Edward A. Cahill  
Unitarian Service Committee  
25 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

*Copy to Mr. Marks*

*WJF 7/14/44*

*EM*

7-10-44  
JUL 12 1944

Dear Mr. Cahill:

The following message for you from Elisabeth Dexter has been received through the American Embassy in Lisbon under date of June 27, 1944:

"A telegram from WRB states that 500 Mexican visas were granted to Spanish Loyalists in Portugal. Starting selection and other arrangements immediately. Please advise arrangements regarding transportation costs. Approximately \$500 is needed per person. Unless advised contrary will pay from transportation fund here first fares but will ultimately need considerably larger sum if plans develop. Suggest consultation with Bryan."

For your information, the War Refugee Board has just been advised that the Mexican Legation in Lisbon has received no instructions from the Mexican Government concerning the 500 residence visas referred to above. As the statement in the telegram from the Board mentioned by Mrs. Dexter was based on information received by the Board from representatives of the Unitarian Service Committee, the matter will be taken up with the Mexican Government. We shall be pleased to advise you of any developments.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Edward A. Cahill,  
Unitarian Service Committee,  
25 Beacon Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

6/11  
FH:EBT:agr 7-10-44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

*Mexico*  
DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

VMT - 576  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (██████ W)

List  
Dated June 28, 1944  
Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

**CONTROL**

For any reason the  
text of this message must  
be closely guarded

*S. Warren  
Ad (Mr. Behl)*

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
JUN 29 1944  
DIVISION OF

2009, June 28, 1 p.m.  
(WRB 39). This is WRB 85.

Mexican Legation has not (repeat not) received instruc-  
tions grant 500 residence visas referred to in Department's  
telegram 1819. Mexican Legation already preparing lists  
but can do nothing further until authorization received.  
Preparatory work along lines indicated Department's 1819  
and 1820 already begun. General suggestions regarding pro-  
cedure being followed; detailed plans will be telegraphed  
as they develop.

WTD  
HTM

NORWEB

*Cable sent out by State on 6/24 without  
knowledge of either Warren or WRB*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date **SEP 15 1972**

*203*

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

*5 - War Ref Bd (Am)*  
**CONTROL COPY**

LFG-461  
Distribution of true  
reading only by special  
arrangement. (S) (W)

Lisbon  
Dated June 27, 1944  
Rec'd 9:33 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Division of State  
JUN 28 1944  
Division of  
COMMUNICATIONS

2022, June 27, 7 p.m.

THIS WRB 84 FOR CAHILL BOSTON FROM ELI SABETH DEXTER  
Telegram from WRB states 500 Mexican visas granted to  
Spanish Loyalists in Portugal. Starting selection  
and other arrangements immediately. Advise arrangements  
regarding transportation costs. Approximately 3500 needed  
per person. Unless advised contrary will pay first fares  
from transportation fund here but will ultimately need  
considerably larger sum if plans develop. Suggest  
consultation Bryan. *7B*

NORWEB

EDA WMB

*propose  
transmitted to Cahill to get  
with substance of memo  
of June 30 attached  
FH/ab 7/4/44*

*see Transmitted letter 7/4/44*

*DR*

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972



*copy only*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

TO: The American Legation, Lisbon  
FROM: The Secretary of State, Washington  
DATE: June 24, 1944.  
NUMBER: 1820  
X

It is requested that you consult with ~~Man~~ and Dexter concerning Spanish and other refugees, the subject of number 39 from the War Refugee Board for Dexter who wishes to procure transit certificates to proceed to Mexico through the United States.

According to information received by the War Refugee Board data concerning these refugees, whether applicant has been or is a Communist, name, date and place of birth and any other available information deemed desirable by you, be supplied to a United States consul or to the Legation. By air-mail this information as received should be promptly transmitted to the Department with Consular or Legation comment for security checks and in case of any Communist, reference to the Attorney General for possible waiver under the 9th Provision Section 3, Act of 1917.

We will make an effort to process the cases within a week and if no objection appears the Legation will be authorized to grant transit certificates provided no objection appears on security grounds and also provided the applicants first secure Mexican visas.

Applicants  
DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520  
DIVISION OF REFUGEE AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520  
DIVISION OF REFUGEE AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

\* Applicants need not appear at consular office until time of application for transit certificate, according to advice received by the War Refugee Board. In case the submission of photographs is impracticable this requirement may be waived subject to the submission of photographs after issuance of transit certificate and to the furnishing of fingerprints. The requirement regarding passport may be waived and in lieu thereof an affidavit of identity or any travel document may be accepted. Also the War Refugee Board has been informed that it is expected that any action taken in these cases shall be consonant with the strict observance with the law of the Portuguese.

If you will keep the Department advised briefly by cable concerning developments it will be appreciated.

HULL

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 11 52 AM '44  
MAY 2 11 52 AM '44  
RECEIVED  
MAY 2 11 52 AM '44

DOR:MPL  
7/3/44

Proposed copy  
not received  
5/1/44

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

MAE  
Distribution of  
text of this message must  
be made by special arrangement  
[REDACTED]  
ALLEGATION.

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

June 23 1944

*War Ref*  
*Bel (m)*  
*Pehle*

CONTROL COPY

LISBON.  
1819

JUN 27 1944

RECORDS

The following message was cable 33 12 for Dexter and  
Mann.

The problem of certain Spanish loyalist and other  
refugees hiding in Portugal who desire to go to Mexico is  
familiar to you. Information has been received by the  
Board that the Mexican Government has approved the issuance  
of 500 residence visas for refugees of class described and  
has authorized the Mexican Minister in Lisbon to grant  
these visas to such of the described persons as he may  
desire. Presumably such visas will be issued following  
discussion between the Mexican Minister and Dexter and it  
is thought the Minister will rely largely upon Dexter to  
contact the proper persons. The Mexican Minister should be  
consulted to determine whether such instructions have been  
received. The result of inquiries on this point should  
be reported.

The expediting of the voyage of those refugees found quali-  
fied to Mexico is desired and accordingly the speeding of grant-  
ing of transit visas has been agreed upon between the Department,  
the War Refugee Board and Unitarian Service Committee. The  
manner in which this may best be accomplished bearing in

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972 *mind*

-2- No. 1219, June 21, 4 P.M., to Liston

mind the danger to the applicants should they be apprehended before they have been granted both Mexican residence and United States transit visas should therefore be reported promptly. Please outline in detail your report of the procedure you expect to follow in order to procure visas in the earliest possible time for these people. Many if not all of the persons to whom Mexican visas will be issued will not (repeat not) it is thought have passports or other proper traveling documents. The transit visas will be placed upon consular forms 257 in conjunction with any document they may have including any furnished by the Mexican authorities. If it is impracticable for applicants to furnish photographs consult consular section of Legation regarding waiver of photograph requirement subject to furnishing fingerprints and submission of photograph after issuance of transit certificates. It is assumed regarding fingerprint requirements print will be taken at time applicants come out of hiding to receive their transit certificates from American consular officers. However, some sort of medical certificate will be required. Procurement with the least possible inconvenience and danger of apprehension for the applicants is desired. Dexter possibly may be able to arrange for applicants to obtain a certificate that they have no contagious disease and this will suffice for visa purposes.

It is

-3- No. 1517, June 15, 4 P.M. to Lisbon

It is contemplated that as soon as possible Dexter will procure and transmit through Legation or Consul the name, date and place of birth of each person who will receive a Mexican visa, together with information as to whether such person is or has been a Communist, and any other available relevant information which the Legation may suggest. These names will be checked by the Department of State which will instruct the Consul to issue visas unless objection to a specifically named person is perceived. A check of such names and advice of the action taken will occur as promptly as possible. Names will be cleared within one week after receipt, it is expected. The matter will be taken up with appropriate officials of this Government, in order to consider the exercise of existing authority to admit such persons temporarily, in any case involving Communist affiliation. After receipt of such instructions by the American Consul it would then be possible for the applicant to come out of hiding and receive his papers in one visit respectively to the Mexican officials and the American Consul. Provided you are certain in all cases that the International Police would permit passage from Portugal to the United States en route to Mexico he could then reveal himself to the International Police. It appears essential that plans be made so that both visas may be obtained expeditiously and that only one visit be made to the  
American

-4- No 1819, June 19, 4 p.m., to Lisbon

American Consulate, in view of danger of apprehension to the applicants. A full expression of your views in this matter should be given for benefit of Department and Board.

From the Department for Norway.

