The President of the United States,  
White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am taking the privilege of enclosing, for your perusal, a booklet which portrays the work of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, an organization whose work I am sure will interest you.

For more than half a century, HIAS has acted as the protecting arm, the welcoming hand, the guide and guardian of the Jewish migrant. Today, as never before, there is urgent need for this humanitarian service.

I know I need not burden you with repetition of the distressful conditions facing millions of our fellow beings through war-torn Europe. I will only say that "RESCUE THRU EMIGRATION" is the partial solution that can be applied to this appalling problem of our day.

To cover the indispensable expenses connected with maintaining and expanding the far-flung HIAS activities on a scale commensurate with today's need, we have embarked on a campaign to raise $1,000,000 during 1940.

A word of encouragement from you at this time will help, immeasurably, in the successful accomplishment of this task.

Respectfully yours,

Mitchell May
WHEN the guns roar on land, on the sea and in the air, the danger is ever present lest we forget the fundamentals over which the struggle is being waged — the dignity, the freedom and the welfare of man.

At a time like this, it is important to maintain, and imbue with new strength, those instruments which best express the principles of human brotherhood. Greater power must be infused into those instruments of humanitarian service which bring not only immediate succor but also healing, hope and opportunity to build life anew.

Such an instrument, rendering service on a world wide scope, is the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, popularly known as HIAS. From the Baltic to the Black Sea there stretches a zone of Jewish distress and despair. Millions of men, women and children are trapped in a net of oppression, starvation, misery and hopelessness. From concentration camps, from the Lublin reservation, from refugee camps, from the cities and towns over which the brutal invader's foot tramples, a cry of anguish resounds — Rescue!

Rescue Through Emigration is the partial solution that can be given to this appalling problem of our day. In 1939, prior to the outbreak of the war, approximately 100,000 Jewish emigrants were guided and helped through the Rescue Through Emigration service of HIAS in the United States and the 52 permanent European and South American offices maintained through the Hias-Ica Emigration Association (HICEM). Since the outbreak of the war, this work of rescue has been going on in a measure commensurate with the more acute need and greater urgency. On foot, by rail, by ship, by plane, they seek rescue and refuge. When embarking, while enroute and upon arrival at hospitable shores they need — and rightly expect to find — the protecting arm and welcoming hand of the guide and guardian to whom the Jewish migrant of the past 50 years has turned in his hour of need — HIAS.

To a visual portrayal of how the HIAS Rescue Through Emigration service is being rendered, the pages of this booklet are devoted.
A CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION AND HOPE

Through this "Door of Hope," scores of thousands of people, troubled by the alarming events abroad and anxious about the fate of their kith and kin in the war zones and in the lands of oppression, come to the headquarters of Hias at 425 Lafayette Street, New York City and to the Hias branches in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D. C. in search of exact information, expert guidance and friendly cooperation. They are directed to the various Hias service departments where their cases are carefully examined and taken in hand, where "Affidavits of Support," petitions and sundry applications for immigration purposes are prepared, where transportation problems are discussed. The groundwork laid here leads to subsequent rescue of the emigrant.
Crowded rooms of anxious relatives, each with a problem to solve. "How can we rescue our kin? Where can they find refuge and how?" are their questions.

EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ESSENTIAL

Each applicant for information is directed to experts who minutely examine the facts and recommend a proper course of action.
Embarking from Europe (upper picture), the refugee-immigrants are protected by the representatives of HIAS-ICA and on arrival (picture below) they are met and welcomed on board ship by especially trained members of the HIAS Pier Service. Many inconveniences and hardships for the sorely tried immigrants are prevented. Their way to freedom and a new life is smoothed.
HIA S GIVES THEM FIRST REST AND WELCOME

Typical of many is the scene recorded by the camera man in the picture below. It is enacted every day when ocean liners with groups of refugees reach the shores of the United States. Having been met on board ship by HIAS representatives, those of the new arrivals whose destination is other than New York or who have no immediate relatives into whose care they could be released, are brought to HIAS for shelter. Here they find their first rest and welcome on American soil.
HOME LIFE AGAIN

Safe from persecution and peril, the men, women and children sheltered by HIAS, before leaving for their final destination or before they are able to establish themselves, are provided with a home-like environment. A home, at last, many of the formerly haunted victims of persecution sigh with deep relief.
Formerly the Astor Library, this magnificent landmark of Old New York houses the many branches of the HIAS immigrant aid service. From here life belts are thrown to those endangered by the rising seas of persecution.

