

Youngstown, O.,
Jan. 18th, 1940

Hon. M. J. Kirwan,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I have been advised that the government is furnishing the money to bring American citizens from foreign countries.

My brother (20) and myself (21) both working, are anxious to get our two brothers, Nicholas (18) and Joseph (16) back from Poland. They live with my father, Stephan Banko, Post O Birczsa, County Dobremil, Village Rudawka, Poland.

Father came here about 1904, was not naturalized, married, and we four children were born here, mother died and was buried here, we all went back in 1930 on one passport. I came back in 1935 and John in 1937.

The Consulary Agency is at Dobremil. I do not know whether the town is in Germany or Russia now. Mail does not seem to go through.

If you could arrange to have them brought back, we would be very grateful.

Yours truly,

Katherine Banko
BANKO

265 Crandall Ave.,
Youngstown, O.

January Twenty First
1940

Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:-

The enclosed letter has been received from Miss Katherine Banko, 265 Crandall Avenue, Youngstown Ohio.

I will be deeply grateful for any information you might give me that will be of assistance in answering her inquiry.

With kindest regards and thanking you for your many past courtesies, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

January 27 1940

In reply refer to
SD 340.1115/12150

My dear Mr. Kirwan:

I have received your letter of January 21, 1940, enclosing a letter dated January 18 from Miss Katherine Banko of 265 Crandall Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, requesting that arrangements be made for the repatriation at Government expense of her brothers, Nicholas and Joseph Banko, who are at present residing with their father, Mr. Stephan Banko, at Post O Birczs, County Dobremil, Village Rudawka, Poland.

The Department has never been of the opinion that it is an obligation of government to repatriate citizens abroad at public expense and the terms of appropriations made by the Congress have been in accordance with this policy. Upon the outbreak of hostilities and during the resulting emergency a number of Americans were caught in Europe without means to return to the United States.

In

The Honorable

Michael J. Kirwan,

House of Representatives.

In view of the imminent danger in which they appeared to be, the Department adopted the extraordinary procedure of granting, from special funds at its disposal, loans for repatriation purposes to those persons whose citizenship was verified and who were found to be without sufficient means and unable immediately to obtain funds from private sources. The loans were made against promissory notes for repayment by the borrowers.

It not being possible to continue indefinitely the practice of extending loans, and the immediate danger to the lives of American citizens in Europe having passed with opportunity and assistance having been afforded Americans there to return home, the Department has discontinued the practice and will consider the further extension of loans only in case developments should require such action.

Since Nicholas and Joseph Banke appear to be residing in that part of Poland which has been occupied by Soviet military forces, the Department cannot accept funds for transmission to them. Should Miss Banke be able to provide the funds required for their repatriation, it is suggested that open trans-Atlantic tickets be purchased
for

for her brothers on a line sailing from an Italian port, and that funds be forwarded to them through the Chase National Bank of New York for the credit of the account of the "Consular Section of the American Embassy" with the Bank for Foreign Trade at Moscow for payment to Nicholas and Joseph Banko. If Miss Banko desires to obtain a report from the Embassy at Moscow concerning the welfare of her brothers, their financial needs, and their plans for returning to the United States, the Department will obtain such a report by telegraph upon receipt of an expression of her willingness to defray the telegraphic charges incurred or by mail without cost to her, as she may desire.

The enclosure to your letter under acknowledgment is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Gerdell Holt

Enclosure:

From Miss Katherine Banko,
January 18, 1940.

January Twenty Ninth
1940

Miss Katherine Banko
265 Grandall Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Miss Banko:-

Immediately upon the receipt of your letter of January 18th, I referred it to the Department of State, so that you would be assured of receiving accurate information relative to your inquiry.

The enclosed letter has been received today from the Honorable Cordell Hull, which is self explanatory.

With kindest regards and assuring you that it has been a pleasure to be of service, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

February Seventh
1940

Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:-

The enclosed letter has been received
from Miss Katherine Benko, 265 Crandall Avenue,
Youngstown Ohio.

I will be deeply grateful for any help
or assistance you might be able to render.

With kindest regards and heartiest best
wishes, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

February 15 1940

In reply refer to
SS 340.1115/12682

My dear Mr. Birwan:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 7, 1940 with which you enclosed a letter dated February 1, 1940 from Miss Katherine Banko, 265 Crandall Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, who desires to have the Department obtain, through the American Embassy at Moscow, information regarding the welfare of her brothers, Nicholas and Joseph Banko, believed to be residing with their father, Stephen Banko, Post O Bircza, County Dobruza, Village Rudawka, Poland.

According to a letter of December 15, 1939 addressed to the Department by Miss Katherine Banko, her father came to the United States thirty-three years ago but did not become a naturalized American citizen prior to his return to Poland in 1930.

The passport and citizenship records of the Department contain no record of the issuance of passports

to

The Honorable

Michael J. Birwan,

House of Representatives.

to Nicholas or Joseph Banko or of their registration as American citizens. The address of their father is in that part of Poland occupied by Soviet military forces. If satisfactory evidence is submitted to substantiate the American citizenship of any of the persons mentioned the Department will request the American Embassy at Moscow to make inquiry regarding their welfare and whereabouts and also of their financial needs and plans for returning to the United States. A certified copy of the birth or baptismal record of a native born American or a statement from the clerk of the court giving the date and the number of the certificate issued to a naturalized American is the type of evidence of American citizenship normally submitted to the Department.

If neither Nicholas nor Joseph Banko is an American citizen, the Department will be unable to make inquiry on their behalf in as much as the Soviet Government has declined to take action upon requests of this Government for information concerning the welfare and whereabouts of persons in Soviet-occupied Poland who are not American citizens. In such an event it is possible that the Soviet Consul General at New York City might be able to assist her in obtaining the information which she desires.