In the event it is not feasible to obtain photographs, this requirement will be waived or photographs will be submitted after issuance of transit certificates.

HULL  
(GEV)

WRB:MMV:OMH  
6/14/44

VD

WE

MA

S/CR

CABLE NO MINISTER, BERNER, BERNER AND WASH, LISBON, FROM VAN HAVEN'S BOARD

You are, of course, familiar with the problem of certain Spanish loyalist refugees and others who are in hiding in Portugal who desire to go to Mexico. Van Hoven's Board is advised that the Mexican Government has granted the appropriate Mexican officials in Lisbon authority to issue NOB residence visas for refugees of whom described. It is understood that the Mexican Minister in Lisbon is being given full authority to grant these visas to such of the described persons as he may desire. Such visas presumably will be issued following discussions between Foster and the Mexican Minister as it is thought he will rely largely upon Foster to contact the proper people, as it is thought, of course, directly the Mexicans and determine whether such instructions have been received and advise the result of your investigation on this point.

The Department is anxious to facilitate the voyage of these refugees to Mexico and accordingly has agreed with the Van Refugee Board and Bulgarian Service Committee to expedite the granting of transit visas. You are requested therefore to report promptly the manner in which this could best be accomplished bearing in mind the danger to the applicants should they be apprehended by the International Police before they have been granted both Mexican residence and United States transit visas. Your report should outline in detail the procedure which you expect to follow in order to obtain transit visas for these people in the earliest possible time. It is thought that many if not all of the people to whom Mexican visas will be issued will not have passports or the people to whom Mexican visas will probably will have the form of proper traveling papers. The visas will probably will have the form of attaching form 507 to papers given the applicants by the Mexicans. However, if you feel that this should be handled otherwise please advise the Department.

The requirement for photographs should either be waived in those cases or alternatively the applicants should be permitted to furnish the Consul with photographs after the visa has been issued. Some kind of medical certificate, however, will be necessary. Both the Department and Van Refugee Board desire that this be obtained with least possible inconvenience and danger of apprehension for applicants. It is felt that Foster will be able to arrange for applicants to obtain a certificate that they have no contagious disease and if such is obtained it will suffice for visa purposes. Should the requirement of a medical certificate prove a stumbling block, consideration will be given to relaxing this requirement, based, of course, upon any suggestion which you may care to make.

In view of the facts on the Department and Van Refugee Board have then it is contemplated that as soon as possible Foster will furnish the Van Refugee Board and Department the name, date and place of birth of each person who is going to receive a Mexican visa together with information as to whether such person is or has been a Communist and any other relevant information which may be of interest to the Department. The Department will then proceed to check these names and insist that the Consul to issue visas unless of course the Department should perceive some objection to a specifically named person. The Depart-





ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to  
VD 811.111 Refugees/2195

May 31, 1944

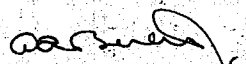
My dear Mr. Pehle:

I refer to your communication dated May 24, 1944 concerning the issuance of immigration visas to refugees in Spain.

Visa applications submitted to the Department on behalf of refugees in Spain are considered as expeditiously as possible under the Interdepartmental Visa Review Procedure. Certain changes in procedure have recently been adopted with a view to expediting action in the cases submitted to the Department.

As most of the immigration quotas are under-issued at the present time, refugees on whose behalf advisory approvals are sent to consular officers in Spain should not experience delay in obtaining visas and proceeding to the United States as soon as they complete arrangements for their transportation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Adolf A. Berle, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary

Mr. J. W. Pehle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Executive Office of the President.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 25, 1944

TO : Mr. Mann  
FROM : Milton Sargoy

Re: Admission to United States of Spanish Republican Refugees  
in Transit to Mexico

For purposes of simplification and understanding, the requirements with respect to transit aliens and certificates will be discussed, first, under the immigration laws and, second, under the security statutes (Alien Registration Act of 1940 and the Act of May 22, 1918, as amended), although there is some overlapping between them.

Immigration Laws

An alien in continuous transit through the United States is expressly excepted from the statutory definition of "immigrant"; 1/ he may be admitted to the United States for such time and under such conditions as may be prescribed by regulations 2/ issued by the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with the approval of the Attorney General. 3/

Under existing regulations, an "alien in transit" is one who applies for admission to the United States with the intention of departing therefrom within 60 days and who is admitted for a reasonable period, not to exceed 60 days. 4/ His admissibility as a transit alien is conditioned upon his establishing: 5/

- (a) He is not an immigrant;
- (b) He will depart from the United States within 60 days;
- (c) He is not a member of any class of aliens excluded by the immigration laws, unless, although excludable, his temporary admission has been authorized in advance;

- 1/ 8 U.S.C. sec. 203 (3)
- 2/ 8 U.S.C. sec. 215
- 3/ 8 U.S.C. sec. 222
- 4/ 8 C.F.R. sec. 6.1 (sec.118.1)
- 5/ 8 C.F.R. sec. 6.2 (sec.118.2)

*From 9/16*

- (d) He is not seeking transit privileges for the purpose of evading or violating any of the provisions of the immigration laws.

Subdivisions (a), (b), and (d) will not affect the proposed rescue of Spanish Republicans; subdivision (c) does create some difficulty. However, with the cooperation of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and the Attorney General this difficulty is easily overcome.

The immigration laws exclude the following classes of aliens:

- (a) Idiots, imbeciles, paupers, tubercular or other diseased persons, mental and physical defectives, polygamists, contract laborers, aliens likely to become public charges, aliens whose transportation is paid by others, stowaways, children under 16 unaccompanied by their parents or not going to one or both of their parents, Asiatics and illiterates; <sup>6/</sup>
- (b) Anarchists, persons advocating the overthrow of the government, destruction of property, publishers of such doctrines, etc.; <sup>7/</sup>
- (c) Aliens who have in the past been arrested and deported from the United States. <sup>8/</sup>

However, the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, with the approval of the Attorney General, is authorized to issue rules and prescribe conditions to control and regulate the temporary admission and return of otherwise inadmissible aliens, <sup>9/</sup> thus giving him exceptionally broad powers to permit the temporary admission of otherwise inadmissible aliens. Under existing regulations, temporary admission to the United States for transit aliens will not be granted to aliens having most of the disabilities mentioned above unless the consent of the Commissioner was obtained prior to the departure of the alien. <sup>10/</sup> It would seem better therefore, to obtain the Commissioner's consent before the departure of the Spanish Republicans from Portugal; but since the limitation on the Commissioner's discretion is not statutory, but self-imposed, it may also be obtained at any time up to the actual entry to the United States.

<sup>6/</sup> 8 U.S.C. sec. 136 (a)-(p)  
<sup>7/</sup> 8 U.S.C. sec. 137  
<sup>8/</sup> 8 U.S.C. sec. 138  
<sup>9/</sup> 8 U.S.C. sec. 136 (q)  
<sup>10/</sup> 8 C.F.R. sec. 13.5 (sec. 132.3)

The Security Laws 11/

The Alien Registration Act of 1940 forbids the issuance of a visa to an alien unless he has been fingerprinted and registered in duplicate and excludes from admission to the United States all aliens not in possession of a visa. 12/ But the Secretary of State is authorized to define emergency cases which do not require a visa. 13/

The Act of May 22, 1918, as amended, also authorizes the President in times of emergency to promulgate rules restricting entry into and departure from the United States. 13a/

Pursuant to the above statutes and Presidential Proclamation No. 2523, the Attorney General and Secretary of State have issued detailed regulations controlling the entry into the United States of aliens for permanent, temporary or transit purposes. 14/ A summary of the provisions thereof pertinent to aliens seeking permission to enter the United States in transit to other destinations follows:

No transit alien may enter the United States without possessing a valid unexpired transit certificate, unless in a class exempt from presenting one, 15/ although its possession is not a guarantee of any right to admission. 16/

None of the classes of aliens thus far exempted as emergency cases by the Secretary of State from the requirement of transit certificates 17/ applies to the situation of the Spanish Republican refugees, except the general exemption for

"Special cases of unforeseen emergency in which the Secretary of State is satisfied that the aliens concerned are entering temporarily and have had no reasonable opportunity to procure appropriate documentation." 18/

Aliens may be denied a transit certificate if the issuing officer believes his entry will be prejudicial to the interests of the United States. 18/ The regulations

11/ Alien Registration Act of 1940, 8 U.S.C. sec. 451 et seq.; Act of May 22, 1918, 22 U.S.C. sec. 223 et seq.

