

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Washington

December 11, 1942

From: The Director of Naval Intelligence
To: The District Intelligence Officers,
All Naval Districts (less 16ND),
Intelligence Officers, Potomac River
Naval Command and Severn River Naval
Command, U. S. Coast Guard.

SUBJECT: Widespread Forging of Visas for Mexico from Europe.

1. Information received from a reliable source indicates that Consulates in Europe have experienced great difficulty on account of traffic in faked papers. The Mexican Consul General at Marseille, Gilberto BOSQUES, stated that he had discovered many cases of forged visas and safe-conducts for the entry of foreigners into Mexico and that original proofs and photostats of some of them had come into his hands. In some instances, he said, French Magistrates and police were involved, but although the evidence was convincing, he had been unable to secure the punishment of the guilty parties.

2. It is stated that the control system established by the Mexican Services abroad and the Immigration Services insured the discovery of any individual attempting to cross the frontier or disembark at a Mexican port with faked or incomplete papers. However, it is stated that the matter has taken a more serious turn and more direct action is believed to be required. The new factors to be considered are: (1) the use made of false Mexican visas by their holders to obtain transit visas for the United States where they remain permanently; (2) the harm done to the shipping companies by these bearers of fake papers who are accepted by them as bona fide passengers and who will be denied entry into Mexico when they arrive. The said companies are obliged to take these people back and run the risk of their not being re-accepted at the original port of embarkation.

3. Informant states that when Consul Gonzalez ROA made a visit to Casablanca, the United States Consul General requested him to investigate the authenticity of the Mexican visas or the passports of certain persons who were about to sail from that port and who had applied for U. S. transit permits. When these were examined by the Consul, he found

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that all were faked; that the registration numbers did not correspond to the ones used at Marseille; that an additional out-of-date stamp had been inserted and that the wording and signature were not authentic. This report alarmed the American Consul, who said he had granted transit visas to many individuals provided with similar visas. Upon interrogation of the holders of the passports in question, it was found that they had obtained their visas in Marseille through a consular employee named MUNOZ LOPEZ whom they had gotten to know in the public waiting rooms at the Consulate. This man, seeing them leave the Chancellery, asked them if they had gone into the Consulate to get entry permits to Mexico, saying that this was a very lengthy and difficult process, but that he would attempt to do it for them as he had considerable influence with the Consul General and that it was only a question of money. They accepted his offer after they had been informed at the Chancellery that the procedure they would have to follow in order to obtain the authorization of the Mexican Minister of Interior really was long, drawn out and difficult, and they paid MUNOZ LOPEZ 30,000 francs for each visa. A few days later, it was stated that other persons turned up with passports obtained in the same manner.

4. From the description given of the perpetrator of these forgeries, it appears that he is a Spanish ex-refugee named Maximo MUNOZ LOPEZ, formerly of Marseille but now presumably in Mexico.

5. It has also been discovered that MUNOZ LOPEZ faked visas and papers of the Venezuelan Consulate in Marseille, taking advantage of the Consul's trust in him. These papers were also sold for a considerable sum of money. It is reported that the Venezuelan Delegation in Vichy has instituted legal proceedings against the criminal.

6. Informant stated that LOPEZ used to obtain exit permits for foreigners from the French General Commissioner of the Police Department. LOPEZ had a pass which enabled him to go in and out of the department as he pleased. The Chief of the Commissioner's Cabinet urged the Mexican Consulate to allow LOPEZ and his relatives to embark on the "QUANZA" and to pay their passage even though some members of his family were of military age and physically fit, on which grounds the French authorities have refused exit permits to persons they wanted to keep. All that was known about LOPEZ at that time was based on

strong suspicions only and positive proof regarding his activities was not obtained until he had departed.

7. In spite of the fact that the Consul General continued to submit to the French General Commissioner of the Police Department a weekly list of visas, the Commissioner continued to accept and authorize the embarkation of persons with Mexican visas whose names did not appear on weekly lists.

8. BOSQUES described an association which had just been discovered that is engaged in altering identity and traveling cards issued by the Legation to Spanish political refugees to facilitate their emigration to Mexico. Their method is to buy these cards from Spaniards returning to their own country who are not included on the list of persons able to embark and who, therefore, have no hope of emigrating and from those who are compelled by French or German authorities to work in Germany. Two individuals of another nationality named SMALESKO and SWIFT were found to possess identity and traveling cards issued to the Spaniards Luis FORA LEBLANC and Enriqueta FANJULT. Their entries and their photographs had been washed out and changed.

9. The association's method consisted primarily in employing an agent whose business it was to persuade those classes of Spaniards referred to above, who had no chance of going into Mexico, to sell their identity and traveling cards, giving them the names of likely purchasers. These included Colonel Arturo MENO ROIG, now in Mexico, Colonel Emilio ALZUGARAY GOICOECHEA, who was being given financial assistance by the Legation and whose son is Attache to the Spanish Embassy in Vichy, a Senor NAVARRO and a Senor MUNOZ, presumably the Maximo MUNOZ LOPEZ to whom reference has already been made. The purchasing agent is an individual called PEREZ, and the person who alters the cards is a draughtsman named CAMPILLO, probably CAMPILLO BALAGUER, an artist specializing in drypoint who used to copy originals and incunabula in Spain.

10. BOSQUES said that it would be necessary for the Mexican Consul in Portugal to inform the emigration authorities that all prospective passengers holding Mexican passports or visas be required to call and register at the Mexican Consulate. At that time, he also stated that care would be taken to advise the United States Consul in Marseille who would be asked to pass on information to the United States

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Consulate in Casablanca to obtain from the Mexican Consul General in Marseille the necessary information concerning the authenticity of the papers belonging to persons desiring transit visas.

11. It is recommended that contact be maintained with local Mexican Consuls for purposes of efficient check on the validity of Mexican passports and visas. A forged passport would defy detection, in all probability, unless verified by a Mexican Consular official qualified to determine whether serial numbers on same were among those authorized for use at date and place of issue.

12. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of State and Military Intelligence Service are cognizant of this information.

/s/ Wallace S. Wharton,
By Direction.

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