

February 14, 1942

Mr. Chaim Shapiro
Suite 818 Chapman Building
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

The Attorney General has referred to me your letter of February 9, 1942 submitting a petition of Josua Mayer and Margarethe Mayer.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I appreciate your concern regarding this problem.

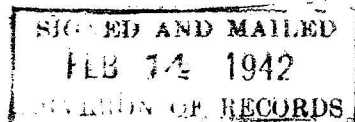
The restricted and prohibited areas were established upon the recommendation of the Secretary of War. These restrictions are, therefore, military matters and any exceptions to these orders would be made in cooperation with the Secretary of War.

Very truly yours,

JAMES HOWE, JR.
The Assistant to the Attorney General

By _____
EDWARD J. ENNIS
Director, Alien Enemy Control Unit

LAG:el

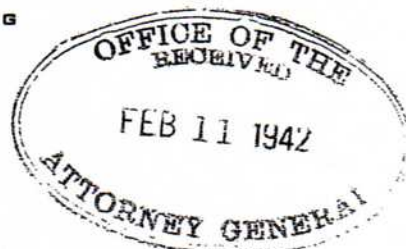


War Dept
re receipt

CHAIM SHAPIRO
SHAPIRO & SHAPIRO
LAWYERS
SUITE 818, CHAPMAN BUILDING
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
MICHIGAN 2205

Guller

February 9, 1942



Honorable Francis Biddle
Attorney General of the United States
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Permit me most respectfully to submit for your consideration the petition signed by Arthur Josua Mayer, M. D., and Margarethe Mayer, his wife, both persons to my knowledge of exemplary character, integrity, and responsibility.

Any favor granted to them will be deeply appreciated by them, as well as by the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Chaim Shapiro
CHAIM SHAPIRO

CS:sb
Enc.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

1 Honorable Francis Biddle
2 Attorney General of the United States
3 Washington, D. C.
4

5 Dear Sir:

6 The undersigned, Arthur Josua Mayer, a medical Doctor,
7 with offices and residing at 129 South Pacific Avenue, Redondo
8 Beach, California, and his wife, Margarethe Mayer, who resides to-
9 gether with him at the same address, most respectfully bring to
10 your attention the fact that while we are compelled through the
11 regulation now existing in the Unites States of America to register
12 as enemy aliens, we are in reality not enemy aliens, but both im-
13 bued with a great love and admiration for the land of liberty,
14 opportunity, and equality, the United States of America, which gave
15 us an asylum at a time when we, as Jews, were deprived of every
16 right, dispossessed and robbed of our property by Hitler.

17 I, Dr. Arthur Josua Mayer, am not a native of Germany.
18 I was born in Varsovia, Poland, and I entered the United States on
19 a Polish quota number. I lost my German citizenship first in 1935
20 by the Nurnberg Laws; and in the first month of 1941, the German
21 Consul at Los Angeles told me that my German citizenship was taken
22 away from me in 1939 for political reasons. I thereupon notified
23 the Department of Justice, Alien Registration, on January 28, 1941,
24 of this fact and asked to take notice of this change. Furthermore,
25 every non-Aryan German living abroad was expatriated and his pro-
26 perty confiscated by decree of November, 1941. While residing in
27 Germany, I was a member of the Council of the Democratic Party. I
28 took part in the fight against Hitler and Hitlerism. When Hitler
29 took power, I was expelled from the hospital where I was the medical
30 director. I, together with my wife, was arrested by the Gestapo and
31 threatened to be sent to a concentration camp. Both of us left
32 Germany because of racial, religious, and political persecution and

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1 restriction, and accepted the invitation of Professor Merrill Moore.
2 of Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts. I proceeded to
3 California and subsequently reentered the United States for permanent
4 stay from Mexico. I served as an interne for a year at Cedars of
5 Lebanon Hospital, at Los Angeles, California, and passed my Calif-
6 ornia State Board Examination in 1939, as medical Doctor and now
7 have a license #A08062 entitling me to practice medicine in the
8 state of California. I applied for first citizenship papers immed-
9 ately after my immigration and received my Declaration of Intention
10 to become a citizen of the United States of America on June 13, 1938.
11 I, Dr. Arthur Josua Mayer, heretofore offered my services and registe-
12 ed with the medical Civil Defense at the city of Redondo Beach,
13 California.