The

The Department understands that several American cable and radio companies are now receiving and transmitting private messages from and to many individuals in many places in Poland and suggests that Miss Banko may desire to avail herself of these services in an effort to communicate with her brothers.

Sincerely yours,

For 3673 m...

February Sixteenth
1940

Miss Katherine Banko
265 Crandall Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Miss Banko:-

Immediately upon the receipt of your recent letter, I referred it to the Department of State with the request that it be given their careful consideration.

The enclosed letter, which is self explanatory, has been received today.

If I can be of further assistance to you at any time, do not hesitate to advise.

With kindest regards and heartiest best wishes, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

March Eighteenth
1940

Miss Katharine Banko
265 Crandall Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Miss Banko:-

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind letter of March 4th.

I have today forwarded the birth certificates of your brothers to the Department of State and will advise you promptly when in receipt of information from them,

With kindest regards and best wishes, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

March Eighteenth
1940

Hon. Cordell Hull
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

RE: SD 340.1115/12882

I would respectfully refer you to your very kind letter of February 15th, with regard to correspondence received from Miss Katherine Banko, 265 Crandall Avenue, Youngstown Ohio.

Miss Bank has forwarded the birth certificates of her brothers Joseph and Nicholas, which I am submitting to you together with letter received from Miss Banko.

With kindest regards and thanking you for your many courtesies, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

In reply refer to
SD 340.1115/14440

March 28 1940

My dear Mr. Kirwan:

I have received your letter of March 18, 1940 with further regard to the desire of Miss Katherine Banko of Youngstown, Ohio, to arrange for the repatriation of her brothers, Joseph and Nicholas Banko, who are at present in Soviet-occupied Poland.

In as much as you have now furnished the Department with the baptismal certificates of Joseph and Nicholas Benko (Banko), the American Embassy at Moscow has been requested by mail to endeavor to obtain information in regard to their welfare, financial needs and plans for returning to the United States and you will be promptly informed upon the receipt of a reply. The Embassy has also been authorized to advise them regarding the procedure which they should follow in order to obtain

passports

The Honorable

Michael J. Kirwan,

House of Representatives.

passports to enable them to proceed to the United States. Owing to existing conditions a considerable period of time may elapse before a reply to this inquiry is received. Therefore, if Miss Banko so desires the request will be repeated by telegraph at her expense.

The Department is unable to accept funds for transmission to American citizens in Soviet-occupied Poland, but funds for payment to Joseph and Nicholas Banko may be deposited with the Chase National Bank of the City of New York or other American correspondents of the Bank for Foreign Trade, Moscow, for the credit of the account of the "Consular Section of the American Embassy" with the Bank for Foreign Trade. Remittances forwarded in this way will be paid in rubles at the official rate of exchange through the appropriate local branch of the State Bank of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In view of the relatively low purchasing power of the ruble, many persons prefer sending merchandise rather than funds to their relatives in Soviet-occupied territory. Information regarding the transmission of merchandise to this area may be obtained from the Soviet Consulate General at New York City.

Sincerely yours,

Cordell Hull

April First
1940

Miss Katherine Banko
265 Crandall Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Miss Banko:-

Supplementing my letter to you of March 18th, you will find letter enclosed which has been received from the Department of State, which is self-explanatory.

With kindest regards and heartiest best wishes, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

September Sixth
1940

Miss Katherine Banko
203 Wayne Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio

My dear Miss Banko:-

The enclosed letter has been received today
from the Honorable Cordell Hull, Secretary of State,
which is self explanatory.

With kindest regards and heartiest best
wishes, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress

In reply refer to
SD 340.1115/27531

September 2, 1940

My dear Mr. Kirwan:

I refer to the Department's letter of March 28, 1940 concerning Joseph and Nicholas Banko (Benko) who are at present in Soviet-occupied Poland.

The Department has received a report dated July 25, 1940 from the American Embassy at Moscow which states that communications have been received from Joseph and Nicholas Banko (Benko) who are residing at Wiesz Rudawka, Poczta Bircza, Powiat Dobromil, Province of Lwow, Soviet-occupied Poland. The communications stated that they were well but did not mention their financial status although they indicated that their brother and sister, John and Katherine Banko, 203 Wayne Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, or their aunt, Mary Bodzak, 3823 Third Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania, would assist them in their efforts to return to the United States.

The

The Honorable

Michael J. Kirwan,

House of Representatives.

The report further states that Joseph and Nicholas have been invited to appear at the Embassy for the purpose of executing passport applications although the Embassy feels that due to existing conditions they may experience difficulty in obtaining permission from the Soviet authorities to make this journey.

Sincerely yours,

Cordell Hull

Youngstown, O.,
October 18th, 1940

Hon. Michael Kirwan,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I thank you very much for your letter of the 6th. I am very much relieved to know that my brothers are well.

When I first took this matter up with you my understanding was that the government had made an appropriation for use in bringing refugees from abroad back home. My brother here and I have not been doing so well financially as we expected and we would appreciate very much if you could arrange to have them brought over. My brother and I could easily take care of them here but we haven't the money at hand to pay the expenses of getting them here.

Thanking you for your courtesy in the matter, I remain

Yours truly,

Katherine Banko,
122 S. Phelps St.,
Youngstown, Ohio.

KB:B

October Twenty-Fifth
1940

Miss Katherine Banko
122 S. Phelps Street
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Miss Banko:-

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the receipt
of your very kind letter of October 18th.

I have been pleased to again contact the State
Department with regard to your brothers, asking them to
extend you every possible courtesy and consideration.
Just as soon as I am in receipt of information from them,
will advise you promptly.

With kindest regards and heartiest best wishes,
believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Member of Congress