

Received

7 AUG 1970

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UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEESNATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT
POUR LES REFUGIES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1. Distribution Restricted

HC
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MH. Colnar
Pinegar
Volfing
Wright
P.O. Chron. 2

2. File Number(s)

6/1 LAM 6/1 BRA

3. Date

7 August 1970

Address and text should be typed in CAPITAL LETTERS, in one and a half spacing.
X-out errors - do not erase.4. LTF (reduced rate) ETAT ETAT PRIORITE TO BE CODED

5. ADDRESS

HICOMREF BUENOS AIRES

6. TEXT

HCR 1399

AT WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFING LENGYEL OF quote O GLOBO unquote
RIO DE JANEIRO AND AGENCE INTER PRESS SERVICE ASKED WHETHER OFFICE
COULD BE HELPFUL IN FINDING EVENTUAL COUNTRY ASYLUM FOR POLITICAL
PRISONERS IN URUGUAY INVOLVED IN PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS RE HOSTAGES
BRAZILIAN AND AMERICAN. ANSWER GIVEN BY SPOKESMAN WAS THIS OBVIOUSLY
OUTSIDE MANDATE HCR. PRESENT GOVERNMENT STAND WELL KNOWN. SHOULD
INTERNATIONAL HELP NEEDED MORE USUAL THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR CICR CALLED
IN AS THEY TRADITIONALLY LOOKING SITUATIONS THIS KIND. SHOULD GOVERNMENT
HOWEVER CHANGE MIND AND ITSELF NOT BE ABLE TO FIND COUNTRY OF ASYLUM FOR
PRISONERS AND IN TURN CICR NOT BE ABLE HELP, AND GOVERNMENT REQUESTING
HIGH COMMISSIONER, PROBABLE WE BE PREPARED OFFER GOOD OFFICES. para.
WHILST CONFIDENT JOURNALIST REPORTING FAITHFULLY IT IS POSSIBLE EDITORS
LATIN AMERICA DISTORTING VIEWS. GRATEFUL YOU WATCH AND IF NECESSARY
GIVE TRUE VERSION.

UNHCR GENEVA

DRAFTED BY

Name Stanley Wright

8. CLEARED WITH

Mr Colnar
Mr Pinegar

9. AUTHORIZED BY

Name Stanley Wright

Title

10. SIGNATURE

6/1/LAM ✓

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Résumé of Meeting held on 11 May 1970

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES

Received

- 9 JUN 1970

Present: Mr. Idoyaga
Dr. Bayer
Miss Brissimi
Mr. Jackson
Miss Jacobs

INTER-LATIN-AMERICAN REFUGEE PROBLEMS

Refugees from Argentina

Mr. Idoyaga believed there might be some Argentinian refugees fleeing to Uruguay and Chile. After a recent uprising some 40 to 50 persons have been jailed, but later released. There was certainly a lack of freedom of expression in Argentina and some persons might feel compelled to leave the country.

Refugees from Brazil

The figure mentioned of 30,000 refugees from Brazil in the north of Argentina had not been substantiated from any source. Mr. Idoyaga had consulted representatives of ICMC, WCC, OAS, UNDP, and UNIC. There were certainly a number of economic migrants in the north of Argentina, but it was considered that if there were any refugees among them, the number was very small. Mr. Idoyaga had not approached the Latin-American Centre for Social Research again as the type of investigation they had in mind was quite out of scale with our possibilities.

There had been rumours that some Brazilians had been expelled to their country of origin from Uruguay.

Refugees from Paraguay

It was known that many thousands of persons had left Paraguay in the last few years and were living in Argentina, but their

HAUT COMMISSARIAT
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

MEMORANDUM

*copy before done
to the Brazilian*

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
Received 6 MAY 1970

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A - TO: UNHCR Headquarters

DE - FROM: Hugo Idoyaga

OBJET - SUBJECT: Latin Americans fleeing their countries

No 20

Bogotá, 30 April 1970

1. Reference is made to Dr. Bayer's memorandum 6/1/LAM of 13 April 1970 and to mine No 18 of 28 April 1970.
2. Further to the information contained in my memorandum, before leaving Buenos Aires I had an informal talk with one of the Chiefs of the Argentine Federal Police, with whom I became close friends during the Narcotics Control Seminar in Mexico last year.
3. I asked him to obtain data about numbers of Brazilians and if possible also Paraguayans and Bolivians having entered Argentina illegally and claimed persecution in their countries. As the person consulted is not directly concerned with immigration but with personal security, and related matters, he promised to consult his colleague in charge of frontier control. It was understood that this information would be given to me on an unofficial confidential basis. For this reason, the reply might take a longer time than if it were made officially.
4. Meanwhile, the person consulted agreed with the others to whom I had spoken in that it would be very difficult for 30.000 Brazilian refugees to have entered recently Argentina without this abnormal migration having reached the information media.
5. As for the second paragraph of Dr. Bayer's memorandum, I agree with you that even a much smaller amount than the US\$ 200.000 suggested by the Secretary of the Latin American Centre for Research and Social Sciences in Rio should be allocated with great care and also that it might be difficult to carry out a study like this with the necessary degree of discretion.
6. Relating to the last paragraph in Dr. Bayer's memorandum, I do appreciate the need for UNHCR to be informed as far as possible of all refugee situations which might turn to be of its concern; and as mentioned in my memorandum No 18, I am trying to obtain information through various unofficial contacts and, in one case from an official source, but on a confidential basis.
7. As you say, we will have a good opportunity to discuss this matter further in Geneva and think of other possible ways to increase our information.

