

OF 3186
Political Refugees 1944

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



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My letter
OK
To prepare
Wednesday

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER

In accordance with the request contained in your memorandum of May 20, 1944, I am submitting a redraft of the message to the Congress incorporating certain changes which are explained in an attached memorandum.

E. A. Tamm
x20

Enclosures:

1. Redraft of message to the Congress.
2. Explanation of changes in the redraft.
3. Memorandum for the Secretary of State, May 20, 1944.
4. Memoranda to the President from the War Refugee Board.

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PROPOSED MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONGRESS

Congress has repeatedly manifested its deep concern with the pitiful plight of the persecuted minorities in Europe whose lives are each day being offered in sacrifice on the altar of Nazi tyranny.

This Nation is appalled by the systematic persecution of helpless minority groups by the Nazis. To us the unprovoked murder of innocent people simply because of race, religion or political creed is the blackest of all possible crimes. Since the Nazis began this campaign many of our citizens in all walks of life and of all political and religious persuasions have expressed our feeling of repulsion and our anger. It is a matter with respect to which there is and can be no division of opinion amongst us.

As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces *draws* *close* near, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out the Jewish race in Europe continues undiminished. *Knowing that they* have lost the war, the Nazis are determined to complete their program of mass extermination. This program is but one manifestation of Hitler's aim to salvage from military defeat victory for Nazi principles - the very principles which this war must destroy unless we shall have fought in vain. X

This Government has not only made clear its abhorrence of this inhuman and barbarous activity of the Nazis, but, in cooperation with other governments has endeavored to alleviate the condition of the persecuted peoples. In January of this year I determined that this Government should intensify its efforts to combat the Nazi terror. Accordingly, I established the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board was charged with the responsibility of taking all action consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all other possible relief and assistance. It was entrusted with the solemn duty of translating this Government's humanitarian policy into prompt action, thus manifesting once again in a concrete way that our kind of world and not Hitler's will prevail. Its purpose is directly and closely related to our whole war effort.

Since its establishment, the War Refugee Board, acting through a full time administrative staff, has made a direct and forceful attack on the problem. Operating quietly, as is appropriate, the Board, through its representatives in various parts of the world, has actually succeeded in saving the lives of innocent people. Not only have refugees been evacuated from enemy territory, but many measures have been taken to protect the lives of those who have not been able to escape.

Above all, the efforts of the Board have brought new hope to the oppressed peoples of Europe. This statement is not idle speculation. From various sources, I have received word that thousands of people, wearied by their years of resistance to Hitler and by their sufferings to the point of giving up

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the struggle, have been given the will and desire to continue by the concrete manifestation of this Government's desire to do all possible to aid and rescue the oppressed.

To the Hitlerites, their subordinates and functionaries and satellites, to the German people and to all other peoples under the Nazi yoke, we have made clear our determination to punish all participants in these acts of savagery. In the name of humanity we have called upon them to spare the lives of these innocent people.

Notwithstanding this Government's unremitting efforts, which are continuing, the numbers actually rescued from the jaws of death have been small compared with the numbers still facing extinction in German territory. This is due principally to the fact that our enemies, despite all our appeals and our willingness to find havens of refuge for the oppressed peoples, persist in their fiendish extermination campaign and actively prevent the intended victims from escaping to safety.

In the face of this attitude of our enemies we must not fail to take full advantage of any opportunity, however limited, for the rescue of Hitler's victims. We are confronted with a most urgent situation.

Therefore, I wish to report to you today concerning a step which I have just taken in an effort to save additional lives and which I am certain will meet with your approval. You will, I am sure, appreciate that this measure is not only consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, but that it was essential to take action without delay.

Even before the Allied landing in Italy there had been a substantial movement of persecuted peoples of various races and nationalities into that country. This movement was undoubtedly prompted by the fact that, despite all attempts by the Fascists to stir up intolerance, the warm-hearted Italian people could not forsake their centuries-old tradition of tolerance and humanitarianism. The Allied landings swelled this stream of fleeing and hunted peoples seeking sanctuary behind the guns of the United Nations. However, in view of the military situation in Italy, the number of refugees who can be accommodated there is relatively limited. The Allied military forces, in view of their primary responsibility, have not been able generally speaking to encourage the escape of refugees from enemy territory. This unfortunate situation has prevented the escape of the largest possible number of refugees. Furthermore, as the number of refugees living in southern Italy increases, their care constitutes an additional and substantial burden for the military authorities.

Recently the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy have become so overtaxed that unless many refugees who have already escaped to that area and are arriving daily, particularly from the Balkan countries, can be promptly removed to havens of refuge elsewhere, the escape of refugees

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to that area from German occupied territory will be seriously impeded. It was apparent that prompt action was necessary to meet this situation. Many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary refuges in the territory of other United and friendly nations. However, in view of the number of refugees still in southern Italy, the problem could not be solved unless temporary havens of refuge were found for some of them in still other areas. In view of this most urgent situation it seemed indispensable that the United States in keeping with our heritage and our ideals of liberty and justice take immediate steps to share the responsibility for meeting the problem.

Accordingly, arrangements have been made to bring immediately to this country approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands. These refugees are predominantly women and children. They will be placed on their arrival in a vacated Army camp on the Atlantic Coast where they will remain under appropriate security restrictions.

The Army will take the necessary security precautions and the camp will be administered by the War Relocation Authority. The War Refugee Board is charged with overall responsibility for this project.

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As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces nears, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out minority groups in Europe continues undiminished. Knowing that they have lost the war, the Nazis are determined to complete their program of mass extermination of minorities. This program is but one manifestation of Hitler's aim to salvage from military defeat victory for Nazi principles - the very principles which this war must destroy unless we shall have fought in vain.

This Government has not only made clear its abhorrence of this inhuman and barbarous activity of the Nazis, but, in cooperation with other governments has endeavored to alleviate the condition of the persecuted peoples. In January of this year I determined that this Government should intensify its efforts to combat the Nazi terror. Accordingly, I established the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board was charged with the responsibility of taking all action consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all other possible relief and assistance. It was entrusted with the solemn duty of translating this Government's humanitarian policy into prompt action, thus manifesting once again in a concrete way that our kind of world and not Hitler's will prevail. Its purpose is directly and closely related to our whole war effort.

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To the Hitlerites, their subordinates and functionaries and satellites, to the German people and to all other peoples under the Nazi yoke, we have made clear our determination to punish all participants in these acts of savagery. In the name of humanity we have called upon them to spare the lives of these innocent people.

Notwithstanding this Government's unremitting efforts, which are continuing, the numbers actually rescued from the jaws of death have been small compared with the numbers still facing extinction in German territory. This is due principally to the fact that our enemies, despite all our appeals and our willingness to find havens of refuge for the oppressed peoples, persist in their fiendish extermination campaign and actively prevent the intended victims from escaping to safety.

In the face of this attitude of our enemies we must not fail to take full advantage of any opportunity, however limited, for the rescue of Hitler's victims. We are confronted with a most urgent situation.

Therefore, I wish to report to you today concerning an extraordinary step which I have just taken in an effort to save additional lives and which I am certain will meet with your approval. You will, I am sure, appreciate that this measure is not only consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, but that it was essential to take action without delay.

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Recently the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy have become so overtaxed that unless many refugees who have already escaped to that area and are arriving daily, particularly from the Balkan countries, can be promptly removed to havens of refuge elsewhere, the escape of refugees to that area from German occupied territory will be seriously impeded. It was apparent that prompt action was necessary to meet this situation. Many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary refuges in the territory of other United

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and friendly nations. However, in view of the number of refugees still in southern Italy, the problem could not be solved unless temporary havens of refuge were found for some of them in still other areas. In view of this most urgent situation it seemed indispensable that the United States in keeping with our heritage and our ideals of liberty and justice take immediate steps to share the responsibility for meeting the problem.

Accordingly, arrangements have been made to bring immediately to this country approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Such refugees will be placed in a War Refugee Center where, under appropriate security restrictions, they will remain for the duration of the war. These refugees are being brought here outside of the regular immigration procedure, just as prisoners of war have been brought here. Here they will receive the humane treatment which our civilization provides, and here they will be safe. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands.

The refugees, upon their arrival, will be placed in a vacated Army camp on the Atlantic seaboard. While the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army will take the necessary security precautions and the actual administration of the camp will be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority.

With the cooperation of the United Nations, we are determined to insure that these and other refugees from death may live again on their own soil. To this end the principal United Nations involved have already pledged that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled for their lives and have been given asylum in other countries. These nations have also made it a part of their settled policy to insure such conditions in enemy and enemy occupied countries as will permit all persons who have been forced to flee from these countries to return. These humane principles already have the support of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Norway, The French Committee, Greece, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Netherlands.

It is my hope that other interested nations will also expand their already existing programs of asylum. In this way we shall have a plan and a program that will represent the triumph of the forces of decency in a war-torn world.

I am convinced that the emergency action which has been taken will make possible the saving of additional lives. I am also convinced that such action will effectively contribute to the successful prosecution of the war by inspiring in the minds of all oppressed peoples a conviction of the sincerity and effectiveness of a democracy.

It is indeed fitting that this great Nation, which by the very nature of its conception has always been a refuge for the fugitive from injustice, oppression and persecution, should now furnish to those whose very lives are threatened by Hitler the sanctuary and asylum which since biblical times have been afforded the defenseless by civilized peoples.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED MESSAGE
BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONGRESS
ON HAVENS FOR REFUGEES

Original Draft

Page 1, paragraph 2, first sentence:

"This Nation is appalled by the systematic extermination of helpless minority groups by the Nazis."

Comment: The Jews are the only minority group which the Nazis are exterminating. The sentence is subject to a charge of inaccuracy and might be amended by the substitution of the word persecution for the word "extermination".

Page 1, paragraph 3:

"As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces nears, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out minority groups in Europe continues undiminished. Knowing that they have lost the war, the Nazis are determined to complete their program of mass extermination of minorities."

Comment: The above comment also applies to the first two sentences. The first sentence might be amended by substituting the words the Jewish race for the words "minority groups". The second sentence might be amended by deleting the words "of minorities."

Page 2, paragraph 4:

"Therefore, I wish to report to you today concerning an extraordinary step which I have just taken in an effort to save additional lives and which I am certain will meet with your approval. You will, I am sure, appreciate that this measure is not only consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, but that it was essential to take action without delay."

Comment: The deletion of the word "extraordinary" in the first sentence is suggested. If the action is considered extraordinary the certainty of Congressional approval is lessened. The deletion would make the entire paragraph more convincing.

Page 3, paragraphs 2 and 3:

"Accordingly, arrangements have been made to bring immediately to this country approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Such refugees will be placed in a War Refugee Center where, under appropriate security restrictions, they will remain for the duration of the war. These refugees are being brought here outside of the regular immigration procedure, just as prisoners of war have been brought here. Here they will receive the humane treatment which our civilization provides, and here they will be safe. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands.

"The refugees, upon their arrival, will be placed in a vacated Army camp on the Atlantic seaboard. While the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army will take the necessary security precautions and the actual administration of the camp will be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority."

Comment: The following redraft of these two paragraphs is suggested:

Accordingly arrangements have been made to bring immediately to this country approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands. These refugees are predominantly women and children. They will be placed on their arrival in a vacated Army camp on the Atlantic Coast where they will remain under appropriate security restrictions.

The Army will take the necessary security precautions and the camp will be administered by the War Relocation Authority. The War Refugee Board is charged with overall responsibility for this project.

In this redraft the assurance that the refugees will return to their homelands is given immediately after the statement of their arrival. The term "War Refugee Center" is eliminated. The sentence "These refugees are being brought here outside of the regular immigration procedure, just as prisoners of war have been brought here." is also eliminated. This reference to the regular immigration procedure and prisoners of war immediately raises the question of the legal authority of the Executive to take this action. This question will arise inevitably and might better be answered by an opinion prepared in advance

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by the Attorney General. See page 5, paragraph 4 of the attached memorandum entitled "Establishment of Temporary Havens of Refuge in the United States" -

"The Attorney General has informally advised the Board that if you wish to put this program into effect without Congressional approval, legal justification could be found for such a temporary arrangement. The Attorney General believes, however, that in view of the attitude of the Congress toward all immigration policies it would be unwise for you to take the proposed action without Congressional approval having been first obtained."

The sentence "Here they will receive the humane treatment which our civilization provides, and here they will be safe." is also deleted as it may provoke comparison of the situations of the American soldiers who have vacated the camp and the refugees who are to occupy the camp in safety. For the same reason the sentence pointing out that the refugees will be predominantly women and children is included in the suggested redraft above.

Page 3, paragraph 4:

"With the cooperation of the United Nations, we are determined to insure that these and other refugees from death may live again on their own soil. To this end the principal United Nations involved have already pledged that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled for their lives and have been given asylum in other countries. These nations have also made it a part of their settled policy to insure such conditions in enemy and enemy occupied countries as will permit all persons who have been forced to flee from these countries to return. These humane principles already have the support of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Norway, The French Committee, Greece, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Netherlands."

Comment: Delete the entire paragraph.

The pledges of the United Nations Governments referred to have not been made public by the concerned Governments. The project of the joint statement by the Governments on this subject has never been pressed to a conclusion because of the difficulty in securing agreement on the draft of the statement to be issued. It would appear inappropriate for the Executive to state the policy of the Governments listed in the above paragraph without clearance with those Governments in advance.

