ER Statement re Women Broadcasters

SEE: LEWIS, Dorothy, 8-9-47
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of September 29, 1947 with which was enclosed correspondence received from the Women's League in Emigration in Germany concerning problems affecting women arising out of current resettlement activities. These problems of legal protection, proper employment placement and the safeguarding of the unity of the family are very much the concern of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization and its staff members at the present time.

The PCIRO is making every effort to secure the emigration of all members of the family with the employable members who are of chief interest to the receiving countries. I note that one of the items of correspondence enclosed with your letter is a copy of a letter addressed to the IRO on the subject.

I am leaving for another meeting of PCIRO at Geneva on October 10 and shall make inquiries to determine specifically what measures are being taken to preserve family unity in resettlement and the best possible placement in jobs. I shall be glad to report my findings to you upon my return. In the meantime, you may wish to reply to Mrs. Rebet that the points raised in her letter have been brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities. I am returning the correspondence included with your letter with that in mind.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Warren
Adviser on Refugees and Displaced Persons

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, New York.
September 29, 1947

Dear Mr. Warren:

I am enclosing correspondence which I received from the Woman's League in Emigration. Will you please advise me what can be done?

With many thanks,

Very sincerely yours,

Marie Dujic
The Woman's League in Emigration
Gabriel von Seidelstrasse, 10
Munich-Geiselhensteig
Germany
We apply to you with request to raise our questions on UN forum. Especially following points are of crucial character:

1. Formulation of our legal status.
2. Definite domicile via resettlement
3. Enabling us to work on suitable jobs.
4. No separation of young girls and men from the rest of community.
5. Safeguarding of normal family, religious and cultural life.

To your knowledge we send you the copies of all letters of Women's League in Emigration. Hoping on your understanding and aid, we remain,

President
Marie Dujic
The Women's League in Emigration
- Munich-
Maria Dujis, Munich-Geislgasteig
Gabriel von Seidelstrasse, 10

Munich, August 30, 1947

To

Right Honorable Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
New York.

Dear Madam,

The Women's League in Emigration, consisting of national groups, that remained in Emigration in Germany, appeals to you on behalf of our pressing affairs with the conviction that they will find your kind consideration.

Before all we want to express our deep gratitude that you defended us in extremely difficult situations. Your frank attitude brought the first relief in the alarming tension of hundred thousands of refugees, who were most reluctant to undergo forceful repatriation to their former home-countries.

In the long run of the time we grew convinced that we are no more menaced by forceful repatriation - but till now some elementary problems remain unsolved from which in future our existence might become dependent:

Till this time we as political emigration have no clear cut formulation of our legal status and pronounced declaration that we can the right of asylum.

This state of things trails whole train of harmful consequences. Since V-E Day we live in provisory state, without any outlooks and plans even for the closest future, without security for the time to come. The conditions of abnormal, mass existence in camps, lack of a stable occupation, dividing of families into D-P's and non-DP's - this all destroy us more and more morally and physically.

Therefore a question of main importance to us is a permanent domicile so that we can start more normal life. This is possible either in the way of organized resettlement or in the way of work in different countries, but under condition of safeguarding of all human and family rights of religious and cultural life. In every country, that is willing to take us - we would like to be useful and good workers, but also we
desire to preserve our strength for our home country and to remain capable of work and constructive life, especially want to preserve the integrity and welfare of our groups and our religious, national and cultural traditions.

The fact of selection of our people to different countries for heaviest kind of physical work makes null and void all possibility for thousands of people to work in their line and forces often highly qualified specialists to work as unskilled laborers of lowest type. For the same reason all old-age and physically weak persons are bereft of work and care, the more that they are not allowed to go along with workers. On the other side recruiting of exclusively young and single persons (male and female) means that they are stripped of all support and guidance on the part of older persons and family dependents and for all who come into new unacquainted environment there are potent dangers in store. Considering the circumstance that along with it some of the countries deny our workers the right of their own servicing in religious and national-cultural affairs, and for refugees who lost everything they owned and even native land and a little they were able to save in dark years. Thus even these leftovers are annihilated.

Because, we are convinced of your good intentions, your deep compassion for human needs and your noble mind we ask your understanding for us as mothers, who are disturbed by the fate of our children, our youth and our families - and to take under your kind consideration our state of things.