12/ 8 U.S.C. sec. 451

13/ Idem

13a/ 22 U.S.C. sec. 223

14/ C.F.R. (Cum. Supp) Title 8, Part 175

15/ C.F.R. (Cum. Supp) Title 8, sec. 175.42

16/ Idem sec. 175.43

17/ Idem sec. 175.45 (a)-(c)

18/ Idem sec. 175.45 (p)

18/ C.F.R. (Cum. Supp) sec. 175.46 (a)

then set forth a long series of classes of aliens whose entry is automatically deemed prejudicial. 20/ These classes embrace for the most part anarchists, those guilty of subversive activities or beliefs, those opposed to or in favor of overthrowing organized government and the like. 21/

Aliens in transit must also submit to the Immigrant Inspector at the port of entry three copies of their itinerary to the port of departure; no deviation from the itinerary or delay will be permitted without the consent of the Secretary of State or Attorney General. 22/

Apart from a few limited exceptions, no transit certificate may be granted to an alien without an advisory opinion or special instruction from the Secretary of State. 23/ Even then the application may still be referred to the Secretary if the issuing officer believes the entry will prejudice interests of the United States. 24/

Except for those cases not requiring a reference to the Secretary of State 25/ and where the Secretary has specially instructed the issuance of the transit certificate, the application for the certificate must be sponsored by a citizen of the United States or an alien resident of the United States lawfully admitted for permanent residence and further supported by various letters of reference from respectable business men, etc. 26/ The application is then submitted to an inter-departmental committee composed of one representative from each of the following agencies: State, War, Navy, FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service; the opinions of the majority of whom constitute the opinion of the committee. 26a/

If the opinion is favorable to the alien and acceptable to the Secretary of State, it may be forwarded to the Consul

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20/ C.F.R. (Cum. Supp.) sec. 175.47  
21/ The fact that alien may have close relatives in a country whose government is opposed to U.S. may also be considered against his application (Idem sec. 175.48)  
22/ Idem sec. 175.53  
23/ Idem sec. 175.51  
24/ Idem sec. 175.55(b)  
25/ C.F.R. (Cum. Supp.) sec. 175.55(a); none of these exceptions is applicable to the Spanish Republican refugees.  
26/ Idem sec. 175.56  
26a/ Idem sec. 175.57

as the advisory opinion of the Department of State. 27/ Provision is made for appeal, if the opinion is unfavorable to the alien or not acceptable to the Secretary of State, first to a committee of review composed of different representatives of the above-named agencies, 28/ and second to a Board of Appeals composed of two members appointed by the President. 29/ But eventually the result is always the same: if the various decisions are unsatisfactory to the Secretary of State, he is empowered to ignore them and send his own advisory opinion to the Consul, 30/ who, if he has information which leads him to believe the entry of the alien will prejudice the interests of the United States, can suspend all action, make a report to the Secretary, and request a further advisory opinion. 31/

#### Conclusion

Under the Immigration laws and the regulations issued pursuant thereto, the cooperation of the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization is essential. To enable the Spanish Republican refugees to cross the United States in transit to Mexico, they must issue rulings permitting their temporary admission under section 136(q) of Title 8 of the United States Code regardless of their excludability under the immigration laws. This can be done, I believe, at any time prior to actual admission, although the existing regulations require that consent for temporary admission be obtained in most cases prior to the time the aliens depart from the foreign port of embarkation.

Under the Alien Registration Act of 1940, the Act of May 22, 1918, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, nothing can be done without the cooperation of the Secretary of State. With his cooperation there would be no difficulty at all in arranging the rescue of these Spaniards without revealing their identity to the Portuguese police.

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- 27/ C.F.R. (Cum.Supp.) sec. 175.57(b)  
28/ Idem sec. 175.57(c)  
29/ Idem sec. 175.57(e)  
30/ Idem sec. 175.57--  
31/ Idem sec. 175.57(h)

If the Secretary of State waives the requirement of a visa, registration and fingerprinting at the Consulate becomes unnecessary. Once the refugees are safely aboard ship en route to the United States, he can change his decision §2/ and the whole question of issuing a transit certificate can be gone into de novo at the port of entry, but with the officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service instead of the Consul.

On the other hand, if the Secretary of State refuses to waive the visa requirement, the matter will be long drawn out and difficult to keep secret. The refugee must be registered and fingerprinted by the Consul; his application must be referred to the Department of State at Washington; there must be sponsors in the United States; each case would probably be submitted to the inter-departmental committee, each of whose members would probably ask for an investigation by his own agency; and so on.

The only conclusion, therefore, is that without the cooperation of the Departments of State and Justice, very little, if anything, can be done to bring the Spanish Republicans to Mexico via the United States.

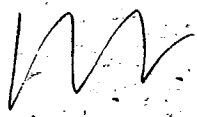
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§2/ C.F.R. (Cum.Supp.) sec. 176.50

April 22, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

J.W.P. and L.S.I. discussed the problem of transit visas for Spanish loyalist immigrants to Mexico from Portugal with Assistant Secretary of State Berle on April 22. Mr. Berle said that he thought some group arrangements might be worked out, security screening to take place at Ellis Island or other place of debarkation. He is to take the matter up with Travers and report.



cc-Mr. Friedman



Dear Mr. Brunetti

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 3, 1944, addressed to Mr. Lesser in which you ask our advice as to the desirability of the approval by you of an allocation to Refugee Relief Trustees, Inc., to be used by the Unitarian Service Committee for the evacuation of refugees from Portugal and Spain.

The Board is not aware of the availability of other funds which may be used for this purpose. It is clear that the removal of these refugees is essential. Therefore, I agree with you that this is a desirable allocation.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pable,  
Executive Director

Mr. James Brunet, Executive Director,  
The President's War Relief Control Board,  
Washington Building,  
Washington 5, D. C.

AA:bbk - 4/10/44

*From Brunetti  
2/15 - 2nd Initial copy  
not received*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 20, 1944

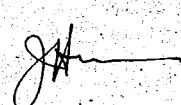
TO Mr. Pehle

FROM Mr. Mann

There are certain Spanish Republican loyalists in hiding in Portugal who desire to go to Mexico. Dr. Del Vayo has obtained from the Mexicans an agreement that they will issue 500 residence visas for such persons. According to Dr. Del Vayo, such visas will be issued by Dr. Castillo, the Mexican Minister in Lisbon to persons as he sees fit. However, it is thought that he will consult Dr. Robert Dexter on the persons to receive these visas.

The refugees in question are in danger of being apprehended by the Portuguese International Police and turned over to the Spanish authorities. We want to get them transit visas through the United States with the least inconvenience possible and without exposing them to apprehension on the part of the International Police. If these people have to appear in public to get their Mexican papers, their American transit visas with photographs and medical certificates, there is a good chance that they will be apprehended by the International Police and sent off to Spain to be shot. We understand that these persons can present themselves to the International Police once they have both visas and travel arrangements have been made. The ideal way to handle the situation would be to have the State Department commit itself that it would grant transit visas to anyone to whom the Mexicans would give a residence visa and leave it up to the Mexicans to take the health safeguards, etc.

I understand that you are going to put this matter to Mr. Berle when you see him next.



JHMann:db

April 20, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Mr. Mann

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I understand that you are going to put this matter to Mr. Berle when you see him next.

J. H. Mann:db  
*J. H. Mann*

## WAR REFUGEE BOARD

April 5, 1944.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Stettinius

FROM: Mr. Pehle

Attention: Mr. George L. Warren

Re: Evacuation of Spanish and non-Spanish Republican  
refugees from Spain and Portugal

Reference is made to my earlier memorandum of March 2, 1944, relative to the above-mentioned project. It is my understanding that the matter of transit visas for refugees from Portugal has been discussed with the Visa Division of the Department of State, which Division indicated that it might be preferable to use a method similar to that used in the case of certain Poles who passed through a part of the United States enroute to Mexico in the custody of Immigration authorities and thus did not need transit visas.

Pursuant to your suggestion, this office has taken up with the Unitarian Service Committee the possibility of allowing such refugees to cross the United States going to Mexico in the custody of Immigration authorities. However, in view of the imminent danger of death to many if not all of the refugees in Portugal described in my previous memorandum, their successful evacuation depends on the matter being handled in such a way that it would get no publicity whatsoever. The circumstances under which such an evacuation would be carried out indicate that such evacuees would have to leave Portugal in relatively small numbers at one time, otherwise the Spanish Government might obtain knowledge of their movement and demand that they be rounded up and handed over by Portugal. Accordingly, since the evacuees would be arriving in very small groups and perhaps over a considerable period of time, the suggested method of their traveling across the United States in immigration custody seems impractical.

