

Aleksei Kurgvel
(24a) Wentorf, Am. Center
Villa D 6

Wentorf, 5 Oct 1951

To Mr. W. Davis
c/o American Express Co
Brienner Str. Munich

Dear Sirs:

1. It is a general ruling here that when a DP in processing will contact an American authority, he has to do this through his sponsoring Agency. Thus Mr. Christiansen from LWF asked on 2 Oct on my behalf Mr. Ross, the Inspector & Officer in Charge of the INS in Wentorf, concerning the decision made in my case in Munich on 7 September. He was told that contact has been taken up with Mr. Corcos, the Director of the I.R.O. U.S. Processing Center in Wentorf.

2. On 3 Oct I was told by Mr. Christiansen to contact Mr. Corcos personally. Mr. Christiansen had no information concerning the talk Mr. Ross had over my case with Mr. Corcos. Therefore I, worrying because of the special character of my case, went to Mr. Ross and asked how far Mr. Corcos was informed by him. Mr. Ross' answer was very short, just advising me to Mr. Corcos. I then asked to see the decision of 7 September, so I could know my exact situation when speaking with Mr. Corcos. The answer was the same as before, - Mr. Corcos will tell me what I have to do. So I went to Mr. Corcos having no idea of the talk Mr. Ross had had with Mr. Corcos on my case.

3. On the question which were my trouble, I told Mr. Corcos that I am, or most probably will be (having not yet seen the written decision), rejected by the INS (BSI) on base of Section 13 and Section 10 in connection with Section 2 (b) of the DP Act, as amended, that this rejection is without prejudice, so that I may reapply for immigration without delay on general quota base, that my family, nevertheless, has been accepted, and now the main question is how the separate processing of my family could be finished. Mr. Corcos was interested about the reasons why the INS excluded me. I told nearly all what stood in the decision of the BSI of 31 July. Mr. Corcos did not believe that hiding of facts before the IRO could be the real reason, when I have told the full truth to the American Authorities. He wanted to send me to the IRO Eligibility Officer, to have my eligibility rechecked at once. I asked Mr. Corcos not to do so. I told that I, as an Estonian officer of General Staff and Intelligence Service, am still bound by my oath and therefore I, in principle, have no right to disclose my professional secrets to the I.R.O., notwithstanding the fact that I personally trust the single officers of this Organisation very much. I told also of the difficulties which will arise when my wife will have to fill out a new CM/1 form. Mr. Corcos told that the procedure of deciding upon a split of family has been changed and therefore he thinks that it is not absolutely needed to fill out a new CM/1 Form, when some American authority will not insist on it. He would try to let my family pass with my old CM/1 form. But at first the LWF, our sponsoring Agency, has to request the "split of family". Then a body of 3 persons, namely - he, the Director, then the Welfare Officer and the Legal Advisor of the IRO US Processing Center Wentorf, will have to decide whether this split can be approved or not. Thus I had to go to the Welfare Officer.

4. The Welfare Officer, Miss Rosenbaum, told me that she personally will vote against the split of our family because she is not sure that I may have a real possibility to immigrate into the States later, when this will not be possible now together with the family. She told that

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such a split of family may very easily develop into a permanent separation of family which she finds not to be advisable. She told that she could vote for this split, and could recommend the same to the other members of the deciding body only when I can submit a written statement of the U.S. Consulate General in Munich, showing that

- a) I have applied for immigration into the States before the named Consulate,
- b) that all the presumptions needed for my immigration are complete (she was especially concerned about the affidavit of support)
- c) that there will be no obstacle from any authority (the INS) for my immigration, and
- d) that I can immigrate into the States before the end of 1951 already.

I told Miss Rosenbaum that I shall try to receive such a statement, whereupon she, and later Mr. Corcos, too, told that they will wait with their decision until I shall present this writing.

5. Today I spoke with Mr. Christiansen. He had received no new information from the INS, but he promised to request the "split of family" on base of a letter which I will give him on coming Monday.

This is the situation today.

6. As you see, the INS could not solve the question without the help of the IRO and now much depends of what the IRO will do.

7. I really can't understand what the INS has got against me. The U.S. Security and the D.P. Commission, and later the Consulate have studied my case during long time. I do not know whether these authorities came to their approving decisions with your help or without your intervention, but I know that the Institution you are representing, took also months to study my history and seems to have agreed with my doings. Even many members of the INS have found all to be in order with my case, and still, and despite your repeated intervention, the case can't be solved by the INS in a way which appears to be right and expedient to so many American authorities.

