Folder 30 – Lehmann, Richard – 1938 - 1939

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My dear Mrs. Mayer:

Dr. Ray K. Daily has asked that I communicate with you, in the hope that you may be able to give us certain desired information on a matter in which she is greatly interested.

Specifically the matter is this: Dr. Daily desires to secure for a very dear friend of hers, now on a temporary visit in this country, a visa to remain here permanently. In order to do this, it will of course be necessary to make application to one of the American Consuls at one of the ports of entry. Therefore, we are most anxious to ascertain beforehand the attitude of the American Consul in El Paso, with respect to leniency in such matters. Whether he is sympathetic and whether you feel we might meet with success through that consulate? Naturally all affidavits of support will be strong and our only fear is in the quota restriction.

Thanking you for whatever suggestions you can offer, I am

Very cordially yours,

Helene G. Daily

HGD:hf
Mrs. M. M. Kaiser
r. o. League of Nations Assn.
95 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago

Mrs. Frank Zlabov
1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky  
1016 Olive Street  
El Paso, Texas  

Dear Mrs. Zlaborsky:

On Saturday of last week, I had the pleasure of being with Mrs. Max Mayer for luncheon, and discussed with her the possibility of securing for a very dear friend of Dr. Daily, a permanent visa to this country through the Juarez Consulate. She gave me your address, and I stated to her that I would write you immediately and give you certain details so that when she speaks to you, you will be fully advised of everything herein involved.

The gentleman about whom we are so anxious came from Germany via New York on a temporary visa which expired in November. He applied for an extension and secured an extension until December 10. His passport expires in April, and, as I know, it is not ordinarily possible to secure an extension on a visa beyond a period of two months prior to the expiration of the passport, we anticipate some difficulty in obtaining the six months extension.

This gentleman who was born in a territory formerly Poland but now Germany, would be, I believe, within the quota restrictions of Poland even though he has been a German citizen for many years.

Now our problem is specifically this: whether we should immediately apply for another extension on his visa, accompanying the application for extension with substantiating evidence that he will not become a public charge and communicating with persons in Washington who may aid us in securing an extension notwithstanding the passport, or whether we should immediately make an application through your port of entry for a permanent visa.

It was my thought that since time is so limited, we had better make application for extension, for in the event he makes application for permanent visa and a quota number is not available, he might then be precluded from asking for an extension; however, Mrs. Mayer was of the opinion that rather than do this, it might be possible to immediately obtain his permanent entry through Juarez. I do not know whether or not I have made myself entirely clear, but I believe that Mrs. Mayer will be able to give you any details which I may have omitted.
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky

It is really an emergency, and it would be a great tragedy for this man to be deported. Doctors Daily will, of course, make very strong affidavit of support and do whatever else necessary to assist this gentleman.

If you could advise me as to the wisest course to pursue immediately, either by telephoning me collect or by air mail, I will greatly appreciate the courtesy.

Very cordially yours,

Helene G. Daily

HGD:hf
These are some copies of communications to us, which I am sending you by way of information, for whatever they may be worth.
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky  
1016 Olive Street  
El Paso, Texas  

Dear Mrs. Zlaborsky:

Thank you for your telegram of yesterday and for advising me by telephone last night concerning the Dr. Lehmann matter.

This morning I spoke to Dr. Daily and Dr. Lehmann about your suggestion and they greatly appreciated the interest you have taken in the matter. However, since time was so short, we felt that it might be too risky not to apply for an extension on his temporary stay; and this morning we made such application.

I am today obtaining all the substantiating letters to Dr. Daily's affidavit, however, she asked that I write you in order that we may be more fully advised concerning just what you think can be done about this matter.

Am I to understand that you believe a quota number can be obtained in short order or will it be necessary for him to make an entry into Mexico before a quota number can be wired for? Our fear is that the man may get into Mexico and have to wait indefinitely for a number, which is just what we are trying to avoid.

Dr. Daily would like for this man to remain in the States until the last possible moment, as she is greatly concerned over the possibility of his being in Mexico, unable to return here and without right of re-entry on his temporary visa.