HB/dm

1) Dr. Bayer }
2) Mr. Taylor } fi
3) Miss Campbell, tele

Reg. - pl. file m
6/1/2 America
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cc.: HC through Mr. Colmar
Mr. Colmar
Mr. Pinegar
Dr. Bayer/Mr. Jackson
Miss Brissini
Mr. Koulischer

Reg. (2)

LAM

Mr. Jamieson (through Mr. Pinegar)

H. Brissini

MA/LAM/GEN

10 March 1970

Latin American refugees

Reference is made to Dr. Urrutia's remarks on the above subject during his visit to Geneva last January (see my Note for the File dated 27 January 1970 and the memos which our Legal Division has addressed to our Branch Office for Latin America).

This problem was discussed in the meeting held today in the Legal Division with Mr. Koulischer. Particular emphasis was given to the question of the 30,000 Brazilians reported to have sought asylum in the North of Argentina.

As you know, lately there has been frequent mention in the international press about persecution in Brazil, the Pope has received a confidential report from a group of Catholic Bishops on the situation, Mgr. Camara has discussed this problem on television in Europe, etc. World opinion has thus been sensitized about this problem in Brazil. Isolated cases of Brazilians who fled from their country have come to the attention of UNHCR; one case was recognized as a refugee in Belgium.

It should be born in mind that Argentina, where the big group of Brazilians referred to by Dr. Urrutia has taken refuge, is a country of immigration. Therefore, in addition to these 30,000 Brazilians about 1/2 million foreign workers live in Argentina having moved there for economic reasons. Crossing the border from Brazil to Argentina is no problem in terms of papers, etc. A Brazilian can enter Argentina on a Brazilian identity card and be allowed to stay in Argentina for an initial period of three months which apparently may be extended without difficulty.

The two factors mentioned in the preceding paragraph may therefore have an attenuating effect on the refugee situation, and thus far, it is a fact that the Argentinian government has not approached UNHCR for assistance with these Brazilians presumed to be refugees. Despite these facts, it would appear appropriate for this Office to have on hand reliable information on two aspects of this issue before examining whether any action on the part of UNHCR is warranted. These aspects are :

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES
Received
23 SEP 1969

cc: Reg (2) ✓
Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Colmar
Mr. Pinegar
Mr. Goundiam
Dr. Jahn
Mr. Jackson
Miss Brissimi
Miss Jacobs
Float

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HB/ck

The Deputy Representative for Latin America, Buenos Aires Sub-Office

E. Jahn, Legal Division

6/1/Lam

19 September 1969

Latin Americans fleeing their countries for political reasons

From voluntary agency sources information has recently reached us which would indicate that problems of asylum for Latin Americans fleeing their countries for political reasons are becoming more difficult to handle than they were reported to be in the past, due to a decreased willingness to extend asylum on the part of certain Latin American countries.

The case of 18 Brazilians who fled to Uruguay for whom efforts were made to arrange for movement on to Europe, was brought to our attention to indicate on the one hand some reluctance on the part of Uruguay to offer continued asylum to such persons, and on the other, some fear on the part of these Brazilians that they might not be safe from Brazilian police even in Uruguay. Some of these persons are now on their way to Italy, their passage having been paid by WCC.

Another case involving a Brazilian student about to enter his last year in the school of engineering, was also described to us. Allegedly this student had to undergo much hardship, because he was active in student movements being president of a Christian Students Organization. Such hardship included imprisonment on two occasions and he finally had to flee to Argentina. There he was advised by WCC to get in touch with your Office, so you may already know about this case.

