

## CHAPTER 35

## LISA'S AND FRANCIS' ARRIVAL IN CUBA.

This was the time when we had the worries about Lisa's and Francis' visas and then their transportation. We were very impatient and it seemed to us that they were not acting fast enough. But in reality they had gotten in touch with the organization Hicem in Marseille, which had to make all the necessary arrangements and also paid for the voyage. It took a few months, hectic months for them and exciting months for us, till they could get on the boat in Lisbon. It meant for them: Leaving Paul behind, travelling through Spain and Portugal, all kinds of complications, like losing a part of the baggage, but getting it back the next day, a sickness of Francis in Lisbon, missing a boat, but getting onto another one.

RADIOGRAMA  
CORPORACION  
**INALAMBRICA**  
CUBANA

OFICINA PRINCIPAL: 111

EDIFICIO "LA METROPOLITANA" — SAN JUAN DE DIOS 111 — TELEFS. M-9826 - M-9827 - M-9828 - M-9829

ESTE MENSAJE SERA ENVIADO  
RAPIDO A MENOS QUE SE INDI-  
QUE LO CONTRARIO.

CLAVE (CDE)
DIFERIDO (LC)
CARTAS RADIO (NLT)
MENSAJES A BARCOS

CHECK

NUMERO

ORIGEN

HORA

HABANA.

15/54

MLT \$ 2.50

ZIEGLER 5 AVENUE GLORIA

NICE

CUBANISCHE VISA LISA FRANZI KONSULAT CANNES ABHOLEN

DRAHTET ERHALT SCHREIBET INSTAENDIG BITTEND BERNSTEIN

WEGEN PASSAGE WOMOEGELICH VIA MARSEILLE MARTINIQUE

ADOLF HEDI

DR. ADOLF MECHNER AVENIDA 7 ENTRE 11 Y 12

NOMBRE Y DIRECCION DEL REMITENTE (QUE NO SE TRANSMITE)

TELEFONO

# WESTERN UNION CABLEGRAMA

CLASE DE SERVICIO	
RAPIDO-TASA ENTERA	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIFERIDO-MEDIA TASA	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARTA CABLEGRAFICA	<input type="checkbox"/>
RADIO A VAPORES	<input type="checkbox"/>

Debe marcarse con una X la clase de servicio deseado. Si no trae ninguna indicación, este Cablegrama será enviado Rápido, a tasa entera. Léanse las Condiciones al dorso.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
FULL RATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
HALF RATE DEFERRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
CABLE LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHIP RADIOGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication

OFICINA PRINCIPAL: OBISPO 351, HABANA, CUBA  
TELEFONOS M-9901 AL M-9905 Y A-6549

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Envíese el siguiente cablegrama con sujeción a las condiciones del dorso que se aceptan por el presente:

HORA

PALABRAS

IMPORTE

21. IV. 1941

NLT ZIEGLER 5 AVENUE GLORIA

NICE

VISUM ERLIEGT CUBANISCHEN KONSULAT NICE BERNSTEIN BEAUFTRAGTE  
NICE! MARSEILLE RASCHESTE DURCHFUEHRUNG BESCHLEUNIGET FRANZIS  
ABREISE DRAHTET MALECON 507

HEDI

MECHNER, AVE 7 ENTRE 11 Y 12, AMPL. AL'ENDARES  
Nombre y Dirección del Expedidor.

Here are a number of telegrams, which were sent to Lisa in Nice and by her to us in Havana. Due to a mistake by the Cuban State Department the first telegram never reached the Cuban consulate, as the consulate was in Cannes and not in Nice. That mistake was corrected by another telegram to Cannes.

# Cuban All America Cables

## Commercial Cable Co. of Cuba

ANTES

**INDIQUESE CON UNA "X" LA CLASE DE SERVICIO DESEADO**

ORDINARIO A TARIFA INTEGRA	ORDINARIO EN CLAVE (CDE)
URGENTE	URGENTE EN CLAVE (CDD)
DIFERIDO	CARTA TELEGRAMA NOCTURNA

SIN INDICACION AL CONTRARIO ESTE MENSAJE SE TRANSMITIRA COMO MENSAJE ORDINARIO.

**Cuban All America Commercial Cables**  
**Postal Telegraph Mackay Radio**



NO.	
MM	
HORA	
PALABRAS	
TASA	

CUBA 226 ESQ. A O'REILLY - HABANA

**THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

TELEFONOS: M-9801 - M-9808

SIRVASE TRANSMITIR EL SIGUIENTE TELEGRAMA, DE CONFORMIDAD CON LAS CONDICIONES AL DORSO, A LAS CUALES CONSIENTO SOMETERME

NLT BERNSTEIN HICEM

RUA BRAAMCAMP 12

LISBON

VISSUM FOR ELISE ZIEGLER SENT CUBAN CONSUL CANNES PLEASE DO EVERYTHING PROCURE PASSAGES FOR HER AND SON FRANZ MECHNER EVENTUALLY VIAMARTINIQUE PLEASE RESCUE THEM HELP UNHAPPY FAMILY

MECHNER

PHONED TO DOMINGUEZ AT 6.15 PM. MAY 19TH.