We apply to you with request to raise our questions on UN forum. Especially following points are of crucial character:

(1) Formulation of our Regal status,
(2) Definite domicile via resettlement
(3) Enabling us to work on suitable jobs.
(4) No separation of young girls and men from the rest of community.
(5) Safeguarding of normal family, religious and cultural life.

To your knowledge we send you the copies of all letters of Women's League in Emigration.

Hoping on your understanding and aid, we remain, Dear Madam,

yours very truly

President:

Maria Dujiš

Secretary:

Daria Rebet
Below are signatures of women representatives of different national groups:

Peoples of the Caucasus representatives:

Estonian representatives: [Signature]

Lithuanian representatives: [Signature]

Polish representatives: [Signature]

Ukrainian representatives: [Signature]

White-Ruthenian representatives: [Signature]

Yougoslavian representatives: [Signature]
The Women's League in Emigration
- Munich -

Marie Duijts, Munich-Geiselgasteig
Gabriel von Seidelstrasse 10

Munich, August 30, 1947

To

World Church Service

The Women's League, which represents women of different countries, who are in emigration in Germany, appeals by this letter to you to direct your attention to the affairs which we take the liberty to expose before you.

We women in the emigration are gravely disturbed by the future of our children, of our youth and our families in the time to come. We ask your assistance in the hope that we will find your full understanding.

More than two years we have been here without a formulation of our legal status that makes our life insecure and a temporary affair, and especially residence in crowded dwellings at camps injures our physical and moral strength.

In common, overcrowded camp rooms there are often more families with small and grown up children living together, who are complete strangers among them, and have different professions, beliefs, occupations, moral and educational standards. This makes living together very grave sometimes even dangerous affair. This lack together with monotonous and insufficient feeding weakens the physical resistibility. Mainly children are suffering from unseem conditions in densely packed rooms where meals are cooked, where people work, and smoke — this all taken together is very harmful to their health.

The TBC and undernourishment with all accompanying results are on the increase. In some camps there are 20 to 30% of children suffering from TBC.

But most terrible is deterioration of moral life. The harmony inside the family, the morality of young men and principally of young girls are taking a downfall more, there are as well as small children become easy victims of bad influence.

The screening activities have resulted in many cases in separation
διαβάζω την εκφράση και αντικατοπτρίζω την κατάλληλα χρήση των λέξεων και σημαδιών που έχουν χρησιμοποιηθεί στην εκφράση.
In name of these principles we appeal to you and ask your assistance and attention in these matters that have a vital importance for our existence.

President:

Maria Dujis

Secretary:

Daria Bobet

Peoples of Caucasus representatives:

Estonian representatives:

Lithuanian representatives:

Polish representatives:

Ukrainian representatives:

White-Russian representatives:

Yugoslavian representatives:
League of the Women in the Emigration
Munich
Maria Dujich, München-Geiselgasteig
Gebriel von Seidelstrasse 10.
Munich, July 25th, 1947.

TO
International Refugee Organisation
Resettlement Office

Emigration from Germany is a matter of vital importance to all
DPs and political refugees, so every opportunity for emigration
is gladly welcomed.
But all persons concerned are greatly disquieted by following
problems:

1./ Several countries willing to take emigrants want only the
healthiest and youngest, so that weaker persons and those un-
able to work are left behind thus being forced to live on the
mercy of welfare organisations, If there were an opportunity
for larger organized groups or at least whole families to emi-
 grated together, those able to work could easily support the weak
and old members of the community.

2./ The fact, that by the selection system the families are se-
parated, is of tragic consequences to all concerned and more-
over scores those willing to report for emigration, The tem-
porary separation of families is seriously detrimental to the mo-
rales of the community, Having lost all personal property, their
homes and their country, those people must not be separated from
the last they possess in this world: from their parents, sisters,
brothers, and all who are dependent on them.

3./ The young people selected for emigration are inexperienced
in life, since they had been deported to Germany at an early
period of their lives, and for a long time had to live without
supervision and the care of elders, After the collapse of Ger-
many many families were reunited; could any country answer for
another separation and favour the idea that young people still
in want of advice and help be entirely left to themselves? - E-
evry country is interested in getting good workers - but now
easily could those single young people fall into the grasp of
bad society and finally neglect their duties towards their em-
ployers! When for emigration are chosen single young either men
only or girls than there is no possibility to establish our own
national families and then-those people will be lost for the
society of their own.

