

May 2020

Folder 11 -- Baron, Marcel -- 1937

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NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR AID to REFUGEES and EMIGRANTS COMING FROM GERMANY

221 WEST 57th STREET
NEW YORK CITY

March 18, 1937

Mrs. Max Mayer
Hilton Hotel
El Paso, Texas

James G. McDonald
Honorary Chairman
Joseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman
William Rosenwald
Vice-Chairman
Paul Felix Warburg
Treasurer
Cecilia Razovsky
Secretary and
Executive Director
Jacob Billikopf
Executive Director

Re: Marcel Baron

Dear Mrs. Mayer:

I was glad to get your telegram today and have talked with Mr. Noah Adler, whose address is Equitable Building, Denver, and who happens to be in New York City at this time. Mr. Adler is leaving for Denver today. He has been representing the boy before the immigration officials and is deeply interested.

For your information, I enclose a summary of the boy's case as we know it now. I am told by Mr. Adler that the government officials refuse to release the boy under bond, but insist that he must be taken to the border by one of their men. Will that make any difference in your arrangements with regard to sending him into Mexico? He has, as I told you, been given voluntary departure, but the inspector wants to be sure that he does not remain in the States.

I am writing a letter to the Commissioner in Washington, as per enclosed.

Will you please communicate at once with Mr. Adler with regard to this case, telling him what the immigration officials say and advising him what further steps he should take. If you wish, send me copies of your letters, but I think it will save time if you write directly to Mr. Adler.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Razovsky
Cecilia Razovsky
Executive Director

CR:Keenc.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Committee for Christian-German Refugees
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Physicians
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars
Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America
German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc.

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society
Hospites
Independent Order of B'nai B'rith
International Migration Service
International Student Service
Musicians Emergency Fund, Inc.
National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds
National Council of Jewish Women
Zionist Organization of America

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR AID TO REFUGEES AND EMIGRANTS COMING FROM GERMANY
221 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

March 18, 1937

Joint Distribution Committee
19 Rue de Teheran
Paris 8 (e), France

Gentlemen:

We are writing you for information regarding Marcel Ludwig Baron, alias Malcolm Raymond Scott, born July 26, 1916, in Berlin. His father was Leopold Baron, a wealthy wine merchant. They lived at Jagow St. 18, Berlin, W. 87. Soon after the beginning of the Nazi regime, the business was confiscated and the father's money seized. He fled to Antwerp, where he died in August, 1933. The mother, Elisabeth Marcus Baron, went to Montreux, Switzerland, and she lives with her sister, Miss Martha Marcus, who is the owner of a finishing school there. He (the boy) has no sisters or brothers.

Marcel was graduated from the Gymnasium in 1931. He was a member of Kadimah and joined a Chaitz training school preparatory to going to Palestine. On June 6, 1933, he was one of 76 Chaitz and 4 teachers arrested in Wolzig, Berlin, all of whom were sent to the Granienburg concentration camp. He was released after eight weeks, given a card by the Nazi authorities showing that he was not a political suspect. He went to the J.D.C. office in Berlin, where he was given a third class ticket to Paris and about \$10.

He arrived in Paris towards the end of August 1933. He could not get a labor permit from the French Government, so he wandered about doing odd jobs in Paris, Nancy, Nice, etc., dodging the authorities. While in France he assisted Lord Harley in writing "The Brown Book of the Hitler Terror". With the latter's help, he also wrote an article on Nazi persecutions of the Jews which appeared in the London Times September 18, 1933 unsigned. As a result of this article, he was invited by Robert Stern, Paris (or London) correspondent of the Chicago Daily Tribune or Chicago Daily News to address a Press luncheon on the same subject. His talk was publicized, and unfortunately his full name appeared in the press. This speech led to a refutation three days later by a German official in the London Times. He is probably on the Nazi blacklist as a result.

He left France in December 1935, paying his passage on a French freighter, the SS Haro, and entered this country illegally. He had about \$100 when he arrived. He did not go to any Jewish organization because he was afraid he would be deported. He remained in New York about 6 months doing odd jobs, then began drifting, stopping in Cincinnati for 3 weeks, where he sold newspapers and worked in a shoeshine parlor. Then toward the end of April 1936, he came to Denver. He could not obtain work and driven to desperation, passed a check for \$10. Soon afterwards he was picked up in Colorado Springs, returned to Denver, and on May 27, 1936, given a sentence of 1 to 2 years. This made him eligible for parole on February 3rd.

