

This file — “**German Emigration, Refugee Aid, and Nazi State Reports (1933–1939)**” — is not a single authored report but a **compiled dossier of documents** spanning official correspondence, Nazi police memoranda, League of Nations communications, refugee aid letters, and clippings or translations of press articles. It likely originated from **German internal intelligence collections** (Gestapo, Auswärtiges Amt, or Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt) monitoring émigré activity abroad and humanitarian initiatives aiding them. Below is a **detailed breakdown of the file’s structure, content, and historical relation** to the 1933–1939 refugee crisis.

◆ 1. File Composition and Provenance

- The earliest items date to **mid-1934**, and the latest to **1939**, aligning with the escalation of Nazi persecution and refugee flight.
- The material is written in **German, English**, and occasionally **French**, indicating both **foreign press surveillance** and **internal German intelligence translations**.
- Many pages bear official Nazi markings: e.g. “*B. Nr. 255/34*”, “*Abt. III*”, and “*Geheime Staatspolizei*”, showing **distribution within internal police or propaganda divisions**

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- The file is arranged by subject “Anlagen” (enclosures) and memoranda — typical of **Gestapo-compiled reference dossiers** used to track exile publications, foreign commentary, and refugee organizations.
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◆ 2. Key Sections and Documents

A. High Commissioner for Refugees correspondence (1934)

- Includes an original **letter from James G. McDonald** (High Commissioner for Refugees, Lausanne) to **Dr. S. Parkes Cadman**, dated **June 11 1934**, urging wider Christian support for German refugees.
 - The letter discusses both **Jewish and non-Jewish refugees**, noting that “little relief made available for the non-Jewish refugees would have been impossible... hoping that at last the great heart of Christian America will be touched.”

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- This mirrors the League of Nations’ official appeals in the same period and illustrates how **Nazi intelligence intercepted and archived foreign humanitarian correspondence** for surveillance purposes.

B. Gestapo Circular on Emigrant Writings (13 October 1934)

- File **B.Nr. 255/34**, titled “*Berichte über Werke der Emigranten*”, lists banned works by exiled Germans:
 - *Dr. Otto Strasser*: “Sonabend, der 30. Juni 1934” (a hostile account of the “Night of the Long Knives”).
 - *Dr. Franz Lipp*: “Kriegsschuld – Kriegsende,” an open letter to Hitler from Braunau, accused of “dangerously influencing naïve readers through apparent objectivity.”
 - *Emil Franzel*: “Der Bürgerkrieg in Österreich.”
 - *Otto Friedrich*: “Selbstmord einer Demokratie” (Prague, 1933), condemned as “absolutely harmful to the people.”
 - *Koloman Wallisch*: “Soldat der Revolution.”

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→ **Purpose**: cataloguing “*Volkschädliche*” (subversive) exile publications to restrict their circulation in the Reich.

C. Passport and Border-Control Forms (1935)

- Standardized “**Reisebestätigung**” (**Travel Confirmation**) templates record border crossings, bearing “*Dienststempel der Grenzstelle*” and “*Auslandsvertretung*” headings

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→ These blank forms illustrate **how the Nazi bureaucracy tracked émigrés** — vital to the Gestapo’s monitoring of departures and to later denying re-entry.

D. Secret Police Circular: Return of Emigrants (1935)

- Document **B. 4799/35 J/III/1725**, distributed to regional offices, summarizes a **Gestapo order on “Rückkehr von Emigranten”** (return of emigrants)

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→ Confirms that such returns required special authorization, reinforcing Nazi policy of **one-way exile** — consistent with Göring’s January 1934 declaration that only “loyal” returnees might be pardoned.

E. League of Nations Report (1933–34, translated)

- A German translation of the **League Council report prepared by Rapporteur Spain (Rochester)** details the creation of McDonald’s **High Commission for Refugees from Germany** and notes Göring’s restrictive stance on returnees

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→ This shows the Nazi state was **monitoring League deliberations** on German refugees closely, likely for diplomatic intelligence.