Page 3, paragraphs 5, 6, and 7:

"It is my hope that other interested nations will also expand their already existing programs of asylum. In this way we shall have a plan and a program that will represent the triumph of the forces of decency in a war-torn world.

"I am convinced that the emergency action which has been taken will make possible the saving of additional lives. I am also convinced that such action will effectively contribute to the successful prosecution of the war by inspiring in the minds of all oppressed peoples a conviction of the sincerity and effectiveness of a democracy.

"It is indeed fitting that this great Nation, which by the very nature of its conception has always been a refuge for the fugitive from injustice, oppression and persecution, should now furnish to those whose very lives are threatened by Hitler the sanctuary and asylum which since biblical times have been afforded the defenseless by civilized peoples."

Comment: Delete all three paragraphs.

The basic reason for taking the proposed Executive action is the emergency situation in Italy. The foregoing three paragraphs suggest other motives which tend to make the emergency nature of the situation in Italy less convincing.

May 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached is a memorandum discussing the proposal that this Government provide temporary havens of refuge in this country for oppressed peoples escaping from Hitler - these people to be placed in camps established in this country and to remain there until the termination of the war at which time they will be returned to their homelands.

Under this proposal the refugees would be brought into the country outside the regular immigration procedure just as civilian internees of Latin American countries have been brought here and placed in internment camps. There could be no objection on security grounds any more than in the case of prisoners of war.

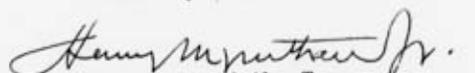
The overwhelming humanitarian reasons for taking this action, and the considerations involved in deciding whether this step should be taken now by Executive action or submitted to Congress, are discussed in the memorandum, which indicates the views of the Board members on this matter.

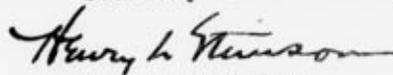
The Board has decided that, in view of the importance and urgency of this question and the great responsibility involved in reaching a final determination as to what should be done, the whole matter should be submitted to you for your consideration.

Among the possible courses of action which you will of course want to consider are:

- (1) Consultation with appropriate members of Congress with a view to Executive action.
- (2) Putting the program into effect at once by Executive action.
- (3) Presidential message submitting the matter to Congress for urgent action.
- (4) Having a bill first introduced in Congress, followed by a Presidential message urging its immediate enactment.


Secretary of State.


Secretary of the Treasury. x 2/


Secretary of War.

Attachment.

May 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

On May 11, 1944 I discussed with you a proposal of the War Refugee Board that consideration be given to the establishment in this country of temporary havens of refuge. I attach hereto the memorandum on this subject signed by the members of the Board. During the course of our discussion I emphasized the great importance of a measure of this kind to the success of the Board's program, both in its psychological aspect and in the actual evacuation of refugees from enemy territory. I also mentioned the numerous indications of a favorable public reception of such a step.

You will recall your view that if an emergency situation should arise in which it became important to bring a relatively small number of refugees to this country in order to pave the way for the saving of additional lives, you would be favorably disposed to take such a step, informing the Congress of your action.

Such a situation has now developed in Italy.

As a result of the limited facilities in that part of Italy under Allied control, the military forces have not been able, generally speaking, to encourage the escape of refugees to Italy from enemy territory, and for this reason, the escape of the largest possible number of refugees has been prevented. Moreover, the problem of the care of the fairly substantial number of refugees who have arrived in Italy by their own efforts, has constituted a considerable burden to the military authorities. Quite recently the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy have become so overtaxed that the military authorities have taken steps actually to discourage the escape of further refugees to that area from German occupied territories until many of the refugees now in Italy can be moved to havens of refuge elsewhere.

This situation not only prevents the rescue of people in Yugoslavia who are being indiscriminately slaughtered by the Germans, but also interferes with efforts to rescue Jews, from their desperate plight in Hungary, through Yugoslavia.

Moreover, the military authorities are now insisting that a number of refugees be taken elsewhere without delay in order to relieve the congestion. The British authorities have been and are removing many refugees from Italy to camps in Egypt. However, in order to meet the problem, some refugees must be removed promptly to other areas. The military authorities have suggested that approximately 750 refugees be taken at once from southern Italy to Camp Iyautey near Fedhaia, Morocco. It is our view that such a step is not feasible for the following reasons:

- (1) The UNRRA representative in charge of supervising Camp Iyautey has advised that in the present circumstances it will not be possible to care for more than the approximately 800 refugees who are being brought to the camp from Spain.

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(2) The bringing of refugees from Italy would practically exhaust the quota of 2,000 which may be taken to that camp, thus interfering with our effort to increase the number of refugees escaping from France to Spain by removing them to Camp Lyautey as soon as they enter Spain.

To insist that the British or French take additional refugees when we ourselves are taking none, would in the best of cases involve long delays and would be unsatisfactory from many points of view.

This emergency situation is, I believe, exactly the type of situation which you had in mind. We can break this bottleneck by immediately bringing to the United States approximately 1,000 refugees from southern Italy and placing them in an unused Army camp along the Eastern seaboard, where they would remain until the end of the war. This step will not only enable us actually to bring more people out of enemy territory, but will also demonstrate to the Germans and to the world that our refugee policy is being implemented by action. In this connection it should be emphasized that in view of military developments the potential escape route through Yugoslavia from Hungary and the Balkans is of primary importance and should be exploited to the full before the situation again changes.



May 18, 1944

TO THE PRESIDENT

Attached are the following documents:

(1) Memorandum outlining emergency refugee situation in Italy which requires urgent solution not only to save additional lives but also to relieve the burden on military authorities. This situation more than justifies carrying out your suggestion for bringing approximately 1,000 refugees to this country to be placed in a War Refugee Center.

(2) A draft of a message to be sent to Congress at the appropriate time, informing them of the action taken.

(3) A cable from you to Robert Murphy, asking him to make immediate arrangements for the transportation to the United States from Italy of approximately 1,000 refugees of various categories. x233

(4) A memorandum from you to the Secretaries of War, Navy, and Interior, the Director of the Budget and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, requesting them to make arrangements for receiving these refugees in the United States.



MEMORANDUM RE: Establishment of Temporary Havens
of Refuge in the United States.

In the Executive Order creating the War Refugee Board you directed that the Board make appropriate recommendations to you to overcome any difficulties encountered in the rescue and relief of war refugees.

Although the Board has already initiated many measures which, if fully implemented, may result in saving many lives, there is one basic obstacle which lies athwart all our efforts. This is the simple fact that the United Nations have not been prepared to supply even temporary havens of refuge for substantial numbers of the persecuted peoples of Europe, particularly the Jews.

Why This Is The Main Obstacle

The following brief summary will reveal why this constitutes the basic weakness in our whole program.

- (1) Our best chance of saving many people from death, particularly after recent events in the Balkans, lies in an effort to convince the Hitlerite forces, and more particularly their functionaries and subordinates, that it is in their interest to spare the lives of these people. In this connection, the statement issued by you on March 24, which is being given the widest possible publicity in German controlled territory, will of course be most helpful toward this end, especially if followed by concrete action.
- (2) And there is also an opportunity to actually bring some of these people out of enemy territory. The recent developments in the Balkans may limit opportunities there, but there still remains a possibility of stimulating the flow of refugees to Spain and Switzerland.
- (3) It is essential to both of these avenues of approach, however, that we and our allies convince the world of our sincerity and our willingness to bear our share of the burden. Thus, great substance would be added to our threats, and other countries would be much more ready to cooperate in aiding the escape of refugees, if we made it clear now by action that our doors are open to these people.
- (4) The United Nations must not merely threaten our enemies and ask them to stop killing Jews; the United Nations must themselves offer the Jews a haven. Only in that way can the great moral issue involved be made clear.

Such a step would show the Germans clearly that our threats of punishment and promises of action are not mere words. It is even possible that after such an announcement the Germans might be prepared to release or permit the escape of these persecuted peoples.

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(5) And such a step would certainly cause the neutral countries to encourage the entry of more refugees into their territory since they would then know that they would not be required to keep all refugees until the war ends. Thus, one of the reasons why we are not meeting with any success in Spain is the fact that the Spaniards are not convinced that we will take the refugees off their hands. Although we have been stating for a long while that we are going to take the Jewish refugees in Spain to Camp Lyautey at Fedhala (near Casablanca) in North Africa, none have been moved there to date. And although several hundred are expected to be moved there shortly, under the agreement with the French authorities only 2000 refugees may be in this small camp at any one time. The Spaniards of course know of this limitation and of the reluctant attitude of the French, which attitude has been the main reason for the long delay in moving these refugees. And the inarticulate major premise of the French attitude is the conviction that such refugees are to be dumped and left in French Africa and that neither the United States nor Great Britain will receive them.

Proposed Solution

Many private organizations, as well as John Pehle and his staff, have strongly recommended that this Government act at once in this humanitarian cause and announce to the world that we will provide temporary havens of refuge in this country for all oppressed peoples escaping from Hitler - these people to be placed in camps established in this country and to remain there until the termination of the war at which time they will be returned to their homelands.

Nature and Benefits of Proposal

(1) Under this proposal the refugees would be treated in effect as prisoners of war. They would be brought into the country outside the regular immigration procedure just as civilian internees from Latin American countries have been brought here and placed in internment camps. No violation or attempt to evade immigration laws would be involved since the refugees would remain only until the termination of the war and would not come in under the quota system. There could be no objection on security grounds any more than in the case of prisoners of war.

(2) The principal United Nations involved have already agreed that each of them will receive after the war its nationals who have fled for their lives and have been given asylum in other countries. These nations have also agreed that it is a part of their settled policy to assure such conditions in enemy and enemy occupied countries as will permit the return thereto of all persons displaced

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therefrom who have sought refuge elsewhere. This agreement, already concurred in by the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Norway, The French Committee, Greece, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Netherlands should serve to make clear to those concerned that such refugees as may be accepted in camps here will be returned to their homelands at the end of the war.

(3) The humanitarian considerations which might be urged against the confinement of the refugees are answered by the simple fact that treating them as prisoners of war is better than letting them die.

(4) The general idea has been discussed with a number of organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish, and they have all expressed their approval. Most of them feel that it is by far the biggest step the Board can take to accomplish the purposes for which it was established.

(5) The necessity for unilateral action now by this Government lies in the fact that we cannot expect others to do what we ourselves will not do, and if we are to act in time we must take the lead.

(6) The practical effect of such a step by the United States might be tremendous. Our allies would without doubt follow our lead. That this country, which has always been a refuge for the fugitive from injustice, oppression and persecution, should take the leadership in this matter would be in keeping with our heritage and with our ideals of liberty and justice.

(7) In the hearts and minds of all peoples under Nazi domination and throughout the world such action might well have an effect very much favorable to our whole war effort and to our reputation as a nation which has always carried the torch in great undertakings.

In a report to the War Refugee Board in early March, Ira Hirschmann, the Board's representative in Turkey, concluded as follows:

"I am sure you will be gratified to learn that although still on the threshold, the work of the War Refugee Board has injected new life and hope into thousands of down-trodden, tormented refugees throughout the European continent. This is not my opinion but one that is confirmed by all of the refugees I interviewed during my visit in Istanbul. The first Jewish refugees of Turkish origin just arrived from France said to me feelingly, 'For two years there has been only one phrase on everyone's lips - when are the Americans coming?'"

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(8) Even if no refugees were ever actually brought to these camps, the mere announcement of our readiness to receive them would remove the basic obstacle to our efforts to save them. In view of geographical and time factors, it is not likely that many refugees would actually come to the United States. The important thing is that we offer to receive them.

Question of Congressional Approval

Secretary Hull, Secretary Morgenthau and Secretary Stimson carefully considered this proposal at the meeting of the Board on March 21. There was no disagreement as to the potential benefits of such a program, and all the members of the Board agreed that the matter should be presented to the President.

Secretary Stimson in particular felt that it was a matter which should be presented to Congress for its approval. Secretary Stimson's views on this, in his own words, are as follows:

"The principal objection which I had to the proposal to bring these refugees into the United States was my fear that the proposal would be considered so at variance with the policy of our immigration laws that the President should not undertake it without conferring with and obtaining the consent of Congress. The reasons were as follows:

"Our present immigration laws were the result of a very deeply held feeling of our people that the future immigration of racial stocks should be so limited as to coincide with the existing ratio of such stocks already within the country. Furthermore these laws were adopted at the close of the last war by overwhelming majorities of our Congress for the purpose of preventing the entrance into this country of large blocks of immigrants who were likely to come from the very countries in which most of the present refugees with whom we are concerned now originate. Our people then showed that they strongly feared that an uncontrolled immigration from such countries would modify the proportion of the racial stocks already existing in our own population and would introduce into the United States many people who would with difficulty be assimilated into our own population and brought into conformity with our own institutions and traditions.

"I fear that your proposal would meet with a similar reaction from our people today who would feel that it was merely the beginning of a permanent immigration. This would be accentuated if it was carried through by Executive authority alone and without the assent of Congress.

"One of the considerations which faces us in attempting to obtain the consent of the European nations to take these people off our hands at the end of the war is that many of these countries are not now free to make valid commitments supported by responsible governments.

- 5 -

"But even if the obtaining of such commitments were possible, I am informed that the mere introduction of these people today on such a scale and for humanitarian purposes alone would be contrary to existing American law. In this connection I am not at all clear that the war power of the President would be held to cover a transaction like this which has no direct connection with the prosecution of the war.

