

May 2020

Folder 40 -- Loewenheim, Traute Kahn -- 1936 - 1941

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The National Council of Jewish Women

CHICAGO SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE FOR FOREIGN BORN

824 SOUTH HALSTED STREET
PHONE HAYMARKET 4593

Field Secretary
Mrs. Elsa M. Weinshenk

Honorary President
Mrs. Hannah G. Solomon

President
Mrs. Harry J. Myerson
1020 Ardmore Avenue

Co-Chairmen
Mrs. Herman Lebeson
1205 Tower Road,
Winnetka, Illinois

Mrs. Fred Bernstein
Mrs. Gerson B. Levi

April 16, 1936

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
National Council Jewish Women
1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas

Re: Miss Trude Kahn - age 25
German passport valid
until 7-23-39

My dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

We are faced with a rather difficult problem pertaining to the foregoing. Miss Kahn is here on a visitor's visa and has received one extension of stay which is good until 5-3-36. However we have made application for another extension and she is to appear before the immigration inspector for an interview within the next few days. We are quite sure that she will be allowed thirty days time in which to leave the country.

Miss Kahn is a charming but rather shy girl, the type that I would far rather send to you ~~in~~ order that she might secure a permanent visa than to Detroit, where the method of procedure is not entirely to our liking and might prove to be somewhat embarrassing to a girl of this type. If you could take her to Juarez, we would indeed be most grateful. Miss Kahn has all of the necessary documents which I shall send to you if you feel that you could handle this matter.

We would greatly appreciate your immediate reply as this case must be taken care of as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Elsa M. Weinshenk
Elsa M. Weinshenk
Field Secretary

EMW:CS

April 20, 1936.

Mrs. Elsa M. Weinshenk,
824 South Halstead St.,
Chicago, Illinois.

Re: Miss Trude Kahn

Dear Mrs. Weinshenk:-

I am going to repeat the first word of your letter "We are faced with rather a difficult problem". The new Consul in Juarez, Mexico refuses to co-operate. He is anti-foreign and anti-human, but there is always a remedy, and ours in El Paso is to send our applicants into the Interior of Mexico. We have worked our Chihuahua Consul to the extent that he is pleading for us to try elsewhere.

In the case of Miss Kahn, if she has sufficient finances, we can offer the following solution. We will send her in the Company of one of our very efficient El Pasoans to either Jimenez or Torreon, Mexico, and there we feel confident that she can receive the necessary permanent visa, The expense attached to this would be in the neighborhood of \$250.00, besides her expense to El Paso. She will not have to put up a bond to enter Mexico if travelling with the above mentioned companions. Would you consider having Miss Kahn pay the expense of a very efficient co-worker from El Paso to handle her case from Detroit? If, so, I have one who could leave El Paso at this time, and with proper instructions take care of her thru the Windsor Consul.

Anxious as I am to help these cases, Juarez, Mexico is out of the question until we have a change in Consuls.

Awaiting your early reply, and with kindest regards, I am

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

El Paso, Texas,
August 7, 1940.

Mr. Emanuel Barta,
Av. Insurgentes, 386,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Mr. Barta:

Some months ago you wrote me that you knew of a good Jewish lawyer who has been very successful in handling immigrant cases. I would appreciate your contacting this lawyer in reference to the following case:

Mr. H. Wolfes, who was formerly a conductor of an orchestra in Germany and later on France, came to the United States as a quota immigrant from Germany. He is in possession of his first papers which were issued by the U. S. Government on August, 1939. His Fiancee is Mrs. Traute Loewenheim nee Kahn, who was born in Mannheim, Germany on April 7, 1908, and has been living in London since 1937. She has no Passport, but a certificate of identity issued by the British Home Office which is valid in case of emigration. Mr. Wolfes is anxious to get her in the United States, and if the Mexican Government would issue her a visa to enter Mexico, I am sure there will be no difficulty in her being admitted into the United States for permanent residence. Mr. Wolfes is in position to meet all the requirements and if your friend can handle the case, please have him write immediately via airmail, specifying all requirements, including his fee. If he is not able to take the case, I would appreciate your advising me so that I can make other arrangements.

