

Polya

September 10, 1940

Dear Dean Richardson:

Many thanks for your very kind letter. I was somewhat amused to realize suddenly that Strom was a Rhodes Scholar, whom I knew slightly and who used to be a teacher of mathematics at Decorah, Iowa. This gave me a hint as to the line to take with him, and I am happy to say that I am now by way of getting on friendly terms with him and hope I may be able to induce him not to take all the responsibility for the development of higher mathematics in the United States but to give some weight to the opinion of scholars in this country.

Weyl told me this morning that Polya was having difficulty in getting a transit permit to cross France, and there are, of course, always difficulties in getting sailings from Lisbon. Weyl is asking Pauli, who has just arrived here and who seems to know the ropes very well, to send Polya some advice.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Dean R. G. D. Richardson
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

FA/MCE

August 26, 1940

Dean R. G. D. Richardson
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

My dear Dean Richardson:

Your kind letter of August 24 has
come while Dr. Aydelotte is away on a short
holiday. I shall bring it to his attention when
he returns soon after Labor Day.

Yours very truly,

MARIE C EICHELSEY

Secretary to Dr. Aydelotte

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

August 24, 1940

Director Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Director Aydelotte:

Brown University appreciates the courtesy of the Institute in clearing the way for the invitation of Professor Polya to come to Brown University. The conditions might easily have been reversed and your decision to invite him might have been made a day or two in advance of ours. I know that you feel, as we do, that the cause of mathematics and the fate of Polya are the chief considerations. I made it clear to Professor Szego of Stanford University (who is such an intimate friend of Polya) that if he thought it advisable Brown would withdraw in favor of the Institute. He has been most generous and considerate in every way.

Now we take pleasure in acknowledging your great assistance and that of Professor Weyl in expediting the procuring of a visa in Zurich. Evidently some of the consuls feel that they are policy-making officials; this man Strom seems to be quite obstreperous.

I trust that the Germans will not see fit to ban Polya's leaving Switzerland, and that he will arrive in America before many weeks elapse.

It has been a pleasure for twenty years to work with Professor Veblen on mathematical affairs. As you know, he is on the Executive Committee of Mathematical Reviews, an abstract journal which the American Mathematical Society established a year ago with headquarters at Brown University. This is one of the divers services he has rendered to the cause.

Very sincerely yours,

R. G. D. Richardson

R.G.D. Richardson,
Dean

Institute for Advanced Study

Polya

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

COPY OF WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

August 20, 1940

Polya
Engelberg (Switzerland)

Aydelotte cabled and wrote to Strom airmail August sixth strongly
recommending granting visa Please cable results

Weyl

2.59
10.00

Polya

August 15, 1940

Dear Professor Szegő:

Many thanks for your letter of August 7.

I am delighted with the arrangements for Polya and would certainly not want to do anything to get him away from Brown. If at some future time he wants to come to work at the Institute we shall always be interested and glad to do our best for him. I feel very strongly that our responsibility in all such matters is to do the best thing for the individuals concerned and for the cause of scholarship in the country, and I intend always to put that motive first rather than to try to build up our group here at the Institute.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Professor G. Szegő
Department of Mathematics
Stanford University
Stanford University, California

FA/MCN

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

August 7, 1940.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte -

I am very sorry that I kept you waiting with answering your letter of July 30. I also received your letter of August 2. Your second offer is indeed a very favorable one and I am sure that Pólya will fully appreciate this manifestation of the helpfulness of the Institute. Unfortunately it is too late now. I informed Dean Richardson immediately. However before my request should have reached him, I obtained a letter from him stating that he already undertook all the necessary steps. I mean by this not only the appointment of Pólya but also the cables and letters to the consul and State Department. While I feel that under these circumstances it would not be fair towards Brown to ask to release Pólya, I am also afraid that the cause of Pólya with the consul would suffer by again altering the arrangements already made.

For these reasons and after careful consideration I decided that at this moment it is more beneficial to Pólya to let run the matter on the old path. I repeat in his name that your kindness is highly appreciated.

Incidentally, in his last letter, Dean Richardson emphasizes that they are mainly concerned in helping Pólya and would not stand in the way of any better other arrangement. I believe that Brown's help must be fully honored and if Pólya succeeds to come to this country, he must spend at least his first year there. Since he is certainly anxious to spend also some time at the Institute, he may ask you at a later time to return to your generous offer provided conditions at the Institute permit you to do so.

