

SES- SHAF

Shackelford

Shackelford

I have your letter of
April 7 + I think the
situation you describe is
understood. I hope the
International Refugee
Agency will come in to
try to resettle all of
the people who can
not return to their
homes —

DR. RICHARD T. SHACKELFORD
18 EAST EAGER STREET
BALTIMORE

April 7, 1947

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
United Nations Refugee Committee,
New York,
N. Y.

*I think this is indelible
I hope FTR comes to &
by that all that will
Chair Johnson*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

My only introduction is that I was one of the several lieutenant-colonels who escorted you when you visited the 18th General Hospital in the Fiji Islands where I was the Chief Surgeon during the early part of the war. Your visit was better than a transfusion for the patients.

The purpose of this letter is to point out some facts about European refugees unpublicized in this country. My authority for the following statements is that at the conclusion of the European War I served one and a half years as surgeon for the Allied Control Commission in Hungary and Rumania, and Medical Advisor to UNRRA-Hungary, which took me to Trieste, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Poland, Austria and Germany on various brief missions, and have just returned to this country, having been released from the Army in January of this year. Traveling completely alone in a jeep it threw me into closer contact with all classes of people than is the privilege of most visitors, hence the following remarks of which you may already be aware. If so, disregard the letter as I only want these facts given fair consideration. Incidentally, I am not an anti-Semite nor anti anything else, but believe in everyone having an equal chance regardless of race, creed or color.

To return to the point, I hope in future discussion of refugee problems it will be taken into consideration that Jews are only a small minority of the refugees from political persecution in Eastern Europe, The great majority of non-Jewish people of the middle and upper classes who have refused to become Communist or orient themselves exclusively to the East. In no country that I visited was there governmental persecution of the Jews. In Southern Poland and Eastern Hungary there is a rising tide of Anti-Semitism which has been due to the fact that (in Hungary) 85% of the political police are Jewish and their arrest

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

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without justification of local citizens, most of whom are gentile, has caused and is causing resentment against them. This is recognized and deplored by the Jewish leaders in these countries. Also as a result of the pouring in of money to them by the Jewish Joint Relief (during the inflation five American dollars was a fortune in Hungary) and their ~~are~~ many foreign connections they have become the prosperous people and are the only ones who can afford to visit the shops and restaurants. These distinctions have been resented.

The Jews have been and are exploiting their favored position at present, making as much money as possible and then escaping to the West, usually the American zone of Austria or Germany, whence they go to Palestine (\$1,000) or Mexico (\$4,000) or register by false document in refugee camps (\$100 to \$200) in both of the latter instances with the ultimate aim of arriving in the U. S. Three of my former employees in Bucharest and two in Budapest have taken that route. At least two of those five are fine people and deserve a chance to live in freedom, and since the underground takes out the deserving as well as the undeserving, though in unfortunate proportions, I should hate to see it destroyed.

My point is that I hope in future deliberations equal (neither more nor less) consideration will be given non-Jews in relation to their repatriation, emigration, and obtaining freedom from political persecution, particularly as regards nationals of Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia, and in addition that recognition will be given to the fact that the finest characters among them are too self-respecting to live on the charity of refugee camps, but are paddling their own canoes with great difficulty by their own enterprise in Germany, Austria and France. They deserve as much if not more consideration than many of those who are in refugee camps by virtue of false documents hoping for special consideration and advantages.

It is a pathetic sight to see so many fine people homeless, insecure and unhappy, and I am convinced that the solution of their problem is a fundamental one to prevent this war having been fought in vain.

I apologize for writing at this length, but I feel so strongly that no one should be shown discrimination, either Jew or Gentile.

Very truly yours,

Richard T. Shackelford

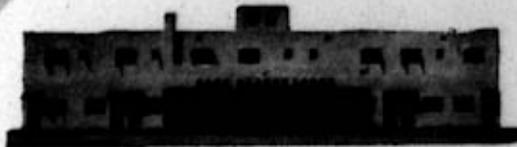
Richard T. Shackelford

Shaffer
Shaffer
one of your
parents wrote me
that you had been
ill & I hope by
now you are well
again.
I remember very
well your visit to
Wash. in 1941 &
your exhibition &
especially your gifts
to my husband & to

no. They were so
unusual, they were
put in the library
at H. P.

With all good
wishes - I am

24 ROOMS
IN LODGE



50 CABINS

Casa Grande Lodge

2625 WEST CENTRAL AVENUE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

June 30, 1947

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

A Recent trip into the mountains of New Mexico took me to the little town of Mountainair. There I met an unusual character who follows a most unusual hobby.

You will, no doubt, remember "Pop" Shaffer who came to Washington in 1941 with his exhibit of odd-shaped animals made from roots, or limbs of trees.

I was touched deeply by this old man who is ill and discouraged. He reminisced sadly of other days. His warm and affectionate reference to your interest in his collection was most touching of all. He showed me, with a great deal of pride, a letter from your husband which he had mounted on a special frame.

He still has the two little flags which you gave him to adorn one of his lamps which was on exhibit in Washington.

