

Spared Lives

The actions of three Portuguese diplomats in World War II

11 Nov. 1939

Circular n° 14 sent to posts abroad "to avoid abuses and loose practices which the Police of Vigilance and Defense of the State (henceforth PVDE) deems inconvenient or dangerous". Establishes a list of cases where consuls cannot grant consular visas without previously consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (henceforth MNE).

(AHD - Consular Administration Department, R.C. 779)

Circular N° 14
Proc. 552
Lisbon, 11 November 1939

To the Portuguese Minister

I have the honor to send you the following instructions on the concession of passports, visas and consular registrations, and ask you to convey these to the consular posts subordinated to your Mission.

Under the current unusual circumstances certain measures must be taken and norms defined, albeit provisionally, to avoid insofar as possible abuses and loose practices when issuing Portuguese consular passports and consular visas which the Police of Vigilance and Defense of the State deem inconvenient or dangerous, without nevertheless excessively delaying the dispatch of said matters, some of which (such as the case of foreigners in transit through Lisbon on their way to America) we have no wish to obstruct.

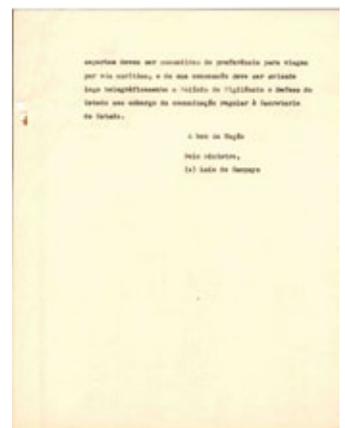
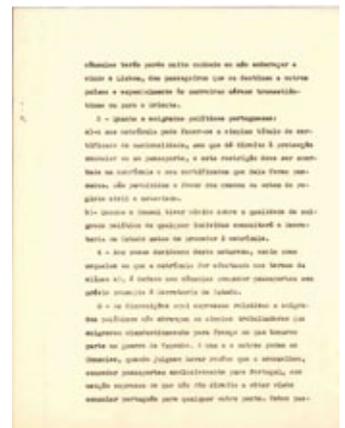
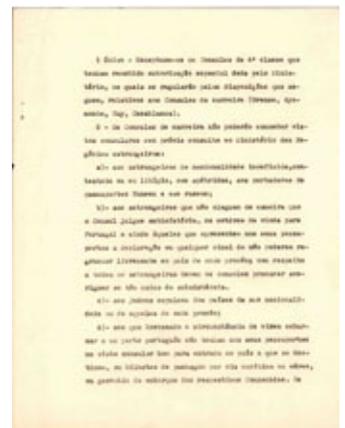
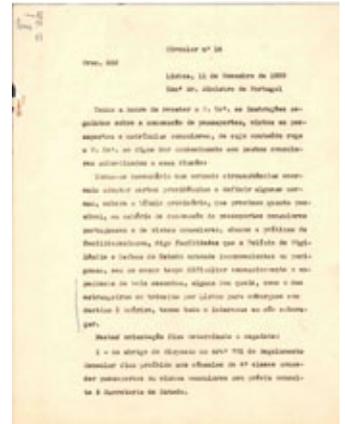
Accordingly, the following is determined:

1 – Under the terms of the provisions of article 701 of the Consular Regulations consuls (4th class) are forbidden to grant consular passports or visas without previously consulting the Secretariat of State.

Sole §. The exception to this rule are all consuls (4th class) who have received special authorization from the Ministry, said consuls to be governed by the following provisions pertaining to career consuls (Orense, Ayamonte, Tuy, Casablanca).

2 – Career consuls may not grant consular visas to the following without previously consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- a) – foreigners of undefined, contested or disputed nationality, stateless persons, bearers of Nansen passports and Russians;
- b) – foreigners who do not explain their reasons for coming to Portugal to the consul's satisfaction, and those bearing in their passport a declaration or sign that they may not freely return to the country whence they come; consuls should endeavor to find out from all foreigners whether they have any means of subsistence.



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c) – Jews expelled from the countries of their nationality or from whence they come;

d) – those alleging that they will be embarking from a Portuguese port but have no consular visa in their passports for their country of destination, or air or sea tickets, or an embarkation guarantee from the respective Companies. Consuls will nevertheless take care not to obstruct the arrival in Lisbon of passengers on their way to other countries, and especially to the transatlantic air routes or the East.

3 – As regards Portuguese political émigrés:

a) – Their registration may take the form of a certificate of nationality, although this will not grant them consular protection or passport, such restriction to be mentioned in their registration and in the certificates issued therefrom. Civil registration and notarial deeds may be made on their behalf.

b) – When the consul is in doubt as to the type of political émigré he shall consult the Secretariat of State before making the registration.

4 – When in doubt, and whenever registrations are made under the terms of subparagraph a), consuls may not issue passports without previously consulting the Secretariat of State.

5 – The provisions hereunder regarding political émigrés do not cover simple workers who emigrated clandestinely to France or who took part in the Spanish war. Consuls may, if they see fit, issue passports exclusively for Portugal to both categories, expressly mentioning that they do not grant them the right to obtain a consular visa to any other place. Such passports should preferably be issued for sea travel and when issued the Police of Vigilance and Defense of the State must immediately be informed by telegraph, notwithstanding usual communications to the Secretariat of State.

At the Service of the Nation

For and on behalf of the Minister
s/ Luiz de Sampayo