It thus appears that the only way in which these people can be successfully evacuated from Portugal to Mexico and allowed passage through the United States is by the State Department's granting them the necessary transit visas.

Accordingly, I renew my request that you advise me as soon as possible whether the Unitarian Service Committee can be assured that the refugees involved in this project will be granted United States transit visas to enable them to go to Mexico through the United States.

JHMann:db

*Duplicated For distribution 3/20/44*  
*div*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. George L. Warren

FROM: Mr. Pehle

Re: The Establishment of the Unitarian Service Committee in Spain

As you know, the War Refugee Board must, of necessity, carry out many of its operational functions through private relief agencies. In connection with proposed operations in Spain, the Board has been considering how various private agencies operating in this highly important area can be effectively used to carry out the policy with the execution of which the Board is charged. The Board intends to discuss with the Friends and other agencies now having representatives in Spain the manner in which they are prepared to cooperate.

It has been noted that the Unitarian Service Committee, a highly reputable organization which has been active in refugee matters, is presently not operating in Spain except to the extent that it contributes to the "Joint Representation of Private Relief Agencies in Spain". While the latter organization can assist the War Refugee Board in many projects, it is the opinion of the Board that the Unitarian Service Committee can be of considerable assistance in other fields and should be permitted to operate in Spain. Since the "Joint Representation of Private Relief Agencies in Spain" is located in Madrid, it is thought that because of geographical considerations the Unitarian Service Committee should be permitted to establish an office in Barcelona. The Committee, of course, would work with the "Joint Representation". Accordingly, the War Refugee Board requests that as soon as conveniently possible, the State Department cable the United States Ambassador in Madrid asking him to obtain the consent of the Spanish Government for the Unitarian Service Committee to operate in Spain with offices in Barcelona.

As soon as your office has confirmed to me that the requested instructions have been transmitted to the United States Ambassador in Madrid, I shall obtain from the Unitarian Service Committee a list of the personnel proposed to be sent to Spain. If the names submitted are satisfactory to the Board, I shall immediately furnish you with such list in order that the State Department may instruct the United States Ambassador to obtain the necessary Spanish visas. It is anticipated that if the Unitarian Service Committee is permitted to operate in Spain, Dr. Robert G. Dexter, the Acting European Commissioner of that Committee, who is stationed in Portugal will go to Spain to survey the situation and make necessary arrangements for the setting up of the office.

(Signed J. W. Pehle

JWP:mk - 3/18/44  
207

*Connections to + thru Spain + Portugal*

*my files  
Portugal*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE March 14, 1944

TO : Mr. Friedman  
FROM : Joseph H. Murphy  
Re : Refugees from enemy occupied countries presently  
in Portugal; Project No. 8 of Unitarian Service  
Committee.

From the facts set forth in the memorandum of March 10, 1944, describing Project No. 8 of the Unitarian Service Committee, it would appear that there are presently in Portugal about 600 to 800 refugees from enemy occupied countries. About two-thirds of them are Jewish. This group is evidently exclusive of Spanish Republicans. While a few of them are in prison, most of them are under residential surveillance. The Unitarian Service Committee proposes that, rather than to transport them to the Refugee Center at Camp Marechal Lyautey in Morocco, the United States provide an asylum for these refugees for the duration. Apparently, the Unitarian Service Committee does not consider that all of them will be interned in this country.

Unquestionably the most desirable thing which we could do, both from humanitarian and propaganda standpoints, would be to endeavor to make arrangements for these refugees to come to the United States. However, it would appear that it may be some time before we will be in a position to announce the adoption of a program under which refugees will be admitted to the United States. Meanwhile, as pointed out by the Unitarian Service Committee, the presence of these refugees in Portugal has resulted in a reluctance on the part of the Portuguese authorities to admit additional refugees from occupied areas. Time seems to be of the essence.

It would be my feeling that we should take immediate steps to make the facilities of camp Marechal Lyautey available as a temporary asylum. It seems to be that this is presently susceptible of more expeditious accomplishment than attempting to evacuate the refugees to the United States. Furthermore, when the camp project now under our consideration is approved, we could either change our plans and bring them to the United States directly from Portugal or, in the event they had already arrived in Africa, we could transport them from there to the United States. The Unitarian Service Committee indicates that Portuguese passenger steamers will probably be available for transportation, although we may be required to cooperate with the private agencies involved, in defraying transportation costs.

*From Friedman's files*

SECRET

If possible, it would be most desirable to follow the line of Unitarian Service Committee's, that, before these refugees are removed from Portugal the Portuguese Government should be asked to provide a haven for an equal or larger number to be brought from France pursuant to arrangements between the Portuguese Government, on the one hand, and the Vichy or Nazi Governments on the other.

Until we know definitely how many refugees are expected to be removed to Africa from Spain, it will be difficult to ascertain whether an additional 600 to 800 from Lisbon would exceed the 2,000 limit which the French have set. As I understand it, it probably would not, since there appear to be somewhat less than 1,000 refugees to be evacuated from Spain.

The most feasible approach, it appears to me, is to call this matter to the attention of Governor Lehman with a view toward his asking one of his people to undertake this evacuation project as soon as possible. It would probably not be too difficult to correlate it with the program presently afoot in Spain. In this connection, I have discussed this matter with Miss Laughlin. She says she is acquainted with someone in UNRRA who might be able to give this project more sympathetic and helpful treatment than others we have dealt with in these matters.

*J.K.M.*

*Unlabeled  
Mexico*

... Spanish ... Department's ...  
... regard to proposal to move Spanish  
... refugees from Mexico ...

An officer of the Embassy discussed this matter on  
two occasions since receipt of the Department's telegram,  
with Lic. Tello, Official Mayor of the Mexican Foreign  
Office, and with another official there. Lic. Tello  
stated that the Mexican Spanish Commission has agreed to  
accept about 1,000 refugees, and that the matter is now  
in the hands of Gobernacion for final approval. The  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs requested Gobernacion last  
week to expedite its action, and Lic. Tello expects a  
definite reply within a few days.

The Official Mayor mentioned that the Gobernacion  
member of the Mexican Spanish Commission suggested that  
the refugees, upon arrival in the United States, be placed  
individually by Mexican consular officials. The Foreign  
Office, however, has decided that this would be impractical,  
and will arrange for the issuance of a group visa. Lic.  
Tello hopes that the ship or ships bringing the refugees  
disembark them at an American port as near as possible to  
the Mexican border, and he said that the Mexican Government  
would be agreeable to disembarkation at Tampico, if this  
should be feasible.

FJR/Dea

REGISTRATION

cc: Sec'y (orig.), Abrahamson, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman,  
Caston, Kodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, McCormack,  
Paul, Vohle, Pollak, Ruinos, Stadiak, Stewart, H. D. White,  
Files.



MAR 2 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Beattinus

FROM: Mr. Potts

Attention: Mr. George L. Warren

Re: Evacuation of Spanish and non-Spanish Republican  
refugees from Spain and Portugal

The Italianian Service Committee has presented the following project to the War Refugee Board for its approval:

- (1) Spanish and non-Spanish Republican refugees in Portugal, who are presently in prisons, can probably be released for transit to Mexico provided it is possible to obtain Mexican visas, United States transit visas and the necessary transportation.
- (2) Spanish refugees hiding in Portugal present a more difficult case but, if the three regulations mentioned under (1) above were assured, they could present themselves to the police as recently arrived, and might well be released at the time of sailing, probably upon the payment of certain fines.
- (3) It is not considered impossible to secure the release of certain Republican refugees who are in prison in Spain. They must, of course, come out through Portugal. If the three regulations mentioned under (1) above are assured, and our Ambassador to Spain is, upon the basis of these assurances, instructed to approach the Spanish Government with respect to their release and the granting of exit visas to enable them to leave Spain for Portugal, it is possible that some, at least, may be freed. Doubtless some obtaining the assurances referred to above, it is quite probable that the Portuguese International Police will grant transit visas.
  - (1) The exact numbers of such refugees in Portugal are uncertain but it is estimated that there are from 1,000 to 3,000. It is believed that the number of refugees from Portugal and Spain who can be taken almost immediately to Mexico if all arrangements are made, would total about 900.
  - (2) The Mexican Government will, it is believed, receive all Republican refugees who can get to Mexico from Portugal and Spain and

will give them the necessary visas. The Mexican Government, in its understanding, made a similar commitment in the past and will renew such commitment in connection with this project.