With many thanks,

Yours very sincerely

G. Pólya

NIGHT LETTER

August 6, 1940

Strom
American Consulate
Zurich (Switzerland)

Strongly recommend Polya outstanding mathematician now
applicant for visa Invited teach two years Brown University Stanford and
Institute at Princeton eager invite him also Career in America assured

Aydelotte

3.52
.10
tax

Institute for Advanced Study

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
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COPY OF
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

August 6, 1940

Strom
American Consulate
Zurich (Switzerland)

Strongly recommend Polya outstanding mathematician now applicant for visa

Invited teach two years Brown University Stanford and Institute at

Princeton eager invite him also Career in America assured

Aydelotte

August 3, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS:

I had agreed with Professor Szegő that his fund for Polya should be transferred to the Institute and that we should invite Polya on a two-year appointment at \$2400 per year. I received word from Szegő that Dean Richardson of Brown had been able to make Polya an offer of a two-year appointment. I immediately wrote to Professor Szegő and Dean Richardson heartily approving of this arrangement and withdrawing all claims of the Institute.

A cablegram from Polya addressed to Weyl indicates that he has received Richardson's offer, and I am today replying in Weyl's name strongly urging him to accept. This seems to me a very satisfactory solution of the whole matter.

FRANK AYDELOTTE

FA/MCE

Polya

August 2, 1940

Dear Professor Szegő:

I have your letter of July 30 and your telegram of August 2. I hasten to say that we should not in any way want to stand in the way of Brown University, and if Dean Richardson is in position to make Polya a two-year offer, that might be the best solution. If that were done, could the \$3500 which you have in your hands be kept for a future appointment for Polya at Stanford in case Brown is unable to continue their position at the end of two years?

I hope you will feel free to work this matter out with Dean Richardson in whatever way seems best for Polya and for Stanford and Brown Universities. Our only desire is to be of service and to rescue Polya from the situation in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Professor G. Szegő
Department of Mathematics
Stanford University
Stanford University, California

FA/MCE

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

1201

(54)

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

NAD52 24 NT=PALOALTO CALIF 1

DR AYDELOTTE=

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

YOUR OFFER VERY SATISFACTORY BUT IN VIEW OF ACCEPTANCE
OF BROWN OFFER DELAY NECESSARY UNTIL BROWN RELEASES
STOP PLEASE KEEP OFFER OPEN FEW DAYS=

SZEGOE.

AYDELOTTE SZEGOE.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

July 30, 1940.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte -

Thank you very much for your telegramm and for your very kind letter of July 24. I have to apologize not having answered earlier but several actions were running and I did not want to complicate the situation by premature statements.

Today, Dr. Wilbur returned and immediately I had a conference with him. He believes that you are perfectly right by stating that it is more favorable to offer the appointment by one institution. He appreciates very much your generous offer to help to finance the recompensation of Pólya. He says however - like I believed - that since there are here no meetings of the Board of Trustees during the summer, the procedure would have been delayed considerably. According to our first experience with the consul, he would not be much impressed with a promise of an appointment which could have been sent in an official form only sometimes in September.

In the meantime I got in touch with Brown University, and Dean Richardson just wired that they are offering Pólya a 2 years appointment. We all believe, including Dr. Wilbur that this is a very favorable settlement at the time being. We do hope that at a later time we are going to be able to get Pólya here as a visitor. Perhaps the Institute will be also in the position to reconsider his person sometimes later.

Thanking you again for the trouble you took in this matter, I am

Yours sincerely

G. Szegő

July 30, 1940

Dear Professor Szegő:

If Leland Stanford University can place at our disposal \$3,500 for Pólya, I shall be glad to cable him an offer of a two-year appointment at \$2,500 per year, this \$5,000 to be made up out of the \$3,500 from Stanford plus \$1,500 from the Institute, which I hope to find for the academic year, 1941-1942.

My proposal would then be to grant Pólya a leave from the Institute in order that he could spend the academic year, 1940-1941, at Stanford, returning to Princeton for the year, 1941-1942. Would this arrangement be satisfactory to the authorities of Leland Stanford? If so, please send me a telegram, and I will cable the offer to Pólya immediately. Please show this letter to the responsible financial officer at Stanford University so that there will be no possibility of any misunderstanding.