"For these reasons I felt then and feel now that it would be unwise to advise the President to take such a step without the consent of Congress.

"At our meeting at which this was discussed I think you stated your belief that it would be impossible to get the consent of Congress. On reflection I am not at all sure that you are right. If presented with the support of the overwhelming humanitarian reasons and with adequate safeguards for returning the refugees to their own countries, I am not at all sure that the measure could not be carried. If thus presented, the Congress would be able to take such precautions as it would deem necessary and would be consulted in regard to the financial responsibility which it is quite evident that this country must ultimately assume."

The Attorney General has informally advised the Board that if you wish to put this program into effect without Congressional approval, legal justification could be found for such a temporary arrangement. The Attorney General believes, however, that in view of the attitude of the Congress toward all immigration policies it would be unwise for you to take the proposed action without Congressional approval having been first obtained.

Secretary Hull and Secretary Morgenthau feel that before taking any action you should consult with appropriate members of Congress.

In considering whether this step should be taken now by Executive action or submitted to Congress for its approval the following points should also be borne in mind:

- (1) Time is of the essence and, even assuming Congressional approval could eventually be obtained, it might be too late to do any good.
- (2) If, as many believe, the immediate adoption of this program is fundamental to our efforts to save many people from death, the question arises as to whether you should not act at once, as you did in the case of the delivery of destroyers to Great Britain - taking the leadership in molding public opinion in support of the action.
- (3) If the proposal were put up to Congress and Congress failed to act, the result might be to minimize the gains which have already resulted from your establishment of the War Refugee Board.

(2961)

hms

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3156

May 20, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

You know all about this.
Will you let me have your slant
on the proposed message?

F. D. R.

Memorandum for the President from J. W. Pehle, 5/18/44, transmitting memorandum outlining emergency refugee situation in Italy, draft of a message to be sent to Congress, in re bringing 1,000 refugees to this country to be placed in a War Refugee Center, cable from the President to Robert Murphy, in re arrangement for transportation of these refugees and a memorandum from the President to the Secretaries of War, Navy and Interior, the Director of the Budget and the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, requesting them to make arrangements for receiving these ~~sex~~ refugees in the U.S.

AB

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
MAY 23 1944
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
MR. BERLE

Mr. Geo. Warren



MAY 20 1944

MEMORANDUM TO:

CONFIDENTIAL

Secretary Hull
Secretary Morgenthau
Secretary Stimson.

As you have already been informally advised, I saw the President on May 11, 1944, and handed to him the memorandum signed by each of you. A photostatic copy of this memorandum is enclosed.

The President began by saying that he had heard that the War Refugee Board was doing a very good job, particularly in his reports from occupied territory. He said that he had heard that many refugees had been very disheartened and about ready to give up before the Board was established, but the establishment of the Board and its activities had given many people new hope and that he was very pleased.

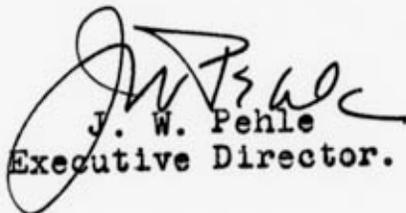
I summarized to the President the contents of the memorandum, stressing the feelings of the individual Board members with respect to obtaining Congressional approval or advice. The President was very sympathetic with the proposal. He commented that he did not like the words "free port" because he felt that these words did not indicate clearly enough that the refugees brought to the United States would return after the war; and he suggested we find a more suitable name. I mentioned to the President the possibility of using a War Relocation Authority camp at Jerome, Arkansas, soon to be vacated of Japanese. The President felt that it would be preferable to keep the refugees in the Atlantic Seaboard area and mentioned that there were a number of Army camps in this section which had been or would soon be vacated and which could be used for this purpose. He stated that the refugees could be brought to the United States in returning Army transports.

I showed the President the clippings of news items and editorial comment on the "free port" proposal and also the organizational support now behind this proposal, including the A. F. of L., the C. I. O., the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, the Y. W. C. A., and many others. The President seemed pleased at the substantial favorable publicity which the proposal

- 2 -

had received. He indicated, however, that without Congressional approval he would be reluctant to issue an announcement that large numbers of refugees were to be admitted to the United States. Instead he said that if there were a specific situation involving approximately 1000 refugees he would be willing to bring the refugees into the United States and at the same time send a message to Congress indicating what he had done and the reasons for the action. He asked me to send him a further memorandum outlining any such situation and indicating how the matter could be handled.

There is attached hereto a copy of a memorandum to the President, dated May 18, 1944, which has been transmitted to him, with the documents referred to therein. These memoranda deal with an emergency situation of the type which the President apparently had in mind, arising in connection with the influx of refugees into Allied Italy and the need of additional havens for these refugees.


J. W. Pehle
Executive Director. x 5477

Enclosures

INFORMATIONAL BACKGROUND FOR PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
ON FRIDAY, JUNE 9, RE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY REFUGEE SHELTER.

x36

1. Attached is a copy of a memorandum to interested agency heads and a cable to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, both of which have been signed by the President.

2. Statement of action taken. Arrangements have been made to bring to this country at once approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Such refugees will be placed in Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York, where under appropriate security restrictions they will remain for the duration of the war. This refugee area has been designated an Emergency Refugee Shelter. These refugees are being brought here outside of the regular immigration procedure, just as prisoners of war have been brought here. Here they will receive the humane treatment which our civilization provides, and here they will be safe. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands. While the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army will take the necessary security precautions and the actual administration of the camp will be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority.

The necessary health checks will be made to avoid bringing here persons afflicted with any loathsome, dangerous or contagious disease.

3. Urgency of situation. Over 1800 refugees per week have been pouring into Italy from Yugoslavia. In view of the military situation in Italy the number of refugees who can be accommodated there is limited. Due to the large influx of refugees, facilities in Italy for their care have become overtaxed. This situation has prevented the escape of the largest possible number of refugees, and has placed an additional and substantial burden on the military authorities in Italy.

4. Increase of existing facilities in Mediterranean Area. Many refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to camps in the Middle East - steps are under way to increase the quota of these camps from 25,000 to 40,000. A number of refugees are being moved to Palestine. A camp has also been set up near Casablanca to which refugees escaping from Spain are being taken. Steps are also being taken to increase substantially existing refugee facilities in Italy in non-military zones.

5. Necessity for other havens. Because of the large number of refugees escaping to Italy it is necessary to find other havens. An immediate survey is being made with a view to finding additional havens in the Mediterranean area, particularly in Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, Sicily and the Isle of Cyprus.

7. Necessity of this country doing its share. It seemed indispensable that the United States in keeping with our heritage and our ideals of liberty and justice take immediate steps to share the responsibility for meeting the problem. This country has always been a refuge for the fugitive from injustice, oppression and persecution, and it is particularly fitting that we should now furnish to those whose very lives are threatened by Hitler the sanctuary and asylum which since biblical times have been afforded the defenseless by civilized peoples.

7. Timeliness of action. We and our allies have unleashed the forces which will assure the final military defeat of Hitler and his minions. Concentrating as we must upon the destruction of the military forces opposed to us, we should not allow ourselves to forget Hitler's aim to salvage from military defeat victory for Nazi principles - the very principles which this war must destroy unless we shall have fought in vain.

- 2 -

We must be vigilant to combat this menace with the same intensity and vigor which the Allied forces are today employing on the field of battle. The Nazi program of mass extermination of minorities is but one manifestation of Hitler's aim, and, realizing that they have lost the war, the Nazis apparently are determined to complete this program quickly and ruthlessly.

8. Administrative arrangements and financing.

- (a) Housing and equipment will be provided by the Army
- (b) Personnel and administration will be provided by War Relocation Authority
- (c) Until UNRRA is in a position to assume responsibility, food and other supplies will be bought with funds of Foreign War Relief Appropriation and War Refugee Board.

9. Information on Camp Ontario. Will house at least 2000 refugees; brick buildings and well built barracks; heat; hospital; gymnasium; theater; fully equipped; ready for occupancy.

PROPOSED MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONGRESS

Congress has repeatedly manifested its deep concern with the pitiful plight of the persecuted minorities in Europe

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

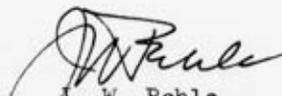


3/186

June 8, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EARLY:

Attached hereto is the informational material on the Emergency Refugee Shelter for the President's press conference tomorrow.


J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Attachments

PROPOSED MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CONGRESS

Congress has repeatedly manifested its deep concern with the pitiful plight of the persecuted minorities in Europe whose lives are each day being offered in sacrifice on the altar of Nazi tyranny.

This Nation is appalled by the systematic persecution of helpless minority groups by the Nazis. To us the unprovoked murder of innocent people simply because of race, religion or political creed is the blackest of all possible crimes. Since the Nazis began this campaign many of our citizens in all walks of life and of all political and religious persuasions have expressed our feeling of repulsion and our anger. It is a matter with respect to which there is and can be no division of opinion amongst us.

As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces *draws* *clear* *X* ~~near~~, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out the Jewish race in Europe continues undiminished. *Knowing that they* have lost the war, the Nazis are determined to complete their program of mass extermination. This program is but one manifestation of Hitler's aim to salvage from military defeat victory for Nazi principles - the very principles which this war must destroy unless we shall have fought in vain.

This Government has not only made clear its abhorrence of this inhuman and barbarous activity of the Nazis, but, in cooperation with other governments has endeavored to alleviate the condition of the persecuted peoples. In January of this year I determined that this Government should intensify its efforts to combat the Nazi terror. Accordingly, I established the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board was charged with the responsibility of taking all action consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all other possible relief and assistance. It was entrusted with the solemn duty of translating this Government's humanitarian policy into prompt action, thus manifesting once again in a concrete way that our kind of world and not Hitler's will prevail. Its purpose is directly and closely related to our whole war effort.

Since its establishment, the War Refugee Board, acting through a full time administrative staff, has made a direct and forceful attack on the problem. Operating quietly, as is appropriate, the Board, through its representatives in various parts of the world, has actually succeeded in saving the lives of innocent people. Not only have refugees been evacuated from enemy territory, but many measures have been taken to protect the lives of those who have not been able to escape.

Above all, the efforts of the Board have brought new hope to the oppressed peoples of Europe. This statement is not idle speculation. From various sources, I have received word that thousands of people, wearied by their years of resistance to Hitler and by their sufferings to the point of giving up

- 2 -

the struggle, have been given the will and desire to continue by the concrete manifestation of this Government's desire to do all possible to aid and rescue the oppressed.

To the Hitlerites, their subordinates and functionaries and satellites, to the German people and to all other peoples under the Nazi yoke, we have made clear our determination to punish all participants in these acts of savagery. In the name of humanity we have called upon them to spare the lives of these innocent people.

Notwithstanding this Government's unremitting efforts, which are continuing, the numbers actually rescued from the jaws of death have been small compared with the numbers still facing extinction in German territory. This is due principally to the fact that our enemies, despite all our appeals and our willingness to find havens of refuge for the oppressed peoples, persist in their fiendish extermination campaign and actively prevent the intended victims from escaping to safety.

In the face of this attitude of our enemies we must not fail to take full advantage of any opportunity, however limited, for the rescue of Hitler's victims. We are confronted with a most urgent situation.

Therefore, I wish to report to you today concerning a step which I have just taken in an effort to save additional lives and which I am certain will meet with your approval. You will, I am sure, appreciate that this measure is not only consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, but that it was essential to take action without delay.

Even before the Allied landing in Italy there had been a substantial movement of persecuted peoples of various races and nationalities into that country. This movement was undoubtedly prompted by the fact that, despite all attempts by the Fascists to stir up intolerance, the warm-hearted Italian people could not forsake their centuries-old tradition of tolerance and humanitarianism. The Allied landings swelled this stream of fleeing and hunted peoples seeking sanctuary behind the guns of the United Nations. However, in view of the military situation in Italy, the number of refugees who can be accommodated there is relatively limited. The Allied military forces, in view of their primary responsibility, have not been able generally speaking to encourage the escape of refugees from enemy territory. This unfortunate situation has prevented the escape of the largest possible number of refugees. Furthermore, as the number of refugees living in southern Italy increases, their care constitutes an additional and substantial burden for the military authorities.

Recently the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy have become so overtaxed that unless many refugees who have already escaped to that area and are arriving daily, particularly from the Balkan countries, can be promptly removed to havens of refuge elsewhere, the escape of refugees

- 3 -

to that area from German occupied territory will be seriously impeded. It was apparent that prompt action was necessary to meet this situation. Many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary refuges in the territory of other United and friendly nations. However, in view of the number of refugees still in southern Italy, the problem could not be solved unless temporary havens of refuge were found for some of them in still other areas. In view of this most urgent situation it seemed indispensable that the United States in keeping with our heritage and our ideals of liberty and justice take immediate steps to share the responsibility for meeting the problem.

Accordingly, arrangements have been made to bring immediately to this country approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands. These refugees are predominantly women and children. They will be placed on their arrival in a vacated Army camp on the Atlantic Coast where they will remain under appropriate security restrictions.

The Army will take the necessary security precautions and the camp will be administered by the War Relocation Authority. The War Refugee Board is charged with overall responsibility for this project.

The Following Pages Are the Best Available

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of War
Secretary of Navy
Secretary of Interior
Director of Budget
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board

There is attached a cable which I have dispatched to Robert Murphy in Algiers, requesting that he make arrangements for the departure to the United States as rapidly as possible of approximately 1,000 refugees now in southern Italy.

