Folder 42 – Lowenheim, Leonard & Lowenheim, Marguerite -- 1937

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AIR MAIL

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
National Council of Jewish Women, RE: Lowenheim, Leonard
1016 Olive Street,
El Paso, Texas.

My dear Mrs. Zlabovsky:—

I wonder if you can assist us in the case of the above named couple, German refugees who are here on a temporary visa which has already expired, although their application for extension has been pending for some time. Mr. and Mrs. Lowenheim came to St. Louis to be with an aunt who lives in the suburbs of the city and who has herself recently been on relief. So far as we know, this is the only relative in America.

We are wondering what requirements would be made by the Consul on the Mexican border which would enable the Lowenheims to re-enter as permanent immigrants. If it is possible for our newly organized German-Jewish Emigre Committee to find an individual who is willing to give affidavits, will affidavits of a person not related, be accepted? Will it be necessary to have a cash deposit in addition to affidavits?

Any details you can give us will be very greatly appreciated as some action must be taken soon on behalf of this couple.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Frieda Romalis,
Director.
March 8, 1937.

Miss Frieda Romalis, Director
Jewish Social Service Bureau,
3636 Page Boulevard,
St, Louis, Mo.


Dear Miss Romalis:

With reference to the above case, it would be impossible to present it to the American Consul at this Border. He refuses to accept affidavits from friends, and since money is one of the paramount factors in the examination of most alien cases, these people would have to show not less than $2,000.00 besides affidavits from relatives who are in a position to help them in the United States.

The mere fact that the aunt is on relief would exclude them.

If I can be of service to you in the future, please call on me.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

FZ:LG
Miss Cecilia Razovsky
National Coordinating Committee
221 W. 57th St.,
New York City, N. Y.  
RE: LOWENHEIMs, Leonard-Margaret

My dear Miss Razovsky:

Please refer to our previous correspondence regarding this situation. It may interest you to know that the Lowenheims are known also to the H.I.A.S. with whom we have had some slight correspondence.

We have been corresponding with Mr. Milstein of Detroit and Mrs. Zlabovsky of El Paso, to get information about the possibility of the Lowenheims going to either Canada or Mexico. From the replies that we have had it seems as though it will be very difficult and expensive for them to make arrangements through either of these countries.

In the meantime, the situation here has been as follows. The Lowenheims, as I believe we wrote you previously, have left their aunt's home for several reasons. First of all, the aunt herself has recently been on relief and is unable to maintain them. Although we were willing to assist financially the Lowenheims found it very unpleasant living with the aunt because she and her daughter constantly reminded them of the fact that they were dependent. Furthermore, Bridgeton is quite far from the city and it is hard and expensive to come into St. Louis which the Lowenheims had to do frequently. It was almost impossible for them to make any arrangements for Mr. Lowenheim to learn English while they were living in Bridgeton. Therefore, they are living in a rooming house of their own choice in the neighborhood of this office.

Almost immediately after the Lowenheims moved into the city, we got an anonymous letter which we are sure refers to the Lowenheims. Soon after an item appeared in the Post-Dispatch which we are enclosing for your information. The situation has also come to the attention of the B'Nai Brith in this city.

From another German emigre in this city, whom we have reason to trust, we have received information to the effect that the Lowenheims are not telling us the truth and that we should be wary in our handling of them. In the meantime, the Lowenheims themselves have become discouraged and impatient and are now clamoung to be permitted to go back to Holland. They have their steamship tickets but would need transportation to New York. We are writing therefore, to ask whether you would give us your permission to return them to New York so that they may go back to Holland which is their desire.

Please give us your advice in this matter immediately. Do you have any information about their possible ability to return to Holland? In view of the fact that the relative here, who seems to be their only relative in America, would not be able to furnish acceptable affidavits, do you not think that the return to Holland is perhaps the most desirable plan? Please let us hear at once by Air Mail as we should like to make a decision immediately.

Yours very truly,

JEWSH SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

(signed)
(Miss) Frieda Romalis, Director.
Dear Mrs. Mayer:

We are bringing this case to your attention to see if plans can possibly work out for Mr. and Mrs. Lowenheim to enter Mexico for permanent residence.

On December 7, 1936, Miss Frieda Romalis of the Jewish Social Service Bureau of St. Louis, wrote us that Mrs. Lowenheim had entered this country on a two months visitor's visa on Oct. 18, 1936. Mr. Lowenheim came here on November 28, 1936. They were married early in December and were living with an aunt of Mrs. Lowenheim's in St. Louis County, who, herself, is in very poor financial circumstances. Mr. Lowenheim advised that he had been in a concentration camp in Germany, that he had lived for some time in Holland. We wrote to the Committee in Amsterdam, Holland, for a report on Mr. Lowenheim and they advised us he had spent a month in Amsterdam. They had given him financial assistance.

Several days ago, we received a letter from Miss Romalis, a copy of which we are enclosing. We have learned that in the event that Mr. and Mrs. Lowenheim return to Holland, they will not be permitted to remain in that country and for that reason have not given the St. Louis agency permission to send them to New York. We have also learned that it would be practically impossible for them to emigrate to any of the South American countries and because the relatives here are unable to furnish adequate affidavits of support for the couple, we feel that some other plan will have to be made. Would you please find out if it would be at all possible for them to enter Mexico. If this plan cannot be worked out, probably their only
alternative would be to return to Germany. May we hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Razovsky
Executive Director

E. Perlman: rh
encl.
April 8, 1937.

Miss Cecelia Razovsky,
221 West 57th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Razovsky:

Re: Lowenheim, Leonard & Margaret

This is in reply to your letter of March 29th addressed to Mrs. Mayer who referred this to me.

These people cannot enter Mexico thru this Port. We will not entertain illegal entry for any case unless it is for the twenty four hours usually required to secure quota number and visa.

I wrote to Miss Romalis some time ago telling her that we cannot present a case of this kind to the American Consul in Juarez, Mexico because they have nothing on which to substantiate an application for re-entry into the United States. She did not mention their desire to permanently enter Mexico. The Immigration laws in Mexico are patterned after our own laws, and you can readily see that they will not be accepted by our neighbor country.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

FZ:LG