Thanking you for your interest, and with kindest regards to Mrs. Barta and yourself, I am

Sincerely yours,

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

PLEASE RETURN

AIRMAIL

Mexico City.

August 14, 1940

Mrs. Frank Slabovsky
207 El Paso National Bank Bldg.
EL PASO, Tex.

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky :

I was very glad to hear from you again after some time and if I answer your kind letter of August 7th until now, it is because you have turned over to me a really difficult matter.

You undoubtedly, my dear Mrs. Slabovsky, have heard that Mexico has closed entirely its frontiers against european emigrants. I had therefore to seek connection with high and highest places, which are willing and able, naturally against considerations of the usual sort, to make possible the impossible. As to the Jewish Lawyer you mention, I have not had in the meantime satisfactory information about him and as I do not want to create a similar situation as the one concerning Mr. Joseph, I hesitated to put this important new matter in his hands.

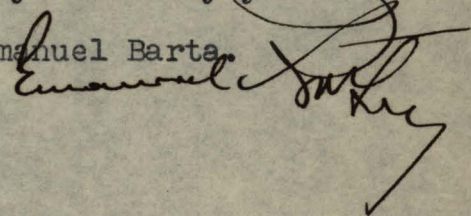
Today I received information that an Emigration-Permit for Mrs. Traute Loewenheim née Kahn, can be obtained, siad permit to be for six months as a tourist and to be prolonged afterwards. This permit could be obtained inside of 48 hours and the lady would not need to deposit a garanty for her living expenses during that time. For the permit in the above form the sum of US\$ 800.- is asked. In case we had more time, about 3 to 4 weeks, to get this permit, we could skip some of the more important officials whose intervention is indispensable in an urgent case, and then about US\$ 200.- or 300.- could be saved. All this is for your information and I want to add that the people here are getting used to talking about hundreds of Dollars, but usually are willing to come down on their price, when the business becomes effective. How far I could get them down in their pretensions, I do not know yet, but as soon I get a definite order from you to obtain the permit, I will start to shave them down and you may be sure I shall do my best. I hope to receive further news about this matter as well as others you may want to turn over to me.

I thank you for your interest in my private situation and am sorry to have to inform you that my son has fallen a prisoner to the Germans and now is in a camp in France. I trust God will help us !

With kindest regards, also from my wife, I remain

very sincerely yours

Emanuel Barta



P.S. I just received your letters about Mr. Egon Klein and enclose copy of my letter to the National Refugee Service. I am sorry not be able to give you more news, but will keep on the track of Mr. Egon Klein, if this should be possible from here.

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

Washington, D.C.

September 2, 1940.

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Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

Let me thank you very much for your letter of August 23, which I got only now here in Washington as I had left Stillwater in the meantime.

I am awfully sorry that I shall no more have the opportunity, for the time being, to meet you. My brother wrote me about your kind interest for my case, and I want to thank you for it. After what Dr. and Mrs. Abrahamson told me about your wonderful help in their case, I have the fullest confidence that we shall succeed, too.

But there is the new demand of the Mexican officials for more money. You may believe me that I would not hesitate to pay any sum to bring my fiancée over here; but neither my brother nor I have so much money, nor can I see where I could borrow that sum.

On the other side, I would not like to miss any chance to get my fiancée out of England as quick as possible. May I, therefore, ask you for your help and your advice - if it is not asking too much - whether we could try to have those Mexicans reduce their price for the visa. Or do you think, in case they would not consent, that we could pay the necessary sum not all at a time but in rates?

I hate to bother you with these questions after you have been so kindly interested in that matter at all. But you certainly will understand my difficult situation.

Looking forward to your kind reply at your convenience,

Very sincerely yours,

Helmuth Wolfes.

Helmuth Wolfes.

September 3, 1940.