These refugees will be brought into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure and placed in Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York. While the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army shall take the necessary security precautions so that these refugees will remain in the camp and the actual administration of the camp is to be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority.

Accordingly, the following steps should be taken as expeditiously as possible:

- (1) The War Department and the Navy Department shall send whatever instructions are necessary to the military authorities in Italy and North Africa to expedite the transportation of these refugees to the United States.
- (2) The War Department shall arrange to furnish and properly equip Fort Ontario to receive these refugees; shall arrange for their transportation from the port of arrival to the camp; and shall arrange for the necessary security precautions.
- (3) The War Relocation Authority shall make arrangements to handle the actual administration of the camp, which will be designated as an Emergency Refugee Shelter.
- (4) Until URRA is in a position to assume the financial responsibilities involved, the Bureau of the Budget shall make arrangements for financing the project; using to the extent possible any available funds of the War Department, the War Relocation Authority, and the War Refugee Board, and from the Foreign War Relief appropriation, and if necessary drawing upon the President's Emergency Fund.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Information available to me indicates that there are real possibilities of saving human lives by bringing more refugees through Yugoslavia to southern Italy. I am also informed that the escape of refugees by this route has from time to time been greatly impeded because the facilities in southern Italy for refugees have been overtaxed. I am advised that this is the situation at the present moment and that accordingly possibilities of increasing the flow of refugees to Italy may be lost.

I understand that many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary havens in areas adjacent to the Mediterranean and that efforts are being made to increase existing refugee facilities in these areas. I am most anxious that this effort to take refugees from Italy to areas relatively close by be intensified.

At the same time I feel that it is important that the United States indicate that it is ready to share the burden of caring for refugees during the war. Accordingly, I have decided that approximately 1,000 refugees should be immediately brought from Italy to this country, to be placed in an Emergency Refugee Shelter to be established at Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York, where under appropriate security restrictions they will remain for the duration of the war. These refugees will be brought into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure just as civilian internees from Latin American countries and prisoners of war have been brought here. The Emergency Refugee Shelter will be well equipped to take good care of these people. It is contemplated that at the end of the war they will be returned to their homelands.

You may assume that the Emergency Refugee Shelter will be ready to receive these refugees when they arrive. I will appreciate it therefore if you will arrange for the departure to the United States as rapidly as possible, consistent with military requirements, of approximately 1,000 refugees in southern Italy. You may call upon representatives of the War Refugee Board in Algiers to assist you in this matter. The full cooperation of our military and naval authorities should be enlisted in effecting the prompt removal and transportation of the refugees.

In choosing the refugees to be brought to the United States, please bear in mind that to the extent possible those refugees should be selected for whom other means of refuge are not immediately available. I should however like the group to include a reasonable proportion of various categories of persecuted peoples who have fled to Italy.

You should bear in mind that since these refugees are to be placed in a camp in the United States under appropriate security restrictions, the procedure for the selection of the refugees and arrangements for bringing them here should be as simple and expeditious as possible, uncomplicated by any of the usual formalities involved in admitting people to the United States under the immigration laws.

* However, please be sure that the necessary health checks are made to avoid bringing here persons afflicted with any loathsome, dangerous or contagious disease.

Add health
FDR

August 10, 1944

3186

Dear Dr. Kramer:

Please accept the President's thanks for your telegram of August eighth, signed also by Mrs. Kramer and by Private Ehrenstam. The President is delighted to know how happy you are because Mr. and Mrs. Ehrenstam have found a safe refuge at Port Ontario.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASETT
Secretary to the President

Dr. Samuel E. Kramer, X
361 East 68th Street,
New York, New York.

3186

7

May 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Green:

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of May eighth, concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for victims of enemy oppression. The President was very glad to have this expression of your views.

Your letter is being forwarded to Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board, with the request that he give it due consideration and further acknowledgment.

x5477

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

The Honorable William Green,
President, American Federation of Labor,
A. F. of L. Building,
Washington, D. C.

x1422

(May 8, 1944 - Let. to the President calling attention to resolution adopted by American Federation of Labor at its last convention held during October 1943; says millions of men and women who compose rank and file of wdh;aw American Federation of Labor membership went on record urging the United States to grant at least temporary asylum to victims of Hitler's bestial persecution. Urges the President to cause the creation of "free ports" in this country for refugee victims of war.)

copy to John W. Pehle

May 12, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

Hon. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board

In accordance with Mr. Hassett's instructions, I am forwarding herewith copy of the letter which he addressed to Hon. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor.

I understand that you have a copy of Mr. Green's letter to the President, dated May eighth.

Alice Winegar
Secretary to MR. HASSETT

Attachment

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



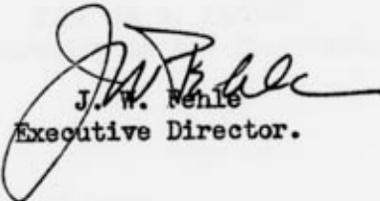
May 11, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. William D. Hassett,
Secretary to the President.

Pursuant to your request there is attached hereto a reply for your signature to the letter of May 8 from William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Green's letter is returned herewith.

For your information, I showed Mr. Green's letter to the President when I saw him this morning.


J. W. Fenle
Executive Director.

Attachments

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Green:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 8 concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for victims of enemy oppression.

Your letter is being called to the attention of the President and a copy has been sent to the War Refugee Board.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President.

The Honorable William Green,
President, American Federation of Labor,
A. F. of L. Building,
Washington, D. C.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

May 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board.

With the return of the attached
letter from Honorable William Green, will
you please be good enough to let me have
a draft of an appropriate reply for my
signature?

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

hms

Letter from Hon. Wm. Green, President, American
Federation of Labor, Hotel Adelphia, Philadelphia,
Pa., 5/8/44, to the President, urging the President
to cause the creation of "free ports" in this
country for refugee victims of the cruel war - now,
before it is too late.



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Executive Council

President, WILLIAM GREEN

Secretary-Treasurer, GEORGE BRANT
A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

- | | |
|--|--|
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222 East Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind. | Twelfth Vice-President, W. C. DUNN,
Deacons of Twelfth Street, Indianapolis, Ind. |
| | Thirteenth Vice-President, W. C. DUNN,
608 A. F. of L. Bldg., Washington, D. C. |

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE NATIONAL 3870-1-2-3-4
CABLE ADDRESS, AFEL.

Washington, D. C.

Hotel Adelphia,
Philadelphia, Pa.,
May 8, 1944.

8 1 54 PM '44
RECEIVED

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

Dear Mr. President:

Permit me to call your attention to a resolution adopted by the American Federation of Labor at its last convention which was held during October 1943. As you will no doubt recall, the millions of men and women who compose the rank and file of the American Federation of Labor membership went on record urging the United States to grant at least temporary asylum to the victims of Hitler's bestial persecution. The term "free port" had not been coined at that time but the sentiment of the membership was and is nonetheless synonymous with the proposal.

I quote the following section from Resolution No. 73 which was adopted at the convention: "To this end, the American Federation of Labor calls upon the United Nations to take immediate steps to rescue the remaining Jews of occupied Europe. We call upon the United Nations, and our own country, to provide for them temporary havens in their territories".

I am writing at this time because I have learned that the War Refugee Board which you established recently is interested in what is referred to as the "free port" plan. Please be advised that I fully and unreservedly suppose this program of rescue for refugees. I urge you to effect the realization of this humanitarian measure, which is really a small undertaking for a nation as great as ours. We are feeding, clothing and housing over 130,000 captured Nazis while at the same time we have made no move in the direction of alleviating the suffering of at least a small fraction of that number.

I understand that tiny Switzerland, despite its neutrality and hazardous geographical position on the map of Europe, has welcomed to its territory a far greater number of men and women driven out by the Nazis than might be expected of her. These refugees live in camps and are permitted much more freedom of movement than the original "free port" suggestion calls for.

I am proud to know that a great many newspapers in our country have published editorials supporting this proposal. It is encouraging to

x76-e

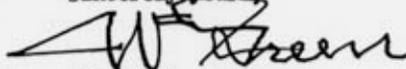
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note that the carnage in which mankind at present finds itself engaged on a world-wide scale has not lessened the American's traditional sympathetic and humane attitude toward his fellow men.

I urge you, Mr. President, in my own name and in the name of all the members of the American Federation of Labor to cause the creation of "free ports" in this country for refugee victims of the cruel war - now, before it is too late. Such action on your part, I believe, will clear the way for similar action in other parts of the Allied and neutral world.

x133-A

Sincerely yours,



President,
American Federation of Labor.

Y

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt.
May 8, 1944,
Page 2.

0

3186

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*File
gla*

JUNE 1, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of the Treasury [#] reports that you asked that a camp be found for refugees within 24 hours and the War Department has just informed him they have found a camp for 1000 refugees at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. ^{x21}

x25

*Friday to that
to check
date*

*See: Release of
June 9th, 1944
CRR*

The White House
Washington

WB23 NL

LAKE GEORGE NY AUG 8 1944

AUG 9 7 55 AM 1944

F D ROOSEVELT

WHITEHOUSE

OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH THANKS TO YOU MR PRESIDENT FOR THE
SAVING OF THE LIVES OF OUR PARENTS MR AND MRS MORITZ EHRENSTAMM
WHO WERE GIVEN REFUGE FROM ITALY AT PORT ONTARIO. AS EACH DAY
GOD GIVES NEW LIFE AND FREEDOM TO MORE OPPRESSED SOULS WE HUMBLY
PRAY THAT HE PRESERVES YOU FOR HUMANITYS NEEDS, AND GIVES YOU MANY
YEARS OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

DR AND MRS SAMUEL E KRAMER

351 EAST 68TH STREET NEW YORK CITY

page 3

PVT ADO H ^X EHRENSTAMM ASN 39138073 1ST
EXPERIMENTAL DET AMERICAN PO APO 887
CARE POSTMASTER NEW YORK

page 3

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 9, 1944

Following is the text of a cablegram sent by the President to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers:

"Information available to me indicates that there are real possibilities of saving human lives by bringing more refugees through Yugoslavia to southern Italy. I am also informed that the escape of refugees by this route has from time to time been greatly impeded because the facilities in southern Italy for refugees have been overtaxed. I am advised that this is the situation at the present moment and that accordingly possibilities of increasing the flow of refugees to Italy may be lost.

"I understand that many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary havens in areas adjacent to the Mediterranean and that efforts are being made to increase existing refugee facilities in these areas. I am most anxious that this effort to take refugees from Italy to areas relatively close by be intensified.

"At the same time I feel that it is important that the United States indicate that it is ready to share the burden of caring for refugees during the war. Accordingly, I have decided that approximately 1,000 refugees should be immediately brought from Italy to this country, to be placed in an Emergency Refugee Shelter to be established at Port Ontario near Oswego, New York, where under appropriate security restrictions they will remain for the duration of the war. These refugees will be brought into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure just as civilian internees from Latin American countries and prisoners of war have been brought here. The Emergency Refugee Shelter will be well equipped to take good care of these people. It is contemplated that at the end of the war they will be returned to their homelands.

"You may assume that the Emergency Refugee Shelter will be ready to receive these refugees when they arrive. I will appreciate it therefore if you will arrange for the departure to the United States as rapidly as possible, consistent with military requirements, of approximately 1,000 refugees in southern Italy. You may call upon representatives of the War Refugee Board in Algiers to assist you in this matter. The full cooperation of our military and naval authorities should be enlisted in effecting the prompt removal and transportation of the refugees.

"In choosing the refugees to be brought to the United States, please bear in mind that to the extent possible those refugees should be selected for whom other havens of refuge are not immediately available. I should however like the group to include a reasonable proportion of various categories of persecuted peoples who have fled to Italy.

"You should bear in mind that since these refugees are to be placed in a camp in the United States under appropriate security restrictions, the procedure for the selection of the refugees and arrangements for bringing them here should be as simple and expeditious as possible, uncomplicated by any of the usual formalities involved in admitting people to the United States under the immigration laws.

"However, please be sure that the necessary health checks are made to avoid bringing here persons afflicted with any loathsome, dangerous or contagious disease.

"If you encounter any difficulties in arranging for the prompt departure of these refugees please let me know."

- - - - -

(OVER)

- 2 -

Following is a copy of the memorandum sent by the President on June eighth to the Secretaries of War, Navy, Interior, the Director of the Budget, and Executive Director of the War Refugee Board:

"There is attached a cable which I have dispatched to Robert Murphy in Algiers, requesting that he make arrangements for the departure to the United States as rapidly as possible of approximately 1,000 refugees now in southern Italy.

"These refugees will be brought into this country outside of the regular immigration procedure and placed in Fort Ontario near Oswego, New York. While the War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility for this project, the Army shall take the necessary security precautions so that these refugees will remain in the camp and the actual administration of the camp is to be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority.

"Accordingly, the following steps should be taken as expeditiously as possible:

"(1) The War Department and the Navy Department shall send whatever instructions are necessary to the military authorities in Italy and North Africa to expedite the transportation of these refugees to the United States.

"(2) The War Department shall arrange to furnish and properly equip Fort Ontario to receive these refugees; shall arrange for their transportation from the port of arrival to the camp; and shall arrange for the necessary security precautions.

"(3) The War Relocation Authority shall make arrangements to handle the actual administration of the camp, which will be designated as an Emergency Refugee Shelter.