I hope that the arrangement proposed will be satisfactory to the consul at Zürich, and I have every reason to believe that it will be since we followed the same plan successfully in the case of Pauli. I think it much better that he have a two-year appointment ostensibly in the same institution. I am sorry that our contribution to his salary cannot be larger, but there are many calls upon us at the present moment, and I think the important thing is to make an arrangement for Pólya which will enable him to get away from Switzerland. Needless to say, if any better opening appeared at any university in the United States, we should promptly forgo all claims on him and release him to accept the better appointment.

Yours very sincerely,

Professor G. Szegő
Department of Mathematics
Stanford University
California

PA:ESB

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA
July 24, 1940

Dr. Frank Aydelotte, Director,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Dear Sir:

By this time I suppose you have received the reports of Professor Weyl and Professor von Neumann with whom I had correspondence regarding Professor Pólya, Zurich. Professor Pólya was appointed by Stanford for 1940-41 as a Research Associate and he is trying now to obtain a second years appointment at another institution in order to secure a non-quota visa to this country. As I understand, Professor Weyl submitted to you certain suggestions involving the Institute and he writes me that it would be desirable if I would inform you directly about certain details.

Professor Weyl raises the question whether Professor Pólya could not be invited for two years to Stanford (instead of one) with the salary of \$5500-6000 altogether. He suggests for this case that the Institute should guarantee the sum exceeding \$3500 available already for the first year, and that Professor Pólya should spend a part of the second year at Princeton. - Unfortunately, I do not see any possibility for this arrangement because of special circumstances at Stanford. I may also mention that the approaching retirement of Dr. Wilbur makes it difficult to make commitments farther ahead than a year.

Professor Weyl wished also to have information about the sum of \$3500 reserved for Professor Pólya for the first year. To this I can tell you that these funds are in my hands until the coming of Professor Pólya is entirely settled. Should the Institute have the desire to appoint him for two years I am sure Stanford could release him from the appointment already made. In this case I could transfer the amount to the Institute without delay.

However, we would prefer very much to have Professor Pólya here for 1940-41. As Professor Weyl writes, you have already in the Institute a rather large number of European mathematicians for the approaching year. Thus, I believe, it would be in the interest of all if Professor Pólya could stay next year at Stanford and would receive an appointment on a modest financial basis at the Institute for 1941-42.

I may add that although Professor Pólya is not in a concentration camp and he has still his position, he is trying desperately to get out before it is too late. About his qualifications you have heard, I am sure, from Professors Weyl and Neumann. Needless to say that I should be only glad to supply you with any further information needed.

For all the efforts you may undertake in this matter, I am greatly obliged to you.

Copies sent to all I.A.S.
Math. Profs. July 26/40
G.B.

Very sincerely yours,

G. Szegő.

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

27 July, 1940.

Dear Frank:-

I agree with your
action reported in your memo-
randum to the School of Mathematics.
Indeed, if it turns out to be
necessary to go further in order
to help Prof. Pólya to get to this
country, you can count on
my support.

Yours sincerely,
Oswald Veblen

THE STANLEY HOTEL
ESTES PARK
COLORADO

July 27, 1940.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I am glad to consent to the action you have taken on behalf of Prof. Pólya and to the practically binding financial commitment which it involves for our School of Mathematics. I hope that Szegő can and will take your advice and that Mr. Stroom will then be satisfied!

With best regards

Sincerely yours

Karlman Weyl



THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

North Belgrade, Maine, July 27, 1940

My dear Doctor Aydelotte:

In reply to your letter concerning Pólya I will first say that I approve of your telegram to Szegő, but I am glad that you did not suggest more than \$4800 for the two years. There are cases of mathematicians in much greater need than Pólya is in, and some of these are more eminent than Pólya. We must be careful not to let our action be determined by the accidents of the day. I sympathize more with Weinstein than do Weyl and Veblen and think that there is an element of justice in what he says. We need also a greater reserve of money to take care of our own deserving young men.

I hope you and Mrs. Aydelotte are being comfortably settled in your new home. We shall be back in Princeton around the middle of August to prepare 40 Battle Road for occupancy. Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Aydelotte.

Sincerely yours,

Marston Morse
Marston Morse *R.B.*

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Fuld Hall
MM:GB



YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY

Old Faithful Inn

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

July 27.