4./ The emigrants ought to be given the right to practise their
religious rites and develop their own national culture also in
their new homeland. It would be a grievous offence against human-
ity to deprive them of their natural selfevident needs,
In connection with above facts which keep disquieting all DPs and political refugees we ask to consider the following arguments:

DPs and political refugees who decline a return to the native country assumed the hardships of emigration for this one reason: to preserve themselves for their own nation although abroad.

That is why they are striving after a possibility of a normal family life, of physical and mental health, and of maintaining their national cultural tradition.

We understand the interests of the other countries who opened their frontiers to the refugees, and we shall honestly endeavour to do our best, but besides we ask to grant us our basic rights of free development, and we hope that democratic countries will not want to build up their futures by wronging the post-war emigration.

We women are especially concerned about the fate of our families, that is why we apply to you in the firm belief that our basic interests will be considered in a democratic, human way.

President: 

Secretary: Helmut Doz

Representative of the peoples of the Caucasus: 

Estonian Representative: 

Lithuanian Representative: 

Polish Representative: 

Ukrainian Representative: 

White Russian Representative: 

Yugoslavian Representative: 

S. Protopoly 

K. Kuseloff 

Iturbe 

M. Sefristen
League of the Women's
Organisations in Exile

Maria Dujić - München, Geiselgasteig
Gabriel von Seidelstr. Nr. 10.

Munich, July 20th, 1947.

To

Most honorable Ladies.

We beg you to help us in the following matters:

As you know, there is about a million of DPs and political refugees in Germany. Among those people are many women and children (e.g., among the Ukrainians - 35% of women and 20% of children).

There are many single women. Many have lost their husbands during the war (concentration camps, hard slave-labour, prisons, war events). There are many girls brought by force to work who worked here very hard, though were very young and used to dwell in conditions unsuitable for young girls. Nobody brought them up and they meet life unprepared. Here are women scientists (doctors, engineers, geologists, etc.). They are unable to do physical labour - unused to it and having really not enough strength. Here are women with many small children unable to leave their homes still for some time to go to work and earn their living. And here are women very old and weak, unable to work.

Majority of those people dwell in DP UNRRA camps. Some have good conditions of life, but some very hard. There are camps where 3-5 families live together in one room. Children have not enough air, have to breathe with the smoke of many cigarettes, to listen to quarrels and oaths and see the misbehavior of many. Still more all that affects young girls. And women and children who live in such conditions for already two years lose their health more and more (many have rickets and tuberculosis). And though amount of calories was satisfactory - food cooked for thousands of people and always the same caused that some children and weaker women though often hungry are unable to eat it any more.

Therefore we beg you very much:

1. To help us to change our conditions - that is to get out of Germany as soon as possible, to work and have all duties and privileges of the working people. Longer stay here, as you see
will cause the loss of health of women and children.

2. To help women scientists to be engaged in their professions (all countries propose only physical labour).

3. To help single women, and women with many small children, who would be able to work for some time only at home.

4. To help old women, unable already to work to get permission to dwell in foreign countries.

5. To help those young girls thrown here for slave labour by the Germans to receive some schooling and gain profession in foreign countries.

We understand the ideals of women organisations and in the first place we try to help our women and children.

And we hope you understand that today all women's organisations have more opportunity than ever to show their ability in helping those in need.

We appeal to your understanding and feeling and we hope you would not leave those in need and help our women and children.

For the Counselling Board of the League:

President

Secretary
Peoples of the Caucasus representatives: Borys Katscher

Estonian representatives: Reso Järel

Lithuanian representatives: Dr. Inga Karanaitė

Polish representatives: M. Janusza

Ukrainian representatives: Oleksa Pawlykowyk, Andriyoty Trotskiv

White-Ruthenian representatives: P. Severyn

Yugoslavian representatives: Dujić Marina, Marija Popanda
"La Ligue des Organisations de Femmes en Exil"
Maria Dulić - München, Geiselgasteig
Gabriel von Beidelstr., Nr. 10.

Munich, le 20 juillet 1947.