I would therefore consider it a great favor if you would fully advise me at once in order that I may reassure Dr. Daily before Dr. Lehmann leaves for El Paso.

With kindest regards,

Very cordially yours,

Helene G. Daily

HELENE G. DAILY
First National Bank Bldg.
HOUSTON, TEXAS
December 1, 1938
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky  
1016 Olive Street  
El Paso, Texas  

Dear Mrs. Zlaborsky:

I am enclosing herewith original affidavit in behalf of Dr. Richard Lehmann and all substantiating evidence. I am also enclosing copies of Dr. Lehmann's divorce certificate, birth certificate, morality certificate, and doctor's certificate.

Our duplicate copies are retained by us on all these matters, and if you need them I will immediately send them. I am sending these papers in order that you may go through them and perhaps present them to the American Consul to ascertain whether they are sufficiently complete.

When you have advised us that everything is in order, Dr. Lehmann will come to El Paso, however, the reason I am not sending him at this time is because we felt that it would be cheaper for him to live here with the Dailys' until you are ready for him.

I am also including for your personal information, copies of communications which have heretofore been engaged here by us, for the purpose of obtaining for Dr. Lehmann, an extension on his temporary stay. The temporary stay was granted until February 5 which is exactly two months prior to the expiration of his passport.

Please advise me what your wishes are on this matter, and if everything is in order.

Very cordially yours,

Helene G. Daily

P. S. In so far as to Dr. Lehmann's funds, they were held in an account in Chicago in the name of his son and another relative, however, he has wired for the money and it will be deposited to his account here in Houston and when he comes statement from the bank concerning the same, will be sent you.
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky

Also please let me call your attention to the statement in the affidavit concerning Dr. Lehmann's residence in Berlin. I did not know whether this was properly included since we are asking entry from Mexico. If this needs revision, will you please return to me by air-mail and I will make corrections in accordance with your instructions.
El Paso, Texas,
December 10, 1938/

Miss Helene G. Daily,
First National Bank Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Miss Daily:

Acknowledging receipt of the documents, I am returning to you the following letters and documents:

Missouri Pacific Lines
Chester H. Bryan
Houston National Bank
Affidavit

I would suggest that the letters be addressed to the American Consul General, William P. Blocker. Mr. Shaw, to whom the letters are addressed is now in Mexico City. With reference to the affidavit, the reference to Dr. Lehman’s residence in Berlin would suggest that his purpose in requesting a Visitor’s visa to the United States was for the purpose of remaining, and therefore would prove a falsification. The enclosed affidavit form is preferable in this case.

The German Documents require translation in English and in duplicate. Since you mention that you have the duplicates, I will keep the originals in my file until Dr. Lehman can come with the rest of the papers. The divorce papers were sent in photostat. Do you have the original? That must also be translated and in duplicate.

In drawing up the affidavit it will be unnecessary to enumerate the real estate since this appears in documentary evidence. When all of the documents are completed, I would suggest that Dr. Lehman bring them to El Paso, and I will immediately present his case to the American Consul. If accepted, we will send a cable to Berlin requesting a number and if a number is granted, it will then be necessary for Dr. Lehman to establish a residence in Juarez, Mexico until the number is available.
Perhaps it would be possible through your influence in Washington to have the law controlling the Foreign Residence waived and permit Dr. Lehman to remain in the United States for that period of time. I made one attempt in the past few months to have such a waiver granted, but up to the present time have been unsuccessful.

If Dr. Lehman cannot come before the 20th of December, it would be advisable that he wait until after the first of the year.

Dr. Lehman must have his bank statement and show documentary evidence as to how he came into possession of this money.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
1016 Olive Street,
El Paso, Texas.
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky
1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas

Dear Mrs. Zlaborsky:

I am herewith enclosing, as per your request of December 10, letters from Missouri Pacific, Chester Bryan, and Houston National Bank, with the corrections you suggested. Also I am enclosing translations of Dr. Lehmann's German documents, duplicate copy of which is retained by us. As for the affidavit, I was unable to use the form as you suggested since if you will notice, the form which you sent me is one which is to be made by an individual and cannot be jointly used, further it omits two very important paragraphs concerning the affiants' character which I understand are most essential. Please do not think me presumptuous in failing to use these forms which I believe are the ones furnished by Miss Kazovsky's office, but my experience has been that they are incomplete. However, if you will notice I did omit any reference to Dr. Lehmann's residence in Berlin and I believe that you will now find them satisfactory.