"Pop" boasts that he has never sold one of his creatures and has only given away two; one to you, and one to your husband. He wondered if the ash tray may be in the collection at Hyde Park.

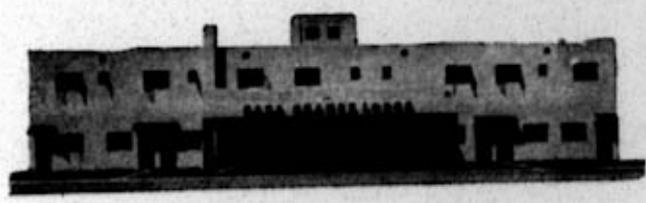
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ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
1532 WEST CENTRAL AVENUE

Casa Grande Lodge



24 ROOMS
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ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Mr. Shaffer still dreams of a visit from you some day. I know you would find both the man and his work most interesting.

At this time, if you could send some small message indicating that you remembered him, it would lift his morale greatly.

Just address your letter:

Mr. Clem Shaffer, Mountainair,
New Mexico.

Very sincerely,

Charles C. Jordan

Charles C. Jordan

DR. ALEXANDER SHAFRAN
Chief Rabbi of Rumania

ד"ר אלכסנדר שאפרן
רב הכולל לסמינת רומניא

HOTEL BRETTON HALL
BROADWAY 85th TO 86th STREETS
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.
Tel. ENDicott 2-8000

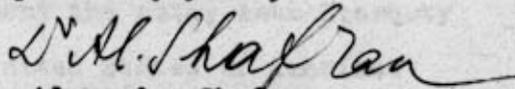
February 13, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I herewith respectfully submit to you the English rendition of the Sermon I held on the day of the funeral of the late President of the United States of America, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, at the Great Temple of Bucharest, Rumania, in the presence of the representatives of the American Mission in Bucharest.

Respectfully yours,



Dr. Alexander Shafran
Chief Rabbi of Rumania

AS:ms

MAFLAHE REOMAKELI
mimozatit to kaptol bndic

ENGLISH RENDITION OF SERMON HELD BY THE
CHIEF RABBI OF RUMANIA, DR. ALEXANDER SHAFRAN, AT THE
GREAT TEMPLE OF BUCHAREST, ON THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL
OF THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT - APRIL 15, 1945, - IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN MISSION
IN BUCHAREST.

"Koshe Haiom l'Israel Keiom Be Hashemesh Batschoraimi"

"Mournful is this day for Israel, it is as if the Sun
had darkened at full noon!"

With this cry of pain Rabbi Itshac ben Eleazar began
his lamentation for Rabbi Yohanan.

This cry of pain bursts out from our hearts today in
tumult. We direct it over mountains and valleys, we send
it over seas and oceans, to accompany the entry into Eternity
of the deceased President of the United States of America.

Yes, mournful, very mournful is this day for Israel, but
it is not, my pious listeners, as if the sun had darkened at
full noon, for the comforting dawn of better days has hardly
begun to appear for us, the sons of the oppressed People.
Year after year we have suffered, plunged into the crushing
darkness of a profound night. This darkness has only been
pierced by columns of fire and blood, that have consumed, with
bitter cruelty a good part of our People. The sun has hardly
begun to rise for us and has not yet had time to dry the streams
of blood and tears, has not yet been capable to heal the wounds,
could not yet revive the broken hearts - the sun has only begun
to appear, and, lo, it has darkened...

"Yetomim Halinu V'ein Avi" "We are orphans, for we have lost a father!" lamented the Prophet Jeremiah. Indeed, when moans arose from the heart of Israel, they surrounded, like waves, the paternal soul of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. When the torments of the old people did not sufficiently satisfy the insatiable cruelty of those who unjustly have the shape of Man, and when the voice of Humanity seemed to be lost in the whirlwind of steel and flames, a challenge let itself be heard, an echo from far, which revived the feeble belief in the existence of Humanity - the challenge that came from the mouth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt! He represented the Conscience of Mankind.

And when else must this Conscience be more powerfully expressed if not when Mankind changes its duties of gratitude into hard and merciless blows against those who, by their teachings, are the heralds of understanding among men, and who, by their existence, are the symbol of unity among nations; against those who have revealed God and have written the Bible with the power of their genius and the flame of their martyrdom!

Of course, it is understood: the urge to set oneself free from this Constitution of Humanity, to tread on the elementary moral laws, motivates the need to destroy the bold promoter and the living witness of the Fundamental Fact that is the basis of human culture.

It is incontestable that every time that the world wants to return to paganism, the enemy's bullets sift through the body of Israel - their target. And it is indubitable that,

every time that the Conscience of Humanity startles, it proves this awakening in trying to draw the people away from their hatred for Israel.

A Conscience died with the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. A Conscience, fed with the words that are indestructibly impressed on the Charter of Mount Sinai, nourished continually with the life-giving sap of the Bible, cultivated with the Philosophy that begins with the Deistic idealism of the first American philosopher Berkeley, and that completes itself with the synthesis between Metaphysics and Positivism established by the American philosopher James through his Pragmatism which is optimistic, civilising and humanitarian.