"(4) Until UNRRA is in a position to assume the financial responsibilities involved, the Bureau of the Budget shall make arrangements for financing the project; using to the extent possible any available funds of the War Department, the War Relocation Authority, and the War Refugee Board, and from the Foreign War Relief appropriation, and if necessary drawing upon the President's Emergency Fund."

- - - - -

3186

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

file

3

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached hereto for your information is a cable received from Robert Murray indicating that arrangements to bring refugees from Italy to Fort Ontario are going forward rapidly. # ^{x5197}

I think that you will also be interested in the attached editorials regarding the Emergency Refugee Center at Fort Ontario, which appeared in the New York Times, the New York Herald-Tribune, the Washington Post, and the Washington Evening Star. All of the editorial and news comment has been very favorable. ^{x194-1}

You will also be pleased to know that the British Government has now agreed to the proposal of the War Refugee Board that temporary havens for refugees be established in Tripolitania. The British indicate that the refugee center which they are prepared to establish with our cooperation will accommodate approximately 1500 people. I think that this news is of particular significance coming as it does at the time of your establishing the Emergency Refugee Shelter here. ^{x48}

J. P. [Signature]
x 5477

Attachments.

x233

The Washington Post
JUN 1 1944

3186

Free Ports

That the President has adopted the idea, first brooded by Mr. Samuel Grafton, of "free ports" for the detention and care of refugees from wartorn Europe is cause for gratification. The purpose of the plan is to make it possible to grant asylum to refugees without admitting them to the country under the immigration regulations. The analogy for this procedure is the arrangement whereby goods in international trade, not intended for import to this country, can be held in storage, duty-free, until they can be transhipped to their ultimate destination. But the opening of our doors to only 1000, to be put into a single camp, is a drop in the bucket compared with the needs. Senator Gillette and several like-minded Senators feel that we can do more. Of course we can, and the resolution bearing the name of the humanitarian Iowan, which will come before the Senate Wednesday, will give the Senators a chance to say so. The resolution wouldn't involve the assumption of any responsibility that could be called a burden. In authorizing the setting up of rescue camps where entries, selected by the War Refugee Board, would be given temporary sanctuary, it merely enables us to do our part, along with other nations, in shielding a sizable segment of humanity from the defeat-crazed excesses of Nazi butchers.

The proudest tradition any country can boast is that it is a haven for the oppressed and the persecuted. ~~Half a~~ dozen countries are still jealous of that honor. France was a notable example till she was seized by the barbarians to whose victims she used to give such sympathetic sanctuary. Sweden and Switzerland have construed their neutrality as a mandate to succor the hunted from other nations. Hungary till she was overrun was hospitable to the Jews fleeing from Germany. Our country, which has been enriched by the persecuted of other lands, has done what it could within the restrictions of the immigration statutes and has a right to a top place among the world's asylums.

Perhaps we have not been as selective as we should. Stories come to one's ears from time to time of troublemakers in our midst, and one wonders how in the world they got their visas. Then there is a horde of rich foreign parasites in New York who are intent only on keeping out of harm's way. In their place one would have liked to see in this country many worthy folk of professional and other attainments who would have been useful additions to the American population. Many of them sought but couldn't get admission. Some of them perforce have had to work for collaborationist governments. It is strange that we use so much talent in the preclusive buying of materials and so little on the preclusive acquirement of people.

The Gillette resolution is a belated attempt to recognize the responsibilities and acknowledge the sympathies of a great people for the victims of furor teutonicus. The policy it seeks to promote is national. But the opportunity is continental, and the attempt should be made to get the other republics of this hemisphere to join in establishing a system of free ports for the people who, after suffering dreadful tribulations, are now in peril of massacre at the hands of our bestial enemy.

JUN 10 1944

A Moral Responsibility

President Roosevelt's announcement that 1,000 European refugees will be granted temporary shelter in this country will be welcomed by all who have given any thought to the plight of those great numbers of people who have been uprooted by the war and put to flight by the Nazis. Life has dealt harshly with these men, women and children, and they need the support of every nation that can serve as a haven for them. Heretofore the United States has limited its assistance to diplomatic efforts to establish homes for them in other lands; now, on the strength of the President's decision, we shall share directly in the task of caring for them. An unused military camp in upstate New York will be opened for the purpose. There, subject to essential security restrictions, the thousand will live for the duration, our regular immigration procedure being suspended to permit their entry, with the understanding that they will be returned to their native countries when peace is restored. In view of the dimensions of the problem, the number seems surprisingly small and perhaps we shall find it desirable, later on, to open our doors to many more—a gesture contemplated by a Congressional proposal to set up several "free ports" to accommodate additional thousands. In any event, no one with the least humanitarian impulse will question the fitness of Mr. Roosevelt's action; it is simply a step in recognition of the moral responsibility which every nation, in a position to help, bears toward the oppressed and stricken of the world.

(3165)

~~Chicago~~ Tribune
JUN 11 1944

3186

Haven for Europe's Refugees

The President's press conference statement on the rescue of refugees from Nazi Europe brings some encouraging news. The arrangements for the transfer, to a temporary haven at Fort Ontario, New York, of a thousand refugees from overcrowded camps in southern Italy means that this country is undertaking at once its share of responsibility for refugees' care. The fact that camps in Italy are overcrowded means that tens of thousands are escaping. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration supplementing the President's news, reports that since May 1 six refugee centers in the Middle East have been housing 40,500 Greeks and Yugoslavs, mostly women and children, and that the number is expected to swell to 54,000 soon. These centers are to be expanded and new ones built.

The President indicated that a workable escape route is that through Yugoslavia to Italy—1,800 came out of Yugoslavia last week. This influx taxes facilities in southern Italy and threatens to hamper military activities. Other Mediterranean havens take some, but the overflow, apparently, is great enough to warrant the transfer of a thousand immediately to this country.

The thousand will be admitted outside the regular immigration procedure and given haven here for the duration. "It is contemplated that at the end of the war they will be returned to their homelands," the President wrote. The War Department is to equip Fort Ontario, near Oswego, to receive them, to arrange their transportation from port to camp and take the necessary precautions to see that they remain in camp. The camp will be administered by the War Relocation Board; it will be financed with funds pooled from various government agencies dealing with foreign relief, supplemented, if necessary, from the President's emergency funds.

This news of the escape of driven and persecuted peoples, with its import of new hope and new heart for thousands, is a poignant preface to the coming liberation of millions like them as the armies of freedom batter through the walls around fortress Europe.

3186
The New York Times.

JUN 10 1944

PORT OF REFUGE

We believe that there will be prompt and generous approval of the President's plan to establish at Fort Ontario, near Oswego, a temporary haven for refugees who may escape from the European nations which are still under Hitler's domination. There is nothing in this proposal that seeks to evade the immigration laws or to disturb existing quotas. It is planned to provide food and shelter for approximately a thousand persons. This is only a tiny fraction of the great mass of homeless and helpless people, of many faiths and many races, who have been victims of the Nazi terror. We hope, ourselves, that more than a mere thousand can be sheltered under an expansion of the present program. But neither those who come now nor the others who may be enabled to come later will come as permanent residents of this country, in excess of the immigration quotas. They will come merely on a temporary basis—as war prisoners come, in fact, or as goods in crates are permitted to enter our "free ports," without payment of customs, if they are simply in transit from one foreign country to another. All that the plan involves is an overnight shelter, so to speak, until it becomes possible either to return these distressed people to their native lands or to find permanent homes for them elsewhere.

This is all that the plan involves, but it is enough to be helpful. For it will encourage other nations to take similar steps and, to the extent that it is generally adopted, it will remove one of the great barriers—a lack of places of even temporary refuge—which have been blocking the escape of Hitler's victims. This is a work of mercy. The President believes it important that the United States should share in it, not through words but through deeds. Every warm-hearted American will agree with him and approve his action.

The plan has nothing to do with unrestricted and uncontrolled immigration. It is simply a proposal to save the lives of innocent people.

June 9, 1944

3186

Dear Mr. Silverberg:

This is in acknowledgment of your letter of May thirty-first, addressed to the President.

Enclosed herewith is copy of a release which I believe will clarify any confusion there may be in your mind as to the President's position regarding admittance of refugees to the United States.

Please be assured that your interest in writing to the President is much appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

Mr. Bertram P. ~~Silverberg~~,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company,
66 Court Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

mtl

Enclosure. Copy of June 9th release on refugees.



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METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FREDERICK H. ECKER, *Chairman of the Board* LEROY A. LINCOLN, *President*

BERTRAM P. SILVERBERG

TELEPHONES: OFF. CUMBERLAND 6-9220
RES. BUCKMINSTER 7-0190
66 COURT STREET - BROOKLYN, N. Y.

May. 31. 1944.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the U. S. A.
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

ack'd.
6/9/44
mtl

Dear Mr. President:

There seems to be a difference
of opinion in the newspapers as to
what you said at your news conference
on May 30 on the subject of Free Ports.

Did you say you favored them
"but not in the U. S. A." or "not only in
the U. S. A.", or just what was it you
did say?

I hope you will clarify this
for the benefit of myself and a lot of
other people.

Respectfully,

Bertram P. Silverberg.



June 22, 1944

3186

Dear Mr. Misen:

Please accept the President's thanks for your letter of June fourteenth. He was very much interested in the historical facts which you brought to his attention, and is glad that your community is so well pleased because Fort Ontario has been chosen as a haven of refuge for war refugees. The President also was pleased that you recalled the visit which he made to Oswego more than thirty years ago. #

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Mr. Harry C. Misen, *
Chairman, Special Fort Ontario
Committee, *
Oswego Chamber of Commerce, Inc.,
Oswego,
New York.

WDH/mdp

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Harry A. Nizen,
Chairman, Special Fort Ontario Committee
Oswego, New York.

Commending the President on the selection of Fort Ontario as a haven of refuge for a homeless group of European war sufferers.

Myland

*Good for his
return*

*Rec'd 4:00 p.m.
6-20-44
MDP*

Oswego Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Oswego, New York

*6-14-44
MAD*

June 14, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

We of Oswego feel that it has been a fortuitous and fitting personal selection on your part to have chosen Fort Ontario as a haven of refuge for a homeless group of European war sufferers.

The military reservation on which this historic fort stands is the oldest garrisoned post in the United States, and its early background of military actions, before and after it came into possession of the United States in 1796, does indeed present a notable picture and atmosphere of struggle for freedom and the dignity of the human spirit which doubtless will be captured by the refugees of other lands.

Perhaps it may not be inappropriate at this time to remind you of the gracious visit you made Oswego on September 30, 1913, when you addressed us on the occasion of the dedication of Montcalm Park, site of old Fort George. You recalled to us that Fort Ontario at Oswego was the chief reliance of the British Colonies between Lake Champlain and Pittsburgh, the danger spot for the French which threatened the St. Lawrence and the Ohio.

In behalf of the Special Fort Ontario Committee of the Oswego Chamber of Commerce, I wish to extend to Your Excellency our thanks for your selection of Fort Ontario for this humanitarian objective, and to assure you of the deep appreciation of Oswegonians, and of our willingness at all times to cooperate with our Government in the vast problems which confront it.

Fort Ontario, an institution of Oswego, Mr. President, will continue to measure up to its worthy tradition.

Yours most respectfully,

Harry C. Mizen

Harry C. Mizen, Chairman
Special Fort Ontario Committee

HCM:MW

6-17/44

3186

2b-16
Luncheon

WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 8, 1944

X

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

Last summer you and the Prime Minister spoke about using Tunisia as a place for the refugees. I understand it did not work out.

x #
700
There is a constantly recurring demand to open Palestine further as an escape for these unfortunate people. I understand the difficulties involved.

I am wondering if, through your leadership, you could get the United Nations -- whose soil is free from the Nazis -- to agree to take care of say one-million refugees, with an allotted percentage to each one, with a further understanding that another million would be provided for -- when the Axis in Europe is defeated this action to be suspended. This would not entail much of a burden on anyone. These refugees will not have permanent residences, but temporary ones, unless the countries through their own legislation wish to have them remain.

I do not see how very many refugees, whether they be persecuted as Jews, Catholics, or anything else, can escape from the Nazi-held territories. But at least it would open the doors of a temporary escape -- until the war is over -- from their savage butchers.

I consider it worthy of your most serious immediate attention.

B. M. Baruch

B. M. Baruch

x #
5330-c

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

3186

January 1, 1944.

file

MEMORANDUM FOR JUDGE ROSENMAN

x5433

Dear Sam:

I think you will be interested in this telegram which gives the understanding of Edén and Emerson, who is the head of the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee in London, on the question of the mandate and authority of the Inter-
governmental Committee. It entirely coincides with our own thought and is in entire keeping with my short statement in connection with the same matter which appears on page 34 of my printed testimony.

ml
Breckinridge Long

x20

x48
x76-6

KEM

PLAIN

London

Dated December 31, 1943

Rec'd 11:18 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

9111, Thirty-first.

Pursuant to my conversation with Eden (this refers to the Embassy's telegram No. 9033, December 29, noon) we have again reviewed the entire question of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee with Emerson and with a representative of the Foreign Office. We also examined the text of Mr. Long's statement as quoted in the printed hearings before the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Office representative pointed out that Mr. Long in his testimony on page thirty four did not read the revised mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee but did read the recommendations of the Bermuda Conference which have never been placed before the committee. Both Emerson and the Foreign Office representative also referred to the Department's press release following the Bermuda Conference of May 19 number 198 in which the following appears:

"it was also

-2- #9111, December 31, from London.

