69

1945

C

AUSTRIA

C 8471

19 NOV 1945

Registry Number C 8471/4034/3

TELEGRAM FROM
Earl of Halifax
(Washington)
No. 7708
Dated 17th Nov.1945
Received in Registry 19th Nov.1945

Desire of Count Ferdinand Czernin to return to Austria.

Refers to Washington telegram 7455 (C 8053/4034/3). Application for United Kingdom visa has been made by Count Ferdinand Czeruin who wishes to return to Austria. State Department will probably soon grant him an exit permit. Asks if a visa should be issued. Requests repetition No. 15 to Vienna.

Last Paper.

C8463

References.

C3187/10/3

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Rptd Vienna 299.
Amended Distribut
8) C.C.L.B. Nov
Dept) Mr Prestige, H.O., F
from Mr Burrows. Nov
8) Mr Blackwell, PCP. Nov 23

(Action completed.)

SP/Dept 3/11/46

(Index.)

CV 2/12/46

Next Paper.

C8472

(Minutes.)

Copy C.C.L.B., Norfolk House.

Dept's no. 2

leader of an

organisation

Foreign author

books on

Nazis.

for us to

action; but

we might warn the Czech that

there are delays and difficulties

involved in getting back to

Austria from this country, without

"priority" facilities.

Refugee Dept. seen.

27437 F.O.P. D. 24/11

19/4

22G
4
N
351
FO 371/46660
14808941
Return by (08/04/2026 10:52:39)
10001783 (Mr Philip M Tomaselli)
Closure status: Open
S 25/02/2026 10:52:39

69.

1945

C

AUSTRIA

C 8471

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8) C.C.L.B. Nov 23
Dept) Mr Prestige, H.O., A.B.,
from Mr Burrows. Nov 22
8) Mr Blackwell, PCD.
Nov 23

(Action completed.)

SP/DE 3/11/2

(Index.)

CV 2/12/46

Next Paper.

C8472

(Minutes.)

Copy C.C.L.B., Norfolk House.

This has been given Dept. no. 2 distribution.

Count Czernin is leader of an Austrian Democratic organisation in USA. He is also an Austrian author of a number of books on Austrian & world affairs.

There is no reason for us to favour a visa application; but we might warn the Council that there are delays and difficulties involved in getting back to Austria from this country, without "priority" facilities.

Draft.

Refugee Dept. seen.

27437 F.O.P. D. 24/11

19/4

AMENDED DISTRIBUTION.

19/11/45

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Earl of Halifax.
No. 7708.

D. 3.38.a.m. 18th November, 1945.

17th November, 1945.

R. 9.00.a.m. 18th November, 1945.

Repeated to Vienna.

kk kk

My telegram No. 7455.

Application for United Kingdom transit visa en route to Austria has been received from Count Ferdinand Czernin. State Department take a favourable view of his activities in this country and, while unlikely to give him any special transport facilities, are expected to grant an exit permit shortly.

2. When this occurs, may I issue visa?

3. Please pass to Vienna as my telegram No. 15.

[Repeated to Vienna under Foreign Office number 299.]

O.T.P.

[CYPHER]

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

C 8147

19 NOV 1945

Earl of Halifax.
No. 7708.

D. 5.38.a.m. 18th November, 1945.

17th November, 1945.

R. 9.00.a.m. 18th November, 1945.

Repeated to Vienna.

kk kk

My telegram No. 7455. C8053/4034/3

Application for United Kingdom transit visa en route to Austria has been received from Count Ferdinand Czernin. State Department take a favourable view of his activities in this country and, while unlikely to give him any special transport facilities, are expected to grant a exit permit shortly.

2. When this occurs, may I issue visa?

3. Please pass to Vienna as my telegram No. 15.

[Repeated to Vienna under Foreign Office number 299.]

O.T.P.

NOV 1945

OUT FILE

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(C 8471/4034/3) 22nd November 1945.

Dear Prestige,

I enclose a copy of Washington telegram No.7708 (the reference at the beginning is not material to the question it asks). I also enclose a copy of our draft reply. The latter of course depends on your being prepared to grant the necessary transit visa to Count Czernin.

I should be glad to know whether you approve of this draft, or whether you have any amendments to propose.

I am copying this letter, with the enclosures, to Blackwell of Passport Control Department.

Yours sincerely,

B.A.B. Burrows.

(B.A.B.Burrows.)

H.H.C. Prestige, Esq.,
Aliens Branch,
Home Office.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

8471/4034/3

Telegram

Washington

No.

R. Code

Deptl. No.2.

Repeat

Vienna No.

Copy, with ref., C.C.L.B., Norfolk House.

Your telegram 7708 [of 17th November: transit visa for Count Czernin to return to Austria].

United Kingdom transit visa may be granted, if the Count wishes to travel via this country. He might however be warned that this is not his quickest way back to Austria, and that we should not be able to accord him any special facilities in connexion with his onward journey.

2. In the circumstances he might be well advised to travel direct to France.

3. In any case, the Count will presumably ensure that United States authorities are prepared to grant him necessary sponsorship and entry permit into Austria.

GERMAN

1945

F.O.
371

AUSTRIA

FILE No. 4034

Pp. 8925 TO END

CLOSED
UNTIL
1972

100

1945

C

AUSTRIA

C 9120

20

DEC 1945

Registry Number C9120/4034/3

FROM Mr Mack, Vienna
to Mr Troutbeck

No.

Dated 20th Nov, 1945.

Received in Registry 3rd December 1945.