Mr. Emanuel Barta,
Av. Insurgentes, 386,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Mr. Barta:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 14th and wish to thank you for same. My reason for delaying answering you is that I have been waiting for a reply from the relatives of Mrs. Traute Loewenheim nee Kahn. I am sure that they will want us to get the visa in this case and will advise you as soon as I hear from New York.

There are many cases now in London who wish to migrate to Mexico. One case in particular is that of a family of nine. What would be the cost in such a case?

How can you assist in getting refugees into Mexico who are now in the United States in transit or on visitor's visa, and who must change their status?

I was sorry to hear about your son's misfortune and if there is any way in which we can help, please do not hesitate to call on us.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Barta and yourself, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,

FZ:LG

September 4, 1940.

Mr. Emanuel Barta,
Av. Insurgentes, 386,
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Mr. Barta: Re: Mrs. Traute Loewenheim nee Kahn.

In my letter of yesterday I failed to ask how the money is to be paid in such cases as require the \$800. I would dislike to have our clients pay out such a large sum of money and meet with the same results as happened in the Steifel case with Arce.

Would it be possible to guarantee that money and pay it when the applicant sails from Foreign Ports? I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Wolfes which deals with the manner in which he would like his case handled, because it is a hardship for them to take out such a sum at one time. I know these people are thoroughly reliable and if it can be handled, I will ask you to go ahead at once to clear this case. You have the full case history in my first letter dated August 7th. If it is necessary to take 20 to 30 days on this case in order to cut expense, it will be all right.

Awaiting your immediate response, and thanking you, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky.

P.S. Be sure and let me know what your expense amounts to on any matter I refer to you, and if you think it advisable to send cable or airmail to the Mexican Consul in Great Britain, we will gladly reimburse you. It is brought to my attention that altho the Mexican Government grants the Visa, the Mexican Consuls abroad place many difficulties almost unsurmountable before he issues the visa to the applicant. That is a matter which must be overcome before the Visa is sent abroad. Please return the enclosed letter.

EMANUEL BARTA

AV. AMSTERDAM No. 266

TELS. ERIC. 4-42-43 Y MEX. P-18-49

MEXICO, CITY

Mexico City.

September 25, 1940.

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
207 El Paso National Bank Bldg.,
E l P a s o, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

First I must beg you to pardon me that I have not answered immediately your letters of September 3th and 4th, but I went on a business trip and I arrived ill and was confined to bed. Now I am well again and the first thing I do is to answer your friendly letters.

I enclose the letter of Mr. Helmuth Wolfes. At the present time there are nearly no possibilities for getting the permission to enter this country. Suddenly the government declared that there are no more quotas for foreigners for the present year and that only they can allow new permission to enter this country for the next year. But this promise is only problematic, as one can receive a refusal or obtain with money a permission for this year, despite of the barrier. Naturally there is no possibility of a rate payment or a later payment. All the people who wants to come here, has a complete false idea concerning the matter of the journey to this country, as I and all my friends had it also. We all have seen the things different as they really are. What Mr. Wolfes writes about an arrangement with the officers is completely impossible, because these persons have very little to do with this matter. One must imagine the whole thing as a herd of hyaenas taking away the last money of the immigrants. They promise many things and more when money is paid in advance, but the promises rarely are kept. You self remember the case of Steifel-Arce. Mr. Arce is really a very well known person and he does not occupy himself anymore with immigrating cases. Mr. Schön, who had communicated with you, is also another of the hyaenas, but in a Jewish way. I really do not know what to recommend to do. The responsibility is too great and difficult, that one does not want to take it. But for you, Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky, and your protégées I will do everything I can and when you shall recommend me somebody to take care of him, I will take every responsibility. But without money there is nothing to do and little money does not serve today for nothing. If the immigrant is a political persecuted, then the matter can be arranged with 100 to 300 U.S. Dlls. and in this case he receives the permission to enter the country and also the permission to work. A person which is persecuted because of his Judaism is not a political refugee. He must have a document of a socialistic or communistic organization in which is written, that he is punished for his political ideas or the reason because he was persecuted. A war prisoner and a desertor are not political refugees.