The above are two instances which were brought to our attention during last week but there may be other occurrences or events which may possibly indicate the development of a trend. That is why we are writing to you in order to ask for your evaluation of the situation and for your suggestions. Thus far we have been proceeding on the assumption that Latin Americans leaving one Latin American country for political reasons have no problem about being accepted for residence in other Latin American countries. We wonder whether this assumption is still valid, and whether it can be so considered in an unqualified way. In any event, there seems to be a need to examine the situation further and assess the current position and the possibilities and difficulties involved in the light of recent developments in the region.

cc. Mr. Pinegar
Mr. Goudiam/Dr. Jahn
Mr. Jackson
Mr. Colmar
Miss Brissimi
Registry (2) —

6A

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEE
Received

Mr. Jamieson (through Mr. Pinegar)

Miss Brissimi

12 September 1969

Latin Americans Fleeing their Countries for Political Reasons

1. Two days ago I met Christopher King of WCC who mentioned to me incidents involving Brazilians outside Brazil which, if they represent at all an accurate assessment of the situation by the WCC Correspondents in Latin America, would indicate that the assumption on which we are proceeding (viz. that persons leaving one Latin American country for political reasons have no problem about being accepted for residence in other Latin American countries) might not be so true any more, at least in so far as some Latin American countries are concerned which used to be asylum countries in the past. In their communications the WCC Correspondents commented on the reluctance of some Latin American countries (e.g. Argentina, Uruguay) to accept for permanent residence persons fleeing Brazil for political reasons.
2. Specifically Mr. King mentioned that:
 - a) WCC Geneva was approached by their correspondent in Uruguay about payment of transportation costs for a group of 18 Brazilians now in Montevideo, Uruguay, who apparently are not welcome to stay there much longer, and who are seeking admission into a European country. No details on this group are yet available with WCC Geneva, but their correspondent has been asked to provide both background information on the group and detailed data on each of the 18 persons. Such data is expected shortly.
 - b) A Brazilian student, with brilliant academic record, who, being active in Student Organizations, has already been imprisoned on two occasions (in the first instance for a few days and in the second for two months) has now fled to Argentina because he was again accused of further activities with a Christian Student Organization, of which he is the president, and was to be tried with the likelihood of a 2 year sentence. He reached Argentina without a passport, as he could travel on a Brazilian identity card. The WCC contact in Argentina is in the process of getting in touch with our Branch Office, in view of the persecution element involved, in order to seek guidance about acquiring appropriate travel documents, since this person has no passport. WCC

LAM

The Deputy Representative for
Legal Division
Date: 11/10/69

From various reports which
indicate that there is a
widespread feeling of
disillusion among
Latin Americans fleeing
their countries

It is not clear if
any of these persons
are being accepted
by other Latin American
countries for permanent
residence

The situation in
Latin America is
becoming increasingly
serious and it is
apparent that many
more people are
leaving their countries
in search of political
asylum

MAW

feels that this student should be helped to complete ^{his} studies (he needed one more year for his degree in engineering when he was again running the danger of being arrested in Brazil and excluded from enrolling in any of the universities in that country for a few years). WCC is working on this case, ~~with~~ in order to regularize the stay of this student in a country willing to provide asylum (in Latin America or elsewhere), get him the necessary travel documents (to that effect they have acquired the services of a lawyer) and in order to help him finish his studies. It should be noted that the academic achievement of this student as evidenced by his professors' recommendations is excellent. However, the WCC contact in Argentina is under the impression that the two Latin American countries easiest to reach (Argentina and Uruguay) might not be willing to accept this student for longer stay and for enrolment in their universities. He is therefore also considering Chile and Mexico (although their universities are overcrowded) and requesting WCC for information on possibilities in Europe, particularly Switzerland. Mr. King will inform us about the discussions which their contact may by now have had with our office in Buenos Aires.

3. Members of the group of Brazilian political detainees, who have reached Mexico in the dramatic operation involving the release of the U.S. ambassador to Brazil, might also be brought to our attention, as some of them may not be intending to return to Brazil to continue their political activities (as a few have indicated in the press conference were eager to do).
4. Thus, it might be possible that our office could be more frequently approached for guidance and/or help on such cases in the future than was the situation in the past, when we were assured that political persecutees from one Latin American country can easily find asylum in other Latin American countries.
5. I would, therefore, suggest that we request the views of our Latin American B.O. on this matter, since new developments might require the re-examination of the situation in regard to asylum seekers from Latin American countries. Specifically we could:
 - a) Ask Dr. Idoyaga to comment on this particular issue of Latin Americans seeking asylum in other Latin American countries in view of some recent developments. At the end of this week Dr. Idoyaga will be starting on a two-month mission to various Latin American countries which will take him to Venezuela, the D. Rep., Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay. One of the main purposes of this mission is to examine matters of legal protection. In that context he could easily devote attention to this particular question.
 - b) Discuss the matter with Dr. Urrutia during his forthcoming visit to Geneva this month.
 - c) At our end, we could collect whatever data might be available with the International Commission of Jurists and the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to help our B.O. in their efforts to examine this situation thoroughly.
6. If you agree with the above suggestions, we could prepare a memo for Dr. Idoyaga and contact the ICJ and the ICRC.