(6) The Catholic Service Committee can, it is believed, arrange for the transportation of the refugees in Portuguese ships to the United States and thence by rail to Mexico, and can arrange for the financing of this migration. This Committee will also deal with the Mexican Government with respect to the granting of Mexican visas and will handle the problem of contacting such of the refugees as are hiding in Portugal.

In order that this project may go forward it is necessary for this Government to be in a position to assure the Catholic Service Committee that United States transit visas will be issued, upon application, to the refugees who are prepared to depart from Lisbon to Mexico. This, I assume, can be done by transmitting appropriate instructions to Lisbon. The question of our apprehending the Spanish Government with a view to having it release certain Republican refugees in its prisons is one which should, it seems to me, await our decision with respect to the issuance of United States transit visas.

I believe that the project outlined above is one which should be approved by the War Refugee Board and to which all possible assistance should be given. There is no doubt that many, if not all, of the refugees in question are in imminent danger of death. A haven for such refugees already exists in Mexico. The problem of transportation and change, etc., can be handled by private agencies, and the action which this Government would have to take to make the operation successful is really trivial. If the operation is successfully carried out it will give a tremendous impetus to the Board's program in general. The removal of these refugees from Portugal will probably enable us to get that Government to receive many other refugees evacuated in the future from occupied territory. Moreover, the psychological effect of the successful transfer of these refugees should be extremely effective in facilitating a solution of the whole problem of finding havens of refuge for other refugees. Once the Mexican Government has made this generous gesture, other countries and particularly those in Latin America may be willing to take many more refugees of all classes.

Accordingly, I should very much appreciate being advised as soon as possible whether the Catholic Service Committee can be assured that the refugees involved in this project will be granted United States transit visas to enable them to go to Mexico through the United States.

(Signed) J. W. Paine

JWP: GWT: DMC - 2/29/44

203-6  
Kahn

11115

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

February 26, 1944

Re: Immigration of Spanish Republicans to Mexico  
(Information taken from the censorship files  
of the Visa Division in the State Department)

Excerpts taken from a letter written by Eric Johnson, AFSC, Algiers, to AFSC indicate that the Mexican Government has agreed to accept all Spanish Republican refugees. It is reported that they will be given full Mexican citizenship and that their maintenance will be financed "by the SP representatives for three months till they get jobs. The unfit will be cared for in hostels, hospitals \* \* \*."

Apparently few refugees had actually reached Mexico at the time this letter was written. The writer is disappointed at the pace at which things are moving, inasmuch as immigrants possessing Mexican visas should be able to travel to Mexico on the empty convoys returning from Morocco. The latest report, he states, is that the Mexican Government will desire to send a representative abroad to supervise the refugee movement. (GL 154 taken from the "General Letters" of a Jewish relief society in Lisbon to a similar society in New York City--No. FIN 1961/43).

*My Marks*

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MJM:im 2/26/44

*MJM*

*United States  
Committee*

*Copy*

TELEGRAM SEMI

PLAIN

War Refugee Board

February 26, 1944

AMEMBASSY

MEXICO, N.F.

404, twenty-sixth

Please advise Department regarding present status of proposal to move Spanish-Republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico which is subject of Department's instruction no. 5011 December 30, 1943.

SEXTINIUS  
(ACTING)  
-(OIV)

WRB:HCC:KO  
8/22/44

HI SWP

cc: Miss Chamney (for Sec'y), Messrs. Paul, Gaston, White, Fehle, Luxford, DeBois, H.H. Bernstein, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Hodel, Mr. Pollak, Miss Laughlin.

C  
O  
P  
Y

February 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

I called Mr. Warren of the State Department today concerning Cable No. 1274 of February 15 from London, relating to the removal of Spanish republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico. I pointed out that this cable requested the State Department to expedite the arrangements with Mexico. I stated that I assumed that the State Department would press forward on this matter, and that we would appreciate being kept advised of all developments in connection therewith.

Mr. Warren stated that he had not as yet seen the cable but that he would get a copy immediately and that the State Department would follow through on the matter. He said he would keep us advised on the developments.

J. E. D.

JED:Bois:ecr  
2/19/44

*Draw  
and  
files*

CONTROL COPY

*Trans  
please copy  
into this  
JMP*

MMT - 797

PLAIN

London

Dated February 15, 1944

Rec'd 9:55 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF

FEB 16 1944

1274, Fifteenth

COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ FOR LIMITED DISTRIBUTION.

Director of IGC respectfully requests expedient arrangements for transport of Spanish republican refugees to Mexico in following letter dated February fourteenth in reference to Embassy's letter based on Department's telegraphic instruction toward end December:

"Will you kindly refer to your letter of the thirty-first December 1943 relating to the removal of Spanish republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico. I have now received the first report from Malin dated the thirtieth January 1944 written from Algiers in which he says that the employment of Spanish refugees who were released from camps last year is likely to decrease and that some two or three

thousand

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 15 1972

-2- #1274, Fifteenth from London

thousand who have been in the French Foreign Legion  
are likely soon to be demobilized. The Spanish  
problem is thus becoming very urgent and I should  
be grateful if this fact could be brought to the  
attention of the State Department with a view to  
expediting the arrangements with Mexico."

-WINANT

VW/C



Spanish Republican Refugees in North Africa.  
(Source of Information: Files of State Department, Visa Division  
Refugee Unit)

(1) There were interned in North Africa at the time of the invasion approximately 3,200 Spanish Republican refugees. By June 1943 they had all been released. Of this number approximately 2,000, including 1,000 women and children, expressed their desire to go to Mexico.

(2) In January 1943 the Mexican government offered to receive these refugees in Mexico and to pay their cost of transportation from Spanish Republican funds at its disposal. This offer was accepted by our military and civil authorities in North Africa and the former agreed to cooperate by arranging for the transportation of these refugees from North Africa to the United States on Army transports, the cost of transportation to be borne by the United States.

(3) The Mexican government thereafter expressed some doubt as to its ability to pay even the cost of transportation from New York City, the port of entry, to Mexico. The War Department furnished information indicating that the coach fare would be \$43.79 from New York to Laredo, Texas for adult passengers. It also furnished an estimate as to the cost of meals enroute. Copies of the War Department's memoranda of May 19, and May 20 are attached.

(4) On May 25, 1943 State wrote a letter, a copy of which is attached, to the Mexican Embassy setting forth the status of the project as follows:

- (a) The United States to pay the cost of transportation to New York.
- (b) The Mexican government to pay the cost of transportation from New York to Mexico.
- (c) If the Mexican government waived a request to send a consular representative to North Africa in order to examine these refugees their embarkation could commence as soon as the Mexican government gave its clearance.

(5) On June 17, 1943 no reply having been received to the letter of May 25, 1943, a dispatch was sent to our Embassy in Mexico City asking that the matter be urgently raised with the Mexican government in order that a definite decision be reached at once either authorizing the refugees be shipped forthwith to Mexico or that they be informed to make other arrangements for their disposition. (No. 970 to Mexico City, June 17, 1943)

(6) On June 21, 1943 the Mexican government sent a memorandum to State, a copy of which is attached, advising that a committee had been appointed in Mexico composed of two Mexican government representatives and two Spaniards residing in Mexico to study the various aspects of the plan to receive Spanish Republican refugees from North Africa. A copy of the memorandum is attached. It stated that:

(a) the Mexican government was only willing to consider the entry of those Spanish Republicans whose emigration would favor the Mexican economy, preference being given to farmers, fishermen, and specialized mechanics.

(b) the Mexican government accepted the offer of the United States to bear the cost of transportation to New York.

(c) a request was made that the United States consulates in Algiers, Casablanca, and Tunis formulate a list of Spanish refugees and their families who desired to go to Mexico.

(d) a determination could not be made by the Mexican government until an examination had been made of the data submitted on these lists.

(7) On June 24, 1943 a cable was sent to North Africa asking that lists of the refugees and accompanying data be submitted. (No. 1193 to North Africa, June 24, 1943). In October and November copies of these lists began to arrive in the United States.

(8) On December 30, 1943 lists containing 16,000 names of Spanish Republican refugees wishing to go to Mexico were transmitted by the State Department to our Embassy in Mexico City for delivery to the Mexican committee established for purposes of selecting those to be permitted to enter Mexico. The Embassy was requested to keep the Department informed as to developments. (No. 5011 to Mexico City, December 30, 1943)

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE QM GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

COPY  
SPTOT 511-PA  
(New York, New York)

May 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF (Civil Affairs Division):

SUBJECT: Estimate of Subsistence Cost En Route.