8. And which are the accusations the INS has brought up against me?

- a) Of the first one, concerning the IRO eligibility, the French Director of the U.S. Processing Center of the I.R.O. in Wentorf, who is dealing all the time with the immigration of the DPs into the States, finds, privately of course, that this can't be a reason to an American authority to have me rejected, as my eligibility under the provisions of the Statute of IRO has never been disputed by the IRO since it was granted to me in 1948.
- b) The second one, that I worked together with the German army, too, was known to all the a/m American authorities, as was the first reason.
- c) The last, and seemingly the gravest reason, that I had been a member or participated in the German Nazi Party, is quite incomprehensible to me. I can't but take this accusation for a personal insult, because I know that this accusation is not true, and I have never been shown or told of any proof which could have misled the INS to such a conclusion.

9. When the INS can or will not tell me the real accusations it has against me, so I could defend me duely, then, I think, it might be allowed to the INS to inform of these accusations a representative of an other U.S. institution which is interested in my immigration and which must know the full truth about me.

10. I have the feeling that something must be wrong with my case in the INS. It is clear to me that I can't go openly against the INS, when they just will exclude me, and I will undertake nothing what could harm my

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family even more. I do not know that I have concealed any information before the competent American authorities. Therefore I do not understand the last sentence of section 4 of your letter of 26 September. Is it a threat, what is the ground of it?

11. Till now I have thought that the many American authorities who have checked my doings, have done good work. When now one authority, the INS finds that it can't let me go, does it mean then that all the other authorities were wrong with their approving decisions? Is this possible? Or have the very busy officers of the INS not yet had enough time to deepen into the real matter of my story, as it was at first with the Consulate in Wentorf, too, until I wrote my letter of 21 June. I shall attach a copy of this letter for your knowledge to this letter. The INS must have a copy of this letter, too. It seems to me that many officials are loosing much of their valuable time because they do not allow themselves in the very beginning a short hour needed for due deepening into, and for understanding a matter which can't be digested simply by hasty turning over the leaves of a file.

12. I don't ask you to interfere once more. You know better than I what to do now. I should like that you have a full picture before your eyes when planning the next steps.

13. I am not an adventurer. I like my life planned to some degree, just as the situation allows. I don't want that you will have to say to me, say in one or two months, that you have got on me some derogative information from the INS and therefore you can't go ahead with me any longer. Therefore I would be very much obliged to you when I will hear from you something on this matter before I shall come over on 15 October as was agreed upon yesterday.

14. After so many trouble my poor wife is worrying already, that when now the IRO really will agree with our separate emigration, will she, my wife and our son, not land on the notorious Ellis Island instead of Long Island where her sponsor lives? - as family of a rejected "war criminal". Ant it is not clear to me what do you mean or what Mr. Trippe means with the section 6 of your letter of 26 September. As I know, the usual way of the DPs goes from Munich- as well as from Wentorf-Processing Center to the Embarcation Center in Grohn near Bremen. Or have you something else in sight?

15. Till now I have understood that I myself had to go to the States for a very short time, before I start the real work here, just to have shown me there and thus obtained the right to return to my family in the states later when the work ~~here~~ here will be done or when my help will not be required any longer. But now, five months lost for this unhappy emigration story, and the work pressing on, how it remains with this trip? The welfare Officer has touched the string of "permanent separation". This tune, accompanied by the concert of all the trouble we have had already, irritates now me as well as my wife. When the obstacles on my way will be later as they are now, then this separation may really become everlasting. This all, of course, does not change anything in my mind, but, you surely understand, that a little clearer sight would be much appreciated.

16. The simplest and best solution remains:

- a) The INS in Wentorf informs the IRO that the case of Kurgvels' has been given free.
- b) You find some possibility for us to use air lift to New York, so to spare time one had to stay in Embarcation Center and on board
- c) You instruct me accordingly, so I could inform the IRO here that I will not use the IRO shipp and will receive here the needed documents, and that I could arrive with my family in air-port as scheduled.

P.T.O.

This could be done in one weeks time, when the INS will agree. I could be back as soon as the formalities in the States will be settled, I hope there it isn't going so heavily as it has gone here.

Very trustfully



ENCLOSURE - 3 sheets.

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