F. Refugee Organizations in Prague

- Lists of aid groups such as the “*Vereinigung zur Unterstützung deutscher Emigranten*”, “*Sozialdemokratische Flüchtlingshilfe*”, and “*Flüchtlingshilfs-Einheitsverband der Privatangestellten der Č.S.R.*” in Prague

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→ Demonstrates how German intelligence **mapped exile networks** in Czechoslovakia, then a hub for anti-Nazi émigrés.

G. Foreign Press Translations and Monitoring

- Articles from **The Manchester Guardian** (Oct 1934) describing **torture of SAPD political prisoners** and “mass trials” were translated into German and filed

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→ These illustrate Nazi awareness of and sensitivity to **foreign press criticism**, likely compiled for counter-propaganda analysis.

- Similar entries from continental newspapers (e.g. *Neue Weltbühne*, Zurich/Paris) are annotated as “*zur Kenntnisnahme*” — for information — showing **a system of media intelligence gathering** on anti-Nazi reporting

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H. Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamt Report (1936)

- A memo from the “*Nachrichtendienst des Rasse- und Siedlungshauptamtes*” (Race and Settlement Office) discusses **Jewish settlement efforts in Palestine**, noting “60 000 Jews have been settled and the movement is well organized”

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→ This connects to the Nazi state’s ambivalent stance: promoting Jewish emigration while monitoring Zionist capacity — a bureaucratic prelude to the 1938–39 “Central Office for Jewish Emigration.”

I. Later Addenda (1937–39): Church and Cultural Surveillance

- Reports from *Kirchenreferat* and *Zentralabt. II/1* track Protestant clergy and cultural figures deemed unreliable; e.g. bans on religious newsletters criticizing Nazi art policy

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→ Shows that the “emigration” category broadened to include **intellectual or spiritual dissenters** within Germany (“geistiges Emigrantentum”).

◆ 3. Relationship to Historical Events (1933–1939)

File Section	Historical Context
McDonald–Cadman letter	Early League of Nations refugee work; appeals for U.S. support (1934).
Gestapo circulars on exile literature	1934–35 purge of political émigrés; censorship post–“Night of the Long Knives.”
Travel and passport forms	Implementation of 1934–35 regulations defining “emigrant” and restricting re-entry.
Prague aid organization lists	Reflects Czechoslovakia’s central role in housing ~1,500 German refugees (as confirmed in contemporary League data).
League report translation	Nazi interest in international humanitarian scrutiny following refugee commission creation.
1936 RSHA memo on Palestine	Official tracking of Jewish emigration routes, paralleling Haavara Agreement years.
Press translations (Manchester Guardian, Neue Weltbühne)	Systematic monitoring of Western reportage on Nazi atrocities, used internally for counter-propaganda.

◆ 4. Authorship and Compilation

- **Primary compilers:** Officials in the **Geheime Staatspolizei** and **Sicherheitsdienst (SD)** intelligence divisions, plus the **Auswärtiges Amt’s Press and Cultural Departments**.
 - **Foreign authors present:** James G. McDonald, S. Parkes Cadman, British journalists (Henry Nevison et al.), and exiled German writers (Strasser, Lipp, Wallisch).
 - **Intended readership:** Nazi internal departments — for surveillance of émigrés, assessment of foreign “hostile propaganda,” and coordination of censorship or diplomatic responses.
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◆ 5. Overall Analytical Summary

This file serves as a **microcosm of the Nazi regime's administrative and intelligence reaction to the refugee crisis it created:**

- It juxtaposes **humanitarian correspondence** (McDonald, Cadman) with **Gestapo surveillance and censorship documents**, revealing the regime's effort to control the narrative of emigration.
- It provides **documentary proof of how the state codified, tracked, and exploited emigration** — through passport policies, monitoring of aid networks, and press translations.
- It also demonstrates the **intersection between foreign relief activity and Nazi counter-intelligence**, with every external effort (League reports, newspaper articles, refugee committees) observed and archived.

In short, this is not a humanitarian or League file per se but a **Nazi intelligence compilation on German emigration and its international perception**, spanning 1933–1939. It bridges the bureaucratic, ideological, and propagandistic aspects of the refugee issue — making it an invaluable primary source for understanding how the Nazi state documented, denied, and manipulated the exodus of its own citizens.