"it was also agreed that no negotiations with Hitler could be undertaken since his entire record has left no doubt that he would only agree to such solutions as would be of direct aid to the Axis war aims". They also referred to Peakes' statement before the House of Commons quoted in the telegram referred to above which was agreed to by both the British and American authorities as was the Department's announcement before it was issued. They felt that they could not issue any statement that indicated that the Intergovernmental Committee through its revised mandate had authority to negotiate with Germany or other enemy governments and pointed out that such a step would only result in a public outcry in this country and difficulties with the member governments of the committee, particularly Soviet Russia.

It was agreed however that the scope of the activities of the committee should be clarified and Emerson has handed us the statement quoted below which is addressed to the Department of State and signed by Emerson as director of the committee and which may be published as a communication from the director by the Department of State if the Department so desires or alternatively issued as a communique here in London.

Emerson

-3- #9111, December 31, from London.

Emerson prefers the first alternative since so far the matter has received practically no publicity here and informs me that he understands that the Foreign Office would also prefer this if acceptable to the Department. The statement has the approval of Winterton and of the Foreign Office and I consider that it goes to the absolute limit that either the Executive Committee or the Foreign Office is prepared to go in meeting the Department's views as set forth in its instructions numbers 8071 December 22 and 8124, December 24, 2 p.m. I therefore suggest that it be accepted and published by the Department in the belief that it will serve to clarify the existing situation.

Following is text of statement:

"On 14th October, 1943, the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees issued a communique which included the terms of its mandate. It seems desirable to amplify the communique by some account of the scope of the powers of the committee, and the manner in which they are being exercised.

The procedure followed by the Executive Committee has been to invite all the member governments to confer on it certain powers. Owing to the difficulty of communications, replies have not yet been received from
all those

-4- #911, December 31, from London.

all those governments, but those so far received have given the necessary agreement. The persons coming within the activities of the committee include all those who, as a result of events in Europe, have had to leave, or may have to leave, their countries of residence because of the danger to their lives, or liberties, on account of their race, religion or political beliefs. Provided they come within the above definition, it does not matter where they are--in neutral, occupied or any other countries. It is true that some persons do not need assistance because their own governments are willing, and able, to look after them. None the less, the Intergovernmental Committee is at the service of those governments. It is further true that it is not, at the moment, possible to extend assistance to all, or indeed to the majority who come within the mandate. This is because of the stern facts of war.

The Executive Committee has been empowered for the purpose by the member governments. Although under the mandate, as it stands, it is not empowered to undertake negotiations with other than neutral or Allied states or organizations, it may, and does, within the powers it has, take such steps as may be necessary to preserve, maintain and transport the persons coming

within its

-5- #9111, December 31, from London.

within its responsibility. In the exercise of these powers, the services are sought, when necessary, of neutral governments, some of whom are members of the committee. Some are willing and able, in their individual capacity, to discuss refugee matters in which the committee is interested with those governments with whom the Intergovernmental Committee itself cannot carry on negotiations. Their assistance, which has already been of value, is much appreciated; it will be continually sought as occasion requires. The assistance of voluntary organizations is available, and is being used. Thus, under its present revised mandate, the committee has all requisite authority to do whatever can be done, under present circumstances. The sphere of activities of the committee is conditioned by practical realities, and not by lack of authority. At present the powers are adequate. If conditions change so as to require an enlargement of them, it is open to the Executive Committee to seek the agreement of member governments".

WINANT x4281

RR

(2100)
Luro

3186

OK
OK
4 P.M.
Custom material
returned to
State 1/17/44

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

In order to carry out the work on behalf of refugees in which the Department is interested, I am asking your approval, in advance of the submission of an estimate to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, of a request to Congress for a lump sum appropriation. I should like to be able to obtain the funds at the earliest possible date and, therefore, suggest that an appropriation be requested without the delay involved in first obtaining enabling legislation.

x79
x119

It is estimated that at the present time \$5,000,000 should be requested, \$1,000,000 of which will be required to defray our share of the cost in connection with the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees and, \$4,000,000 should be available for various projects which may receive the approval of the Committee, the British Government, and ourselves.

If

The President,
The White House.

-2-

If you approve this procedure and it is agreeable to you, any subsequent appropriations which might be required for this purpose will be submitted through the usual channels.

Faithfully yours,

Cordell Hull

x20

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



file

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

3186

April 29, 1944

My dear Miss Tully:

The President will be interested, I am sure, to read the outcome of the visit of Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, to this country and our efforts to coordinate the activities of the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor
Myron C. Taylor x 3865

Miss Grace Tully,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Now that Sir Herbert Emerson has left Washington after a series of discussions dealing with relations between the Inter-Governmental Committee and the War Refugee Board, I want to express my personal thanks to you for originating and implementing the idea that Sir Herbert and I get together on our common problems. As you know, the discussions were most harmonious, complete agreement was reached as to the relations between the two agencies, and definite steps were taken to push forward specific plans.

Thanks for the assistance.

With personal regards,

J. W. Pehle x5477
Executive Director

Mr. Myron C. Taylor,
American Representative,
Inter-Governmental Committee,
Room 220,
Department of State.

nm
3186 THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY: *x21*

I am enclosing herewith a memorandum from Mr. Myron Taylor. Will you and Ed Stettinius work it *x20* out with him?

**F.D.R.*
F.D.R.

3865
Memorandum for the President from Hon. Myron C. Taylor, 2/3/44, in re relationship between ~~the~~ *#* advisory Committee on Refugees, the Inter-governmental Committee (36 states are now members) and the newly created War Refugee Board. Mr. Taylor makes two suggestions regarding the matter.

x5477

*For the President's
OK*

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE:

What do you think we should
do about this?

F.D.R.

*This Brady was ^{original} asked by Miss
Marr if this went to Klade & she
said her recollection was that
it did not go in view of late
memo to H. to Sec. S.P.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Henry Morgenthau tells me that Ed Stettinius told him that Myron Taylor is exercised about your Refugee Board and that he has written you a note. The Secretary suggests that before you answer it or take any action, would you be good enough to see him and Ed Stettinius.

OK He also asks if he might come in to see you at the house on Tuesday morning say 9:30 or 9:45.

GUT

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1944

PERSONAL TO THE PRESIDENT

Sometime after the meeting on Refugees described in the accompanying brief memorandum I am informed that Mr. Morgenthau called Mr. Stettinius and raised questions on the substance of the discussions and that he was to take the matter up with you. I am not acquainted with the substance of his remarks. The notes attached give you a true picture, as I see it, of the vital part of the discussion. Our objective was to coordinate activities, not to oppose any helpful action.

Myron C. Taylor



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

March 21, 1944

file

My dear Mr. President:

I saw Myron Taylor the other day and had a very satisfactory talk with him. I am sure he is going to cooperate with your War Refuge Board.

At my suggestion, he has cabled Sir Herbert Emerson, Secretary of the Inter-governmental Committee in London, and asked him to come to Washington to confer with John Pehle.

I am returning herewith the correspondence that you sent me in regard to this matter and I can assure you that you can dismiss it from your mind.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Nathan

The President,
The White House.

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM

MYRON TAYLOR

On Thursday I attended a meeting in Mr. Stettinius' office to discuss the relationship between your Advisory Committee on Refugees, the Intergovernmental Committee (thirty-six states are now members), and the newly created War Refugee Board. Those attending were Mr. Stettinius, Mr. Paley and his assistant representing Mr. Morgenthau, Mr. Berle, Mr. Breckinridge Long, Mr. Taft, Mr. George Warren, Robert Pell, my alternate appointed with your approval last autumn.

I explained the scope of the Intergovernmental Committee directive, its office in London, its distinguished membership of nations represented by Ambassadors and Ministers. I outlined the recent expansion of its directive to assume administrative relief functions, the provision of funds for relief, one half by our Government through your generous offices, and one half by the British, arranged by you with the Prime Minister, as well as the agreed arrangement for relief with Mr. Lehman's organization. It was hoped that other nations might also contribute to this fund as they have to the expenses of the London office.

Inasmuch as you founded the Intergovernmental Committee and thirty-six nations are members, it seems desirable for reasons of international good will and particularly as questions have been raised in many quarters, to define the relationship and the future scope of the War Refugee Board and of the Intergovernmental Committee.

I therefore

I therefore made two concrete suggestions:

I. That Mr. Paley and Mr. Pell prepare a brief statement of the scope of the work, having in mind the greatest possibilities of success in relieving the unfortunate victims of Nazi terror, and of the part the Intergovernmental Committee is hereafter to play, if any, therein.

II. That Mr. Paley go to London to clear up the uncertainties with the British Foreign Office and the Intergovernmental Committee.

The British for some time have desired a full plenary session of the Intergovernmental Committee, and an immediate question has been put to Mr. Eden in the House of Commons for an explanation of the purpose of the "American War Refugee Board" and the resulting status of the Intergovernmental Committee. A number of Governments have also sought to retire from the Intergovernmental Committee on the theory that the U.S.A. have taken over the refugee problem.

By following I and II above the situation can in my mind be clarified.

Others present at the meeting raised subsidiary questions which have a bearing upon publicity and foreign relations, but these in my opinion can be solved without difficulty in the regular conduct of inter-Departmental routine.



Myron C. Taylor

COPY

3186

7/10/44

(16 Gordon Place)
(Cincinnati, 2, Ohio)

e

HOTEL CHARLOTTE HARBOR
Punta Gorda Florida

file

March 15, 1944

The President of the United States

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I appreciated so very much your reply to me on the European-Jewish question, a while ago. I was very thankful for the fine move you made. I hope it will soon bear fruit in saving many lives.

May I once more tell you how earnestly I desire the children of the European small democracies to be fed soon. I know the plans are laid. I do hope you will use your fine influence and power to speed up the action.

With all good wishes, to you, and appreciation -

Very sincerely,

(Signed) ELEANOR CHASE TAFT x PP777D1

(Mrs. Charles P.)

x 892
x 76-6
x 58

(16 Garden Place
Cincinnati, O., Ohio)

HOTEL CHARLOTTE HARBOR
PUNTA GORDA FLORIDA

March 15-1944

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

Dear Mr. President,

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reply to me on the European-Jewish question,
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May I once more tell you how earnestly
I desire the children of the European small
democracies to be fed soon. I know the
plans are laid. I do hope you will use your
fine influence and power to speed up the
action.

With all good wishes to you, and appreciation -
Very sincerely,
Eleanor Chase Taft.

(Mrs. Charles P.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
MAR 17 8 32 AM '44
RECEIVED

3186

January 28, 1944

My dear Mrs. Taft:

The deep feeling of sympathy for the Jewish people of Europe and for the children in the small democracies, expressed in your letter of December 15, 1943, is wholly shared by me personally and by those officials of the Government who are working with me in an endeavor to aid these stricken people.

x76-6
x58

Knowing you would be particularly interested in practical measures to deal with the over-all refugee problem, I have delayed answering your letter until the plans pertaining thereto had been worked out. I now enclose a press release containing an Executive Order issued January 23 establishing a War Refugee Board. This Board is charged with immediately initiating action which will rescue the oppressed minorities from Nazi persecution.

x5477

I also enclose a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Rescue of the Jewish and Other Peoples in Nazi-Occupied Territory", which contains the testimony given by Assistant Secretary of State, Breckinridge Long, before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and which describes the efforts which have been made by the Government to relieve these persecuted people.

When you are in Washington, if you should desire to discuss these matters further, Mr. Hull

will

will be glad to arrange an appointment for you with the appropriate official engaged in this work.

Your letter and its assurance of your support of my endeavors to institute an effective relief program is genuinely appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Enclosures:

Press release, January 22, 1944.
Pamphlets: "Rescue of the Jewish and Other Peoples in Nazi-Occupied Territory".

Mrs. Charles P. Taft.

x Jen
x PP77701

16 Garden Place,

Cincinnati, Ohio.

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



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 27, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

There is enclosed for your signature a reply
to the letter addressed to you by Mrs. Charles P.
Taft.

Enclosures:

From Mrs. Charles P. Taft,
December 15, 1943.

To Mrs. Taft.



(2170)

lms

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JS

December 22, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE: *x 20*

FOR PREPARATION OF REPLY
FOR MY SIGNATURE.

F.D.R.

Letter from Mrs. Charles F. Taft,
16 Garden Place, Cincinnati, Ohio,
12/15/43, to the President, urging
that something be done to save the
remaining Jewish people of Europe.
Also writes in re feeding of the children in
the small democracies.

April 5, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to the
War Refugee Board for attention and
appropriate acknowledgment.

WILLIAM B. HASKETT
Secretary to the President

William Emerson, Chairman
Unitarian Service Committee
Boston, Mass.

Telegram to the President, dated 3/25/44.

Re - States, "Deeply appreciate yesterday's statement re refugees
in Europe. Pledge utmost support."

First copy filed UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

LDM

3186

May 5, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Executive Director, War Refugee Board #5477
for attention and such acknowledgment
as may be deemed appropriate.

WILLIAM D. HASKETT
Secretary to the President

WJH

x x76-C
Telegram of May 4 from ADOLPH HELD, Chm. Jewish Labor Committee,
New York, N. Y. re free ports in the United States for refugees #
from Europe. This telegram also gives the names of David Dubinsky,
as Treasurer, and Joseph Baskin as Secretary. x

COPY

The White House

Washington

Telegram

New York N. Y. May 4, 1944 5 39P

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House

As early as last September a delegation of American Labor headed by President William Green of the A. F. of L., and President Philip Murray of the C. I. O. submitted a memorandum to the State Department appealing "To our Government and to the Governments of the United Nations to admit to all territories under their control Jewish refugees who may succeed in escaping from the Nazi hell". Today, seven months later, Hitler stands on the brink of disaster the German legions are in retreat everywhere. But the sufferings and the persecutions of the Fascist victims have not been halted. According to recent reports, the Nazis have in desperation intensified their bestial terror. Grave danger threatens millions of people in tortured Europe. Only swift action can save them now. Not words or even tears, will have the power to restore or save their lives.