FO 4914

MR. MECHNER

AVE 7A 11 12 AM AL.

Firma del remitente..... Domicilio.....

OFICINA PRINCIPAL - ESTA TODA LA N. 11

# RADIOTELEGRAMA

SERVICIO TELEGRAFICO CON TODO EL MUNDO



CONTINENTE  
CONTINENTE



COSTA  
VAPORES



VAPORES  
VAPORES



SISTEMA RCA

CUBA TRANSATLANTIC RADIO CORPORATION

AC CA 423 NICE 9 14TH 1020

1941 JUN 14 AM 8 55

LC MECHNER MALECON 507 HABANA

VISIM NICHT EINGETROFFEN

ZIEGLER

*T-03448*

*Saco  
Mechner*

Oficina Principal: Edificio Gómez Mena, Obispo y Aguiar, Habana,—Teléfonos A-1156, A-1157, A-1158.  
Oficinas en: Santiago de Cuba: Saco esq. a Lorraine, Teléfonos 2420 y 2411.— Cienfuegos: Hourruitiner, 34, Tel. A-1158.  
Camagüey: República 91, Teléfono 2855.

RADIOGRAMA  
CORPORACION  
**INALAMBRICA**  
CUBANA



OFICINA PRINCIPAL;

EDIFICIO "LA METROPOLITANA" — SAN JUAN DE DIOS 111 — TELEFS. M-9826 - M-9827 - M-9828 - M-9829

MENSAJE SERA ENVIADO RAPIDO A MENOS QUE SE INDI- QUE LO CONTRARIO.	CLAVE (CDE)		CHECK	NUMERO	ORIGEN
	DIFERIDO (LC)				
	CARTAS RADIO (NLT)				
	MENSAJES A BARCOS				
					HORA

HABANA.

1575 41

NLT CONSUL CUBA

CANNES = FRANCIA

VISE PASAPORTES O DOCUMENTOS IDENTIDAD CALIDAD  
 TURISTAS ELISE ZIEGLER NATURAL AUSTRIA Y MENOR  
 FRANZ MECHNER NATURAL ALEMANIA REQUISITOS LEGALES  
 SERAN CUMPLIDOS A SU LLEGADA A ESTE PUNTO RUEGOLE  
 AVISE INTERESADOS 5 AVENUE GLORIA NIZA.

CORTINA,  
MINISTRO ESTADO.

.....  
NOMBRE Y DIRECCION DEL REMITENTE (QUE NO SE TRANSMITE)

.....  
TELEFONO

# RADIOTELEGRAMA

SERVICIO TELEGRAFICO CON TODO EL MUNDO



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CONTINENTE



COSTA  
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VAPORES



VAPORES  
A  
VAPORES



SISTEMA RCA

CUBA TRANSATLANTIC RADIO CORPORATION

AZ CA227 NICE 21 21 1110

21 MAY 1941

NLT MECHNER MALEGON 507 HABANA

VISA FRANCOIS SUR PASSEPORT VISA LISA PAS ARRIVE HICEM  
MARSEILLE PROMET AIDER BONNES NOUVELLES PARENTS  
ZIEGLER

Oficina Principal: Edificio Gómez Mena. Obispo y Aguiar, Habana.—Teléfonos A-1156, A-1157, A-1158.

Oficinas secundarias en: Santiago de Cuba: Saco esq. a Lorraine, Teléfonos 2420 y 2411.—Cienfuegos: Hourruitiner, 34, Tel. A-1156.  
Camagüey: República 91, Teléfono 2855.

# RADIOTELEGRAMA

SERVICIO TELEGRAFICO CON TODO EL MUNDO



CONTINENTE  
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CONTINENTE



COSTA  
A  
VAPORES



VAPORES  
A  
VAPORES



SISTEMA RCA

CUBA TRANSATLANTIC RADIO CORPORATION

JA CA440 NICE 8 21 0950

1941 JUN 21 AM 9 03

LC MECHNER MALECON 507 LAHAVANE

VISUM ERHALTEN

ZIEGLER

Oficina Principal: Edificio Gómez Mena, Obispo y Aguiar, Habana.—Teléfonos A-1156, A-1157, A-1158.

Oficinas secundarias en: Santiago de Cuba: Saco esq. a Lorraine, Teléfonos 2420 y 2411.— Cienfuegos: Hourrutiner, 34, Tel. A-1158.

