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### Henri Temianka correspondence, Gurs

Henri Temianka

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Henri Temianka correspondence, Gurs

HENRI TEMIANKA,  
34 Edwards Avenue,  
Sausalito, California

August 23, 1941

Mr. George L. Warren, Executive Secretary,  
President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees,  
122 E. 22nd Street, New York.

Dear Mr. Warren,

In January of this year I approached you concerning an emergency visa for my parents, who were in Belgium then. I also sent you all the papers required by you. Unfortunately you were unable to help me, because of the fact that your committee was unable to act for people in occupied territory.

I have now just received a cable from my parents, from which it appears that they are now in the Camp de Gurs, which is in unoccupied France. They were trying to reach Spain, where I had prepaid sailing reservations for them, from Bilbao. I had also obtained Cuban visas for them and assume that on the strength of these they started on their journey. I am told, however, that all immigration to Cuba has been temporarily suspended.

My greatest fear is that my parents may be sent back to Belgium and penalized for having left that country illegally, or otherwise be kept indefinitely in the Camp de Gurs. I hope that you will be able to save them by granting them a visa. I hold prepaid sailing reservations for them with two steamship companies, the Am. Export Line in Lisbon, for Sept. 19 next, and the Compagnie Transatlantica in Bilbao. They would be permitted to proceed there, I imagine, once they had a U.S. visa.

Before the U.S. Consulate in Belgium closed down, my parents had received a formal statement from the U.S. Consul, saying that they had qualified for a U.S. immigration visa, which would be granted as soon as they had all other documents. As one of these documents, the German exit permit, proved unobtainable, they did not obtain their U.S. visa either. Now, under new State Department regulations, new affidavits have to be drawn up and the entire procedure gone through afresh, I am told. I have the gravest fears for the fate of my parents if they should have to wait for a regular visa, and I shall be infinitely grateful for your early consideration of their situation. Please wire at my expense for any further information needed.

Yours sincerely,

*Henri Temianka*