Desire of Count Czermin to return to Austria

Refers to Washington telegram 7708 of the 17th November (C8471/4034/3) Count not the kind of man to play a political role, judging by pre-war activities. Wrote book on Salzburg Festival, and was light-hearted member of Vienna Society. Probably returning for family reasons. ~~Probably~~ no knowledge of Nazi activities.

1945

Last Paper.

C 9116

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(Action completed.)	(Index.)
P.J.E. 31/12	CW 21/12/46

Next Paper.

C 9140

(*Minutes.*)

Mr. Mack's impression of Count accord with my own. There is certainly nothing against him politically — he has been prominent in Austrian cause in U.S.A. (Emigrant in '38 (though not perhaps very seriously, as Mr. Mack says).

I have spoken to the Home Office about our draft tel. to C. 9171: they are being rather tiresome over it, not because they are unwilling in principle to grant a transit visa, but for reasons connected with the possibility of his onward journey — which I have suggested we are not really the concern of any British govt. Department. They have promised me early news.

B/U/7/12

MEC 3/12

We 3/12

29470 F.O.P.

20A

We certainly don't want him to be stuck here.

BHBB

4.12

enter 21

United Kingdom

Political Representative,

VIENNA.

C 9120

3 DEC 1945

20th November, 1945.

My dear Jack,

Washington telegram No. 7708 of 17th November.

I know Count Ferdinand Czernin slightly. He was one of the more lighthearted members of Austrian society and used to visit Vienna occasionally when I was here before the war. He wrote quite an amusing book on the Salzburg Festival but, unless he has changed very much, he is not the sort of man who would play a political role here. I fancy that his chief reason in wanting to return is to see in what shape the family possessions are. In short I think that the State Department's decision is based on social rather than political reasons.

2. I rather think that he has been in the United States since the Anschluss and I never heard of his engaging in Nazi activities. Unless, therefore, the security authorities in London have something against him, there seems no objection to the issue of a U.K. transit visa to him.

Yours ever,

W.H.B.Mack

J.M.Troutbeck Esq., CMG,
The Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

W.H.B.Mack.

~~1142~~ Nos 115
112

1945

C

C 9560

14 DEC 1945

The Granting of a United Kingdom visa to Count Czernin

Registry Number C9560/4034/3

FROM Mr.E.Matthews, Home Office, to Mr. Burrows,

No. C 8089

Dated 10th Dec.1945.

Received in Registry 14th Dec.1945.

Refers to Mr. Burrows letter of 22nd November (C8471/4034/3) to Mr. Prestige about the granting of a transit visa to Count Czernin and questions whether it would be advisable to grant him a United Kingdom transit visa. Requests assurance on this point.

Last Paper.

C 9458

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. | Wilton 12724 Dec. 19th
Rphd. Vienna 448
8) CC LB (Sc) with ref.
Mr. E. Matthews
Aliens Dept H.O.
(ref. C8089)
Dec. 31st.

(Minutes.)

This can be taken a week or
came down to Dept., where it
was received today.

H.O. told me some time ago
that they would be replying on these
unhelpful lines. Our telegram to
Vienna will require wording.
I submit draft.

Send

N.F.Cheetham
18/12

North Eastern Dept. c/c.

B.A.B.
19.12

I only know what these
three Mss. contain — in the light
of them it seems to me rather
odd that the two final sentences
should occur in a letter
from the Home Office to the
(Foreign

(Action completed.)
P.J.E. 31/12

(Index.)
CV 2/12/46

Next Paper.

C 9564

29470 F.O.P.

F-17-10 1946

66A

Foreign Office. I only mention this as a cue for saying that in relation to visas for American citizens the H.O. have seemed to us of late to be taking rather too much upon themselves and to refrain from consulting us about refusals in cases in which it ought to have been obvious even to them that F.O. might have some degree of interest.

J. P. Donnelly
21/12

BABB
27.12

Telegrams: ALIDEP, LONDON.
Telephone: CENtral 5272.

Home Office,
(Aliens Department),
10, Old Bailey,
London, E.C.4.

67

Please quote the reference :—
C.8089

Your reference :—
C 8471/4034/3

10th December, 1945.

Dear Burrows,

With reference to your letter of the 22nd November to Prestige about the grant of a transit visa to Count CZERNIN, the Secretary of State would not be prepared to consider a United Kingdom transit visa unless and until the Count had been granted permission to enter Austria and any other transit visas which might be necessary to enable him to get there. Even so, would it be in the national interest to allow him to come here even in transit? The Secretary of State would require to be assured on this point before giving further consideration to the case.

Yours sincerely,

Edward V. J. Matthews

B.A.B.Burrows, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

C 9560
DEC 1945

NOTHING TO BE

copy (5) to CCCB, with ref.

copy

Mr. E. MATTHEWS,

also that q
wd. be in
interest.

2. Whilst
prepared to

C.9560/4034/3

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No. 12724

D.5.20 a.m. 20th December, 1945.

19th December, 1945.

Repeated to Vienna No. 448

T T T T T

Your telegram No. 7708 [of 17th November: transit visa for Count Czernin to return to Austria].

Before United Kingdom transit visa could be granted, Home Office would require to be assured that entry permit into Austria, as well as any other permits needed for the rest of his journey had been obtained; and also that grant of visa would be in the national interest.

2. Whilst we might be prepared to give this last assurance; and whilst the United States authorities would no doubt see that he got the necessary sponsorship and entry permits, it would seem advisable for the Count to consider travelling direct to France rather than via this country. He should at least be warned that his quickest way home is not via United Kingdom, and that we should be unable to accord him any special facilities in connexion with his onward journey, even if a visa were granted.

O.T.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.