We have learned that the War Refugee Board has under serious consideration a plan to establish free ports in the United States, where refugees from Hitlerism can find shelter until they are settled in permanent homes.

File

We consider the establishment of free ports, which would give innocent victims of the raging halocaust the privilege we now accord prisoners, a most practical and feasible one. The plan would not only provide temporary human free port zones and safe refuge and thereby save the lines of innocent people fortunate to escape the claws of the Gestapo, but would also demonstrate most dramatically to the whole world the dogged determination of the American Government and the American people to spare no effort in saving as many of the sufferers as possible.

Moreover we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi hand and will further encourage the ever growing resistance to German barbarism.

The plan has our whole-hearted support. In the name of the 500,000 American Workers affiliated with the Jewish Labor Committee we respectfully urge its immediate adoption.

Jewish Labor Committee Adolph Held Chairman

David Dubinsky Treasurer

Joseph Baskin Secretary

3186

May 10, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
War Refugee Board for consideration
and acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASKETT
Secretary to the President

Workmen's Circle Branch 207
Jewish Labor Committee Workmen's Circle School
475 Capital Ave.
Atlanta, Ga.

Telegram to the President, dated 5/9/44.

Re - Asks that the United States provide a haven of refuge for
persecuted victims of the Nazis. Mentions, especially,
the Jewish refugees.

First copy filed JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE SCHOOL

S

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3186

May 15, 1944

Respectfully referred to
the Executive Director of the
War Refugee Board for attention
and appropriate acknowledgment.

x 5477

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

has

Telegram from the Emergency Committee To Save the
Jewish People of Europe, Dean Alfange, Will Rogers, Jr.,
Peter H. Dawson, Sigrid Hadsat, Louis Bromfield, x 1715
Maurice William, Ben Hecht, Li Yu-Ying, Co-Chairmen,
NYC, 5/13/44, to the President, suggesting establishment
of temporary rescue camps in the U.S. and free ports
in the U.S., Palestine, North Africa, etc., for victims
of Nazi oppression. #

x 76-C

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

FGB

May 18, 1944.

Respectfully referred for consideration and acknowledgment

3186
William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

Letters to the President referred to the Office of Price Administration:

PRIDE, LASSIE, 1628 La Belle Ave., Detroit, Mich., 5/15/44. The OPA says they are charging too much rent on a six-room house. They are getting \$35.00 for it. It has six nice rooms, bath, basement and garage. Thinks they should be allowed to receive enough to pay the payments and other expenses on it.

LEWIS, MRS. HARRY, 1507 Nottoway Ave., Richmond, Va., 5/16/44. Complains of noticing many OPA violations. Would like to have a job with the FBI.

LOVETT, H. W., Gen. Del., Augusta, Ga., 5/15/44. Complains of people going for joy rides while are boys are dying. Suggests sending some of these people to the front to fight. One enclosure.

ARMSTRONG, MRS., Wichita, Kans., 5/13/44. Complains about the soldiers only getting 5 gallons of gas when they come home on furlough while men not in service can get 50 gallons to fish and ride their motor boats.

HODGSON, NETTIE, 5523 S. E. Flavel St., Portland 6, Ore., 5/15/44. Is only allowed a B ration book for gas for driving from her home to her place of business at Willamette, Ore., 28 miles round trip. This only allows her 400 miles a month and she has to travel 700 miles a month. One enclosure.

GERHARD, HELEN M., (MRS. CARL C. GERHARD), West Webster, N. Y., 5/17/44. Wants gas for her husband to use as Scoutmaster.

CARTER, RICHARD B., c/o CARTER'S INK CO., Cambridge 42, Boston, Mass., 5/16/44. Urges the President to issue an order for TEMPORARY REFUGEE CAMPS as proposed by the War Refugee Board to curtail the slaughter of European JEWS. Referred to the War Refugee Board.

ESHRIAM, MRS. LUTICHER, 5810 John R., Apt. 22, 5/16/44. Her husband is a war worker. They have 3 children. They are rooming and are crowded out. Cannot find a place to move because of the children. Wants help. Referred to the National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority.

EVANS, MRS. NANCY, 4951 Payne Ave., #15, Cleveland, O., 5/16/44. Is a war worker with 2 children. Husband is in the service. Must move and cannot find a place where they will allow children. Wants help. Referred to the National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority.

MARTIN, GRANT, 719 Martina Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Ga., undated. Newspaper clipping enclosed depicting the pouring of 1000 gallons of milk down a sewer because the Office of Defense Transportation forbade its delivery on Sunday. Says we have many orphanages, Salvation Army and other places caring for hungry children. Is for everything that will help win the war, but says it must come by some other way than robbing hungry children of a much needed food. Referred to the Office of Defense Transportation.

June 2, 1944

3,86

My dear Mr. Meyers:

The President has received your letter of May thirty-first, concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for victims of enemy oppression. He very much appreciates your thought in writing to him and, by his direction, I am bringing this expression on your part to the attention of the officials of the War Refugee Board, who are giving careful study to this entire problem for him.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Honorable Edward J. Jeffries, Jr.,
Mayor of Detroit,
Detroit, Michigan.

hms

WAR REFUGEE BOARD: Urging the President to sponsor the "Free ports" program.

< 5477

x 21

110 W

3. Secretary Morgenthau says that the President asked him to get ready a message which he could send to the Congress with reference to bringing some refugees over here. Inasmuch as the President talked about this at his Press Conference on Friday, the Secretary feels it most urgent that he and Mr. John W. Pehle see the President as soon as he comes back, if not on Monday, then on Tuesday. He says, as a matter of fact, the message was to go down before the President announced the policy. Now that it has been announced they will have to act very quickly.

Done

file

*file
6/9/44*

~~#~~

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June 10, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to
the Executive Director of the
War Refugee Board for attention
and appropriate acknowledgment
to Mr. Taylor.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

hms

Telegram from Lee Taylor, Secretary, Association of
the New York State Cannerymen, Rochester, N.Y., 6/9/44,
stating that the above Association offers employment
to the 1000 European refugees reported to be coming
to Fort Ontario, N.Y. Employment would be in the
New York State Food Processing Plant.

CHARLES A. BUCKLEY
230 Dist. New York

JEREMAN KORN
SECRETARY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
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6/12/44
JMS*

June 10th, 1944.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

I have been approached from many sources with regard to the establishment of a free port in the United States in which refugees would be given a haven for the duration of the war.

I, of course, know of your great interest in this humanitarian work, for I have heard that you are co-operating in the planning and actual carrying out of the means of rescuing these unfortunate people who face death as the only other alternative.

On my part, my sympathies and the reason impels me to beseech you to continue your splendid work in this direction and to have established here in the United States such a free port so that these human beings may find shelter until the war is over and other plans can be made.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Buckley
Charles A. Buckley.

June 12, 1944

3186

My dear Mr. Buckley:

The President has asked me to thank you for your letter of June tenth, concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for victims of enemy oppression.

As you know, the President's message of today to the Congress - a copy of which I am enclosing - related to this humanitarian problem and reported a step which has been taken in an effort to save the lives of additional refugees. The President is especially glad to have this expression on your part and wishes to assure you that the entire matter will continue to receive most careful consideration.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Honorable Charles A. Buckley,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

B
hms



76/12/44

3186

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES: 2358

Congress has repeatedly manifested its deep concern with the pitiful plight of the persecuted minorities in Europe whose lives are each day being offered in sacrifice on the altar of Nazi tyranny.

This Nation is appalled by the systematic persecution of helpless minority groups by the Nazis. To us the unprovoked murder of innocent people simply because of race, religion or political creed is the blackest of all possible crimes. Since the Nazis began this campaign many of our citizens in all walks of life and of all political and religious persuasions have expressed our feeling of repulsion and our anger. It is a matter with respect to which there is and can be no division of opinion amongst us.

As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces draws closer, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out the Jewish race in Europe continues undiminished. This is but one example: Many christian groups also are being murdered. Knowing that they have lost the war, the Nazis are determined to complete their program of mass extermination. This program is but one manifestation of Hitler's attempt to salvage from military defeat victory for Nazi principles - the very principles which this war must destroy unless we shall have fought in vain.

This Government has not only made clear its abhorrence of this inhuman and barbarous activity of the Nazis, but, in cooperation with other governments has endeavored to alleviate

x76-16
x4675

copy for files

the condition of the persecuted peoples. In January of this year I determined that this Government should intensify its efforts to combat the Nazi terror. Accordingly, I established the War Refugee Board, composed of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. This Board was charged with the responsibility of taking all action consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all other possible relief and assistance. It was entrusted with the solemn duty of translating this Government's humanitarian policy into prompt action, thus manifesting once again in a concrete way that our kind of world and not Hitler's will prevail. Its purpose is directly and closely related to our whole war effort.

Since its establishment, the War Refugee Board, acting through a full time administrative staff, has made a direct and forceful attack on the problem. Operating quietly, as is appropriate, the Board, through its representatives in various parts of the world, has actually succeeded in saving the lives of innocent people. Not only have refugees been evacuated from enemy territory, but many measures have been taken to protect the lives of those who have not been able to escape.

Above all, the efforts of the Board have brought new hope to the oppressed peoples of Europe. This statement is not idle speculation. From various sources, I have received word that thousands of people, wearied by their years of resistance to Hitler and by their sufferings to the point of giving up the struggle, have been given the will and desire to

continue by the concrete manifestation of this Government's desire to do all possible to aid and rescue the oppressed.

To the Hitlerites, their subordinates and functionaries and satellites, to the German people and to all other peoples under the Nazi yoke, we have made clear our determination to punish all participants in these acts of savagery. In the name of humanity we have called upon them to spare the lives of these innocent people.

Notwithstanding this Government's unremitting efforts, which are continuing, the numbers actually rescued from the jaws of death have been small compared with the numbers still facing extinction in German territory. This is due principally to the fact that our enemies, despite all our appeals and our willingness to find havens of refuge for the oppressed peoples, persist in their fiendish extermination campaign and actively prevent the intended victims from escaping to safety.

In the face of this attitude of our enemies we must not fail to take full advantage of any opportunity, however limited, for the rescue of Hitler's victims. We are confronted with a most urgent situation.

Therefore, I wish to report to you today concerning a step which I have just taken in an effort to save additional lives and which I am certain will meet with your approval. You will, I am sure, appreciate that this measure is not only consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, but that it was essential to take action without delay.

- 4 -

Even before the allied landing in Italy there had been a substantial movement of persecuted peoples of various races and nationalities into that country. This movement was undoubtedly prompted by the fact that, despite all attempts by the Fascists to stir up intolerance, the warm-hearted Italian people could not forsake their centuries-old tradition of tolerance and humanitarianism. The Allied landings swelled this stream of fleeing and hunted peoples seeking sanctuary behind the guns of the United Nations. However, in view of the military situation in Italy, the number of refugees who can be accommodated there is relatively limited. The Allied military forces, in view of their primary responsibility, have not been able generally speaking to encourage the escape of refugees from enemy territory. This unfortunate situation has prevented the escape of the largest possible number of refugees. Furthermore, as the number of refugees living in southern Italy increases, their care constitutes an additional and substantial burden for the military authorities.

Recently the facilities for the care of refugees in southern Italy have become so overtaxed that unless many refugees who have already escaped to that area and are arriving daily, particularly from the Balkan countries, can be promptly removed to havens of refuge elsewhere, the escape of refugees to that area from German occupied territory will be seriously impeded. It was apparent that prompt action was necessary to meet this situation. Many of the refugees in southern Italy have been and are being moved to temporary refuges in the

- 5 -

territory of other United and friendly nations. However, in view of the number of refugees still in southern Italy, the problem could not be solved unless temporary havens of refuge were found for some of them in still other areas. In view of this most urgent situation it seemed indispensable that the United States in keeping with our heritage and our ideals of liberty and justice take immediate steps to share the responsibility for meeting the problem.

Accordingly, arrangements have been made to bring immediately to this country approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to southern Italy. Upon the termination of the war they will be sent back to their homelands. These refugees are predominantly women and children. They will be placed on their arrival in a vacated Army camp on the Atlantic Coast where they will remain under appropriate security restrictions.

The Army will take the necessary security precautions and the camp will be administered by the War Relocation Authority. The War Refugee Board is charged with overall responsibility for this project.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE,

JUN 12 1944

June 17, 1944

3186

Dear Dr. Woolley:

The President has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of May twenty-fifth concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for Jewish and other war refugees.

x 76-C
x 4675-

The President was very glad to receive your views on this problem and he has requested me to send you the enclosed copies of his cablegram of June eighth to Ambassador Robert Murphy, in Algiers, regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, his memorandum of the same date to the heads of agencies concerned with the execution of the plan, and a message sent to the Congress on June twelfth.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASKETT
Secretary to the President

Dr. Mary E. Woolley,
"Fleur de Lys,"
Westport, Essex County,
New York.

x *Sen.*
x 997537

Enclosures

typed by
mdp

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



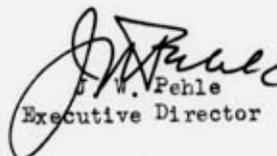
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JUN 13 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. William D. Hassett,
Secretary to the President.