You state in your letter that it will be necessary to show documentary evidence as to how Dr. Lehmann came into possession of this money. You understand that this is impossible since doing so would jeopardize certain persons now in Germany who helped in getting same out. However, we can obtain a letter from a local bank stating that same is in his name and is being drawn upon by him. This money was originally deposited in Chicago and has been only recently transferred here into Dr. Lehmann's name. I trust that this above will be satisfactory.

As for your suggestion that it might be possible to obtain a waiver, of the foreign residence law, Dr. Daily has today written Mr. Thomas, our Congressman, urging that thought, and asking his assistance. This, of course, would be most helpful since, as you think Dr. Lehmann will have to wait until a quota number is obtainable, his stay might take a year and this would be
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky

not only expensive but very hard on the man. I have information from the State Department that certain consular offices have a certain number of quota numbers available and I wonder if such is the case at Juarez. If any influence might be helpful originating from Washington, in the matter of securing a number, will you please advise how we might go about same.

If you find everything in order and you feel that Dr. Lehmann should come immediately to El Paso and can safely leave the country for re-entry, kindly advise us and he will come immediately.

Thanking you for your cooperation, I am

Very cordially yours,

Helene G. Daily

Please phone me collect if anything is lacking or if you have any hope for immediate action.

If you will note, this gentleman would I believe come within the Polish quota, as the territory was at the time of birth & is now again Polish territory.
December 24th, 1938

Mrs. Zlaborsky
1016 Olive St.,
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Zlaborsky:

The enclosed letter is self explanatory. If you know that it is possible to obtain a waiver for a foreign residency, or of some one who has obtained one I shall be deeply grateful for the information. According to Mr. Thomas it can not be done.

May I tell you at this time how deeply I appreciate your assistance in helping with Dr. Richard Lehmann, who is a very close friend of many years standing.

I feel very deeply the tragic position in which he is and want to do everything possible to keep him from returning to Germany - which we all know would mean certain and cruel death.

Again assuring you of my deep appreciation,

I am

Very cordially yours,

Ray K. Daily
December 31, 1938.

Dr. Ray K. Daily,
1117-19 Medical Arts Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Dr. Daily:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., with enclosure. It is because I have been unsuccessful in getting the waiver that I suggested this matter to Miss Helen Daily thinking that with your political influence such a measure could be obtained. Apparently we will have to comply with the laws as they are at this time.

Dr. Lehmann will not necessarily have to leave the United States until such a time that the Immigration Department will cease to recognize Visitor's Visas. However, if he prefers making a change of status for the purpose of releasing the bond, we will be glad to present his case to the American Consul in Juarez. It is doubtful if a number from Poland can be secured before July 1st. A bond of 750 Pesos (About $150) will be required by the Mexican Government and sufficient money for his maintenance during his stay in Mexico. There is a nice Hotel in our neighbor City that could take care of Dr. Lehmann for about $40.00 per month (American money).

If there is any further information desired, please call on me.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky.

FZ:LG
Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

Thank you for your kind letter of January 28th, and the encouraging note concerning the possibility of obtaining a quota number for Dr. Lehman sometimes in July. As I stated in my last letter to you, I had already obtained a three months' passport extension for him and application has been made for an extension of his temporary stay. When this is passed upon my hope is to have Dr. Lehman come down to El Paso to see you concerning the entire matter.