Dear President Tydelotte,

Several letters of Viblen and Weyl have reached me here, from which I understand, that they have already communicated with you concerning Professor G. Polya from Zürich. That is, that they have already submitted to you certain suggestions, how the Institute might help him to get to this country.

I had received several letters on this subject myself from Professor J. Kego at Stamford University, who had him invited to Stamford — which invitation alone, unluckily, did not satisfy the US Consul in Zürich. After this I had also been in contact with both Viblen and Weyl.

2.



YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY

Old Faithful Inn

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

May 5 tell you now, that I
concur wholeheartedly with their
suggestions: I also know Polya
for many years - since my
stay in Zurich in 1923-26 - and
think - as everybody else does -
that he is an absolutely first
rate mathematician. He is
most certainly worth saving from
the debris of Europe. If he could
be invited to Princeton for any
length of time, I am sure that
his presence there would be most
inspiring. He has been in the US,
and especially in Princeton, before,
and lectured very successfully.

So if you see a way to support
him with the State Department
I am convinced that this effort
will be very well spent. And I, too,
am in favor of giving him a

3.1



YELLOWSTONE PARK COMPANY

Old Faithful Inn

YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

Stipend of \$2000 for 1941/42 at the
Institute, if you find this
administratively feasible. I hope
very much, that it can be done.

We are on our way back,
spending 3 days at Yellowstone,
which is really delightful.
Our entire Western trip was a
quite overwhelming experience.

We leave here this afternoon
or tomorrow, and expect to be
in Princeton around August 5-10.

Hoping that you are
having an agreeable - and not
too warm - summer

I am very sincerely yours

John von Neumann.

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

COPY OF
WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

JULY 24, 1940

PROFESSOR GABOR SZEGO
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

HAVE URGENT LETTERS FROM WEYL VOBLER CONCERNING POLYA EAGER TO HELP STOP
KNOW BY EXPERIENCE AMERICAN CONSUL ZURICH DIFFICULT SUGGEST YOU CABLE
POLYA OFFER OF FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR TWO YEARS WITH UNDERSTANDING
STANFORD COMMITMENT DOES NOT EXCEED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY WOULD THEN INVITE HIM HERE FOR AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER AT
THIRTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS SALARY SUGGEST FURTHER YOU MAKE URGENT
REPRESENTATIONS TO DAVIES OF STATE DEPARTMENT IN WILBURS NAME REQUESTING
VISA BE GRANTED.

1.40
107
FRANK AYDELLOTTE DIRECTOR

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Polya

JULY 24, 1940

PROFESSOR GABOR SZEGO
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

HAVE URGENT LETTERS FROM WEYL, VEBLEN CONCERNING POLYA. EAGER TO HELP STOP
KNOW BY EXPERIENCE AMERICAN CONSUL ZURICH DIFFICULT. SUGGEST YOU CABLE
POLYA OFFER OF FORTY EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR TWO YEARS WITH UNDERSTANDING
STANFORD COMMITMENT DOES NOT EXCEED THIRTY FIVE HUNDRED. INSTITUTE FOR
ADVANCED STUDY WOULD THEN INVITE HIM HERE FOR AT LEAST ONE SEMESTER AT
THIRTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS SALARY. SUGGEST FURTHER YOU MAKE URGENT
REPRESENTATIONS TO DAVIES OF STATE DEPARTMENT IN WILSONS NAME REQUESTING
VISA BE GRANTED.

FRANK AYERLOTTE DIRECTOR

July 24, 1940

Professor G. Szegő
Department of Mathematics
Stanford University
California

Dear Professor Szegő:

Professor Weyl has sent me your letter concerning Polya, and I have in one way or another secured the support of Veblen, von Neumann, and Alexander.

It just happens that we had an exactly similar experience with Pauli and this difficult American consul, Mr. Strom, at Zürich. The plan which enabled Pauli to get a visa was that we extended our offer to two years and made earnest representations to Mr. Joseph E. Davies of the State Department who was glad to cable the consul urging that the visa be granted.

Realizing that you are unable to make a commitment of more than \$3,500, my suggestion is that you make an offer to Polya of \$2,400 a year for two years, depending upon Polya's friends and admirers in this country to make up the deficit. I am glad to give you a commitment upon the part of the Institute for Advanced Study to the effect that, if nothing better can be done, we will invite Polya here for a semester with a stipend of \$1,300, which with your \$3,500 will make \$4,800. I should hope that here or elsewhere better arrangements could be made, but this is better than nothing, and the important thing is to get Polya to this side of the ocean.