Camagüey: República 91, Teléfono 2855.



# RADIOTELEGRAMA

SERVICIO TELEGRAFICO CON TODO EL MUNDO



CONTINENTE  
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CONTINENTE



COSTA  
A  
VAPORES



VAPORES  
A  
VAPORES



SISTEMA RCA

CUBA TRANSATLANTIC RADIO CORPORATION

CL/CA291 NICE 13 14TH 1115

1941 AUG 14 PM 5 06

C MECHNER MALECON 507 HAVANA

NICEM KARTEN NACHSTE ABFAHRT ZUGESICHERT FERMIN UNBESTIMMT

ZIEGLER

Oficina Principal: Edificio Gómez Mena, Obispo y Aguiar, Habana.—Teléfonos A-1156, A-1157, A-1158.

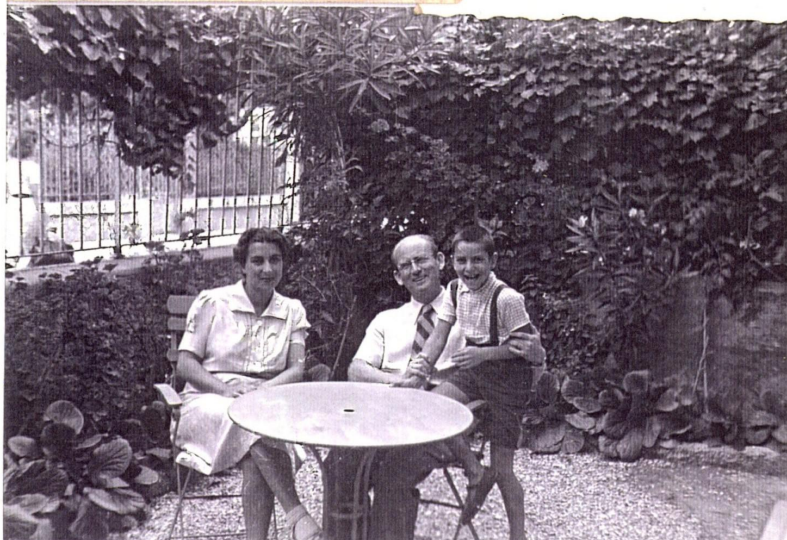
Agencias en: Santiago de Cuba: Saco esq. a Lorraine, Teléfonos 2420 y 2411.— Cienfuegos: Hourruitiner, 34, Tel. 2411.  
Camagüey: República 91, Teléfono 2855.