With reference to the first paragraph of your letter concerning the impossibility of Dr. Lehman locating in Mexico, I wish to state that Dr. Daily discussed this matter with a dear friend of hers, Mr. Travis, with one of our major petroleum companies. He had met Dr. Lehman and was so impressed by him that he took the matter up with Mr. H. B. Kelley of Mexico City and received a letter from Mr. Kelley containing the following excerpts:

"I have your letter of December 31 and glad to hear from you. I delivered your letter to Jose H. Lopez and Lopez phoned to the Minister of Foreign Relations regarding Dr. Lehman, and the result of their conversation was this:— that you advise Dr. Lehman to make a visit to Mexico City as a tourist and look things over and Lopez and myself will do everything possible for him. I am confident we can arrange something permanent for him, in the case the doctor cares to locate here. I have helped to arrange this same matter of your people recently who were refugees from Germany. We are trying now to arrange for the entry of 1500 from Germany. One hundred and thirty-
five entered last week via Vera Cruz and I don't think this Government will put any pressure on them to return to Europe. There is some opposition here, but the Jewish Colony are very generous in offering financial aid and also otherwise."

"I was talking to the "Jefe" of the Immigration today and asked him what were the possibilities of securing permanent residence in Mexico for Dr. Lehman or as a professor in the University here. He said the schools here pay such meager salaries that he did not think the Doctor would be interested, but it could be arranged so the Doctor could practice here."

From these you may gather that we felt there might be a real possibility of Dr. Lehman's locating in Mexico City. Should it be impossible for him to obtain a quota number for permanent residence in this country, a two weeks' visit to Mexico would enable Dr. Lehman to ascertain for himself whether it would be possible and feasible to remain.

The possibility of obtaining a quota number from Washington seems out in view of the fact that correspondence with Senators Shepherd, Connally, and Thomas indicate that no such numbers can be obtained. These former named persons are close friends of Drs. Daily, and we felt sure that were it possible to obtain one they would undoubtedly have been able to do so and would have done so. The chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, who is also Vice President of the Union Terminal Company and eight major railways, who had met Dr. Lehman even went so far as write Vice President Garner soliciting his aid and to other persons who are close friends of Dr. Daily's. At any rate we sincerely trust that something can be done for this fine person, and I shall certainly keep you posted on any developments in the meantime. Now we must wait for this additional extension and hope that legislation will be enacted to eliminate the entire problem of persons temporarily here. If this is not done, then Dr. Lehman will probably come to El Paso to see you and go on from there for temporary visit in Mexico.

Thanks again for your kind cooperation. I am

Very cordially yours,

HGD/ah

[Signature]
Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky  
1016 Olive Street  
El Paso, Texas

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

I received today Dr. Lehmann's passport, which has been extended for one year, and also a letter from the United States Department of Labor granting an extension on his temporary stay until May 5th of this year. This letter also seems to indicate that no further extension of temporary stay will be granted and that it will be necessary for him to take affirmative steps to adjust his status on or before that time.

I wonder if you can tell me whether if Dr. Lehmann comes to El Paso and makes application for permanent visa at Juarez, he will be permitted to make trips back into this country for temporary visit while awaiting his permanent quota number. It is my belief that so long as he has a valid passport, although he cannot reenter on his present visa, after making application for permanent residence, he can obtain visitor's permit to come in.

I should like for Dr. Lehmann to come down to El Paso and go into this whole matter with you; also that he visit in Mexico for a few weeks on the present visa before going over there and making application for permanent quota number. Of course if he will have to wait for a quota number for any length of time, Dr. Ray is most anxious that he at least be allowed to come back and visit her during the waiting time.

Thanking you for your great interest in this matter, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Very cordially yours, 

Helene G. Daily

Helene Daily
March 2, 1939.

Miss Helene G. Daily,
First National Bank Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Miss Daily:

Replying to your letter of the 27th ult., with reference to permitting trips into this Country from Mexico after application for permanent visa has been made, such a privilege has not been granted to anyone as far as I know. In fact the American Consul makes the statement that he will refuse a visa if the applicant enters the United States during the waiting period for a quota number. The Department of Immigration in El Paso, Texas has on occasions permitted a few hours parole to such cases, demanding, however, that they return to Mexico within the time limit. They must sleep on Foreign soil.

There will be no Polish numbers available before July 1st, and if you can get a further extension until that time, it will be better than have Dr. Lehmann wait in Juarez for the month that would be required.