I therefore strongly suggest that you cable Polya immediately that the offer is extended to two years at \$2,400 a year, and that you telegraph or telephone to Mr. Davies of the State Department explaining that you are making Polya this two-year offer and urge him to assist in any way he can in having the visa granted.

I should be glad to do this for you, but I am afraid that it would do harm rather than good for us to interfere in what is essentially an offer from Stanford University. I am also afraid that an offer of one year at Stanford and one year at the Institute would not seem convincing to the consul in Zürich. If President Wilbur will let you send these telegrams in his name both to Zürich and to the State Department, I am sure that will help, and I believe, if you will show him this letter of mine, he will consent.

I should be glad if you will keep me informed as to what you do and as to the result. If there is anything further that any of us can do here, you may be assured that we shall be only too happy.

Yours sincerely,

FA:ESB

Frank Aydelotte

Princeton, July 24, 1940

Memorandum to the members of the School of Mathematics:

I enclose various documents which will make clear to you the situation of Professor Pólya at this moment, together with my letter and telegram to Szege³ showing the action I have taken. The problem is precisely the same as that which confronted us in the case of Pauli, and I feel confident that if Szege³ will take my advice, a two-year appointment will enable Pólya to get a visa.

You will note that I have not formally committed the School of Mathematics, but morally I have. And I think if this goes through, it will be incumbent on us to have Pólya here at least for one term of his second year, and possibly for the entire year. I hope the members of the Mathematics Group will agree to this action, and I should be grateful if I could have a line from each member immediately saying whether or not he does agree.

FA:GB

Frank Aydelette

AIR MAIL

C O P Y

Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, Col., July 21, 1940

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Will you please ask Miss Blake to let you see a copy of a letter written to me by Prof. Szegő of Stanford University on behalf of Prof. G. Pólya in Zürich. The question is in which way we could help Pólya to obtain a non-quota visa from our friend Mr. Strom, the American Vice-Consul in Zürich.

Pólya is Hungarian by birth, I believe of Jewish race, or at least half-Jewish, but of Christian faith. He has been a naturalized Swiss citizen for at least the last 10 years. In that respect he is in a much better situation than Pauli. He is about 52 years old. His wife is of purely "Aryan" Swiss stock. They have no children. Pólya came to Zürich in 1915 or 16 and has ever since been connected with the Technische Hochschule in Zürich, first as Privatdozent, then as full professor. He was in America for one year and also lectured in Cambridge, England, for at least half a year; so he has a fairly good command of English. He is a top-notch mathematician, of great productivity, though not quite Gödel's or Siegel's rank. But then Goedel and Siegel are such extreme types that they have to pay for their mathematical genius by a somewhat unbalanced personality, while Pólya is, physiologically and psychologically, a sturdy man of broad vitality with sound judgment on all human affairs. He is an excellent teacher who has thought deeply about the art of mathematical invention and teaching. He has a peculiar gift of posing interesting problems within the reach of an average advanced student. The two volumes on advanced mathematical problems which he published jointly with Szegő are unique in the whole mathematical literature. He has also closely collaborated with the two great English mathematicians, Littlewood and G. H. Hardy. Pólya is an impressive personality, a man of great honesty whose words and deeds are one, of indomitable spirit and capable of deep love and hatred. For many years we used to conduct a joint seminar in Zürich, and in spite of wide divergence of views and temper I grew to respect and like him ever more. v. Neumann's and Veblen's reaction to Szegő's appeal has been one of spontaneous enthusiasm. Apart from all political conditions we feel it would be a fine thing to have Pólya in this country and, at least for some time, in Princeton, and none of us would feel the slightest hesitation to invite him to the Institute for one year if the financial and visa questions could be solved.

I do not think that Pólya is in any immediate danger or was in immediate danger of losing his job in Zürich, although it is unpredictable to what lengths the Swiss will go in order to placate the Nazis. Pólya abhors Nazism and will find it hard to breathe in the present European atmosphere. He obviously wants very much to have a chance to come to this country, yet it may well be that later he will decide to return to his position in Zürich.

What can we do for him after the consul refused a non-quota-visa on the basis of the one-year invitation to Stanford? (Whether he was not eligible for a visitor's visa or wished to obtain an immigrant's visa, I do not know.) I see several alternatives.