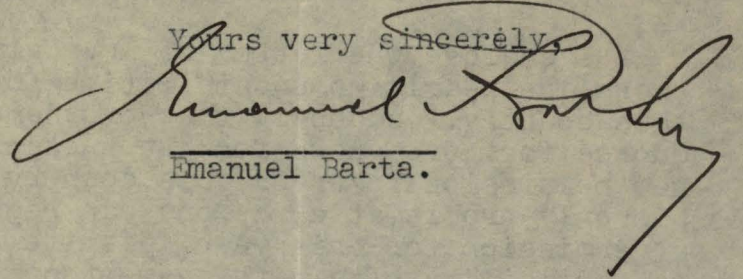
Besides, a person who will occupy with industry or agriculture may enter the country, but they must have a capital of 10.000.-- to 20.000.-- U.S. Dlls. In this case it will cost nearly 600.-- to 1,000.-- U.S. Dlls. to get the permission to enter the country. It is difficult to state this in advance.

EMANUEL BARTA
ATLAS JEWELRY

This time, Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky, I have written very much, but for the poor immigrants this means more less than if would do it three lines, to write to you that you can get a permission as formerly for U.S. Dlls. 100.- to 200.--. We also have send these informations to our friends in Portugal and they answered in a way, as if we were crazy, that the consul in in Lissabon gives visas to enter the country for 200.-- to 300.-- U.S. Dlls. They got visas, then they arrived in Veracruz, and as you have perhaps read, they could not enter this country, because if you want to enter the country you must get a permission of the government. All waht the consuls say in the foreign nations is not true. I am very sorrey to give such bad informations to my unknwon fiends, but I think that a real friend gives a godddadvice, even this contains something unfavorable.

My wife and my daughther asked me to send you many regards and I take this ocasion to congratulate you and your family for the coming Jewish New Year and beg to remain

Yours very sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Emanuel Barta', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Emanuel Barta.

September 27, 1940

Mr. Felix Wolfes
612 W. 112th Street #15
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wolfes:

I have been waiting these several weeks for a reply from Mexico, and just received it.

The news is most unfavorable because all immigration has been closed to Jews and Germans. However, I have been discussing this case with officials at this Border and they assure me that a Visa can be secured if we can send someone to Mexico City for that purpose. The cost is still \$800.00, of which it would be necessary for you to send between \$400 and \$500 for the mission to Mexico City. The other \$300 will not be paid until Mrs. Kahn appears at this Border for entry into Mexico. The lawyer's fee is \$150.00 as I mentioned to you while in New York.

All visas are now issued from Mexico City and acceptance is cabled to their Consuls abroad. The official with whom I have conversed assures me that the Visa will be granted and with the said visa she can secure a transit visa through the United States and be presented to Mexico from this Border.

Please advise me immediately, and if the conditions are satisfactory, please mail check so that we incur no further delay.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky

FZ:LG

January 23, 1941

Mr. Felix Wolfes
612 West 112th Street #15
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wolfes:

Since writing to you on September 27th, I have made every effort to get a Visa from Mexico City for Mrs. Traute Loewenheim nee Kahn, but without success.

We have now been advised that there are available quota numbers for entry into the United States for German Refugees now in Countries other than Germany, and would suggest that Mrs. Loewenheim apply to the American Consul in London for a number. She will require affidavits of support from you and your brother, and a notarized document stating that upon her arrival she and your brother will be married. Along with these documents she will have to have sufficient funds to guarantee her transportation to the United States and proof that she has means of departure.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky

FZ:LG

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

612 West 112th Street,
New York, N.Y.

September 29, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:

I thank you very much for your kind letter of
September 27.

Your proposition to send only \$500 for the time
being would be wonderful, if I could find that money. But,
until now, neither my brother nor I succeeded in getting it.
Nevertheless, I don't lose all hope and continue to find some
help. As soon as I get any result ~~IMMEDIATELY~~ I shall mail the check
immediately.

In the meantime I am with kindest regards, also
from my brother,

Yours very sincerely,

Helmuth Wolfes.

Helmuth Wolfes.