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July 26, 1939

My dear Mr. Welles:

Kulovice 11s

Mrs. Roosevelt asks me to send you the enclosed memorandum on Fritz Becker, Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, who is applying for a visa. She asks if there is any way in which the boy can be helped to get into the United States. She understands that all necessary papers are filed and that Mr. Hardy Steeholm guarantees his care.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to  
Mrs. Roosevelt

The Honorable Sumner Welles  
Under Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

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Mr. Hardy Steeholm  
Salt Point, N.Y.

original sent to  
Mr. Steinhilber 2/5

August 1, 1939

Dear Eleanor:

Mrs. Thompson in a recent communication forwarded to me the enclosed memorandum, together with photograph, pertaining to the case of Fritz Becker of Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, who is desirous of immigrating into the United States.

I find that a telegraphic report was obtained on this case some weeks ago from our Consul at Belgrade, at the instance of Miss Cecilia Razovsky of the National Refugee Service, Inc., New York City. The report indicates that Mr. Becker was registered at the Consulate at Belgrade on January 27, 1939 as a prospective applicant for a nonpreference immigration visa under the German quota and that on the basis of such registration it is not anticipated that his case will be reached for final consideration for a protracted period of time.

I

Mrs. Roosevelt,  
The White House.



I should be more than happy to render any possible assistance in effecting Mr. Becker's early admission into this country but I know of no way under the existing laws and regulations whereby action on his case may be expedited. Mr. Becker, as a nonpreference immigrant, must await his turn under the quota until consideration is given to the cases of aliens entitled to preference and others in the nonpreference category whose registrations are of prior record. You will appreciate that to advance his name on the waiting list would not only have the effect of according him an illegal preference but also would be unfair to prior registrants who are anxiously awaiting final consideration of their cases. The only classes of immigrants entitled to preference under the law are enumerated in paragraph 5 of the enclosed leaflet.

I regret exceedingly that I am unable to furnish more favorable information regarding this case, but I assure you that our Consul at Belgrade will notify Mr. Becker as soon as his turn is reached on the quota waiting list and will accord his case the most considerate attention possible.

My kindest regards to you, and believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Sumner Welles

Enclosures:

1. Memorandum
2. Photograph
3. VD-General

Name and address of applicant for visa:

FRITZ BECKER  
Kulovics 11a, Sarajevo  
Jugoslavia

Name and address of sponsor in the United States:

Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Steeholm  
Salt Point, New York