The work of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is of such greatness because it sets its foundations on the Bible. In 1932 he reached his elevation on which he stood firmly till the moment he passed into the Kingdom that knows no boundaries. He was so mighty, directing so great a country, yet there was so much faith in his good heart, so much warmth in his kindness, so much firmness in his justice. The Bible had taught him to become a symbol of Humanity, of Simplicity, and not one of Domination.

It was this simplicity that let the divine be seen in him. Did not the great American thinker Emerson teach him that Divinity envelopes the Cosmos just as it governs the human soul, and, especially, the soul of the creative man? Divinity has lived in Franklin Delano Roosevelt. What more, Franklin Delano Roosevelt has had a divine mission on earth

to enliven the sparkle of Divinity in Nations and Man-kind. Indeed, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a "Tzadik", a righteous man. He has shared the fate of a "Tzadik". Many of us are tormented by the question: Why was he, just he, besieged by the Angel of Death at the time when his troops - animated by his ideals - are besieging the Metropolis of Hatred? Why? Yes, we have the right to ask this question. But, here, pious listeners, is the example of the first fighter for Liberty, the example of Moses, who heard the incomprehensible Divine voice: "ki mineghed tire at haaretz veshama lo tavo" - "Thou shalt see the Land before Thee, but Thou shalt not enter it!" When the great hour approached and the spectacle of the Promised Land revealed itself before his eyes, Moses had to die. Thus, he is a righteous man. He shares the fate of the martyrs for Liberty. Yes! It is the enigma of the inexplicable destiny, the enigma that has lighted the marvellous images depicted in "The Destinies" by the great French poet Alfred de Vigny.

How many signs of a "Tzadik" manifest themselves in this great citizen of Humanity, Franklin Delano Roosevelt! Before him there is the dawn of victory, of peace that he had forged, that he had prepared - but he dies!

In his speech that he prepared before his death, and which seems to crown his selection of speeches, he measures up with his outlook to the Messianic era that he knew from the Bible. He does not, however, enter the Land of Promise in the era of his dreams and of his efforts.

Moses died and Israel entered the Land of Promise; Roosevelt died and Israel will recover the Land of Israel. More than once has the President bent his head piously before the sacrifices of our People, which surpass, not only by their greatness but also by their proportion, the sacrifices of any other nation on earth. More than once has the President acknowledged that great is the mission which Israel would accomplish from the Holy Land, from the Land of the Prophets, where the ideas of Liberty and of Social Justice resounded for the first time.

The President has respected Humanity, has appreciated the rights and aspirations of all Peoples, for he venerated the Bible, which connects the coming of the Messianic era with the returning of the dispersed children of Israel to the Land of Israel. It was only a few weeks ago that the President reminded the world the importance of the duty it has regarding Israel, promising my illustrious American colleague, Rabbi Dr. Stephen S. Wise, that he would assist in the building of the Holy Land, in the building of the Land of Israel.

The new President of the United States of America, Mr. Truman, assumes the heritage of the great President Roosevelt. With impressive respect for the memory of his predecessor, with moving piety for the ideals of his predecessor, the new President takes over the responsibility by asking those who surround him: "When you pray, pray for me, too." And we, though separated by the immensity of the ocean, but identified with the American people in the sorrow that overwhelms them, include in our prayers to God the new President

of the United States of America.

The Rumanian Jewry expresses through me its grief and its respect for the immortal President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The Jews of Rumania, faithful citizens of their country, bend their heads with devotion before the memory of the Defender of Humanity, who was fighting for the cause of Liberty, and the Protector of the Jewish People, who suffered the most for this cause of Liberty.

Israel, in all parts of the world, is trusting that the voice of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the voice of Conscience, will guide his followers on the same path of his ideals. And, to quote the American poet Piatt, "The scents of love and of satisfaction will thus surround the grave" of the great President.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt will not hear the sound of the trumpet of Peace; but it is to him that the "Halleluia", bursting out from the hearts of Humanity, will be consecrated. The Heavens will rejoice with the glory he will receive in homage. "Praised will he be in the Firmament, for he will be praised by the song of the "Shofar", for we hope that the old chanter of the "Shofar" will, at last, intone the Hymn of Salvation.

Our prayers embrace with piety the Infinite into which Franklin Delano Roosevelt enters at this hour.

You are walking, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on the path that leads to Immortality. A symphony of mourning, which surrounds the world, and of gratitude, which moves its heart, is accompanying you on your last path.

For You, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, will be like the poet of Your Country, Stoddard, had sung about You a century ago: "You will be like a star announcing victory; You will shine forever through the spirit of Man; You see how, at this hour, the chains are breaking, how ready men are to leap gaily over mountains, over valleys, in a world as young as Yours; a world of Liberty, of Freedom, that announces itself; and You, immortal star, You are announcing it!"

With this song, which seems to have been composed for You, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, we include our blessing; a blessing that will be passed on from generation to generation; a blessing forever - the blessing of the People that lives eternally.