

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO COMMISSIONER OF
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
AND REFER TO FILE NUMBER

19783/43

April 9, 1940.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Hazard ✓

From: Mr. Kunna

In connection with the request of Mr. Samuel A. Bithoney, Boston, Mass., with respect to showing "Lebanese" separately in the immigration and naturalization list of races or peoples, it would mean another revision of printed forms if his request were complied with. For statistical purposes, there would seem to be no real need for doing so, because any informative data that might eventually become available as the result of such revision would be of doubtful value for general utility. Similar requests have been received from time to time for changes in our list of races or peoples, many of which seemed to be mainly in the interest of the particular groups concerned. The Norwegians, Danes, and Swedes, desired to be shown separately, instead of as "Scandinavian". The Swiss asked to be listed as such, instead of French, German, or Italian race. The Brazilians also wished to be listed as such, instead of being grouped with other South Americans as "Spanish American". In the present list, some European races or peoples are grouped, as "Bulgarian, Serbian, and Montenegrin"; "Dalmatian, Bosnian, and Hercegovinian"; "Croatian and Slovenian"; "Dutch and Flemish". Many of these, numerically or statistically speaking, are more important than are the Lebanese. Reopening the list to include the latter might encourage requests from others to have the name of their people shown separately in printed lists of races or peoples. Naturally, as a matter of pride or distinction, they would like to have the name of their particular nationality or people included among well known names in any list. But the line has to be drawn somewhere to avoid too extended a list for general immigration and naturalization purposes, and to do so now seems as good a time as any.

*Mr. Hazard
in view of the
consideration the whole
question of "races" is
now being reviewed
I suggest that
this be left
until definite
decisions have been
reached*

*JKK
6/17/40
J. J. [unclear]
7/11/40
O. B. [unclear]*