

Summary of Correspondence on
KURGVEL's Emigration

Since 10/13/51 DP.
ABWHR -
not a San Diego

Prior to the correspondence summarised below, our organisation had endeavoured to assist KURGVEL and his family to emigrate to the U.S. There was no doubt in our minds in the fall of 1950 when we first contacted KURGVEL that he would be considered eligible for emigration by the U.S. authorities. Our intervention was for the purpose of hurrying his case which had been opened in the fall of 1949. The final rejection of KURGVEL by the INS in October 1951, and the statement on the part of the INS that KURGVEL would be rejected again if the case were reopened, led to the following correspondence:

MUNIFG-5769, 14 November 1951

As Kurgvel has been declared ineligible as a DP by the INS under sections 10 and 13 of the DP Act, his only opportunity to emigrate to the U.S. is through the 100 Agents' Act. The same holds true for his wife and child who become ineligible through Kurgvel's rejection. We request that HQ arrange for Kurgvel's emigration under this act on the grounds that he is essential to the Estonian operation. It is extremely difficult to work with Kurgvel while he is worried about the fate of his wife and child in Germany. This worry is combined with some resentment due to his refusal of opportunities to emigrate to Canada or Australia in order to work with our organization. The only solution is to obtain emigration for his wife and child immediately, and for himself eventually, under the 100 Act. This solution will increase his motivation and faith in us, as well as our control of him.

WASHFG-17060, 30 November 1951

The problem of Kurgvel's emigration is under consideration, but is complicated since he must bring his wife and child. You will be advised as soon as a decision is made.

MUNIFG-6033, 7 December 1951

Approval for the emigration of Kurgvel's wife and child is anticipated within a few days, but Kurgvel's wife is unwilling to emigrate without an assurance from Kurgvel that he will eventually be able to follow. In the event that his wife and child can emigrate, what assurance can we give Kurgvel concerning his own eventual emigration? Can we assist his wife with passage funds if she is unable to get INO transportation within the time that the DP Act is valid?

WASHFG-19030, 14 December 1951

We can give no advance assurance of assistance to Kurgvel on

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130 H-62 (2) 21 Jan 52

his emigration until he has proven his operational value to us. His family problem is for his own decision and not to be influenced by his relationship with us. We may consider bringing him to the U.S. along with the project if his services prove satisfactory to us, but as circumstances may change, this is not a definite promise.

606 CMGWU, 17 December 1951 (Progress reports 7 & 8)

Request for arrangement of emigration of Kurgvel and family.

796 CMGWU, 21 January 1952 (Progress reports 9 & 10)

Kurgvel's wife and child have been granted visas and are expected to depart in early January. Kurgvel's last chance for emigration has been eliminated. We again stress the importance of his emigration to the U.S. According to 3216 CWUFG, paragraph 1 d, the Act is applicable not only to those who have served us, but to those whose potential operational value is sufficient to warrant granting emigration under this Act prior to service. We feel that he is an exceptionally well-qualified, well-rounded chief agent capable of handling almost all phases of training. Establishing him as a future U.S. citizen would greatly increase our control over him which is an important factor in the Estonian operation due to his stubborn personality and our lack of an Estonian-speaking case officer. We feel that he should accompany the project if it is moved to the U.S., as suggested in WASH-19030, but it is our understanding that this would not be a step towards his eventual naturalization as his presence in the U.S. under those circumstances would be extra-legal.