Here is how Dr. Frank Kingdon, President of the University of Newark, summed up his impression of a visit to HIAS: "I visited HIAS... I observed the services it renders... and was greatly impressed by what I saw. As I left, I thought that a noble company is standing by the portals of this house. Moses is there, praising those who have remembered his command-
ments to give shelter to the stranger: David is there seeing the likeness of the Shepherd in those who set a table before his children; Hosea is there reminding us that we are always right when we are merciful and kind; Isaiah is there seeing in a home for the homeless, a place fit for the Lord; Jeremiah is there with his everlasting protest against the yokes of pride that bow men down, Micah stands on one side of the doorway with his incomparable word: 'What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God'; while Malachi stands on the other side with his universal cry: 'Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?'
APPETIZING AND KOSHER

Are the meals which HIAS provides thrice daily for those new arrivals and transients who must be fed in the short and sometimes longer period of their adjustment to the new environments. In this hygienically kept kitchen an average of 850 meals are prepared and served daily to those in need.
For Their Daily Bread

The immigrant temporarily residing in HIAS and those accommodated, at the expense of HIAS, in nearby hotels (because of the large number requiring this service) congregate thrice daily in the HIAS special dining room for their meals. After a perilous journey, through submarine and mine infested waters, a kosher, full American meal tastes exceedingly well.
HIAS maintains an employment bureau. Newcomers are advised how to integrate themselves into the country's economic fabric without affecting the American labor market.

**Americanization and Employment**

Classes in English and on citizenship are conducted daily in the HIAS building and are eagerly attended by the newcomers.
A Call To All:

$1,000,000.00 NEEDED FOR 1940

Exile to a Reservation. torture in a concentration camp. exposure to cold and disease in No Man's Land, death through starvation — or Emigration!

This is the terrifying choice for hundreds of thousands of our fellow Jews in the Nazi dominated area of Europe. The duty of American Jews and of all right thinking men and women is therefore clearly and urgently defined. The second alternative— Rescue Through Emigration — must be made available to as many of the men, women and children who are today kept in the Nazi net, as speedily as possible.

Faced with this task, HIAS, in the 55th year of its usefulness of emigrant and immigrant aid, directs this urgent Call To All:

KEEP OPEN THE AVENUE OF ESCAPE FOR THE JEWISH EMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE! HELP THEM THROUGH HELPING HIAS TO PERFORM ITS "RESCUE THROUGH EMIGRATION" SERVICE! CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE HIAS $1,000,000 CAMPAIGN FOR 1940!

The Hias campaign for $1,000,000.00 is not included in the United Jewish Appeal. This sum, therefore, must be raised by direct contributions to Hias. It is required, first, to cover the indispensable expenses connected with maintaining and expanding the following HIAS activities: PIER WORK AND GUIDE SERVICE; ELLIS ISLAND BUREAU; WASHINGTON BUREAU; FOOD AND SHELTER DEPARTMENT; EMPLOYMENT BUREAU; CITIZENSHIP BUREAU; INFORMATION AND AFFIDAVIT BUREAU; REMITTANCE BUREAU; DEPARTMENT FOR TRACING OF RELATIVES, for
which purposes a sum of $450,000.00 will be needed; and second, for the work abroad, for which the sum of $506,117.70 is needed. Of this amount, $206,117.70 are required for the maintenance of service branches in Europe, South and Central America, Cuba and the Far East; $200,000.00 for the transportation fund for emigrants from Eastern Europe to Central and South America and $100,000,000 for the maintenance of the refugees and emigrants in South and Central American countries for a short time after their arrival.

For the conduct of the above activities, neither the United Jewish Appeal nor any of its constituent agencies contribute to HIAS or to the HIAS-ICA.

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Committee in Formation
Published by

HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

HIAS

425-437 Lafayette Street, New York City
TELEGRAM

PO
2250  36 D.L.  4:10pm

The White House
Washington

RM  NEW YORK, N.Y., October 14, 1940.

MARVIN H. MCINTYRE.