Our Department of Justice communicated with the Police Department of Brussels, Belgium, on January 4, 1936, and was informed that Baron had been charged with fraud and forgery and was four times sentenced to serve in prison. The total count for these four convictions was 10 months. The young man denied he was convicted of the charges but admitted he was given probation. In the course of an examination by one of the immigration officials he stated that he considered himself a political exile.

We are now trying to have the boy given permission to depart voluntarily from the United States and are trying to make arrangements to send him to Mexico. We would, however, like to know something more about him.

Would it be possible for you to have someone see his mother and discuss her boy with her, and find out what, if any, plans she has to suggest. We do not know whether she has any funds of her own. He is such a young boy it seems a pity not to try to save him if we can before he really becomes a criminal. His story with regard to the concentration camp seems to be true because Gerhard Seger confirms it.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Razovsky
Executive Director

CR:ST

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR AID TO REFUGEES AND EMIGRANTS COMING FROM GERMANY
221 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

March 18, 1937

Mr. Edward J. Shaughnessy
Acting Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington, D. C.

Att.: Mr. W.W. Brown

Re: Marcel Baron
55941/305

Dear Mr. Shaughnessy:

With further reference to the above named, we are now advised that he is held in Denver by your authorities pending further action. We have been told that it might be possible to secure voluntary departure for him if we could arrange to have him re-ship on a steamer. We doubt whether it will be possible for us to find a job for him on a ship at this time.

We have been in touch with our El Paso Committee, and we have been advised that they can make arrangements with the Mexican Government to have him admitted into the interior there, provided he is given voluntary departure. For that reason, we can arrange to have him go to Mexico and are willing to pay the expenses of one of your inspectors to accompany the boy to El Paso where he will be checked out and sent into Mexico by our representative, Mrs. Max Mayer, Hilton Hotel, El Paso, Texas.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Rasovsky
Associate Director

CR:K

March 23, 1937.

Mr. Noah Adler,
Equitable Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado.

Re: Marcel Baron.

Dear Mr. Adler:-

This is in reply to a letter received by
Mrs. Max Mayer from Cecelia Razovsky in New York.

Upon receipt of the telegram from Miss
Razovsky, I personally contacted the Inspector of
Immigration, and he assured me that anyone coming
to the El Paso Border for the purpose of departing
from this Country would be checked out, but through
official channels they would have to get permission
from the adjoining Country to receive him. In this
case the official procedure would be impossible.

The only suggestion that I can make is that
the boy be permitted to come to El Paso whether accom-
panied by an officer or not would be immaterial, pro-
viding he could be turned over to us instead of the
Immigration Department. We could assure the official
that he would not remain in the United States. You will
readily realize that we are compelled to use methods
that are not according to Hoyle, but we do go to extremes
to save a life and this boy may be worth saving.

Please destroy this letter when you are thru
reading it and advise me as to your next move.

Yours very truly,

March 23, 1937.

Mr. Noah Adler,
Equitable Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado.

Re: Marcel Baron.

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that are not according to Hoyle, but we do go to extremes
to save a life and this boy may be worth saving.

Please destroy this letter when you are thru
reading it and advise me as to your next move.

Yours very truly,

NOAH A. ATLER
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW
EQUITABLE BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

March 26, 1937

National Council of Jewish Women,
1016 Olive St.,
El Paso, Texas

Attention Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky

Dear Madam:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 23rd, 1937, in regard to Marcel Baron.

I appreciate your frankness and feel under the circumstances, that we should make every effort to arrange some other means of deportation for the boy.

While in New York, I discussed the matter with Miss Razovski and being somewhat familiar with the immigration laws of Mexico, I could not understand how it would be possible to obtain permission for this boy to enter.

You will find enclosed a letter of mine, dated March 25, 1937, addressed to the B'nai B'rith Lodge in San Francisco, Calif., in which I appeal to them to attempt to make arrangements for the boy to obtain passage to China. Perhaps you can use your good efforts in bringing this to a realization.

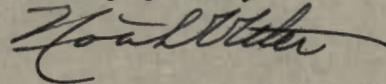
Insofar as the boy coming to Texas or being brought to Texas, it will not be possible. Immigration officials will not release him within the borders of the United States. They advise me that permission will have to be first obtained from the Mexican Government before the Immigration officials will accompany him to the Border.

