COPY

## THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE Tihwa, Sinkiang, China. August 4, 1948

Dear Mr. Wong:

Despite the fact that I myself have been in this province only since November 22, 1946 and therefore have no personal knowledge of the matter, both the present Consular chauffeurs, Erwin Konetschny and Dimitri Yugoff, "Whaite Russian" refugees from Ili (Kuldja), who were there at the time of the birth in 1933 of Robert Strach, declare that they are satisfied that Robert Strach himself was not in Germany between February 16, 1945 and January 1, 1948. His father, Rudolf Strach, disappeared in 1938, according to a reliable report, found in the Consular files, having been arrested in Tihwa December 1937 and was never heard from again. Accordingly though he was presumably killed, neither Yugoff nor Konetschny can state definitely his whereabouts during the period in question.

If this letter is not sufficient reply to yours of July 19, 1948 (Ref IRO - 172) please let me know exactly what you need and I shall gladly endeavor to supply it.

Sincerely yours,

J. Hall Paxton, American Consul.

Mr. Jennings Wong, Chief, PCIRO, Far East. 106 Whangpoo Road, Shanghai.