A

La ligue de femmes en exil se permet de s'adresser à vous pour le cas suivant:

Plus d'un million de personnes-déportées (DP) et réfugiés politiques de différentes nationalités se trouvent actuellement en Allemagne. Parmi ces emigrés un nombre considérable de femmes (maîtres nationalités comme p.ex. les Ukrainiens comptent 35% de femmes et 20% d'enfants). Beaucoup de femmes y sont seules, car par les événements de la guerre elles ont perdu leurs maris à la suite des bombardements, du travail forcé en Allemagne, dans les camps de concentration. La charge de leurs familles, si elles ont des enfants, revient à elles seules.

Une grande partie de ces femmes sont jeunes, étant des adolescentes et des demi-enfants quand elles avaient été envoûtées en Allemagne, ou pendant des années elles avaient travaillé dans des conditions particulièrement défavorables pour leur âge. Elles avaient demeuré dans des baraques de bois, étaient mal nourries, privées de toute vie de famille, de protection sérieuse.

Un autre groupe, ce sont des femmes instruites, aux titres universitaires, écrivains, ingénieurs.

Nombreuses sont les femmes dont les familles comptent beaucoup d'enfants qui sont à leur charge; elles ne peuvent se vouer à un travail en dehors de leur domicile sans négliger considérablement leurs propres familles.

Toutes ces femmes DP et réfugiées politiques logées le plus souvent dans des camps, sont nourries par l'UNRRA. Les camps sont installés dans des casernes qui, à la suite du manque général ou la subvention par personne revient à 2 m³ quoique le minimum soit de 3 m³. Et ce n'est pas tout. Elles souffrent encore
a cause des déménagements continuels, des déplacements d'un camp à l'autre. Il y a des cas rares où une chambre est occupée par une seule famille, d'autres ou de 3 à 6 familles (!) logent dans la même pièce. On y fait la cuisine, la lessive, on fume, on parle, on se querelle tard dans la nuit, on s'assou.

Cette vie en commun pendant 2 ans exerce une influence néfaste sur la vie de famille, la santé et la moralité en premier lieu sur les enfants et les jeunes femmes. La moralité en souffre gravement.

D'autres fois des jeunes filles seules sont obligées de vivre dans des conditions où elles sont exposées à toutes sortes de menaces et de périls.

Le ravitaillement du point de vue en calories serait suffisant, mais la préparation des aliments se faisant pour des milliers de personnes, la nourriture est très monotone, consistant en produits de conserve, ce qui fait que malgré la faim ces personnes au bout d'un certain temps perdent complètement le goût pour cette nourriture.

Les petits enfants vivant dans ces conditions en pâtissent surtout. Les mères sont impuissantes de leur craindre des conditions conformes aux exigences d'hygiène et aux règles d'alimentation. Ces enfants sont en premier lieu victimes du manque des foyers de famille et d'une existence "sur la branche".

Vu tout cela, nous vous prions de comprendre que le séjour prolongé en Allemagne dans ces conditions-là est un danger sérieux pour la santé physique et morale de la jeune génération (la T.B.C. et le rachitisme font déjà des ravages; ils donnent un pour cent de 30).

Nous vous prions de bien vouloir exercer votre influence pour nous aider à revenir aux conditions normales de la vie. Nous sommes d'avis que la meilleure solution du problème serait dans l'immigration dans des pays où nous aurions la possibilité d'organiser notre vie, basée sur le travail, une vie normale avec tous ces droits et devoirs.

Nous vous prions de vouloir bien sonder la possibilité de l'immigration dans votre pays et de vouloir bien exercer votre influence pour obtenir l'autorisation nécessaire d'asile et de séjour.
Nous voudrions vous prier de prendre en considération les cas suivants:

1. Les jeunes femmes pouvant et se sachant travailler, exercées dans quelques métiers mais ayant plusieurs enfants, devraient être installées de façon à pouvoir gagner leur vie sans quitter leur domicile ou bien recevoir, pendant un certain temps, une subvention qui leur permet de se créer une existence.

2. Les femmes âgées devraient être logées dans des établissements et des asiles. La nouvelle nous est parvenue que votre organisation entretiennent des hospices de ce genre et nous vous prions bien de vouloir y réserver des places pour nos femmes âgées.

3. Enfin viennent les intellectuelles femmes - médecins, géologues, historiennes, artistes-peintres, etc., qui devraient avoir des emplois qui leur conviendraient le mieux. Car manquant de préparation spéciale et de forces physiques elles ne peuvent pas gagner leur vie avec le travail physique.