National Council Of Jewish Women-2

Would it be possible to get transportation on a boat from Galveston Texas? Do you have any influence with a ship owner? Please do what you can. I honestly believe that the boy's return to Germany will mean death to him. Furthermore, if he gains admission to Mexico, without proper passport, I am reliably informed the Mexican Government will, if it comes to their knowledge, deport him directly to Germany.

I am waiting anxiously for a reply.

Sincerely yours,

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

NAA:LD
enc. (1)

SAMUEL CHUTKOW
NOAH A. ATLER

CHUTKOW AND ATLER
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
EQUITABLE BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

March 25, 1937

B'nai B'rith Lodge,
San Francisco, Calif.

Attention Social Service Committee
Chairman

Gentlemen:

This is a matter of utmost importance, that requires immediate attention.

One Marcel Baron, an exile from Germany, illegally entered the United States about a year ago. Coming to Denver, he made the very great mistake of writing a short check, which brought him a sentence of one year in the State Penitentiary. After serving eight months, he was given a parole, but upon his release at the gate, was taken into custody by the Immigration Officials and is now confined in jail in the Federal Ward, here in Denver.

A hearing was had in connection with deportation proceedings and there was little hope extended for this boy, other than to be returned to Germany, and having written numerous articles condemning Nazism, since leaving Germany, he believes and I agree, his re-entry into Germany might mean death to him.

Immigration officials have agreed to permit him to leave this country if we can obtain an agreement from one of the steamship lines, to permit him to work for transportation to some foreign country, preferably China, since it is a country that does not require a passport. We now appeal to you to immediately obtain a letter from an official of the steamship lines, which will enable this

SAMUEL CHUTKOW
NOAH A. ATLER

CHUTKOW AND ATLER
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
EQUITABLE BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

B'nai B'rith Lodge-2
boy to leave the United States without being deported to
Germany. Please let me have your answer by return wire,
collect. Suggestion has been made to try the Dollar Line,
and I earnestly pray this will be successful, so that we
may save the life of this human being.

Fraternally and sincerely yours,

NAA:LD

COPY

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
for AID to REFUGEES and EMIGRANTS COMING from GERMANY

221 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK CITY

March 30, 1937

James G. McDonald
Honorary Chairman
Joseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman
William Rosenwald
Vice-Chairman
Paul Felix Warburg
Treasurer
Cecilia Razovsky
Secretary and
Executive Director
Jacob Billikopf
Executive Director

Mrs. Aimee Mayer
Hilton Hotel
El Paso, Texas

Dear Aimee:

Re: Marcel Baron

Thanks for the snaps. I am sorry you are ill!

Get well soon

Please note the enclosed excerpt of a letter received from Denver regarding Marcel Baron. In the meantime, the boy has pneumonia, his case has gone to Washington, and there is nothing to do for the time being.

Do get well soon. Love.

Sincerely,

Cecilia

Cecilia Razovsky
Executive Director

CR:nk
ENC.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

American Committee for Christian-German Refugees
American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Physicians
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars
Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America
German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc.

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society
Hospites
Independent Order of B'nai B'rith
International Migration Service
International Student Service
Musicians Emergency Fund, Inc.
National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds
National Council of Jewish Women
Zionist Organization of America

E X C E R P T

March 27, 1937

Dear Miss Razovsky:

My last letter from El Paso was from Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky, and it seems as though she differs entirely with the opinion of Amy Mayer. If Baron enters Mexico without the consent of the Mexican Government and it is discovered, I am told he will immediately be deported to Germany."

Yours very truly,

Noah Adler

E X C E R P T

March 27, 1937

Dear Miss Razovsky:

My last letter from El Paso was from Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky, and it seems as though she differs entirely with the opinion of Amy Mayer. If Baron enters Mexico without the consent of the Mexican Government and it is discovered, I am told he will immediately be deported to Germany."

Yours very truly,

Noah Adler

April 7, 1937.

Mr. Noah A. Adler,
Equitable Bldg.,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to yours of March 26th, with reference to the last sentence in your letter, while it is true that a subject would be held for deportation when illegally in Mexico, deportation is rarely if ever carried out. We have been successful in such cases to secure passports for them to remain in Mexico. This requires financial backing.

If you have not as yet made arrangements with some steamship company, I would strongly advise that you get into immediate correspondence with Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston, Texas. He is a man of great influence and has a sympathetic understanding of such cases as you have to present.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky.

PZ. LG