14 I, Margarethe Mayer, am likewise not a native of Germany.
15 I was born in Kremcier, Austria, later Czechoslovakia, and entered
16 this country under the Polish quota with my husband, Dr. Arthur
17 Josua Mayer. I, likewise, lost my German citizenship first in
18 1935 by the Nurnberg Laws. I was also told by the German Consul
19 at Los Angeles in the first month of 1941 that our citizenship was
20 taken from us in 1939 for political reasons. I also notified the
21 Department of Justice, Alien Registration, on June 28, 1941, and
22 we asked them to take notice of this change. Furthermore, every
23 non-Aryan German living abroad was expatriated and his property
24 confiscated by decree of November, 1941. While in Germany
25 Margarethe Mayer, was a vice-president of the German Actors' Union
26 and the International Actors' Union, a professor of the Academy of
27 Dramatic Art, and a member of the Council of the Democratic Party.
28 When Hitler took power, the Unions were dissolved and I was arrested
29 by the Gestapo. All my participation in the political activities
30 had to stop. I left Germany because of political, racial, and re-
31 ligious prejudice and restriction, and accepted an invitation of
32 Professor Merrill Moore of Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts,

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1 to come to the United States of America. I proceeded with my
2 husband to California and reentered the country from Mexico for
3 permanent stay. I applied for first citizenship papers immediate-
4 ly after my immigration and I received my Declaration of Intention
5 to become a citizen of the United States on June 13, 1938.

6 The earnings that I, Arthur Josua Mayer, derive from the
7 practice of medicine at 129 South Pacific Avenue, Redondo Beach,
8 California, I must apply toward the obtaining of necessities of
9 life for myself and my said wife. We have no other income or any
10 other means to obtain our livelihood.

11 Being uprooted once in Germany, and being compelled to
12 undergo the vicissitudes of oppression, wandering, and finding of
13 a new home, almost broke our health and spirit, and it was only with
14 the finding of a new home in this asylum for the oppressed in the
15 United States of America, we began slowly to regain our health, our
16 spirit, and our trust in humanity, and in the ultimate triumph of
17 right and democracy, and now, for us, to be uprooted again may
18 prove beyond our powers to endure.

19 Technically, as enemy aliens, there may be a real danger
20 that we may be compelled to remove from the city of Redondo Beach,
21 California, it being a part of the coastal area, and in order to
22 obviate this danger, we call upon you to exercise your kind and
23 good offices and help us, through ways and means that you will find
24 appropriate, to remain where we are, unmolested, to pursue our
25 honorable and sincere endeavor to make our honest living undisturbed,
26 and thereby being of a service to ourselves, to suffering humanity,
27 and to the great land of our adoption, the United States of America.

28 In anticipation of your kind courtesy and favor, we express
29 to you our heartiest appreciation.

30 Respectfully yours,

31 *Arthur J. Mayer, M.D.*
Arthur Josua Mayer, M. D.

32 *Margaretha Mayer*

Dated: February 7, 1942.

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss.

3 Arthur Josua Mayer, M. D. and Margarethe Mayer, being by me first
4 duly sworn, deposes and says: That they are the petitioners in the
5 above entitled matter, that they have read the foregoing petition,
6 and know the contents thereof; and that the same is true of their
7 own knowledge.

8 Arthur J Mayer
9 M.D.
10 Margarethe Mayer

11
12 Subscribed and sworn to before me this
13 7 day of February, 1942.

14 Chaim Shapiro
15 Notary Public in and for the County
16 of Los Angeles, State of California

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