

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE

OCT 2 1941

TO CAPTAIN L. T. CHALKER

FROM W. R. JOHNSON

Reference is made to confidential memorandum No. 1640 from your office dated August 23, 1941 (IOF-64), transmitting a strictly confidential letter from the American Charge d'Affaires of Buenos Aires, Argentina, dated July 24, 1941, with enclosure, regarding Hans Hoffer or Hoffner, and Otto Bottcher, Nazi sympathizers.

The matter was referred to the Supervising Customs Agent at New York, N. Y., and there are enclosed herewith for your information copies of reports from that officer dated September 8 and 23, 1941.

Enclosures.

W. R. Johnson

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

CUSTOMS AGENCY SERVICE
 SUPERVISING CUSTOMS AGENT
 P. O. BOX 135
 CHURCH STREET ANNEX

The S.S. URUGUAY is due to arrive at this port
 September 22nd. Every effort will be made to establish
 whether or not Bottcher is in possession of any letters
 or correspondence he may be carrying outside of the mails
 in violation of law and the Bureau of the
 September 8, 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Commissioner of Customs,
 Division of Investigations and Patrol,
 Treasury Department,
 Washington, D. C.

Respectfully,

Sir:

Acknowledgment is made of the Bureau's con-
 fidential letter of August 26, 1941, without file
 number, transmitting copy of a confidential undated
 letter from the American Charge d'Affaires of Buenos
 Aires, Argentina, addressed to the Honorable Secretary
 of State, concerning one, HANS HOFFER or HOFFNER, a
 dining room steward employed on the S.S. BRAZIL, who
 it is alleged is strongly pro-Nazi.

Also transmitted with your communication was
 a copy of a confidential letter addressed to the Chief,
 Division of American Republics, Department of State,
 Washington, D. C., by Mr. William Dawson of the American
 Embassy, Montevideo, dated July 24, 1941, referring to
 the pro-Nazi sympathies of one, OTTO BOTTCHEER, a waiter
 employed on the S.S. URUGUAY.

The S.S. BRAZIL arrived at this port on even
 date and an examination of the crew list failed to dis-
 close that Hans Hoffer or Hoffner was employed thereon
 in any capacity. The crew list of the previous voyage
 was also examined and the name did not appear thereon.

I have conferred with the personnel manager
 of Moore & McCormack, operators of the S.S. BRAZIL, and
 they informed me that their records do not indicate that
 any person by the name of Hans Hoffer or Hoffner was ever
 employed on any vessel of their line.

Respectfully forwarded,
 SPECIAL AGENT

Supervising Customs Agent
 Division of Investigations

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

-2-

22-53

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

CUSTOMS AGENCY SERVICE

SUPERVISING CUSTOMS AGENT

P. O. BOX

CHURCH STREET

The S.S. URUGUAY is due to arrive at this port on September 22nd. Every effort will be made to establish whether or not Bottcher is in possession of any letters or correspondence he may be carrying outside of the mails in violation of law and the Bureau will be advised of the results thereof.

September 23, 1941.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Respectfully,

The Commissioner of Customs,
Division of Investigations and Patrol,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

J. W. ROBERTS,
Customs Agent, In charge
Miscellaneous Investigations.

Respectfully forwarded,
Approved:

Supervising Customs Agent.

JWR:AMG

Reference is made to Bureau confidential letter of August 26, 1941, without file number, transmitting strictly confidential letter from the American Express Company, New York, dated July 24, 1941, with inclosures regarding the Nazi activities aboard the S.S. BRAZIL, of the Moore-McCormack Line, of OTTO BOTTCHER and others. A report was forwarded to the Bureau under date of September 8, 1941, in connection therewith, reporting on one HANS HOFFER, or HOFFNER, who was stated to be a diningroom steward employed on the S.S. BRAZIL.

OTTO BOTTCHER arrived at this port on September 22, 1941, being employed as a first class waiter on the S.S. URUGUAY. His effects and person were thoroughly searched. No literature or letters of any nature whatsoever were found in his possession, nor was any memorandum book found, listing names or addresses of his associates.

Bottcher is a naturalized American, single, and resides in apartment 8 at 435 East 13th Street, New York City.

Respectfully,

J. W. ROBERTS,
Customs Agent, in Charge
Miscellaneous Investigations.

Respectfully forwarded,
APPROVED:

Supervising Customs Agent.
JWR:AMG Report in triplicate



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE

CUSTOMS AGENCY SERVICE
SUPERVISING CUSTOMS AGENT
P. O. BOX 135
CHURCH STREET ANNEX

OCT 2 1941

NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 23, 1941.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Commissioner of Customs,
Division of Investigations and Patrol,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

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OCT 2 1941

CAPTAIN L. T. CHALKER

W. R. JOHNSON

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(Signed) W. R. Johnson

Enclosures.