Would appreciate it very much if you will be good enough to have the President respond to my letter to him dated October 2nd reference to campaign for funds for Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society.

Mitchell May, Chairman.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

10/15/40

MEMO FOR BILL HASSELT

Will you advise me how to handle this? Or, better still, if you want to, reply direct.

MMH
October 16, 1940

Dear Mr. May:

This acknowledges your telegram of October fourteenth and I find upon inquiry that a letter was written to Mrs. Abraham Herman under date of October first with reference to participation by the President in the dinner being given in your honor on Sunday, November twenty-fourth as part of the HIAS million dollar campaign. Regret was expressed to Mrs. Herman that the President was unable to accept and address the guests at the dinner, and that because of the great number of similar requests it was not possible for him to act as a sponsor of the dinner.

With respect to your request under date of October second for a word of encouragement in connection with the campaign to raise one million dollars, may I explain to you that ever since the President has been in his present position he has adhered strictly to a policy of not endorsing fund raising campaigns of this character. The only fund raising campaigns which he has commended are those conducted by organizations with which he has an official relationship, such, for instance, as the American Red Cross or the Mobilization for Human Needs. The number of requests for him to endorse the raising of funds for very meritorious undertakings is so great as to preclude his compliance in all instances. In order to treat all of his groups of friends on a basis of exact equality he has, therefore, had to pursue the course outlined above. In the circumstances, I feel sure that you will appreciate his position and understand why it is not possible for him to do many things which in different circumstances he would be very glad to do.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

McIntyre

Secretary to the President

Honorable Mitchell May,
Chairman,
Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society,
425 Lafayette Street,
New York, N. Y.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 25, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HASSETT:

Will you acknowledge?

M. H. M.
November 22nd 1940

Mr. W. H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. McIntyre:

Your letter addressed to Hon. Mitchell May, Justice of the Supreme Court, and the National Chairman of the HIAS Campaign for $1,000,000, for its program of "Rescue Through Emigration", has been directed to me for attention.

We fully appreciate the policy which the President has adopted since he has been in office, with reference to endorsing fund-raising Campaigns. However, we do not seek to have the President endorse the Campaign.

Rather, we should like a word with reference to the humanitarian work of this institution as regards helping those less fortunate than we. May I enclose a photo-offset letter from Hon. Fiorello H. Laguardia, which covers my thought. Also, under separate cover, I am forwarding for your perusal several pieces of literature indicative of the work of this organization for the past 55 years.

May I assure you that the members of the Committee and all those who are taking active part in extending aid to the homeless and destitute through this organization, will deeply appreciate your bringing this matter to the attention of the President.

Very truly yours,

Albert A. Peters
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

P:en
Enc.
October 16, 1940

Hon. Mitchell May, Chairman
$1,000,000 HIAS Campaign
Hebrew Sheltering & Immigrant Aid Society
425 Lafayette Street
New York City

Dear Judge May:

Thank you for sending me a copy of "Rescue Through Immigration". There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the newcomer to our shores is in need of an organization which will extend the hand of welcome and will serve as a guide in his bewilderment. Today, more than ever, the innocent victims of oppression need this sympathy and this material help.

It is gratifying to know that those who enjoy the benefits of our democracy have not forgotten that the problem of the refugee who has been so fortunate as to find his way to the United States is not completely solved merely by his arrival here.

My best wishes to you and to HIAS for the continuance of your work.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Mayor
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES
AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES

TEN MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 1940

ACTIVITIES in the UNITED STATES

The story of the HIAS services in the United States for the period January 1, 1940 to October 31, 1940 is told in the figures reflecting the operations of the Pier Service; Ellis Island Bureau, Washington Bureau, Shelter Department; Employment Bureau, Citizenship Bureau, Personal Service, Information and Affidavit Bureau and the Correspondence Bureau. These figures are:

Pier Work and Guide Service

618 steamers carrying Jewish passengers were met and the arrivals were ministered to by HIAS representatives on the piers and were given various assistance.

4,728 of these met were brought to the HIAS quarters for shelter and other services.

1,651 were entrained to ultimate cities of destination.

Ellis Island Bureau

2,268 detained immigrants received special services.

12,101 persons received information and advice regarding detained immigrants.

68,758 kosher meals were served to detained immigrants and warrant cases, under the supervision of HIAS.