1. Reference the attached memorandum of May 19, 1943, it is suggested that if movement is made by regular train, source of meals would be in dining cars, and meal tickets, at a cost of \$1.00 per meal, should be furnished.

2. If the movement is a Main movement, it is understood that baggage cars for kitchen use will be furnished by the railroad without cost. In such instance rations in kind should be furnished on the basis of a ration plus 50%, or 91.5 cents per person, computed on basis of ration costs current at time movement is made. It is estimated that it will require three rations or nine meals per person for the duration of the trip. If baggage kitchen cars are used, it will be necessary to furnish therewith cooking and messing equipment as well as operating personnel. In such event it is suggested that the Second Command Service authorities, Governors Island, New York be contacted relative to the furnishing of such equipment as well as the operating personnel, presumably from the Bakers and Cooks School, Fort Jay. It is estimated that two cars will be necessary for each train carrying 500 persons and that there should be 14 persons attached to each car. In this connection, it is believed that transportation expenses of kitchen and mess operating personnel both while en route and return to their proper station, and cost of return of cooking and mess equipment, are reimbursable.

For the Quartermaster General:

/s/ Henry B. Walker

Henry B. Walker  
Lt. Colonel, Q.M.C.  
Assistant.

Incls. - Informal Action Sheet  
w/cy. ltr. 5/6/43  
Memo 5/19/43

WAR DEPARTMENT

SECRET

Office of the Chief of Transportation  
Washington, D. C.

SPTOT 511-PA  
(New York, New York)

May 19, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL (Subsistence Division)

Subject: Estimate of Subsistence Cost En Route.

1. Forwarded for estimate of subsistence costs en route.
2. In conversation between Major A. B. Hurly and Major Maulsby Forrest, it was suggested that estimate of transportation be furnished on basis of per capita costs between the following points:

New York, New York	Laredo, Texas
#First Class Fare	\$65.69
#Coach Fare	43.79
Lower Standard Berth	17.35
Upper Standard Berth	13.20
*Lower Tourist Berth	11.55
*Upper Tourist Berth	8.80

#Children under five years of age free, over five and under twelve half-fare.

\*Tourist cars not available in regular service.

For the Chief of Transportation:

I. SEWELL MORRIS,

Lt. Col, Transp. Corps,  
Asst., Traffic Control Div.

I Incl. - Informal Action Sheet  
w/cy. ltr. 5/6/43

DECLASSIFIED  
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

May 25, 1943

My dear Mr. Anzorena:

In accordance with your request this afternoon I am sending you the following informal summary of the status of the project for the emigration of Spanish Republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico.

Your Government's generous offer of last January to receive these refugees into Mexico and to pay the cost of their transportation from Spanish Republican funds at its disposal was accepted by our military and civil authorities in North Africa and the former agreed to cooperate by arranging for the transportation of these refugees from North Africa to the United States and thence to Mexico. In view of the circumstances of the case the U. S. War Department has now also consented to bear the full cost of transporting these persons across the ocean. The only transportation costs which would therefore rest with the Mexican Government would be those of the rail trip from New York or other United States port of arrival to Mexico. It is understood that the coach fare from New York to Laredo is \$43.79. Children under 5 years travel free and those between 5 and 12 at half fare. Presumably an additional small amount would be required for food during the trip. I may say that the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has informed the Department that it has been collecting funds to assist in the rehabilitation of these refugees after their arrival in Mexico and it is possible that, if your Government prefers, the Committee might be willing to devote some or all of these funds, which it

is

Senor Don Eugenio de Anzorena,

Third Secretary,

Mexican Embassy.

840.48 Refugees/3830A

is presumed are not considerable, to helping in the payment of this rail transportation.

Our original understanding from North Africa was that between 700 and 1,000 Spanish refugees wished to proceed to Mexico. Our authorities in North Africa, however, inquired whether or not women and children were included in the Mexican authorization. Your Government replied that they were and our authorities now state that the total number of refugees desiring to come, including women and children, will be approximately 2,000. In addition it appears that about 30 former members of the International Brigade who are German, Hungarian or of other nationalities other than Spanish also desire to come to Mexico with the Spanish Republicans. These persons are in possession of Mexican entry permits.

Your Government having in April suggested that it might wish to send a consular representative to North Africa to examine these refugees before they embarked, this fact was communicated to our authorities in Algiers. A reply pointed out the serious delay which would be involved by such a procedure and the fact that this delay would have a disastrous effect on the morale of the Spanish Republicans who have already suffered so many disappointments in regard to their liberation and departure for Mexico. The Inter-Allied Commission in North Africa which has been examining all refugees there points out that practically all of the Spanish Republicans possess identification documents issued by the Spanish Republican Government and that it can give assurance that all who depart for Mexico will be bona fide Spanish Republican refugees. It adds that the identity and case history of each individual can be provided if necessary. The Department of State hopes that in view of these circumstances your Government will be willing to forego the sending of a consular representative to North Africa.

In regard to the date and manner of shipment of the refugees, their embarkation will presumably begin almost immediately after final word is received from your Government that the movement may proceed. It is impossible to say at this time whether they will be sent in large or small groups or over a long or short period of time since this must be governed by the exigencies of shipping and of the military situation.

You

- 3 -

You may be sure that both the civil and military authorities of this Government will continue to cooperate with your Government in an effort to clear up this matter as promptly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Yost  
Assistant Chief, Division of  
European Affairs

P.S. I am enclosing paraphrases of our two most recent telegrams from Algiers dealing with this question.

Eu:OWY:GHO

(Copied by VD:RU:GF)

Embajada de Mexico

MEMORANDUM

Reference is made to the various communications of Mr. Charles W. Yost, Assistant Chief, Division of European Affairs, of the Department of State, to Secretary Anzorena, of this Embassy, on the Spanish Republican refugees in North Africa.

As confirmation of the information transmitted verbally by Secretary Anzorena to Messrs. Laurence Duggan and Charles W. Yost, the Embassy now advises having received the following data from Mexico:

A Committee has been organized in Mexico, D. F., to study the various aspects of the plan of receiving the Spanish Republican refugees from North Africa. Mr. Felix F. Palavicini, an Official of the Secretaría de Gobernación, both representing the Mexican Government, and Messrs. Ginés Langa Treño and Jerónimo Gamariz Latorre, Spaniards now residing in Mexico, form the Committee.

The Mexican Government is willing to consider the entry of those Spanish Republicans whose immigration may be deemed as favoring the national economy; preference to be given to farmers, fishermen, specialized mechanics, etc. Mr. Alejandro Quijano has offered that the Mexican Association of the Red Cross and the International Red Cross would gladly cooperate.

The Committee in due time, would take up with the Secretaría de Gobernación the question of the issuance of permits and the manner of issuance of necessary documents. As to transportation, the Mexican Government would avail itself of the offer of the United States Government, which is appreciated, of the United States War Department bearing the full cost of transporting the refugees across the ocean. Other offers as the one by the Joint Antifascist Refugee Committee may materialize into the bearing of rail transportation costs from the port of debarkation to the Mexican border.

As reported

852.00/10733



As reported to Messrs. Duggan and Yost, the Committee has requested that "U. S. Consulates in Algiers, Casa Blanca and Tunis urgently formulate a list of the Spanish refugees and their families who wish to go to Mexico, preference being given to farmers, fishermen, mechanics, specialized workers and persons who may easily adapt themselves to the economy of Mexico"; the Committee suggests that U. S. Consulates engage the assistance, as advisers, of Messrs. Salvador Garcia Mufioz and Lorenzo Carbonell Santacruz, in Oran, José Alonso Mallol and Antonio Pérez Torreblanca, in Casa Blanca, and Julián Sánchez Ercotalbe and Ildefonso Torregrosa García, in Tunis. It was pointed out in the communication received from Mexico that these data were urgently needed with a view to examining at once the feasibility of the refugees in question being admitted into Mexico.

The information furnished by Mr. Yost in his letter of June 16, 1943, was immediately transmitted to Mexico, on that date. The reply dated the 18th was received on the 19th, stating that, in order to decide on the entry of the refugees, it was indispensable that the data requested be furnished.