(1) v. Neumann suggests to apply with your help and that of the State Department, the same pressure or persuasion to the consul that worked in Pauli's case. But did the consul ever actually refuse a visa to Pauli and swing around later? And what business have we to intervene on behalf of Pólya? except that a representative mathematical body like our School of Mathematics is in a much better position to judge the desirability of admitting a foreign professor of mathematics to this country than any individual consul. In Pólya's case we are the more competent as advisors because two of us, v. Neumann and myself, know Pólya quite intimately.

(2) With the \$3500 available we could invite Pólya to the Institute for next year. But would not this shift of the inviting institution arouse the suspicion of the consul as to the source of the money?

(3) We could, as Prof. Szegő suggests, supplement the invitation to Stanford for 1940-41 by an invitation to the Institute for 1941-42, with a stipend, say, of \$2-3,000.

(4) We could try to make a deal with Stanford University pledging some additional \$2,000-2,500 with the understanding that they invite Pólya for a two-year-period with a salary of \$5,500-6,000 but would grant him leave of absence to come to the Institute for at least one term. This would probably go farthest in satisfying the consul, but can we do this in good faith? I shall sound out Szegő whether he thinks Stanford would agree to such a scheme, and encourage him to write directly to you.

If lines (2) or (3) are followed, one could with better right ask for the cooperation of the State Department as suggested under (1). Any of the actions (2)-(4) would have to have the consent of all the six professors of our School of Mathematics. I realize that we should have settled this among ourselves before approaching you; but as we are scattered all over the country, it is perhaps reasonable that you, who have remained at the central seat, take

the matter in hand. I agree in advance to any plan you will adopt, and so does v. Neumann, with whom I communicated by letter. Veblen was evidently much more interested in Pólya than in Born. Is acting with least possible delay so important a viewpoint as to rule out (4)?

Will you be so kind as to let Veblen know about this letter? I hope you will find some way to aid Pólya.

My best wishes to you and Mrs. Aydelotte for settling down in your new home. You must be glad that the transitory period of oscillating between Swarthmore and Princeton comes to an end.

Sincerely yours,

HERMANN WEYL

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Stanley Hotel, Estes Park, Col.,
July 21, 1940.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Will you please ask Miss Blake to let you see a copy of a letter written to me by Prof. Szegő of Stanford University on behalf of Prof. G. Pólya in Zurich. The question is in which way we could help Pólya to obtain a non-quota visa from our friend Mr. Strou, the American Vice-Counsel in Zurich.

Pólya is Hungarian by birth, I believe of Jewish race, or at least half-Jewish, but of Christian faith. He has been a naturalized Swiss citizen for at least the last 10 years. In that respect he is in a much better situation than Pauli. He is about 52 years old. His wife is of purely 'Aryan' Swiss stock. They have no children. Pólya came to Zurich in 1915 or 16 and has ever since been connected with the Technische Hochschule in Zurich, first as Privatdozent, then as full professor. He was in America for one year and also lectured in Cambridge, England, for at least half a year; so he has a fairly good command of English. He is a top-notch

mathematician of great productivity, though not quite Gödel's or Siegel's rank. But then Gödel and Siegel are such extreme types that they have to pay for their mathematical genius by a somewhat unbalanced personality, while Pólya is, physiologically and psychologically, a sturdy man of broad vitality with sound judgment on all human affairs. He is an excellent teacher who has thought deeply about the art of mathematical invention and teaching. He has a peculiar gift of posing interesting problems within the reach of an average advanced student. The two volumes of advanced mathematical problems which he published jointly with Szegő are unique in the whole mathematical literature. He has also closely collaborated with the two great English mathematicians Littlewood and G. H. Hardy. Pólya is an impressive personality, a man of great honesty whose words and deeds are one, of indomitable spirit and capable of deep love and hatred. For many years we used to conduct a joint seminar in Zurich, and in spite of wide divergence of views and temper I grew to respect and like him ever more. v. Neumann's and Koblitz's reaction to Szegő's appeal has been one of

spontaneous enthusiasm. Apart from all political conditions we feel it would be a fine thing, to have Polya in this country and, at least for some time, in Princeton, and none of us would feel the slightest hesitation to invite him to Institute for one year if the financial and visa questions could be solved.