Are you planning to have Dr. Lehmann get a Mexican visa in Houston or do you wish him to secure it after coming to El Paso?

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.
To Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky,
1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas

May 13, 1939

My dear Mrs. Zlaborsky:

You are no doubt wondering why you have not heard from me before now concerning Dr. Lehmann's case but we were hoping to be able to secure some sort of further assurance that he would be re-admitted, in which effort up to date, we have not been entirely successful. I realized Dr. Daily's anxiety and consequently could not urge her to send him on until she had exhausted her efforts in his behalf. Exactly what has taken place is this:--Dr. Daily decided to go to Brownsville, which is near here and see Mr. Goforth, the consul, whom she knows personally. She discussed the matter of obtaining a teaching position for Dr. Lehmann at Houston University, subject to his permanent admittance. This would obviate the necessity of a quota number. You see Dr. Lehmann, although not an actual professor did some post-graduate teaching in the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, and several of the American physicians who were his students have written to certify to that fact. The University will give him a teaching position provided he meets the Consul's approval etc., and Mr. Goforth has agreed to go over the certifications and advise if they are sufficient. Dr. Daily, therefore, plans to go to see him again next Saturday with Dr. Lehmann, and I think she should take all the papers sent you for him to see too (you recall you have our only copy of the morality record). If he is inclined to approve, Brownsville will be the place for Dr. Lehmann to apply, but if not, then, we will send him on the El Paso. Mr. Goforth knows that the Juarez Consul has seen the papers, but we told him no formal application was made there.

Time now grows short for the poor man as he was not granted an extension of stay but only until July 6 in which to depart voluntarily, and we are indeed anxious about it all. I sincerely trust that if we fail in Brownsville, you will be able to help him in El Paso--at any rate nothing will be done at Brownsville to conflict with whatever you may later see fit to do, for if Dr. Lehmann has to wait we would prefer his doing
Mrs. Frank Zlaborsky

so at Juarez and we will do nothing to jeopardize him there.

I trust all of the above throws light on our failure to write you and I know you will understand and know how very much we have appreciated all your efforts. If you have any suggestions please write me when you send me his papers (and please send these as quickly as possible—AIR MAIL)

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very cordially yours,

Helene G. Daily

HGD:em
May 15, 1939

Miss Helene G. Daily,
First National Bank Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Miss Daily:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., and contents noted.

With reference to Dr. Lehmann's securing teaching position to enable him to enter the United States on a non-quota visa, he will have to show that he was serving in a similar capacity for two years prior to his entry in the United States, and he must have a contract for at least two years from the University wishing his services. It is my opinion that the American Consul in Brownsville will be able to secure a quota number for Dr. Lehmann on the first of July, and I am sure the set-up is better in Brownsville than here because of Dr. Daily's personal contact.

I am returning to you all papers, and should you desire my further service in this case, do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.
1016 Olive Street.

FZ:LG
August 3, 1939

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky  
1018 Clive St.  
El Paso, Texas  

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky;  

I want to express my deep appreciation for your help in handling the case of my friend, Dr. Lehmann. He has gotten a visa on a non-quota basis.

I would like to know if it is true that German Jews going into Mexico, on a visitor's visa, cannot enter unless border officials get direct permission from Mexico City.

In going through the red tape at Matamoros, Dr. Lehmann presented his visa which had been obtained from the Mexican consul in Houston, and was informed by the immigration officials that because he was a Jew, this visa would not be accepted without approval from Mexico City.

Inasmuch as he remained in Matamoros only one afternoon, approval from Mexico City was obtained by telephone.

I am wondering if these are the regulations at all the Mexican border cities.

Again appreciating your advice and assistance, I am,

Cordially yours,

Dr. Ray K. Daily
August 5, 1939.

Dr. Ray K. Daily,
1117-19 Medical Arts Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Dr. Daily:

Your information with reference to Dr. Lehman is interesting, and am glad that he succeeded in getting the non-quota visa.

The information you have with reference to the Mexican Laws on Immigration is correct. We are experiencing the same difficulties here.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,

FZ:LG