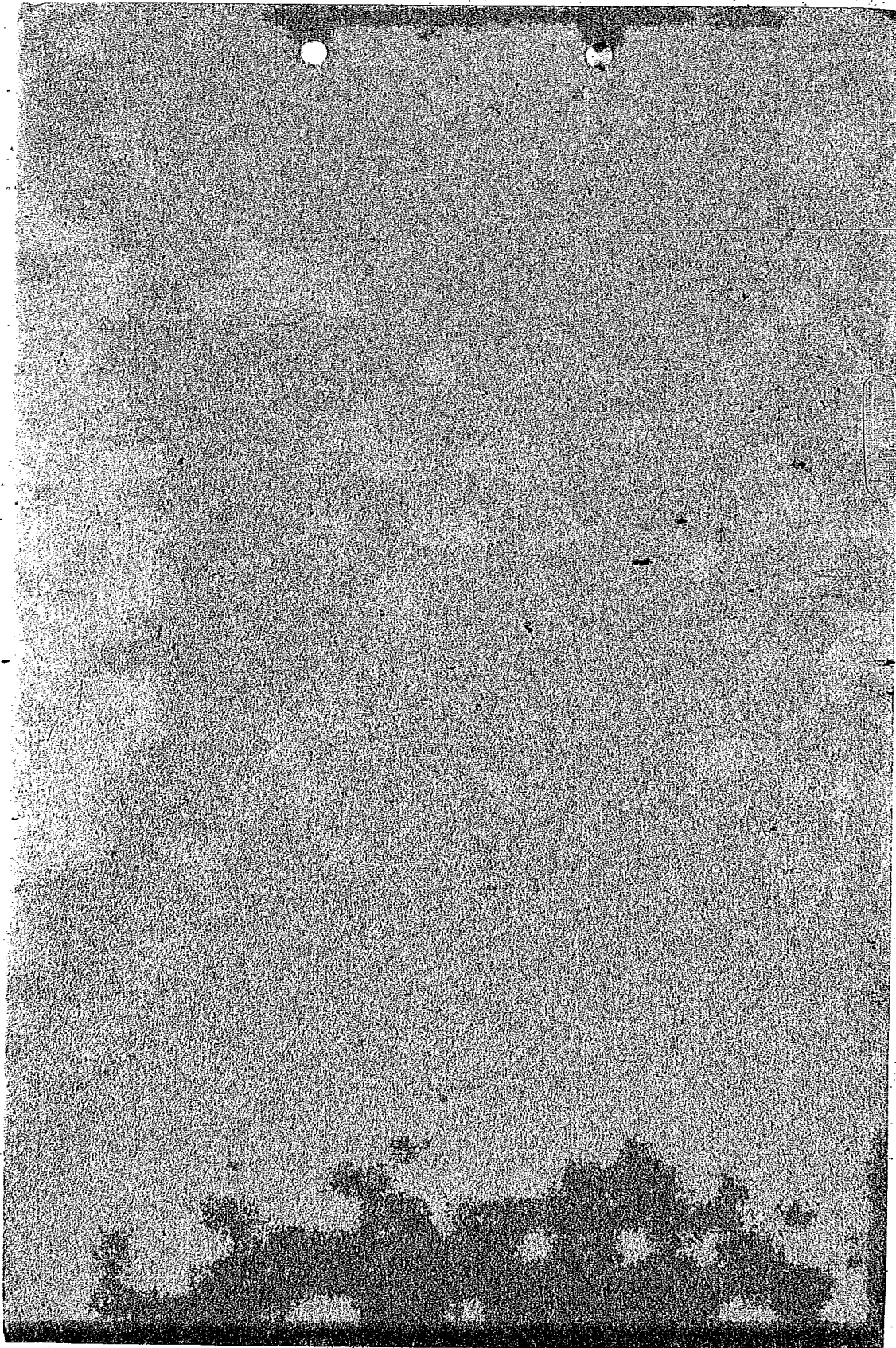
Washington, D. C., June 21, 1943.

c. c. p. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México,  
Oficialía Mayor, con Ref. a su Of. 3491 y a sus  
telegramas 3239 y 3258, de 4, 16 y 18 de junio  
de 1943, respectivamente.

EdeA/ee.

PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES:  
EVACUATION TO & THRU SPAIN (& PORTUGAL)  
(EVACUATION OF REPUBLICAN REFUGEES FROM SPAIN & PORTUGAL)

1. UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE
2. AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



2

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OFFICE OF  
I. A. HIRSCHMANN

June 16, 1944

Mr. Joseph B. Friedman  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Room 192  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Mr. Hirschmann, before leaving,  
asked me to send the enclosed  
material.

Sincerely

*Ruth E. Trainor*  
Secretary

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Civil Affairs Office  
North African Economic Board  
~~MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE~~  
Refugee Section

May 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO : Ira A. Hirschmann  
War Refugee Board, Washington, D.C.

FROM : Kendall G. Kimberland, Delegate  
American Friends Service Committee,  
American Mission, APO 534

SUBJECT : Emigration of Spanish republican refugees to Mexico

This is further to our conversations in the Middle East and French North Africa regarding the subject, and is intended to give some background which may enable you to aid in expediting this emigration.

After the defeat of the Spanish republican army early in 1939 several hundred thousands Spanish soldiers, officials, and civilians escaped to France and French North Africa where most of them were interned.

In April, 1939 negotiations began between the Mexican Government and a group of leading Spanish refugees in France organized under the style Servicio de la Emigracion Refugiados Espanoles (SERE). Under the auspices of this SERE we understand that about 13,000 Spanish refugees were evacuated from French territory between 1939 and the fall of France, in June, 1940. Most of these refugees went to Mexico, although a few went to Chile (about 1,600) and to San Domingo (about 500).

After the fall of France, on August 22, 1940, a new arrangement was established between the Mexican Government and the new French Government at Vichy. This was intended to continue this emigration, and operated by having the Mexican Government send lists to Vichy France of those refugees who were acceptable. These lists were apparently drawn up by cooperating Spanish Committees in both France and Mexico.

However, between July, 1940 and November 8, 1942 we understand that only three ships left French territory under this arrangement, with about 3,000 refugees.

No Spanish refugees have been evacuated to Mexico under the above mentioned arrangement since November 8, 1942, despite the efforts of the Joint Commission for Political Prisoners and Refugees for French North Africa, of which Mr. Samuel Hamilton Wiley, formerly Consul General here, and now

understood to be in Washington, was Chairman.

Why not ask  
State what this  
is all about?

The Joint Commission has compiled lists of the remaining Spanish republican refugees in French North Africa who wish to emigrate to Mexico as previously arranged. These lists were directed to the Mexican Government by Consul General Wiley on October 9, 1943, through the intermediary of State Department channels, but it is understood that for some reason these lists never reached the Mexican authorities. We are at present in the process of preparing copies, which will be submitted to the Mexican Government's representative to the French Committee of National Liberation upon his arrival here, which is expected shortly.

Nevertheless, the above has been outlined to you, in accordance with your request, with the thought in mind that the War Refugee Board may be in a position to expedite the conclusion of this emigration.

  
Wendell G. Kimberland

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES

Telephone  
RITZHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

## American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia  Pennsylvania

March 27th, 1944

MEMO TO: War Refugee Board

RE: Mercedes Bialcanet de Jover, and daughter age 8 years,  
34 Rue Cavaignac Oran, Lisbon, Portugal

On July 8, 1943, we received a cable from our office in Lisbon stating that a Mexican visa had been granted for Mme. de Jover and her daughter to join her husband, Marcel Jover, Legation of Nicaragua, Mexico. We wrote immediately to the State Department asking that transit approval be issued promptly. We received an answer from the State Department that Forms BC were now required. We cabled our office in Lisbon on July 23rd stating this fact.

On August 13th we received a cable from Lisbon stating that the Mexican Minister in Lisbon had asked his Embassy in Washington to intercede with the State Department and ask them to speed the transit visa. The Mexican Legation in Lisbon has \$1,000 on deposit for transportation expenses. On August 27th we also got in touch with the Mexican Embassy in Washington.

On October 14th, we were informed by the Mexican Consul in Washington that the State Department had reported to him that their records did not indicate the receipt of an application for transit visas on behalf of Mme de Jover and her daughter. He telephoned them to point out that the American Friends Service Committee had taken up the matter of waiving requirements of sponsors and form B. They promised to look into this possibility.

On November 16th we requested and received a report from the State Department that the Mexican Embassy had requested waiver of BC forms for Mme. de Jover's transit visa, once in writing and twice by telephone, but the Department had not been able to waive this necessity. We cabled immediately to our office in Lisbon stating that the BC forms were essential and also so informed our representative in Mexico with the request that he assist in their filing.