Washington Bureau

1,097 appeals in behalf of excluded immigrants were argued before the Justice Department.

8,817 miscellaneous matters were taken up with various departments.

15,496 mail inquiries were received and attended to.

Shelter Department

63,025 nights shelter were given to refugee immigrants and others (men, women and children).

251,616 meals were served.
Employment Bureau
1,239 persons were assisted in finding employment

Citizenship Bureau
11,840 applicants for 1st and 2nd papers were helped
3,196 records of arrival were verified from HIAS files
573 applicants for legalization status were assisted.

Personal Service, Information & Affidavit Bureau
374,745 persons received information and advice in person, by mail and by telephone
13,475 affidavits and petitions for immigration purposes were drawn up

Correspondence Bureau
54,305 letters were received, including requests to locate relatives abroad, from persons in the United States.
46,032 letters and requests to locate relatives came from overseas.

OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES

HIAS-ICA offices are functioning in Europe, the Far East, Central and South America and other parts of the world. The headquarters of the HIAS-ICA had to be moved to Lisbon, Portugal -- at present, the main point of embarkation for Jewish refugees.

The work of "rescue through emigration" has become a task of the gravest urgency. An avenue of escape open but not fully utilized means indescribable suffering and loss of life; an opportunity for transmigration not availed of means an addition to the constantly mounting number of victimized Jews.

Note: HIAS is not a recipient of any funds from the United Jewish Appeal or its participating agencies - the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal, and the National Refugee Service.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(11/19/40)

RESCUE OF BADEN EXILES, NOW IN
FRENCH CAMP, PLANNED BY HIAS

Marseille, France (Special Dispatch) November 15th.

The entire Jewish population of Baden and Pfoas, 7,000
men, women and children, -- that has been suddenly and ruthlessly
expelled by the Nazi Government and forcibly deported to a con-
centrated camp, Camp de Gurs, Basses Pyrenees, in the unoccupied
part of France, faces death by starvation unless it will be
rescued through emigration to friendly havens overseas. In the
seven-year old persecution of German Jews by the Nazi regime this
is the first case of total deportation of a large Jewish community
regardless of sex or age of the persons affected by the expulsion
order.

Faced with this appalling tragedy, the exiles authorized
one of their leaders, a former president of the Kohila of Baden,
to broadcast an appeal for aid. In response to this appeal HIAS,
the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, dispatched an
urgent cable to the Marseille office of the Hias-Ica Emigration
Association to visit Camp de Gurs and ascertain what plans could
be formulated with a view to rescuing as many as possible, under
the "Rescue Through Emigration" program. For this purpose it is
necessary to know how many of the exiles are already in possession
of immigration visas, how many had applied for immigration permits,
how many are on the waiting lists for immigration visas, and how
many of them have relatives or friends in North, Central and
South America who would rush to their rescue by filing "affidavits
of support" to facilitate the immigration overseas.

A preliminary report prepared by the representative of
the Hias-Ica office here shows that a number of the exiles may be
rescued from their present plight. A full list of the internees
in Camp de Gurs is now being prepared and will be made available
soon, it was stated.

--- end ---
October 30, 1940

President Franklyn D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find a Program Booklet of a Ball for the Refugees of Europe given by the United Hebrew Benevolent Society and Ladies Auxiliary of Los Angeles, in which you will find on page 16, an ad inserted by our organization with best wishes for your reelection to the office of President of the United States.

Hoping to see you relected. We remain,

Sincerely yours,

M. Kartin Sec'y
L. Jacobs Pres.
My dear Mr. Jacobs:

The President has requested me to thank you for your letter of October thirtieth. He appreciates your friendly thought in sending him a copy of the booklet with the marked reference and is grateful to you and your associates for the confidence expressed in his leadership.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

L. Jacobs, Esq.,
President,
United Hebrew Sick Benevolent Society,
Siegel's Hall,
2232 Brooklyn Avenue,
Los Angeles,
California.
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Sister and Brother
MYERS

To our Worthy President FRANKLYN D. ROOSEVELT—
Here's hoping you get elected President again. Our Organization
is pulling for you. Good Luck and Best Wishes from United
Hebrew Benevolent Society and Ladies' Auxiliary.

HARRY BERNSTEIN, Program Chairman.