AUG • 65



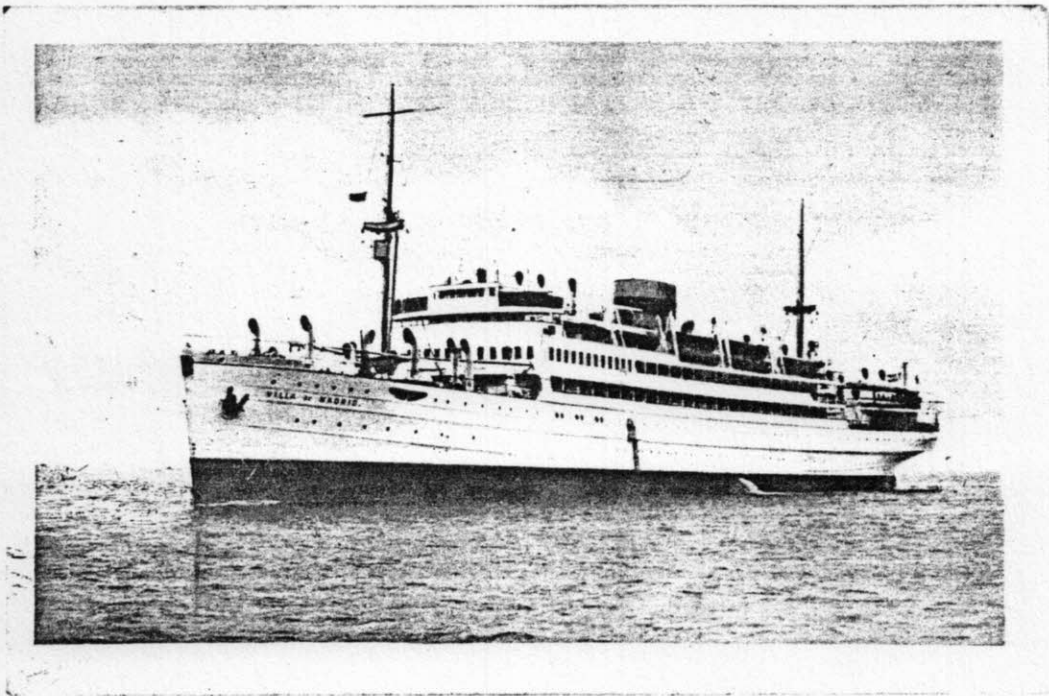
• AUG • 65



AUG • 65



Francis with Lisa and Paul in Nice, France



The boat "Villa de Madrid", bringing Lisa and Francis to Cuba

PAPA



MAMA

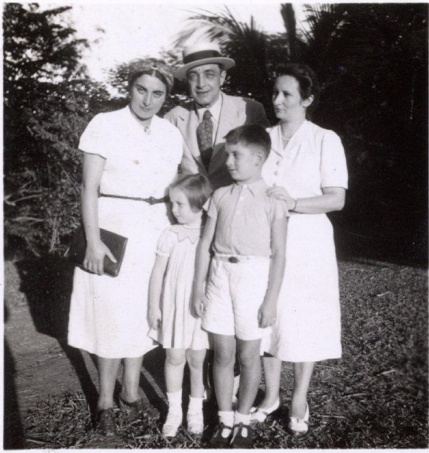


FRANZI



JUANITA





Lisa, Mr.Klinger, Hedy  
Francis and Johanna



1942





R. to l: Adolph, Hedy, Lisa,  
Francis and Johanna



Francis and Johanna



Oct. 1941







This picture shows Adolph (2nd from left) and Francis, participating in a big demonstration of refugees from Europe in Havana, Cuba. Such demonstrations were staged in many big cities in U.S.A., foremost in Washington and New York in the summer of 1942, to arouse the conscience of the government to do something about the situation in Hitler-Germany, when it became known that the Huns were moving masses of Jews to death camps, where they were being murdered by poison gas and then cremated. The story was conveniently not believed and it took a long time for Washington to react, to send messages to the Hitlerites, but to no avail. Adolf Eichmann worked very fast in arranging the mass-transports of millions of Jews from Austria, Tchechoslowakia, Hungary, Poland, etc. The endresult is well known; six million Jews killed.



I have to interrupt my narration here. I had forgotten to mention an important event that took place in the summer of 1941 when we had our great worries: the invasion of Russia by Germany on June 22nd. They had as allies the Italians, Rumanians, Hungarians and Finns, and attacked on a 2000 mile front from the White Sea to the Black Sea. It was an enormously exciting event, since the Germans were soon deep in Russia and seemed to be winning the race. For me there were special reasons to worry, since my family in Czernowitz was again experiencing an invasion, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years ago by the Russians and now by the Germans, bringing them the terror of the Nazi regime. It was after the war and that means 4 years later that I could find out what had happened to them in the meantime.

Now back to Lisa and Francis. They got on the boat "Villa de Madrid" on October 1st and landed in Havana on October 12th, 1941. The whole story, their experiences from the time they left Nice till they arrived in Havana is described in interviews very well and in great detail by Lisa and Francis. Their arrival was a great day for us, the greatest in our lives. The greatest wish of our lives, crowned with success. Two great human beings saved, brought back into the stream of life.

They had to stay in the camp Tiscornia in quarantine for a few days, and we could not get near them, saw them only from far away. Dr. Ituarte, the director of the Immigration Department was not there, was in the United States, and Mr. Agramonte was there, but could not do anything, since there was no landing money deposited. We came then every day in the afternoon, brought them food, also shoes for Francis, since he had only

sandals. We saw from far away that he was quite thin and short and were a little disappointed. After a few days, when Dr. Ituarte had come back, they were released immediately and we could embrace and kiss them. There was no end of stories they had to tell us, and we sat with Lisa till late at night, to hear her fascinating story. There was plenty of space in our home, since we had four rooms now, after the Glusmanns had left, 3 bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, and a little shower room. We had to take them out, show them the city and surroundings, the beach nearby, show them to our many friends. There were now two cooks, and Francis had good appetite and soon gained weight. I made immediately arrangements for Paul's immigration. He had the \$ 500.- for landing money, and I had a good connection to the immigration department, so that the bank deposit was not necessary, and only a relatively small amount of money, which Lisa had brought along, was needed to get the permit.

It was a very critical time in France, the time when the German police worked hand in hand with the French police in the un-occupied part of France, and many people were arrested and taken away, like John and Erich Forsters mother with Erich and a few days later their father Jozsi also. It was really one of the last boats, on which he left France, which did not go anymore straight to Cuba, but landed in Casablanca in Marocco, where he was even interned in a camp for 10 or 12 days, but finally could leave and also arrived in Havana. Soon afterwards, Lisa and Paul got married in a quiet ceremony, and moved to a small apartment, not far from us. We wrote, of course, to our parents immediately, after Lisa and Francis had arrived, and they were happy, their prayers, their greatest wish fulfilled.