On November 30th we received a cable from our representative in Mexico stating that he would advise us when the forms had been filed and on December 15th a cable that BC forms had been forwarded to the Mexican Embassy in Washington.

We consulted the State Department December 20th as to whether Forms BC had been received. They reported that they had not been received but that they would try to expedite the procedure.

On February 10th we checked again with the State Department which reported that the only paper received on the de Jover case from the U. S. Embassy in Mexico was a Form B - no Form C's. The Visa Division had therefore informed the American Mission in Mexico City on January 18th that the file was inadequate and asked them to invite the husband to file two Forms C. As yet there is no further report on this case.

It will be seen that the Mexican immigration of the family has thus been pending for nine months and there is still no immediate hope for action.

MPS/DER.

(Mrs.) Marjorie Page Schauffler,  
Associate Secretary - Refugee Division

77008



Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES

Telephone  
RITENHOUSE 9372

Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

## American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia  Pennsylvania

Visas

March 27th, 1944

MEMO TO: War Refugee Board.

RE: Spanish Refugees with valid Mexican visas who are required to secure transit permits for the U. S. A.

In the years following the Civil War in Spain a number of Spanish refugees entered Mexico, leaving their wives and children behind to wait until such time as the men should be in a position to support them. Recently several have felt sufficiently established to secure Mexican visas for their families which have been granted.

No enough of these families travel at any one time to cover the cost of a boat stopping at a Mexican port and it is therefore necessary for them to travel via the United States and to secure U. S. transit visas. In the summer of 1943 several of them were granted transit visas very promptly without the necessity for the Form BC affidavit procedure.

Since that time, however, the U. S. Government has been requiring the same procedure as for U. S. immigration: two Form C affidavits of sponsorship (omitting the financial data) and a Form B biographical statement for each person over 18 years of age. The sponsor must know the applicant or their relative in Mexico and should preferably be an American resident. Since very few of the Spanish refugees have personal friends in this country, it has been necessary in most cases to find sponsors either in Mexico or in Spain. This has caused considerable delay in the filing of necessary papers with the State Department for it is impossible to start this procedure until the Mexican visa has been granted. As a Mexican visa is only valid for one year, there is always the danger of its expiration before the transit visa is authorized.

We cite a typical example, that of Signora Mercedes Bialcanet de Jover and daughter, on an attached sheet. Besides the case of Signora de Jover, the following illustrative instances are known to our Committee:

Juana Puig Perez, daughter Maris Jesus, and sister Maria Angeles Puig, Hotel Americano, Lisbon. The Mexican visa was granted on August 30, 1943, in order that Signora Perez and her daughter might join her husband, Ramon Perez Noreiga, a Spanish refugee already in Mexico. Funds for travel expenses were available. We informed the husband of the necessity of Forms BC, but have had no further information.

Maria Carmen Martinez and son, c/o American Friends Service Committee, Madrid, Spain. Mexican visa was granted for Senora Martinez and son to join her husband, Miguel Morayta Martinez. All travel expenses were prepaid through Wagon Lits Cook in Lisbon by plane or steamer. According to the information the husband had received from his wife, affidavits had been arranged for. However no affidavits have reached the State Department in Washington and the family are still in Madrid.

MPS/DER

MARJORIE PAGE SCHAUFFLER  
Associate Secretary - Refugee Division

March 27, 1944

Memo to: War Refugee Board

Re: Supplement to memo on Spanish refugees with Mexican visas who require U.S.A. transit permits

The case of Matilde Cuesta de Garcia is an illustration of the long delays involved in obtaining transit permits. The A.F.S.C. office began working on a transit visa for Mrs. Cuesta de Garcia and four year old son in June 1943. It was January 26, 1944 before the visa authorization for transit certificates was cabled to the American Consulate in Barcelona.

In the meantime this woman and her son were in a very difficult position in Spain. Their funds had been exhausted and they were destitute. Our representative in Madrid kept cabling us repeatedly urging all possible haste in their emigration. The husband in Mexico was greatly worried over the situation in which his wife and son found themselves. Two younger children in the family had come to the United States under the auspices of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children in July 1942.

We are glad to say that Mrs. Garcia arrived in the United States on March 11th and left for Mexico on March 12th after making a short visit with her two children who were already in this country.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Civil Affairs Office  
North African Economic Board  
Division of Public Welfare and Relief  
Refugee Section

March 4, 1944

TO : L.E. Ackerman  
FROM : David Hartley, Refugee Section, APO 534  
SUBJECT : Emigration of Spanish Refugees to Mexico

The following is the present situation of the Spanish Republican Refugees in North Africa who wish to emigrate to Mexico which you asked me to describe.

1. At the close of the Spanish Civil War in March, April, and May of 1939, English boats running from Barcelona and other Eastern Spanish ports brought about 5,000 Republican refugees to North Africa. With certain exceptions such as for ~~French~~ people, the sick or family groups, the majority of these people were interned in "Groupes de Travailleurs" where most of them remained until April, May and June of 1943, when foreign public opinion forced their liberation.

2. Upon liberation, the majority of these refugees found jobs with the American or British Armies and are gradually shifting to French employment as the Allied Armies withdraw or as they begin to substitute prisoners of war. As long as such a refugee has obtained a work contract he is entitled to a card of identity, ration cards and other freedoms ordinarily granted to the French population. However, because of earlier experiences with French Administration and the fact that many of them have never received a formal liberation from camp, there is a constant fear that there will be a reversal of policy and reinternment will take place. Certainly, the incorporation of these people into the French economy will be a slow one even under the best conditions and especially difficult for those who possess some special professional training such as lawyers, doctors, and dentists.

3. In May, June, and July of 1943, there seemed a real possibility that an emigration to Mexico would take place under the auspices of the Joint Commission for Political Prisoners and Refugees in French North Africa; registration was undertaken of those who desired to accept this possibility. At this time, 1,475 persons indicated their interest of which 1,061 were single men and 414 were women and children.

Among the vocations mentioned there is a general cross-section of agriculturists, miners, carpenters, fishermen, chauffeurs and seamen. The majority indicated a mechanical vocation which is probably due to

*John M. Ackerman*  
34

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Civil Affairs Office  
North African Economic Board  
Division of Public Welfare and Relief  
Refugee Section

TO: L.E. Ackerman  
SUBJECT: Emigration of Spanish Refugees to Mexico  
March 4, 1944

Page 2

their work in that type of job with the Armies in North Africa. There is a very small percentage of professional people, students and commercants.

4. Although the Mexican Government has indicated that it is ready to accept certain categories, no perceptible progress has been made in this emigration. It is hoped that the War Refugee Board or the Intergovernmental Committee will be able to revive this possibility which would not only ameliorate the position of those departing, but also of those who whose to remain behind by the lessening of the pressure applied by the French authorities.

*David Hartley*  
David Hartley

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February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

Movement of Spanish Republican Refugees from  
North Africa to Mexico. (Material obtained  
from file in Visa Division, State Department).

Attached hereto is a letter dated January 20, 1944, from Howard  
K. Travers to James G. Vail, American Friends Service Committee,  
referring to a proposed movement of Spanish Republican refugees from  
North Africa to Mexico.

*for Hosting*

Attachment

00009

In reply refer to  
VD 840.48 Refugees/3876

My dear Mr. Vail:

With further reference to the proposed movement of Spanish-Republican refugees from North Africa to Mexico the Department transmitted to the American Embassy at Mexico, D.F. on December 30, 1943 three lists of prospective immigrants totalling approximately sixteen hundred names. It is anticipated that the total number which will make application to enter Mexico will be two thousand including wives and children of the refugees and thirty non-Spanish members of the International Brigade who hold Mexican entry permits.

These lists are to be submitted to the Mexican-Spanish Commission established in Mexico, D.F. for the purpose of screening the names and of studying the various aspects of the project. In determining the admissibility of the applicants the Mexican Government has indicated that preference will be given to those whose occupations fall within certain categories such as farmers, fisherman and specialized mechanics. In order to facilitate the screening of the names the lists which were sent to our Embassy at Mexico contain the name, date and place of birth, occupation and number in family of each refugee and each has indicated his willingness to work as an agriculturist.

The Department will keep you advised of further developments in connection with this project.

Sincerely yours,

Howard K. Travers  
Chief, Visa Division

Mr. James G. Vail,  
American Friends Service Committee,  
20 South Twelfth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

VD:BU:ACC:KO 1/20/44 Eu Ra A\*B