Nous sommes conscients des difficultés, mais nous savons aussi que le premier devoir des organisations de femmes est de venir en aide à la femme et à l’enfant et que tous leurs efforts sont concentrés sur la création de meilleures conditions de vie et de travail pour eux.

Nous savons aussi que ces organisations n’ont jamais trahi leurs buts humanitaires et qu’elles voudront bien venir en aide aux femmes auxquelles la guerre a détruit l’existence normale et qu’elle a privées de patrie.

Jamais aussi, les organisations de femmes n’ont eu une meilleure occasion de montrer autant de solidarité féminine et de compréhension pour le sort de leurs compagnes, jamais aussi leur champ d’activité ne fut aussi vaste que maintenant.

Au nom de cette solidarité nous faisons appel à votre cœur de femmes!

Aides aux femmes en exil!

Comité exécutif:

[Signatures]

Présidente

Secrétaire
La Résistance des Femmes Biélarusses (Blanche Routhéniennes);

La Résistance des Femmes Estoniennes;

La Résistance des Femmes Gauchoises;

La Résistance des Femmes Lithuaniennes;

La Résistance des Femmes Polonaises;

La Résistance des Femmes Ukrainiennes;

La Résistance des Femmes Yougoslaves;

Irina Gruzman, prof.
January 10, 1947

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I am very glad to hear that your organization is holding a conference and the objectives seem to me admirable.

It is only by strengthening Democracy at home that we are going to persuade the rest of the world that Democracy is worth following.

Since we are materially the strongest nation in the world today, it is quite evident that we should devote ourselves to developing our spiritual and political leadership as well. An example is often more valuable than a precept.

It is true we can not afford to do away with our armed forces until a plan for united defense against any aggressor, is fairly well established, but we can work in every possible way to uphold the activities begun under the Economic and Social Council of the UN, which will help us to build an atmosphere in which peace can grow in the world.

The economic health of the world is essential, but at the same time spiritual and moral health must enable us to face the basic problems and find solutions.

Very sincerely yours,
Twenty-First
Womens Patriotic Conference on National Defense
January 24, 25 and 26, 1947
Hotel Statler :: Washington, D. C.

Please Reply to:
26 East 64th Street
New York 21, New York

January 14, 1947

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

May we have a 50- to 100-word statement from you for publication indicating your interest and support of the Twenty-First Womens Patriotic Conference on National Defense to be held in Washington, D. C., January 24, 25 and 26 at the Hotel Statler?

More than 1,000 delegates from 32 leading women’s patriotic organizations, representing an aggregate membership of 1,500,000 American women, will assemble at the Conference to deliberate on problems of national defense from a threefold approach of (1) strengthening democracy at home, (2) maintaining our armed forces and matériel planning for peace, and (3) building world cooperation.

Twenty prominent speakers will address the Conference, including Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson; Assistant Secretary of State William Benton; U. S. Civil Service Commissioner Frances Perkins; and Federal Works Administrator Philip B. Fleming. Also speaking on the program are Mrs. Eugene Meyer; Miss Katherine F. Lenroot, Chief of Children’s Bureau, Department of Labor; Miss Frieda G. Miller, Director of Women’s Bureau, Department of Labor; Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, President Emeritus of Vassar; Otis L. Wiese, Editor-in-Chief of McCall’s Magazine; Malcolm Ross, Former Chairman of W. H. P. O.; The Honorable Lowell B. Mason, Federal Trade Commissioner;
Rear Admiral Roger W. Paine of the Army-Navy Munitions Board; Rear Admiral E. C. Ewen, Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training; General George C. Kenney, Commanding General, Strategic Air Command; Vice Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, Commander, Second Task Force; Dr. Edward U. Condon, Director of National Bureau of Standards; Arthur J. Altmeyer, United States Representative to Social Committee of United Nations Economic and Social Council; Dr. Frank A. Calderone, Director of Headquarters Office of Interim Commission of World Health Organization; Arthur Sweetser, Chief of United Nations Department of Public Information in Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Norman deR. Whitehouse, National President of Women's Action Committee for Lasting Peace.

Your cooperation in giving us a statement for publication will help to focus nationwide attention on the vital problems of peace and security that face America and the world at this crucial time. We will appreciate an immediate reply.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. M. FRANCES ANDERSON
Chairman, Arrangements Committee
Past National President, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars