

OF 3186  
Political Refugees  
Jan-June 1939

January 23, 1939

My dear Miss Freed:

The President has asked me to acknowledge your recent letter concerning the desire of the students, faculty and administration of Skidmore College to be of assistance to German refugees and to advise you of his gratification at the interest of Skidmore College in this problem.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

Miss Deen Freed,  
College Government Association,  
Skidmore College,  
Saratoga Springs, New York.

wdh-mw

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1939

In reply refer to  
Eu 840.48 Refugees/1281

My dear Mr. Hassett:

In accordance with the request contained in your memorandum of January 12, 1939, there is enclosed a suggested reply, for Mr. McIntyre's signature if he approve, to Miss Freed's letter concerning the desire of Skidmore College to assist German refugees.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary.

Enclosure:

Suggested letter -  
Mr. McIntyre to  
Miss Freed.

Mr. William D. Hassett,  
Care of Mr. Early,  
The White House.

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COLLEGE GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
SKIDMORE COLLEGE  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Mr. Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

*M. Havens*  
*ack 1/23/37*  
*MW*

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

A group of students at Skidmore College, with student, faculty and administration backing, is starting an active campaign to assist German refugees, through scholarship funds and direct relief. We know that a letter of commendation from you would assist our movement a great deal, a letter similar to the one you wrote to the Harvard Committee.

Although we know that you are a busy man, Mr. Roosevelt, if you could find time to answer this letter before January 13, when our first benefit is to be held, we would be greatly appreciative.

Yours truly,

*(Miss) Deen Freed*

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3186



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
Eu

January 18, 1939

My dear Marvin:

In response to your memorandum of January 14, 1939,  
I see no reason why <sup>C.A.</sup> Colonel Seoane should be included  
in the mission which is to study colonization prospects  
in British Guiana. While the Department has been con-  
sulted as to the composition of that mission, the mission  
is going under the auspices of the <sup>x3644</sup> President's Advisory  
Committee on Political Refugees and its personnel is being  
selected by the Advisory Committee. The Secretary of War <sup>x25</sup>  
has kindly agreed to loan Lieutenant Colonel Howard Nicholas,  
Chief of Engineers at Panama, to the mission and it is not  
believed that any other army officers need be included.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

x20

The Honorable

Marvin H. McIntyre,

Secretary to the President,

The White House.

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

SIGNAL SECTION  
NEW YORK GENERAL DEPOT  
1ST AVENUE AND 58TH STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
SIGNAL SUPPLY OFFICER

November 16, 1938.

My dear Colonel McIntyre:

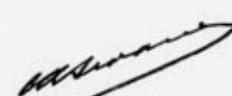
May I refer to my note of August 30th, to you on the subject of a place for the persecuted Jews. In view of the lightening speed with which this subject is becoming acute in Europe, my note seems strangely prophetic.

Should the region and the idea which I mentioned come up for serious consideration, I might add at this point that I have given the subject much thought and see the ways and means for going to that country and organizing it for this purpose, and doing it speedily.

Furthermore, this can be done with minimum financial outlay, that is, with much economy and in a way that would bring much credit to the administration.

Should you care for a talk on the subject, I could run down any time.

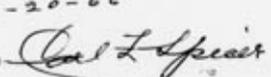
Most sincerely,

  
C. A. SPEGNER, Colonel,  
U. S. ARMY.

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NY 10009  
NY 10009 (9/27/68)

Colonel M. H. McIntyre,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Date- 10-20-66

Signature 

3/86

January 14, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McINTYRE:

*Seane*  
Colonel C. A. <sup>x</sup>Seane, of the U. S. Army,  
called at the Executive Offices. He said that  
he had been the original proponent of the idea  
that British Guiana be used for locating Jewish  
refugees. He now learns that a commission is  
being sent to British Guiana by the State Depart-  
ment. He feels that, as originator of the idea,  
and being entirely familiar with it, he should  
be appointed to the commission. He further said  
that he is not interested in financial returns  
since he is an Army officer.

x76-6  
x20

x3544

K.

K/mdp

Project for locating Jewish  
refugees in British Guiana  
first proposed in letter to  
CA Deane, US Army, 20 July  
1948, Aug 20 - 1948

January 14, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE SUMNER WELLES:  
Under Secretary of State.

The attached is self-explanatory and is  
submitted for your consideration.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

K/mdp

Memo of even date to Mr. McIntyre from Mr. Kannee re Col. C. A. Seone -  
copy attached.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

November 23, 1938

*file*  
3186

Dear Marvin:

I am returning to you herewith Colonel Seoane's letters which you were good enough to give me for my information.

x48

If the Intergovernmental Committee determines to take up actively the possibility of British Guiana as an appropriate place for the settlement of German refugees, some consideration might be given by the President to the assignment of United States Army engineers to assist in the making of surveys and in developing projects in British Guiana in cooperation with representatives of other governments interested. In that event, Colonel Seoane might be a very useful member of the group that we would send.

x20  
x76-6

x3544

x198-A

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

Enclosures:  
From Col. C. A. Seoane,  
November 16, 1938,  
August 20, 1938.

The Honorable  
Marvin H. McIntyre,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SIGNAL SECTION  
NEW YORK GENERAL DEPOT  
1ST AVENUE AND 58TH STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
SIGNAL SUPPLY OFFICER

3/30

November 23, 1938.

My dear Colonel McIntyre:

The Associated Press carries the most interesting news about the British Prime Minister delivering a speech to the House of Commons of plans to lease at least ten thousand square miles in British Guiana to provide a home for German Jews. That, certainly, is a step forward.

It is hoped that the area mentioned as ten thousand square miles is put forth principally for securing approval of the general idea and that if approval by the Commons or whatever approval is necessary were forthcoming, that the whole area would be made available. Otherwise ten thousand square miles is not worth a serious thought. What would they contemplate doing with the remainder of the territory, retaining it in its pristine condition?

It is about one-eighth of the British Guiana territory and at the rate of one hundred persons per square mile, would accomodate one hundred thousand people. But as there are upwards of one million people to find homes, it would require ten times ten thousand miles or all of British Guiana. The density in population in the State of Florida is a little under 25 persons per square mile. It has taken a long time and much development to establish this number of people.

The average country could not hope to be settled with any prospect of a living for the settlers at a greater density than half of the Florida rate.

States that are purely agricultural have much less. Utah, for instance, has less than six per square mile. Oregon has less than ten per square mile. It is cities and towns that give density, and towns come slowly. To crowd people into a region at a denser figure than the territory is able to absorb would result in a situation like Puerto Rico and other places where a great number of the population cannot find ways and means for earning a living. In other words you cannot crowd new colonies.

X 197-a  
x 76-26  
+48

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NOV 23 1938 (9/27/58)

10-20-66

Carl P. ...

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I would, therefore, say that ten to the square mile is all that should be attempted and if we go over that, it should not be more than 12.

But even to do this we would need the river system, the low lands and the high lands and the wooded areas. This country should make a great rubber country. But rubber does not produce under seven years and until then the settlers would have to rely for their livelihood on annual crops, such as nuts, certain tropical fruits, corn, rice, yams, tobacco, etc. With this there should go commercial fishing, and lumbering, the raising of certain live stock and certain mineral development. For all this a road system would be necessary and navigability of the streams as well as port and harbor facilities would have to be developed. It is quite likely that a railway would have to be built. This calls for equipment, material and supplies. If it is to come from American dollars, it should come from American markets. And again, all these things should be comprehended within ultimate ownership of the settlers. From this it will be seen that every square mile within the 89,000 square miles, that make up British Guiana, should be made available for settlement and development. This project should be undertaken in a thorough comprehensive manner and on a scale offering a future home for all the peoples.

The British Government should retain only 500 square miles mentioned in my note to you of August 20th, within which would be situated their capital, Georgetown. They could continue to call this area British Guiana, the remainder should be given some other name, such as the Guiana Settlements. The whole project could be developed on the lines of a twenty to thirty year re-payment plan. We should establish our capital at Queenstown, now only a fishing village, but which we would develop into a thriving metropolis within thirty years.

But to do this would require definite planning and supervision together with a system of government much after the fashion of our building the Panama Canal.

To look upon it in any other light, such as being akin to a flood relief plan, as the Red Cross might undertake, would be to invite failure in every direction.

The New York Times, this date, mentions Sir Samuel Hoare, the British Home Secretary announcing that his Government would gladly admit a large number of refugee children into England as speedily as they could be brought from Germany. This, if I may use the remark, is fozzling of the

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Date - 10-20-66  
Signature - Carl L. Spencer

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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worst sort, as it would not be received kindly by the parents. But, did this worthy statesman ever do anything but fizzle?

Also I might add my further opinion to the effect that scattering these people, some here and some there, in various parts of the world, is only inviting failure, and the published suggestion of offering to settle some in what was German East Africa, seems like a ridiculous diplomatic move, as it only invites the Germans to make an embarrassing rejoinder which they most surely will make. In fact, that is what is happening already.

Asking for a large amount of funds particularly from the United States by private subscription, may also be put down as general muddling. I would not give a dime.

On the other hand, our Government could undertake this project. Could carry it out successfully, and be repaid over a twenty or thirty year period for every cent that it might be required to lay out. It would take twelve to eighteen months to move the people. It would take somewhere from three hundred or five hundred dollars per capita to effect the settlement. And it would take all the area in British Guiana.

But none of this could be done unless we had complete control of the government and for this we should have the power that goes with a protectorate, or a long term lease.

If these preliminaries could not be settled satisfactorily, I would not give the subject another thought. Our bid should be for all or none. As I said in my first letter, it would be unwise for Britain to meddle in this problem directly. Her best move is to act indirectly.

As an aside, I might mention that there was a time when we were absorbing here at home, upwards of a million immigrants per annum. The problem was self-financing. Each came with something or joined friends who provided for them until they found employment. It was ready employment that made this absorption possible. That would be entirely missing in a new country.

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DDO DIR. 5260.9 (9/27/68)

Date- 10- 20- 66

Signature- *Erskine S. Spicer*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

As far as our present day densities are concerned, the State of Arkansas can take a million more people and then reach a density of only 53 per square mile, which is a little less than the figure for Virginia. But these are other days with other conditions.

All in all the possibility exists for us to do this in the American way but we must keep our eyes open and avoid being drawn into an obligation which would continue without our supervision and control.

From the very beginning of this upset, I have given thought and study to every angle of the problem which prompts my passing on to you the ideas here expressed - - for your consideration anyway. I am grateful for your indulgence.

With every good wish, I am

Most sincerely,

  
C. A. SEOANE,  
Colonel,  
U. S. ARMY.

Colonel M. H. McIntyre,  
Secretary to the President,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

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DOB DATE 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 10-20-66

Signature- *Carl T. Spieck*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Warm Springs, Georgia  
November 26, 1938

My dear Colonel Seane:

Since Mr. McIntyre is so terribly rushed during these busy days down here, he has asked me to send you this little line of acknowledgment for your letter to him of November twenty-third.

He sends you his best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ROBERTA BARROWS  
Secretary to Mr. McIntyre

Colonel C. A. Seane, U. S. A. ✕  
Signal Section, New York General Depot,  
1st Avenue and 58th Street,  
Brooklyn,  
New York.

tmb

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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DDO DIR. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 10-90-66

Signature-

*Carl S. Spicer*

Dear Colonel McIntyre:

SIGNAL SECTION  
NEW YORK GENERAL DEPOT  
1ST AVENUE AND 58TH STREET  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS  
SIGNAL SUPPLY OFFICER

3186

August 20, 1938.

2/2  
76-26

This is just a word in connection with Europe's political refugees, which is a subject very much in the forefront at present. Also the matter of the War Debt settlement appears to be up for new consideration.

#

The pleasant atmosphere engendered by the President's Canada speech seems to suggest the possibility of finding an easy solution of the refugee problem.

On this, I would like to put forth a suggestion at this time to the effect that while appearing to give, we might at the same time, require from Great Britain, say in lieu of some of the interest on the debt, that she concede us a protectorate in British Guiana, which the United States might make available immediately for the people who wish to colonize there. The immensity of the refugee problem runs into large figures. The New York Times, a few days ago, said that 660,900 persons now in Germany and Austria were to find homes in other countries with the least possible delay. About half of these are Jews, the remainder being divided between Catholics and "non-Aryans." In fact, this displacement of population may run to a million or more.

x 2544

The Colonial Powers of Europe have an abundance of space, in their colonies, that could be made available for these people, but they are cramped by political considerations which do not effect us. It would be impossible for France or Britain to announce that they would take over German refugees. But we are not cramped in the same way. Also, the Latin-American countries have an abundance of space but only crumbs of vision. This lets them out from any immediate application to the problem in hand.

In British Guiana, here at our door almost, there is a vast area, almost virgin, and tropical, and destined apparently to remain in its pristine condition indefinitely.

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

The British can do nothing with it. The area is 89,480 square miles, or just a shade under twice the size of Pennsylvania. The population is some 300,000, one third of these being recent East Indians. The capital, Georgetown, has 57,000, about the size of Beaumont, Texas, or Holyoke, Mass. Of course, the area is tropical and the question at once arises what would these people do if they went there. Raise rubber of course! We must import all our rubber, in ever increasing quantities, and we would and could offer such settlers a definite and permanent market. The country, while chiefly tropical, has some considerable high land with salubrious hills; it is well watered, with some seven or eight hundred miles of rivers, thus facilitating cultivation and transportation. In fact, this country definitely settled, could become prosperous and wealthy and much better off than those islands in the West Indies, like Puerto Rico and Cuba, that depend largely on sugar, which is a staple over-produced.

If the British wished to keep Georgetown, the capital city, we could let them do so. It lies a little to the east of the mouth of the Essequibo River. So a line up the center of the channel of the river for 25 miles from the mouth and then due east to the coast would exclude an area of nearly 500 square miles. We could make our capital at Queenstown, 50 miles from Georgetown across the mouth of the Essequibo.

I have used the word protectorate, because in this way we could avoid the popular objection to acquiring a domain which we do not wish nor require but which having in hand for a specific purpose would be just as valuable and just as necessary as owning rights for the Nicaragua Canal.

French Guiana might be considered in the same category for debt settlement, although it is a little more than one third the size of the British colony, namely 34,740 square miles. It is practically uninhabited, the population being but 22,000, and the capital is Cayenne, a town of 10,000, or a mere village.

As to the suitability of living conditions in a tropical climate, I would recall a remark of Colonel Gorgas, who sanitized the Panama Canal to the effect that civilization would some day return to the tropics. These refugee people are highly intelligent and energetic, and might really do wonders in this fertile and wonderful region. Under their management it would become a prosperous trading community. We need not care anything about the protectorate feature other than by having it we would have made a region available.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

100-90-66 (9/27/58)

10-90-66

Doc. + Sh...

- 3 -

Whether we like it or not, destiny seems to be moving us into the matter of finding solutions for European problems which those countries do not seem to be able to solve themselves. We do not have to mix too much in such matters, but now and then, with the aid of any easy solution, we may find ourselves playing an important part. In this matter, the question then for the moment is nothing more than providing a place, and, as it looks to me, it appears that there should not be any great difficulty in securing that. That for the humanitarian side. World critics, that is, certain Powers would call this a British - American arrangement. Let them do so. Let them also deduce which they should, that it marked another step in Washington exercising a significant part in world matters. That should do World Peace more good than harm.

In the last month I have changed station to this point where I expect to be indefinitely.

With all best wishes, and hoping that the long drawn out hot weather spell is over in Washington, please believe me,

As ever,

Most sincerely,

  
C. A. SEOANE. X  
Colonel, U. S. ARMY.

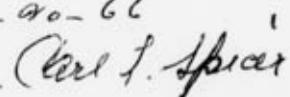
Colonel Marvin H. McIntyre,  
The White House,  
Washington, D. C.

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EX. 5200.9 (9/27/58)

Date- 10-20-66

Signature- 

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.,  
August 23, 1938.

My dear Colonel:

Your letter of August 20th has just reached me in the pouch from Washington.

Thank you very much for letting us have your suggestions. You may be sure your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

M. H. McIntyre  
Secretary to the President.

Colonel C. A. Secane,  
United States Army,  
Signal Section,  
New York General Depot,  
1st Avenue and 58th St.,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1/19/39

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McINTYRE:

*(S/Jan M.)*  
Senator Mead telephoned:

"I have Robert Briscoe,<sup>x</sup> Member of the Irish Parliament, in my office. He has been in touch with the Irish Minister and the Polish Ambassador, both of whom are interested in his work (the refugee problem), and would like to be with him for a visit with the President.

*F*  
7/25/39  
x218  
x463

# "The Irish Minister has agreed that it would be all right for me to arrange the meeting -- in other words, he agreed that I could make the arrangements, but if the White House wanted the request to come through him, he would be glad to make it or do whatever might be desired of him."

3186

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

January 14, 1939

Letter from Rosa Linnhorn, <sup>x</sup>N. D., 2 West 83rd St., NYC, 1/10/39 to the President, with enclosed check in the amount of 24,000 drawn on Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, NYC, dated 1/9/39, payable to Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, The President of the United States of America, to Chemical Bank & Trust Company, NYC, for aid for German refugees and other people who are suffering persecution in Europe no matter what race or creed, sent to the State Department for attention.

x 9.0 Attached is a little yellow slip - "State Department of appropriate attention. - A. Leh."

The above is a "Tellers Check, signed by John Erickson, (?) as Paying Teller.

STANDARD TIME INDICATED
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FORM 16

RCB1036 JM 42 4 EXTRA NL

1939 JAN 25 PM 11 10

TD NEWYORK NY 25

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

WASH DC

3186

*Handwritten:* 1/26/39  
M  
Muff H

RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR AID IN FORM OF STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY RETURN TELEGRAM OF MASS MEETING SUNDAY JANUARY 29 NEWYORK HIPPODROME IN AID OF THE JEWISH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT REFUGEES ON OCCASION SIXTH ANNIVERSARY HITLERS RISE TO POWER JEWISH PEOPLES COMMITTEE EPHRIAN SCHWARTZMAN NATL SECRETARY.

January 26, 1939

Dear Mr. Schwartzman:

This will acknowledge your telegram of January twenty-fifth addressed to the President.

May I explain to you that just now while the President is working under a very heavy pressure in connection with the public business he has been obliged greatly to curtail the sending of messages. Moreover, because of the gravity of the international situation the President is obliged to pursue a policy of limiting his utterances on this grave subject to his official statements. He has, as you know, by his statements and by his acts, made his position very clear to all the world. In these circumstances, I am sure you will appreciate his position and excuse him from complying with your request.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

Mr. Ephrian Schwartzman, /  
National Secretary,  
Jewish Peoples Committee,  
New York Hippodrome,  
New York, N. Y.

mmw

< 76 - C

# JEWISH PEOPLES COMMITTEE

For United Action Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism

## אידישער פאלקס־קאמיטעט

פאר פאראייניגטער אקציע געגן פאשיזם און אנטי־סעמיטיזם

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- J. SULTAN, NEW YORK**
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1123 BROADWAY  
Room 504-505

NEW YORK, N. Y.  
TEL. CHELSEA 3-5787

OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
JEWISH PEOPLES VOICE

January 31, 1939

Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

3186

Dear Mr. President:

The Jewish Peoples Committee has received an additional 245,325 signatures on a petition to the President and to the Congress of the United States in behalf of the innocent victims of religious and racial persecution, especially those of Austria and Germany.

In this connection we request the privilege of presenting to you the petitions on February 6th, at any time that is convenient for you.

May we refer to the incident on June 13th, 1938, when you were kind enough to receive through Mr. Marvin McIntyre 129,000 some odd signatures on the same petition, in which we have the honor to whole-heartedly support the stand taken by you and the State Department in extending the influence of our Government in helping to solve the refugee problem on an international scale. May we, at this time, express our endorsement of the policy followed by the Government of the United States since the establishment of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Refugees which alone has taken steps in the direction of solving this great problem in a constructive manner.

Trusting that you will be able to receive a delegation from our Committee on February 6th, which will on this occasion submit to you a petition signed by 245,325 American citizens of all faiths and groups throughout the country, we are

x76 c

Respectfully yours

JEWISH PEOPLES COMMITTEE

E. Schwartzman  
National Secretary

ES:MS  
uo:pwa  
#16

February 1, 1939

My dear Mr. Schwartzman:

Reference is made to your letter of January thirty-first to the President, in which you request an appointment for your committee to present to the President a petition in behalf of victims of religious and racial persecution.

In order to conserve the time of the President, it has been customary for me to receive such petitions on behalf of the President, either personally or through the mails, and bring them to the President's attention at the first opportunity.

If you will be good enough to forward the petition to me, I will be very glad to expedite consideration by the President.

Sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

Ephraim Schwartzman, Esq.,  
c/o Jewish Peoples Committee,  
1123 Broadway,  
New York, N. Y.

K/mdp

February 16, 1939

Respectfully referred to the Secretary  
of State.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

3186  
edb

Letter to the President 2/14/39 from Mrs. Mary A. Yulish, 676 Parkwood Drive, Cleveland, Ohio. Would like to know where to send \$100 collected to aid Jewish refugees.

ack 2/29/39  
MW

# Variety Club

TENT No. 4  
Of St. Louis

ROOSEVELT HOTEL

St. Louis, Mo. February 17, 1939

3186

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

Dear Mr. President:

Our organization, the <sup>X</sup> St. Louis Chapter of the Variety Clubs of America, a national organization of theatre men and film men, whose basic purpose is charity and who periodically select a worthy cause for its object of charity, has voted to do what it can to answer the universal call for help in behalf of German refugee children.

And we have set Saturday, March 4, as the day in St. Louis when all theatre men and film men of this city, under the auspices of the Variety Club, will hold two affairs to raise funds for this purpose. One affair is a dinner dance on a large scale, to be given at the Coronado Hotel in this city, and the other is a midnight show to be given at the 5,000-seat Fox Theatre in St. Louis. And to insure their success, we have procured a strong program of entertainment headed by Paul Whiteman and his orchestra of 38 men, plus several acts of outstanding vaudeville, and film attractions.

In order to realize the largest amount of net proceeds, a strong advertising campaign at a minimum expense is necessary, and it occurs to us that a powerful factor in giving these affairs magnitude and tone, would be a letter or a telegram from you, which would be given wide publicity in the St. Louis newspapers, complimenting us on this charity effort we are making for the German refugee children.

So that you may feel assured of the high integrity and standing of the Variety Clubs of America, we refer you to the chapter of our national organization in Washington, D.C. of whose activities you may have knowledge, and who only very recently donated incubator equipment at a cost of \$6,000.00 to a hospital in Washington, for use of mothers who can not afford to pay for this service.

We trust that you can see your way clear to lend us this cooperation.

We have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

ST. LOUIS VARIETY CLUB, TENT NO. 4

By *Louis K. Ansell*  
LOUIS K. ANSELL X  
CHIEF BARKER

February 20, 1939

Dear Mr. Ansell:

In the absence of the President permit me to acknowledge your letter of February seventeenth, requesting a message from him endorsing the fund raising campaign being sponsored by the St. Louis Chapter of the Variety Clubs of America in behalf of German refugee children.

In reply, I should like to explain to you that the President, no matter how meritorious the object may be, never writes letters endorsing fund raising campaigns such as that which you propose. About the only fund raising campaigns which he does endorse are those undertaken by the American Red Cross, with which he is connected by reason of his office, and the annual nationwide Mobilization for Human Needs. He is obliged to limit his activities in this regard to these strictly nationwide undertakings because of the great number of requests which he receives. These requests are in behalf of projects which are very meritorious but it would be impossible for the President to give his approval to even a small percentage of the enterprises which are brought to his attention.

In further explanation of his policy I may say to you that the President does not formally endorse as such the raising of funds for the benefit of infantile paralysis sufferers through the birthday balls. He merely loans his birthday to the National Committee, which carries on all of the work of organization and assumes complete responsibility for the raising of funds through the parties.

I make this rather detailed explanation so that you will fully appreciate the President's position and understand why he cannot do many things which in different circumstances he would be glad to do.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

Mr. Louis K. Ansell,

Variety Club of St. Louis, Tent No. 4,  
Roosevelt Hotel,  
St. Louis, Missouri.

3186

257/27  
5

Anna G. Slomovitz  
DETROIT

17417 Stoepel ave.  
Feb. 17, 1939.

His Excellency,  
Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

x76-c

It is my privilege to inform you in behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish National Fund of Detroit that we are setting aside the proceeds from our 1939 contributors event to be held on March 1 to honor you by purchasing five hundred pages in the special President Roosevelt Golden Book in Jerusalem. As you know, this fund is used for the purchase of land in Palestine, which becomes the inalienable property of the entire Jewish people, and for the settlement of refugees and others seeking to rehabilitate their lives in a Jewish National setting.

x70-a

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish National Fund recognizes with a sense of deep gratitude the earnest efforts you are making to secure intergovernmental cooperation for the relief and colonization of refugees, and the consistent policy of our Government in striving to defend and perpetuate democratic principles throughout the world. As a mark of our appreciation we are pleased to choose you this year as the leader most deserving of honors at the hands of the Jewish people, and are therefore inscribing your name as indicated, with our blessings to you for continued good health so that you may continue in your efforts in the interest of democracy.

(Mrs. P.) Very sincerely yours,  
Anna G. Slomovitz  
Ladies Auxiliary of J.N.F.  
Program Chairman.  
Mrs. Philip Slomovitz.

x

February 27, 1939

My dear Mrs. Slomovitz:

Your letter of February seventeenth to the President has been received in his absence. It was nice of you to write him and I shall be glad to bring your communication to his attention upon his return to the city. I am sure that he will deeply appreciate the evidence of friendly interest and good will which your letter conveys, as well as the good wishes you express.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand  
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. Philip Slomovitz,  
17417 Stoepel Avenue,  
Detroit,  
Michigan.

x P. 17  
1-2  
x P. 17  
19

get

February 18, 1939

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of  
State for consideration and reply.

JAMES ROWE, JR.,  
Executive Officer

EAK

Letter from Harry R. Chapman, 100 West Monroe St.,  
Chicago, Ill., Feb. 13, 1939; re release of refugees  
from Germany - Ing. Ernst Pollacsek and Dr. Gabrielle  
Pollacsek, his wife, Cottage Grove St., Vienna XIX.  
The affidavit was received by the American consul in  
Vienna at end of July or early August 1938 and was  
signed by a brother of the subject, Hugo D. Polacsek.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
VD 811.111 Pollacsek, Ernst

March 4, 1939.

My dear Mr. Rowe:

Referring to your memorandum of February 18, 1939, enclosing the attached letter from Mr. Harry R. Chapman, 100 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois, concerning Mr. Ing. Ernst Pollacsek and Dr. Gabrielle Pollacsek, I am enclosing for your information a copy of the Department's letter to Mr. Chapman regarding these cases.

Sincerely yours,

*A. M. Warren*  
A. M. Warren  
Chief, Visa Division

Enclosures:

1. From Mr. Chapman, February 13, 1939.
2. Copy of Department's letter to Mr. Chapman.

The Honorable

James Rowe, Jr.,

Executive Officer,

The White House.

3  
HARRY RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR

1939 FEB 20 PM 3 19  
RAMON J. SILVERBERG  
MANDEL L. ANIXTER  
DAVID D. ROSS

100 WEST MONROE STREET  
TELEPHONE FRANKLIN 3324  
CHICAGO

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

February 13, 1939.

Honorable James Rowe,  
White House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rowe:

I sincerely trust that this letter finds you in the best of health.

I have never to this date made any request for assistance in the procurement of the release of any refugee now living in Germany. You can imagine that in my work as a lawyer and in my political activities I am pressed for favors every day of my life.

This letter is with reference to an individual who is the brother of a very dear and very close friend of mine, who has been exceedingly kind to me and intensely interested in all of my endeavors, professional and political. If you could grant this favor to me, I would consider it a very, very great favor. The subject involved was recently released from the concentration camp in Dachau. The release by the German government was made on condition that he make his exodus from Germany on or before March 15, 1939. If you could communicate with the American consul in Vienna, expressing your interest in the subject, I am sure that it would result in giving the subject greater consideration and perhaps preference.

The subject's names are Ing. Ernst Pollacsek and Dr. Gabrielle Pollacsek, his wife, Cottagegasse 82, Vienna XIX. The affidavit was received by the American consul in Vienna at the end of July, or the beginning of August, 1938, and was signed by a brother of the subject, Hugo D. Polachek. It will be important to advise the American consul in Vienna that the subject registered at the

**HARRY R. CHAPMAN**  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR

RAMON J. SILVERBERG  
MANDEL L. ANIXTER  
DAVID D. ROSS

100 WEST MONROE STREET  
TELEPHONE FRANKLIN 3324  
CHICAGO

Honorable James Rowe.

February 13, 1939.

-2-

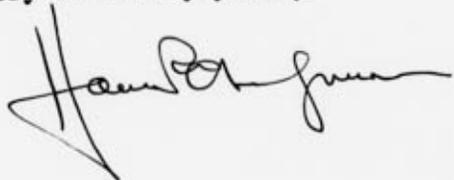
American consulate in Vienna on or about June 18, 1938.

Again I wish to impress you with my special interest in this case, and I shall never forget this favor.

I expect to be in Washington the middle of March, and I shall call upon you at that time.

With best wishes for your continued success, I am

Very sincerely yours,



HRC/a

MAR 4 1939

In reply refer to  
VD 811.111 Pollacsek, Ernst

My dear Mr. Chapman:

Your letter of February 13, 1939 to the Honorable James Rowe, Jr., Executive Officer at the White House, has been referred to the Department of State with the request that you be advised regarding the immigration cases of Ing. Ernst Pollacsek and his wife, Dr. Gabrielle Pollacsek.

While I should be glad to be of service to you in this matter, there is no way under the law by which the issuance of visas may be expedited to Mr. Pollacsek and his wife since they do not appear to come within any of the categories of persons listed in the attached sheet for whom the law provides non-quota status or preference status within the quota. They must, therefore, wait until their turns are reached on the waiting list to apply for non-preference immigration visas. The consular officer may not issue a visa to an applicant out of turn as such action would have the effect of according him a preference not provided for by  
law

Mr. Harry R. Chapman,  
100 West Monroe Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

-2-

law and would consequently be illegal.

Although the issuance of visas to Mr. Pollacsek and his wife cannot be expedited, the Department has requested the Consul General at Vienna to write to you regarding the present status of their cases.

Sincerely yours,

A. M. Warren  
Chief, Visa Division

Enclosure:

VD - General.

3186

February 20, 1939

My dear Mrs. Meltzer:

Your letter of February seventeenth, to the President has been received. While he is sympathetically interested in all causes of a worthy nature, so many requests of the kind you make are received that he simply is unable to comply with them. I am sorry indeed that we cannot do as you ask.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand  
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Mrs. A. Meltzer,  
179 Herzl Street,  
Brooklyn,  
New York.

cd

קאווער ליידים איד סאסייעטי

גיבען 8

מוצה פאגד דענס

פאר די קאווער נויטליידענדע אין פוילען

to be held

on SUNDAY, MARCH 12th, 1939 .

at 5:00 P. M.

at 90 CLINTON STREET, N. Y. C.

Music - Refreshments

ADMISSION 59 CENTS

5  
Lester K. ...

aid 9  
2/20 cd

February 17, 1939

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

This is a plea to you to help alleviate the sufferings of the Jews in Poland, It is useless to dwell upon their plight as you can visualize it only too clearly.

Your contribution will help these destitute people by furnishing them with food and clothing for Passover. At this time the need for help is felt most urgently.

Thanking you in anticipation, we remain

Yours truly,

ENC:

KOVLER VOLINER AID SOCIETY

Chairman

Mrs. A. Meltzer  
179 Herzl St.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

3186

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FEB 27 1939  
AM 11 30

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1939

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

My dear Mr. President:

Your Advisory Committee on Political Refugees is sending a mission of technical experts to study the possibilities of refugee colonization in the Dominican Republic, in view of the Dominican Government's offer to the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees to admit from fifty thousand to a hundred thousand involuntary emigrants from Germany.

The Secretary of Agriculture has very kindly agreed to make available for this purpose Dr. H. D. Barker of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dr. William P. Kramer of the Forestry Service and Dr. Arthur Kocher of the Soil Conservation Service. In order to accomplish your purposes in this matter, the Department of Agriculture finds it necessary for administrative reasons to detail these persons in accordance with the authority vested in you by the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1939 (Public No. 534, Seventy-fifth Congress, approved

May

The President,  
The White House.

840.48 REFUGEE-9/1485

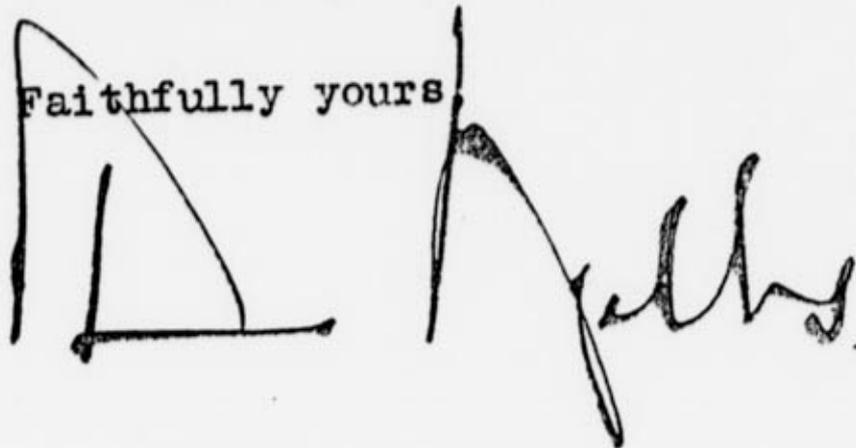
FP

May 23, 1938).

I should appreciate being advised whether this procedure meets with your approval.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. H. Kelly". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Faithfully yours".

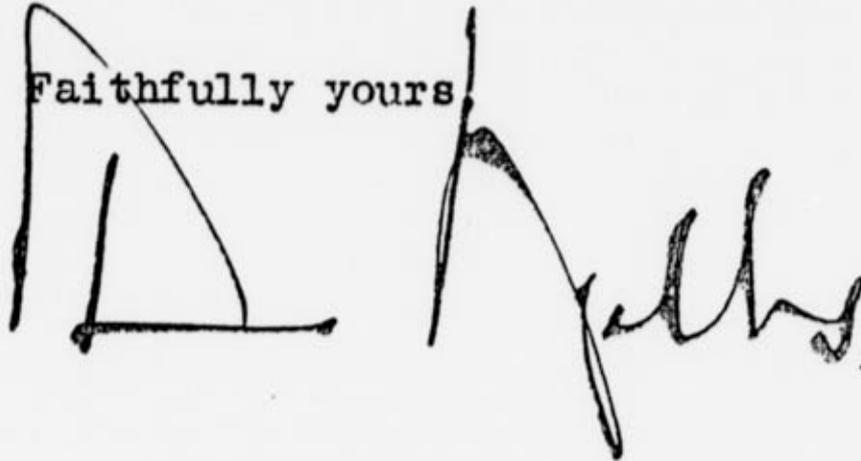
-2-

May 23, 1938).

I should appreciate being advised whether this procedure meets with your approval.

Believe me,

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. H. H. H.", written in dark ink. The signature is positioned below the typed phrase "Faithfully yours," and overlaps slightly with it.

March 3, 1939.

Respectfully referred to State  
Department for consideration and  
acknowledgment.

3186

M.H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President.

Two Comrades Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Rose Glavin, Secretary  
1029 53rd St. Brooklyn, N.Y. Telegram 3/2/39. Please continue  
to take stand objecting to England's policy regarding to  
admittance of Jewish immigrants.

RISER, Jesse      Chairman Hoboken Council, American Jewish Congress  
Hoboken, N.J. Tel. 3/2/39 In the name of  
humanity I as millions of others request your  
help to uphold mandate for Palestine.

March 7, 1939

3186

Respectfully referred to the  
officials of the State Department.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

hm

Cable from <sup>\*</sup>Buckwitz <sup>\*</sup>Heimann and <sup>\*</sup>Marcuse <sup>\*</sup>Peyser, Buenos Aires,  
3/7/39 to the President as follows: "ZEHN AUS DEUTSCHLAND  
AUSGEWANDERTE JUDISCHE PASSAGIERE AN LANDUNG MONTEVIDEO  
UNVERSCHULDET GEHINDERT MUSSEN AN BORD OCEANIA BLEIBER  
UND BEFURCHTEN RUCKTRANSPORT AM NEUNTEN MARZ DA AUCH IN  
BUENOS AIRES KEINE AUSSCHIFFUNGSMOGLICHKEIT ERBITTEN IN  
NAMEN DER MENSCHLICHKEIT DRINGENDST IHRE INTERVENTION".

Ten Jewish refugees from Germany not allowed to land at Montevideo. Urges  
President's intervention.

March 16, 1939

Respectfully referred to the  
officials of the Department of Labor  
for attention.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

hm

3/18

Telegram from The Westchester Women's Club, NYC, 3/16/39  
to the President. Endorse the Wagner-Rogers Bill. This  
bill ~~refers to~~ refers to the German Refugee Children.

X

March 17, 1939

3186

Respectfully referred to the  
Secretary of State for appropriate  
attention.

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

hm

Radiogram from Nansen, President, Nansen Aid Prague  
Norwegian Consulate General, Praha, 3/17/39 to the  
President as follows: "Situation for refugees extremely  
critical stop In the name of humanity please intervene  
German Government open borders for transports through  
Poland".

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---

MARY PICKFORD, General Chairman  
"A NIGHT OF BANDS" FOR REFUGEE RELIEF  
416 West Eighth Street, Los Angeles

**Y**OU may include my name as one of the sponsors of "A NIGHT OF BANDS" with the Masters of Melody for Refugee Relief at the Shrine Monday evening, May 1st, with the understanding that there shall be no obligation of any kind.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

March 17, 1939

Respectfully referred to the  
Secretary of State for immediate  
attention.

3186

M. H. McINTYRE  
Secretary to the President

nm

Radiogram Nansen, President, Nansen Aid, Address  
Norwegian Consulate, Generali Prague, Warsaw, 3/17/39  
to the President as follows: "Refugees situation extremely  
critical stop For sake of humanity kindly intervene  
German Government open border for transit through Poland".

1163 a

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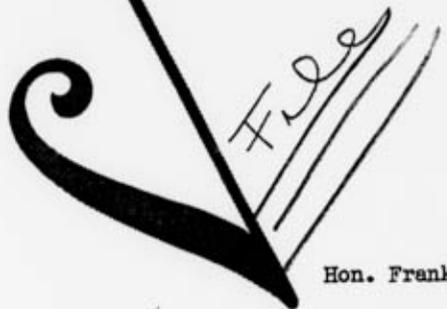
**SHRINE \* MON. MAY 1 \* 8:30 P.M.**

416 WEST EIGHTH STREET • Telephone TRinity 9651 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

March Twenty-Ninth

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3186



Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Phil Harris, Artie Shaw, Ted Fio Rito and Louis Prima are a few of the outstanding band leaders who are donating their services to make "A Night Of Bands" for non-sectarian refugee relief, at the Shrine on Monday Evening, May 1st, a huge success.

11.7.  
129-A

As General Chairman please accept my invitation to become a sponsor of this very important function, which will not entail any obligation on your part.

100% of the entire proceeds raised at this gigantic dance will go to the Joint Distribution Committee which is faced with the difficult task of raising a very substantial amount of money in order to take care of the dire needs of the world refugees.

I know that you will do your part to make this affair a huge success by signing the enclosed card and returning it in the self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mary Pickford x  
MARY PICKFORD  
General Chairman

MP:cmo

MARY PICKFORD  
General Chairman

E. M. ROSEN  
Executive Chairman

CHARLES POSNER  
Managing Director

RAYMOND S. SEFF  
Executive Director

SYDNEY TANNEN  
Pres. L. A. Conference  
of Temple Brotherhoods

Approved by  
M.M.P. Assn.  
Local # 129-A

HARVARD COMMITTEE TO AID GERMAN STUDENT REFUGEES  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

CHAIRMAN  
CHARLES E. ENNIS, '40

TREASURER  
ROBERT F. HERRICK, '90

STUDENT TREASURER  
ROBERT RIDDER, '41

SECRETARY  
ARTHUR SHAIN, JR., '40



3186

April 15, 1939

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Most Americans have been profoundly shocked by the policy of persecution now being pursued in Nazi Germany. This disapproval has developed into a desire to do something to save innocent people.

Here at Harvard a student committee has turned this desire into action. The Committee went to the University authorities and presented a plan to bring to Harvard German students of all races and creeds who are denied a liberal education in their own country.

It is particularly appropriate for Harvard to initiate this plan. Harvard has always stood for education free from prejudice and control -- the sort of education that is required if democracy is to survive. In President Conant's words, "This endeavor by the Harvard College students...is of importance primarily as a symbol of the determination of the younger generation to show by deeds as well as by words that the humanitarian basis of democracy is not dead."

The Corporation has agreed to offer scholarships of five hundred dollars each to twenty worthy and carefully selected refugee students, provided the Committee raise a fund sufficient for their living expenses. Fortified with this support, we have conducted a campaign for contributions among students and faculty in all departments of the University. The response has been immediate and generous.

Ten thousand dollars has already been contributed, but there is an urgent need for at least twice this amount, since we must secure a fund large enough to provide for the students a second year or until they have completed their education at Harvard. Should there then be a surplus, it will be applied to the Intercollegiate Committee to aid Student Refugees, organized by the present Harvard Committee, in an effort to rescue other refugee students.

We believe that the alumni will want to take part in this humanitarian endeavor. Many have already volunteered their help and contributions. We know that your contribution will be as generous as possible.

Very truly yours,  
*Charles E. Ennis*  
Charles E. Ennis, Chairman

(Checks should be made payable to Robert F. Herrick, Treasurer, and sent directly to the Cambridge Trust Company, Harvard Square)

- SPONSORS**
- UNDERGRADUATE ORGANIZATIONS**
- HARVARD STUDENT COUNCIL
  - PHILLIPS BROOKS HOUSE ASSOC.
  - HARVARD DEBATING COUNCIL
  - HARVARD STUDENT UNION
  - HARVARD GUARDIAN
  - HARVARD MONTHLY
  - SAINT PAUL SOCIETY
  - HARVARD AVUKAH SOCIETY
  - PIERIAN SODALITY
  - TEACHERS UNION
  - COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATORS

- FACULTY**
- PROF. G. ALLPORT
  - PROF. G. P. BAXTER
  - MR. W. J. BINGHAM
  - PROF. P. W. BRIDGMAN
  - DR. W. B. CANNON
  - PROF. E. H. CHAMBERLIN
  - PROF. J. A. DEHAAS
  - PROF. R. DEMOS
  - PROF. S. B. FAY
  - ASST. PROF. J. H. FINLEY
  - PROF. C. J. FRIEDRICH
  - PROF. W. C. GRAUSTEIN
  - PROF. A. N. HOLCOMBE
  - PROF. E. A. HOOTON
  - PROF. J. B. HUDNUT
  - PROF. H. M. JONES
  - PROF. W. L. LANGER
  - PROF. K. F. MATHER
  - DR. L. M. MINER
  - PROF. K. B. MURDOCK
  - ASSOC. PROF. T. PARSONS
  - PROF. D. W. PRALL
  - PROF. F. A. SAUNDERS
  - PROF. A. M. SCHLESINGER
  - PROF. J. A. SCHUMPETER
  - PROF. S. H. SLICHTER
  - PROF. P. A. SOROKIN
  - PROF. J. H. WILLIAMS
  - PROF. G. W. WOODWORTH
  - PROF. H. ZINSSER

JEWISH YOUTH GUILD

HEBREW TABERNACLE OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

605 WEST 161st STREET, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS 7-3725

*Harry*

*achid*  
*5/1/39*  
*3186*

April 28, 1939

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The rehabilitation of the exiles from Nazi madness is a task to which all humane persons feel an obligation, and to which many have responded generously. Here in Washington Heights, where the refugees have settled in unusually large numbers, the problem of their spiritual needs is especially urgent.

The Hebrew Tabernacle, the only liberal congregation within a large radius, has assumed responsibility for a part of this work. Already it has responded, to the limits of its financial capacity, to the religious wants of the German emigres in the community.

For the purpose of furthering this work, we are sponsoring an affair at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, on Sunday, May 14th, the proceeds of which will be turned over to the Congregation for the benefits of our co-religionists from Central Europe.

Although we realize you are not a member of this community, we know you will recognize the seriousness of this problem and we feel that our appeal to your generosity will not go unheeded.

We sincerely hope that you will attend our dance but should a more pressing engagement keep you away, then, in this vital instance, your remittance for the enclosed tickets will render the service that the strength of your presence would otherwise bestow.

Sincerely,

*Norman P. Matthews*  
President.

May 1, 1939

My dear Mr. Matthews:

Replying to your letter of April twenty-eighth, I am exceedingly sorry to say that requests for donations and other contributions are so numerous that the President simply has not the means to comply with them. I want to assure you, however, that inability to meet your wishes indicates no lack of interest by the President in the many worthy causes brought to his attention.

The tickets which you enclosed are returned to you herewith.

Very sincerely yours,

M. A. LeHand  
PRIVATE SECRETARY

Norman B. Matthews, Esq.,  
Jewish Youth Guild,  
605 West 161st Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Enclosure.

cd

ADDRESSEES: OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

*file*

*5/15/39*

In reply refer to  
Eu

April 29, 1939

*3186*

My dear Miss Le Hand: *x 187423*

Mr. Myron Taylor, who is seeing the President on  
May 4 with a small group of interested persons, suggests  
that the President may wish to read the attached memo-  
randum in advance in order to familiarize himself with  
recent developments.

Would you be so good as to bring it to his atten-  
tion before his return?

Sincerely yours,

*x 20*

Enclosure:

As stated.

Miss Marguerite A. Le Hand,  
Personal Secretary to the President,  
The White House.

MEMORANDUM

The following background information is furnished in connection with the appointment which Mr. Myron Taylor has with you at 12 o'clock on May 4. He will bring with him a small group interested in the creation of the International Refugee Foundation.

*x198  
x76-20*

You will recall that as a result of <sup>*George*</sup> Mr. Rublee's negotiations in Berlin the German Government agreed<sup>x</sup> to create a trust fund from Jewish property in Germany for the purposes of facilitating emigration. It was also contemplated that a private international corporation for the financing of refugee settlement should be set up concurrently outside of Germany. The carrying out of orderly emigration from Germany and the amelioration of the lot of Jews remaining in Germany are to a considerable extent dependent upon the early establishment and successful working of these two organizations.

This Government and the Intergovernmental Committee <sup>*on Political*</sup> have consistently made clear that this <sup>*Refugee*</sup> plan involved no "agreement" between the Intergovernmental Committee and the German Government. On the contrary it has been distinctly understood that the Germans would carry out unilaterally a program of emigration and that the Intergovernmental Committee and the private corporation would unilaterally carry out a parallel program of settlement.

In

-2-

In attempting to set up this corporation, Mr. Taylor has encountered great reluctance in Jewish circles to take definite action for the following reasons: (1) fear of accusation that there is such a thing as "international Jewry", (2) fear that creation of the corporation in accordance with the Rublee program would constitute an agreement with the German Government and consequently a condonation of the racial policies of that Government, including confiscation of Jewish property, and (3) fear that the carrying out of the program might in some way assist the German Government.

Mr. Taylor has made great progress in convincing representative Jewish financiers that each of these fears is groundless. On April 15 a meeting of some seventy representative Jews agreed unanimously to proceed with creation of the corporation. This meeting appointed a sub-committee consisting of the following persons who will accompany Mr. Taylor on May 4: Edward Greenbaum, Alfred Jaretski, Henry Ittleson, Harold Linder, Judge Joseph H. Proskauer, James W. Rosenberg, Judge Samuel I. Rosenman (chairman), Lewis L. Strauss, Solomon M. Strock, Paul Baerwald, Rabbi Stephen Wise.

Mr. Taylor contemplates that the corporation, which he suggests be called the "Refugee Foundation", will have  
a capitalization

-3-

a capitalization which will at first be limited but which will be capable of indefinite expansion to meet actual needs. He envisages a high official of the Bank of England as chairman, to be assisted by well-known American, French, and perhaps other vice-chairmen, a small directorate of very prominent persons, and large national advisory committees which will also consist of prominent persons. All of these bodies will be widely representative of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths. x 76-B x 76-A

Mr. Taylor contemplates that the Foundation, or smaller organizations affiliated with it, will carry out the financing and execution of settlement projects, and that it will take over from the Intergovernmental Committee all dealings with the German Government.

The present status of mass settlement possibilities may be summarized as follows:

British Guiana. The survey commission's report recommends experimental settlement as soon as possible of from three to five thousand carefully selected and supervised young persons in camps similar to C.C.C. camps. The estimate is that from three to five million dollars will be necessary to bring those numbers to British Guiana, establish

-4-

establish them, and maintain them for two years. The experience of these groups should indicate within two years whether or not settlement on a much larger scale is practicable.

Dominican Republic. The survey commission has returned and its report should be completed shortly. It also will probably recommend experimental settlement by carefully selected and supervised pioneering groups along C.C.C. lines, with somewhat more assurance that large scale settlement will be practicable. Comparatively large sums will be necessary in carrying this out.

Mindanao. The survey commission is at work and should report within six weeks. In view of the favorable attitude of the Philippine Government and of the favorable climate of Mindanao, it is believed that at least ten thousand settlers may be colonized there and that the work may proceed fairly rapidly as soon as the preliminary planning has been completed. Large amounts of capital will be necessary.

Angola. The matter is in suspense pending the tentative mobilization of sufficient capital to enable someone to go to Lisbon to offer the Portuguese Government a very large sum either for the outright purchase of Angola or for the creation of a chartered company along the lines  
of the old

3186

FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 4, 1939

STATEMENT BY HONORABLE MYRON TAYLOR, VICE CHAIRMAN AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL REFUGEES.

Today the President received Mr. Myron Taylor, Vice Chairman and American representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees; Mr. James C. MacDonald, Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees; Judge Samuel I. Rosensan, Judge Joseph Proskauer, Mr. Lewis L. Strauss, Mr. Henry Ittleson, Mr. Sol Strocck, Mr. Paul Bierwald, Mr. Nathan Straus, Mr. George Warren, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.

After a general discussion of the refugee question Mr. Taylor gave a review of the work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Political Refugees to date, in which he gave due credit to the thirty-two governments represented on the Committee in accomplishing in so far as has been possible the objectives as outlined at the Evian Conference.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. MacDonald then said that they were happy to report that the results will soon be known of the splendid work done by the several commissions which have been sent out to explore the possibilities for large scale settlement of political refugees in British Guiana, the Dominican Republic, the Island of Mindanao in the Philippines, as well as in other areas. They indicated that it was their belief that should these reports prove favorable, progress toward a permanent solution of the refugee problem will have been made, though at the same time they warned against undue impatience, saying that in order to insure ultimate success short periods of experimentation may be necessary before any great mass settlements can be made. As the Intergovernmental Committee has continually emphasized, it has not asked nor does it expect any country to make any changes in its existing immigration legislation.

Immediate consideration was given to plans formulated for the implementation by private individuals and organizations of the financing and execution of settlement projects.

The President expressed great satisfaction with the work that had been done in the face of difficulties and said that he hoped that rapid progress would be made.

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3186

May 5, 1939.

Respectfully referred to the officials of the State Department for consideration and acknowledgment.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

er/

x  
Letter to the President from R. F. H. Borden, 1459 Beacon St., Brookline, Mass.  
5/2/39 Wants to interview the President today (staying at the Occidental Hotel -  
Thurs. & Fri.) re<sup>x</sup> Chiriqui Estate in Panama which he proposes to donate to the  
Govt. as a location for Jewish refugees. Also has ideas for govt. saving in the use  
of Octane gasoline. Asks that Mr. McIntyre call him at Hotel.

MAP  
filed 5-10-39

Map, sent to file (sender unknown), of Venezuela and Colombia, South America, showing territory which could be converted into communities for the Jewish refugees of Europe.--Map placed in cupboard.

act

3186

75/24/39

3186

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

May 20, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

Mr. Myron Taylor <sup>x 117-423</sup> has telephoned that progress is at last being made in the matter of setting up International the Refugee Foundation. The idea is to have on the Board of Directors five or six Jews, with a similar number to serve as alternates. A tentative list has been prepared from which five nominees and five alternates will be chosen. The list follows:

x 76-86

x 117-4520

x 117-3292

- <sup>(Abba Hillel)</sup> Dr. Silver (most important man in the Zion Organization)
- Dr. Stephen Wise (alternate)
- Lewis Strauss (Kuhn, Loeb Co.)
- Louis Kirstein (Boston department store owner)
- Paul Baerwald
- Henry Ittleson
- Lessing Rosenwald (of Sears, Roebuck Co.)
- Solomon Stroock
- Judge Proskauer
- James Becker (of the A.G. Becker Co., Chicago Banking House)

John

The President,  
The White House.

-2-

John Schiff (Kuhn, Loeb Co.)

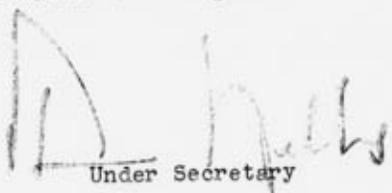
Edward Warburg

Arthur Goodhart (American; resident of England.  
Professor of Law at either Oxford or Cambridge.)

Mr. Taylor is hoping that the Christian Directors  
may comprise: Mr. Owen Young, Mr. John W. Davis, xPP743  
Mr. Dave H. Morris, Governor Miller and Mr. James G.  
MacDonald. x455 xPP71987

Mr. Taylor is prepared to go to London late in  
June to complete matters if you will ask him to do so.  
I have, accordingly, prepared and submit for your approval  
a short note to him, asking that he undertake this trip.  
In the course of a few days I shall ask your wishes as  
to the instructions we should give Mr. Taylor as I feel  
the time has come when we should review the status of  
the Intergovernmental Committee <sup>on Political Refugees</sup> and the ways in which we  
can most effectively help in the matter of refugees.

Faithfully yours,

  
Under Secretary

x20

Enclosure:  
Draft letter.

May 22, 1939

My dear Myron:

I am delighted to hear that progress is being made in the matter of setting up the Refugee Foundation. As the final steps will presumably be taken in London, and as they should be followed by a meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, I should greatly appreciate it if you could see your way to returning to London some time in June to attend the meeting and to help in completing arrangements.

Very sincerely yours,

The Honorable  
Myron C. Taylor,  
71 Broadway,  
New York, New York.

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR  
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE <sup>+ 20</sup>

TO READ AND RETURN

F. D. R.

Letter from hon. Myron C. Taylor, <sup>+ pp 7 + 23</sup> 71 Broadway, NYC, 5/24/39 to the President. In reply to President's letter of 5/22/39 in re setting up of the Refugee Foundation. States he expects to leave around the 14th of June.

International  
x

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1939

*File  
no action  
HOK*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Caroline O'Day asked me last night at dinner if you would give her an expression of your views on the bill providing for 20,000 refugee children being allowed into America regardless of the quota status.

*EMW*  
E.M.W.

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Printed in Foreign Relations of the United States, 1939,  
vol. 2, pp. 119-120.

3186

June 8, 1939

My dear Mr. Taylor:

I wish to set forth certain considerations and suggestions for your guidance in connection with the forthcoming meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee; *(on Political Refugees)*

(1) The refugee problem continues and will undoubtedly continue for a long time to come. It may at any time be greatly aggravated by a new wave of persecution in Germany. In the normal course of events it may be expected gradually to diminish quantitatively in Germany, but to increase quantitatively in Eastern Europe.

(2) This Government's interest in efforts to bring about a solution of the problem is strong. This Government was primarily responsible for the creation of the Intergovernmental Committee. As and when direct action by this Government is required in connection with the refugee problem, this Government has naturally preferred to take such action through the Intergovernmental Committee rather than through any other agency.

*International* (3) At the same time, the imminent establishment of the Refugee Foundation and the opening up by the Committee of opportunities in various parts of the world for mass settlement have created a new situation, requiring a new integration of private and governmental effort.

(4) The Foundation, which was envisaged in the Rublee plan and is being set up in accordance with that plan, is designed to be in a position to negotiate more effectively with the German authorities concerning financial, and perhaps other, questions than could the Committee. I assume that the Foundation will be ably directed and wholeheartedly supported by the private interests most deeply concerned. Without such support governmental effort can be of little avail.

(5) The financing and administration of settlement projects

*Original sent to Mr. Taylor on June 10, 1939  
for perusal to Mr. Taylor*

-2-

projects must be undertaken by private corporations specifically organized for the purpose in cooperation with the Foundation.

(6) The terms of reference of the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees permit him to negotiate with governments of countries of immigration for the further development of opportunities for settlement.

(7) It must reluctantly be admitted that this Government's efforts to stimulate concrete action by other governments to meet the problem have been met at best by a lukewarm attitude. In view of the attitude of other governments, and the reluctance which many of them have shown to contribute toward the Committee's expenses during its first year, it is apparent that few governments are willing to contribute on the present basis to the Committee's support for another year.

(8) In the absence of drastic changes in governments and attitudes, if not of human nature, in Europe, the problem in its larger aspects appears almost insoluble except through a basic solution such as the development of a suitable area to which refugees could be admitted in almost unlimited numbers. Whether the Committee could best contribute toward the attaining of such a solution or whether it should be sought through other means is open to question. I am convinced, nevertheless, that every effort must continue to be made to attain a practicable solution along those lines.

In view of the foregoing considerations I envisage that the nature of the Committee in the future should be along the following lines:

x184  
Subject to general approval, the Intergovernmental Committee should take steps to turn over its function of negotiating with the governments of countries of settlement to the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. ~~If this is done, this Government is dis-~~posed to contribute to the expenses of the High Commission

for

-3-

for this purpose. It should turn over its function of negotiating with the authorities of the country of origin to the Foundation. In making this change every effort must be exerted to minimize the risk of unfavorable reaction in Germany.

The Intergovernmental Committee should continue in existence though in an inactive form. It might well be composed of the diplomatic representatives in London of the member governments. If this idea is adopted, the Committee will need at most only a nominal staff and no permanent offices. It should be in a position to meet at short notice if circumstances make its revival necessary. Contributions toward its support should be purely voluntary and in such amounts as the member governments might consider appropriate.

I wish again to emphasize that this Government's interest in practical efforts to solve the problem continues strong and unabated. It will be prepared to exert its influence, through the Committee and through diplomatic channels, to assist the High Commissioner, the Foundation and the settlement corporations in the carrying out of their tasks.

Very sincerely yours,

x198  
x198-A

The Honorable  
Myron C. Taylor, xPP7 423  
71 Broadway, xJew.  
New York, New York.

3186

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1939

My dear Mr. President:

Myron Taylor has taken longer than was anticipated in his convalescence from his recent operation. I have now received word from him that, while he had to cancel his passage for England set for June 14, he is now confident that he can sail on June 28.

Tentative arrangements have consequently been made for the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee to be held about the middle of July after Mr. Taylor's arrival in London.

It has seemed to us desirable that Mr. Taylor receive from you before his departure from this country an expression of your own desires as to the course which he should take and as to the policy which should be pursued by the Intergovernmental Committee, which exists, of course, solely because of the initiative you have taken. I am consequently submitting to you for your approval a suggested letter for you to send to Mr. Taylor, which

The President,

The White House.

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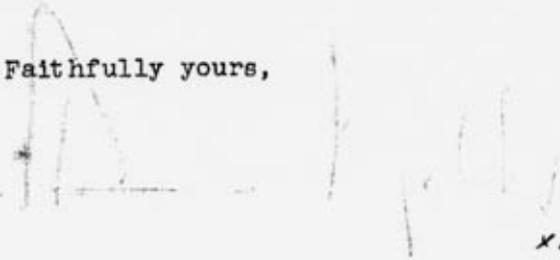
-2-

coincides with the opinions you expressed to Mr. Taylor and to the group that came with him when you received them at the White House some weeks ago.

If this letter is satisfactory to you and you sign it, please have it returned to me and I will see that it reaches Mr. Taylor before he leaves.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



x20

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June 13, 1939

3186

Respectfully referred to the State  
Department for acknowledgment.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

edb

Letter to the President 6/9/39 from Helene Grossman, 616 Munro Avenue, Mamaroneck, New York. In interest of mother, Mrs. Elise Pick, and sister, Mrs. Josefina Siperstein, who are among passengers on Steamer St. Louis bound from Cuba to Germany; has furnished affidavit approved as satisfactory by American Consul in Vienna and made every effort to assure officials relatives will not become public charges; pleads be permitted to enter U. S.

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June 17, 1939

3186

Respectfully referred to the  
officials of the State Department  
for consideration and appropriate  
acknowledgment to Mrs. Burkholder.

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

hm

Letter from Sen. Burton K. Wheeler, 6/15/39 to Col.  
McIntyre, with enclosed letter to the President from  
Mrs. Dora M. Burkholder, 1115 Orr St., Miles City,  
Montana, 6/10/39. Mrs. Burkholder asks that the  
"ST. Louis" be permitted to land the 907 Jewish refugees  
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June 17, 1939

3186

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3186

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"ST. Louis" be permitted to land the 907 Jewish refugees  
in the U.S.

June 17, 1939

My dear Senator Wheeler:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your note of June fifteenth to Secretary McIntyre, enclosing a communication from Mrs. F. E. Burkholder, of 1115 Orr Street, Miles City, Montana. Mrs. Burkholder's letter is being referred for the consideration of the officials of the State Department.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY  
Secretary to the President

Honorable Burton K. Wheeler,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

STATE

hm

**PHILLIPS, Hon. William**  
**Ambassador to Italy.**  
**January 5, 1939**

**Writes the President transmitting a memorandum of his conversation with Mussolini, concerning the Jewish refugee situation. -- On January 26th, the President wrote to Ambassador Phillips commenting on the Duce's attitude concerning the solution of the refugee problem.**

**See C. F. State**

3186

BRAUN, Mrs. Rose P.,  
Boro Park Group of Hadassah,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Jan. 9, 1939.

Writes that their community is arranging on Feb. 4th to raise funds for inscriptions in the Jewish National Fund Golden Book, which is being inscribed in President's honor as a token of their appreciation for his stand on the refugee problem. Would be grateful for an expression of encouragement from the President.

See 700

3186

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WELLES, Hon. Sumner - Under Secretary of State,  
Jan. 18, 1939

Mr. McIntyre refers for his "reaction" and advice as to a reply, says confidentially, Mr. Cantor has been a very ardent worker for the Foundation, etc., a letter from Eddie Cantor, Beverly Hills, Calif., Jan. 12, to Mr. McIntyre, thanking for his note of Jan. 6. Says he wants to speak to the President on two matters 1st, on the infantile paralysis drive, which is progressing splendidly under the able and inspiring leadership of Keith Morgan, and secondly that there are more than 10,000 families in the U.S. who would be willing to adopt as many refugee children - Christian and Jews. Says he has talked this over with some important people who agree that this is a practicable plan. Says if it meets with Presidential and Congressional approval, he will furnish names and references of families willing to adopt these unfortunate children. Says they would have to come in outside of the emigration quota. -- Mr. Welles replied Jan. 26, submitting draft, which Mr. McIntyre sent Mr. Cantor on Jan. 27, discussing this matter in detail. Assures that it will receive careful consideration.

P.P.V.  
SEE - 1018

3186

ago

WEINER, William - Pres.  
SCHWARTZMAN, Ephraim, -Int'l. Sec'y.  
Jewish People's Committee  
New York City  
2-6-39

Sent numerous petitions signed by thousands of the Jewish People's Committee endorsing Joint Resolution H.J. Res 637. - Referred to STATE DEPT. on 2-6-39 and on 2-7-39.

SEE 76-C

3186

HULL, Hon. Cordell  
Secretary of State  
February 14, 1939

Wrote the President, enclosing copy of plan prepared by Charles S. Dewey, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, for use of part of the sums now in default to this Government by various debtor governments for the settlement of political refugees. Stated Mr. Dewey has discussed this plan with officials ~~of the State Department~~ and with Secretary Morgenthau and other Treasury officials. Mr. Dewey's plan is that Congress be asked to authorize this Government to make a composition with the debtor governments on the sums now in arrears and to provide that the reduced amounts to be paid on those arrears should be used for purchase in debtor countries of goods and shipments for refugee settlement. Citing certain complications, Secretary Hull believes the plan would require a comprehensive settlement of the whole war debt problem.

SEE 212

3186

STATE, The Secretary of - or Under Secretary of State,  
Feb. 6, 1939

The President sent, by memo, asking if they think a reply to Signor Mussolini's letter is advisable or called for, a copy of letter from Sumner Well State Dept., Feb. 3, to the President attaching copy of translation of letter of Jan. 11 to the President by Premier Mussolini on the Jewish refugees question, which is in reply to the President's letter on the same subject. (Miss Tully has original of these letters and the carbon copy of the President's memo as above.) The papers were sent to the Sec. of State.

SEE - C.F. STATE

3186

**WEISGAL, Mayer W., Director,  
American Committee for Jewish Palestine Participation  
at the New York World's Fair,  
New York, N.Y.  
Feb. 24, 1939.**

Writes to the President there will be a Jewish Palestine Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, an exhibit designed to bring before the American public a graphic portrayal of the productive achievements of Jewish pioneers in the Holy Land. States that at this time, when the Jewish refugee problem is engaging the attention of the democratic government, an exhibit of this sort is of enormous significance. Asks for a message from the President on this occasion.

See 2147

3186

ags

TRESS, Michael G.  
Zerei Agudath Israel of New York  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
3-7-39

Invited the President to attend the dedication of the new building of Zerei Agudath Israel of New York and to the official opening of the Orthodox Refugee Home on March 12, 1939. Realizes the President will be unable to attend so they request a message of good wishes and encouragement in their huge undertaking.

SEE Invitation - Brooklyn, N.Y.

3186

ags

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SEE Invitation - Brooklyn, N.Y.

3186

**INTERIOR, Secretary of**  
**March 8, 1939.**

The President, by memo., asked him to consult the Secretary of Labor re the following: Letter from Renee A. Calvin, Nijmegen, Netherlands, dated Feb. 5th, to Mr. Harold L. Ickes, with attached letter from Dr. Arno Nohlen, Dusseldorf, Germany, to Mr. Ickes. Dr. Nohlen, who must leave Germany, asks permission to enter the U. S. Attaches personal history sheet.

**SEE 3614**

3186

Cadden, Joseph  
Executive Secretary,  
American Youth Congress,  
New York, N.Y.  
3-9-39

Letter to the President, relaying to him a request from Miss Elizabeth Shields-Collins, Executive Secretary of the World Youth Congress, for a cabled greeting to the International Conference to Aid Refugees and Civilian War victims. Encloses brochure, describing aims and purposes of this meeting. Also attached is telegram to the President from Mr. Cadden, Mar. 9th, re above letter.

See P.P.F. 2282

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3186

STATE, The Secretary of  
Apr. 26, 1938

The President referred for draft of a reply, letter from Mr. Green, Pres., American Federation of Labor, Wash., D.C., Apr. 23, to the President, suggesting that the President transmit to the British Government the earnest appeal of the American Fed. of Labor to maintain the "open door" in Palestine, to carry out the Balfour Declaration and to respond to world opinion in favor of the creation of Palestine as a homeland for the Jewish people. Notes a telegram which he received on Apr. 21 from Goldie Heyerson, Palestine Labour Federation. -- On Apr. 24, Sec. Hull replied submitting draft. -- The President wrote Mr. Green, letter wanted, that he fully appreciated interest in the Palestine problem. Says the British Government is cognizant of public opinion on the matter in this country; mentions the conference held in London wherein the Arab and Jewish representatives conferred. Says the British Government may make public shortly a statement on its policy in Palestine. Says the plight of Jewish refugees is not the least of his concerns.

3/86

rlv

WISE, Rabbi Stephen S.  
National Co-Chairman, United Palestine Appeal,  
New York City  
5-10-39

3186

Wrote to the President saying that Dr. Solomon Goldman, the President of the Zionist Organization of America, and he feel it is their duty to tell the President "that a steady stream of reports comes out of Palestine and London, which indicate that the President's name is being used by the Chamberlain Government (Great Britain) to cover up their utter disloyalty to British pledges concerning Palestine". Said, for example, that the President's letter to President Green of the American Federation of Labor has been utilized as indicating the President's approval of such British policy as constitutes a repudiation of the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate. Said that that day an Arab-Palestine paper publishes the report that simultaneous with the announcement of the White Paper, the British will publish a letter from the President endorsing their scheme of refugee settlements within the Empire. Rabbi Wise said he needs hardly point out what such an announcement would mean to the Jews of the world. --- The President wrote to Rabbi Wise, May 17 saying that he is deeply concerned by the last news from England and is doing everything he can but in the present light of things it is terribly difficult. --- (The President's reply is as per draft supplied by Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, May 16 in response to the President's Memorandum of May 16.)

SEE 700

WELLES, Hon. Sumner - State Dept.,  
May 20, 1939

The President referred for draft of a reply, wire from Hendrik Van Loon, Old Greenwich, Conn., May 19, to the President telling of letter he received from Dutch Prime Minister in re opening up healthier parts of Surinam to wholesale Jewish Settlement for benefit of increasing number of European immigrants. Offers to send contents of this letter to the President. -- Mr. Welles submitted draft on May 22. -- On May 23, the President replied to Mr. Van Loon, thanking for his wire, saying he will await with interest the tenor of the Prime Minister's letter and meanwhile hopes Mr. Van Loon will feel free to discuss the matter fully and frankly with Myron Taylor who is this Government's representative on the Intergovernmental Committee.

SEE - P.F.F. 2259

3186

RITTER, Mr. Louis,  
New York, N.Y.  
Jan. 3, 1939.

Letter to Miss LeHand, saying he is scheduled to leave for Europe on January 14th, and he says it would mean a great deal to him if she could send him the letter addressed to the American Consul General to enable him to bring his sister and brother back with him from Praha Czechoslovakia.

On Jan. 6, 1939, Miss LeHand forwarded to Mr. Ritter requested letter addressed to Mr. Raymond E. Cox, American Consul General in Czechoslovakia, requesting that he assist Mr. Ritter in his effort to bring his brother and sister back to this country. Above letter prepared by Mr. Moore, Dept. of State. Also letter sent by Mr. Moore to Mr. Cox.

See M.A.LeH-R-

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3186

GRUENBAUM, Victor,  
The Refugee Artists Group, Inc.,  
New York, N.Y.  
June 12, 1939.

Writes to the President that a group of Austrian artists, who have been fortunate enough to find refuge in this country, have after four months rehearsing now been able to open their first show, "From Vienna", on June 20, 1939, in the Music Box Theatre, New York, N.Y. It would be a great inspiration to have the President honor them with his presence at their first performance.

PPF1-L  
See Invitation-New York, N.Y.

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3186