

**WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES****PROGRAMME UNIT ON JUSTICE AND SERVICE**
Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service

February 22, 1974

Mr. Pedro Negre,
IPLM
C. Pedro Molina 161
MENDOZA
Argentina

Dear Mr. Negre,

Your letter of February 13 to Mr. N. Gussing refers.
In the second paragraph of this you state:

" After my trip to Mexico, Lima and Buenos Aires
in order to assist to the Meeting of the Board of
ISAL, I have realised that many people feel anxious
about the return of many exiles to South America."

and I am not quite clear whether you meant anxious to have the exiles
return to Latin America or anxious to have them stay in Europe ?

My personal view, which is shared also by my colleagues
and the UNHCR, is that it would have been preferable in many respects
if the refugees had been able to remain in Latin America. However,
circumstances did not permit them to do so and they had no alternative
but to come to Europe.

At the moment of writing this there are still refugees
and Nationals in Chile waiting to be brought out and the next step will
be to find more permanent resettlement possibilities for the refugees
with limited permits of sojourn in Peru.

Until these primary concerns have been solved, there is
neither a special programme nor project or funds for transportation back
to Latin America; UNHCR's policy is that they could provide funds if
a refugee decides to return to his home country but not if he merely
wishes to exchange his present country of permanent asylum for another.

.../..

Mr. Pedro Negre

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I have forwarded a copy of your letter and of this reply to CIMADE in Paris. If the persons you mention wish to return to Latin America they would have to apply for it in Paris at the Embassy of the country of their choice and if accepted pay their own fare. Unless the French government agrees to pay for it. We shall hear what CIMADE has to say to this.

It has been good to hear from you and learn that you are safe and getting on your feet in Mendoza, good luck and hasta la vista.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Mercedes Saitzew
Resettlement Officer and
Assistant to Coordinator

cc: Julio de Santa Ana

Emilo Monti ✓

Oscar Bolioli

Mr. Michel Wagner - CIMADE



MS/aep