I do not think that Polya is in any immediate danger or even in immediate danger of losing his job in Zurich, although it is unpredictable to what lengths the Swiss will go in order to placate the Nazis. Polya abhors Nazism and will find it hard to breathe in the present European atmosphere. He obviously wants very much to have a chance to come to this country, yet it may well be that later he will decide to return to his position in Zurich.

What can we do for him after the consul refused a non-quota-visa on the basis of the one-year invitation to Stanford? (Whether he was not eligible for a visitor's visa or wished to obtain an immigrant's visa, I do not know.) I see several alternatives.

(1) Mr. Neumann suggests to apply with your help and that of the State Department, the same pressure or persuasion

to ~~on~~ the council that worked in Pauli's case. But did the council ever actually refuse a visa to Pauli and swing around later? And what business have we to intervene on behalf of Pólya? except that a representative mathematical body like our School of Mathematics is in a much better position to judge the desirability of admitting a foreign professor of mathematics to this country than any individual Consul. In Pólya's case we are the more competent as advisors because two of us, v. Neumann and myself, know Pólya quite intimately.

(2) With the \$ 3500 available we could invite Pólya to the Institute for next year. But would not this shift of the inviting institution arouse the suspicion of the consul as to the source of the money?

(3) We could, as Prof. Szegő suggests, supplement the invitation to Stanford for 1940/41 by an invitation to the Institute for 1941/42, with a stipend, say, of \$ 2-3,000.

(4) We could try to make a deal with Stanford University pledging some additional \$ 2,000 - 2,500 with the understanding that they invite Pólya for a two-year-period with a salary of \$ 5,500 - 6,000 but would grant him leave of absence to come to the Institute for at least one term. This would probably

go farthest in satisfying the consul, but can we do this in good faith? I shall sound out Szegő whether he thinks, Stanford could agree to such a scheme, and encourage him to write directly to you.

If lines (2) or (3) are followed, one could with better right ask for the cooperation of the State Department as suggested under (1). Any of the actions (2) - (4) would have to have the consent of all the six professors of our School of Mathematics. I realize that we should have settled this among ourselves before approaching you; but as we are scattered all over the country, it is perhaps reasonable that you, who has remained at the central seat, take the matter in hand. I agree in advance to any plan you will adopt, and so does v. Neumann, with whom I communicated by letter. Veblen was evidently much more interested in Pólya than in Bohn. Is acting with least possible delay so important a view point as to rule out (4)?

Will you be so kind as to let Veblen know about this letter. I hope you will

find some way to aid Pölya.

My best wishes to you and Mrs. Aydelotte
for settling down in your new home. You
must be glad that the transitory period of os-
cillating between Hawthorne and Princeton
comes to an end.

Sincerely yours

Hermann Weyl

C O P Y

Brooklin

19 July, 1940.

Dear Frank:

Having heard from Weyl and von Neumann on the subject, I think I ought to write to you about G. Pólya. He is a professor of mathematics at Zürich, of Hungarian Jewish origin, but, presumably, Swiss citizenship, a very good mathematician, younger than Weyl and older than von N., has lectured in Princeton (I am not sure whether at the Univ. or the Inst. [University G.B.]) where he was well liked, has an attractive wife, and speaks good English. He has been invited to Stanford Univ. as a visiting professor for the year 1940-41 at a salary of \$3500. The U.S. Consul at Zürich has refused to give him a non-quota visa on this basis. Szegő, the head of the math. dept. at Stanford, has written to Weyl and von N. for advice and help. He says that it is not possible to extend the Stanford invitation for 1941-42, though it is likely that Stanford would invite him for summer lectures, etc. in the future.

The questions raised by W. and von N. are: (1) Could you intervene in any way with the State Dept. or the Consul at Zürich (the same one Pauli had to deal with)?

(2) Could the Institute invite him for the year 1941-42? Weyl suggests a stipend of \$2000. If this is done, the other mathematical professors (Alexander, Einstein, Morse) should be consulted. Weyl, von N. and I would agree.

(3) If (2) is adopted, could not the money be obtained from the Rockefeller Foundation? If we asked them I believe the amount should be \$3500.

Pólya is really a very good mathematician whom we should all be very glad to have with us.

There are several other refugee questions about which I may have to write to you, but this is the best mathematical case in sight now (except the Copenhagen problem).

As ever,

OSWALD VEBLEN

BROOKLIN
HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

19 July, 1940.

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and von Neumann on the subject, I think
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As ever,

Donald Veblen