Pursuant to your request, there is attached
a draft of a reply to Miss Mary E. Woolley's letter of
May 25, 1944, to the President. Miss Woolley's letter
is returned herewith.


J. W. Penle
Executive Director

Enclosures.

DRAFT

Dr.

Dear ~~Miss~~ Woolley:

The President has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of May twenty-fifth, concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for Jewish and other war refugees.

The President was very glad to receive your views on this problem and he has requested me to send you the enclosed copies of his cablegram of June eighth to Ambassador Robert Murphy, in Algiers, regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, his memorandum of the same date to the heads of agencies concerned with the execution of the plan, and a message sent to the Congress on June 12, 1944.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Dr. E.

~~Miss~~ Mary Woolley,
"Fleur de Lys",
Westport, Essex County,
New York.

Enclosures

May 30, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board for preparation of
reply for my signature.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

hms

Letter from Dr. Mary E. Woolley, "Fleur de Lys", Westport, N.Y.,
5/25/44, to the President, asking that the President put into
effect the proposal made by the War Refugee Board to establish
"temporary refugee camps or 'free ports' for Jewish and other
refugees able to escape".

*War
Refugee Board*

*Auth
6-15-44
MDP*

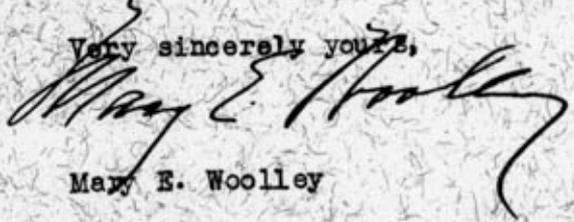
May 25, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

The proposal made by the War Refugee Board to establish "temporary refugee camps or 'free ports' for Jewish and other refugees able to escape" I am confident appeals to you. May I add my plea to the many that this recommendation may be put into effect before further escape becomes difficult.

With appreciation of your interest in this desperate human need,

Very sincerely yours,



Mary E. Woolley

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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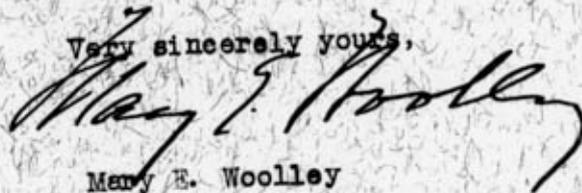
June 22, 1944

Dear Mr. Hassett:

Thank you for your letter of the 17th, with the copies of the President's cablegram, memorandum, and message to Congress.

Will you express to the President my appreciation of his action "concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in the United States for the Jewish and other war refugees".

Very sincerely yours,



Mary E. Woolley

Mr. William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

3186

June 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Bergson;

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of June fourteenth and to thank you for the interest which you have expressed in the rescue of the victims of enemy oppression and the matter of providing places of temporary asylum for them.

You will be interested in the enclosed copies of the President's cablegram of June eighth to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, his memorandum of the same date to the heads of agencies concerned with the execution of the plan, and the message sent to the Congress on June twelfth relative to this matter.

} filed 3186

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Mr. Peter H. Bergson,
Chairman,
Hebrew Committee of National Liberation,
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.,
Washington 8, D. C.

wch:aw

Enclosures.

x76-c

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2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
ADAMS 8800

הוועד לנצחון העם

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

June 14, 1944

Mr. President:

It is with extreme gratification that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has learned of your announcement, on June 9, regarding the establishment of the first Emergency Refugee Shelter in the United States. This generous step is a further development of your noble initiative in creating the War Refugee Board and a further proof of the attitude of compassionate sympathy of the American Government and nation for the suffering Hebrew people of Europe.

x 5477

We fully appreciate the immense humanitarian significance of this policy which has already resulted in saving the lives of many innocent people - men, women and children - and in an intensive campaign of psychological warfare aiming to alleviate the plight of the bulk of the Hebrew people who are still under the yoke of German domination and cannot be evacuated immediately. The establishment of the Emergency Refugee Shelter will have a

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

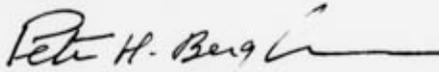
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great salutary effect upon every phase of the rescue policy of your Government. But the most inspiring and encouraging aspect of your new step, the results of which cannot be overestimated, lies in the fact that it has created a compelling example to be followed by other members of the United Nations. With close to three million casualties our nation is in desperate need of help from all the leading powers of the United Nations, for only with such help can the remaining four million survive and be restored to the dignity of free men.

It is indeed very heartening that this mighty democracy - America - is leading the offensive, not only on the field of battle but also on the moral front. We pray for your success on both these fronts - for the good of your great nation as well as for the benefit of humanity at large and for all peoples everywhere.

I am sure that the same feeling of appreciation and gratitude that we express here is shared by all the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine.

Yours, with great respect,


Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

ADAMS 8800

וועד לשחרור האומה

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

File

June 27, 1944

Dear Mr. Hassett,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June nineteenth and to thank you for the documents which you were good enough to enclose.

In this connection, the President may possibly be interested in the statement of aims of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and in the recent communications addressed by this Committee to the Secretary of State and to the British Ambassador at Washington. I take much pleasure, therefore, in enclosing herewith copies of these papers.

Very sincerely yours,

Peter H. Bergson

Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

The Honorable William B. Hassett,
Secretary to the President,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

A CALL BY THE HEBREW NATION
FOR HELP IN ITS MORTAL STRUGGLE
FOR LIFE AND LIBERATION

ISSUED BY THE HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

We Hebrews, descendants of the ancient Hebrew Nation, surviving today on God's earth amidst the dreadful catastrophe of torture and death that has befallen our people, have joined together in the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation to dedicate ourselves and our lives to secure the deliverance and independence of the remaining millions of our desperate people, struggling for life itself in the vast hell of German-occupied Europe.

What has happened to the Jews of Europe was not sudden. It is the culmination of centuries of oppression and persecution; centuries of ghet-tos and pogroms, economic strangulation and endless humiliation and insult.

In this war this cumulative attack has resulted in the staggering climax of three million innocent men, women and children deliberately mas-sacred.

In the face of such disaster, the bitter status quo of the Jews in Europe must give way to a new, bold and total attempt at salvation.

These Jews, today, have no effective protection of citizenship from any nation. They can no longer be considered Rumanians, Hungarians, Poles, Germans. Certainly they are not Axis nationals. They are the first and bitterest enemies of the Axis. They belong to no nation and have no nation of their own. That is why the murder of three million Jews - a number as large as the total population of many a European nation - has been possible.

Common disaster brings them together, even as Death has hunted them together.

We therefore proclaim to the people of this land, and through them to all civilized men the world over, that the dry and tormented bones of the Jews in European lands have now been united, that the blood of our three million dead has done more than fertilize the earth of the people who have murdered them. It has molded the survivors into a single living entity. It has brought forth a renescent Hebrew Nation.

The Jews who live today in the hell of Europe together with the Jews of Palestine constitute the Hebrew Nation.

There is no other Nation to whom they owe allegiance but the Hebrew Nation.

It is as a part of these millions that we exercise the right of self-determination; that we proclaim the existence of the Hebrew Nation and its

determination to speak for itself and its elementary right to be represented by its own sons.

We confidently believe that the present day heirs of the American Revolution will understand, recognize and support us in this mortal struggle for our life and liberation.

It is proper that we have chosen Washington as the site for this historic rededication of the Hebrew Nation as a democracy - Washington, eternal symbol of democracy and of the greatness of the human spirit and of its revolutionary demand for justice, decency and freedom.

* * * * *

Let it be clearly understood that the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation does not attempt to speak for the Jews of the United States. They are an integral part of the American Nation; an integral part of a nation made up of people of every descent.

These Jews are Americans of Hebrew descent. They do not belong to Palestine and thereby to the renascent Hebrew Nation any more than Justice Frank Murphy "belongs" to the Irish Nation, or General William Knudsen "belongs" to the Danish Nation; though both certainly are proud of their ancestry.

And let there be no confusion because the vast majority of Americans of Hebrew descent are faithful adherents of the Jewish religion.

Hebrews and Jews are not synonymous terms. Religion and State are separate. The common adherence of members of the American Nation and of the Hebrew Nation to the Jewish religion is no different than the common adherence of Americans and Germans to the Protestant religion; or the common adherence of Americans and Italians to the Catholic religion. Everywhere in the world people share religions without sharing nationhood. The people of the Hebrew Nation, and Americans of Hebrew descent, whose religion is the same, are no different from the others. They still are members of different states.

* * * * *

We proclaim that Palestine, in its historic boundaries, is the territory of the Hebrew Nation by the will of God as was set forth in the Bible. In our own time this was politically ratified by fifty-two nations who, in 1922, "recognized the historic connection between the Hebrew people and Palestine."

Although it is the national territory of the Hebrews, Palestine is to be a free state in which the present Arab and other non-Hebrew residents of the land will share full equality and privileges of citizenship and government; will be full partners in the upbuilding of a free country and a democratic civilization.

In the present condition of our Nation, we are dedicated primarily to only one task - the rescue of our people. We, therefore, proclaim that the Hebrew Nation postpones the settlement of the political and boundary problem of Palestine until after victory when, as one of the United Nations, we hope to partake in the post-war settlement of political territorial problems. Until that time we shall cooperate and assist Great Britain as the Mandatory for Palestine.

We do, however, insist, in the name of humanity, that the right and the ability of all Hebrews in Europe to find shelter in Palestine be facilitated by the Mandatory Power, lest it be guilty of sacrificing them to their ruthless German murderers.

* * * * *

We proclaim the Hebrew Nation a co-belligerent in the United Nations war against Axis tyranny. Our dead, who have bloodied the steps of civilization, can no longer be considered useless victims of insane massacre. They are honored casualties in the United Nations common war for freedom. Our surviving four million people in Europe are prisoners of war, and the International Red Cross should do everything it can to succor them even as it deals with all other prisoners of war.

But not all of our people have been victims.

We have contributed more fighters to the common struggle than most of the United Nations. Thousands of our men have fought and are daily fighting the enemy - whether as Hebrew guerrilla units harassing the enemy's lines in Poland and Yugoslavia; whether in the numerous underground sabotage groups, or as regular fighters and commandos as part of the 30,000 Hebrews who are serving in the Palestinian regiments, and in other units of the Middle Eastern British Army. They have fought and died all the way from El Alemein to Cassino, and from Syria to Addis Abbaba.

Because we are, in fact, a co-belligerent against the Axis, we consider ourselves one of the United Nations and seek recognition as such, and as the nation against which more atrocities have been committed than against all the other United Nations combined we surely should be represented on the Inter Allied Commission on War Crimes.

We also seek a seat on the Board of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and all other United Nations councils in which the interests of our nationals are involved.

In addition, the tens of thousands of Hebrew fighting men should now be given the elementary right to fight the Nazis under their own banner and in their own name - as the Hebrew Army - with a status comparable to that of the armies of the other Nations which have been overrun by the Nazis.

These are the minimum needs of our nation at a time when the very existence of its people is at stake. Their denial by the United Nations would be contradictory to the very aims for which the war is being fought; would be a defeat of Justice now and in the future; would be an endless threat to Peace in the world of tomorrow. For in ignoring the principle for which the war is being fought, we can cheat no one but ourselves and our children.

* * * * *

The Hebrew Nation can no longer endure the status quo. An intolerable whirlpool of death and disaster has shattered this status quo. There is a limit to the blood and suffering any people can endure.

It is in this spirit of desperation, and with humility and reverence that we of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation have undertaken to be the servants and spokesmen of the Hebrew Nation, until such time as our Nation shall be free to elect its own spokesmen and representatives in a democratic form. We solemnly swear to serve our Nation with all our energies and might, and not to falter if we should need sacrifice life itself, so help us God.

Washington, May 17, 1944.

G O P Y

June 19, 1944

The Honorable Cuyler Hall,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to bring to your attention the recent formation of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, and take the liberty of enclosing the initial statement of its aspirations and aims.

My colleagues and I are happy to have been able to establish our Committee on American soil - the cradle of freedom and redemption to oppressed peoples from near and far away lands.

We derive inspiration and strength from your great and mighty nation, knowing that whenever an oppressed and subjugated people have turned to America for help their appeal has always echoed in the hearts of your people and government and they have responded with understanding and sympathy.

In addition to the points set out in the enclosed statement, I should like to make the following observations:

1. The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation has set itself up as a temporary trustee of Hebrew national interests. It will step down the instant the Hebrew people will be freely able to choose their representatives by democratic process. Acting as trustee for the Hebrew Nation, this Committee will apply to the governments of the United Nations for the same degree of recognition now accorded to other Committees of Liberation in exile.
2. The initial members of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation are: Arieh Ben Eliezer, Theodore Buznah, Professor Pinhas Dalougan, Captain Jeremiah Halpern, Nri Jabotinsky, Samuel Marlin and myself.
3. Although the members of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation are probably unknown to you, you may have heard about their activities in Europe and in this country. It was this group which initiated, prior to the outbreak of the war, the gradual evacuation of tens of thousands of Hebrews from the menaced zones in

eastern and middle Europe to Palestine. In the United States some of its members assisted in the work of the following groups, all designed to aid in the survival of the Hebrew people:

The American Friends of a Jewish Palestine, the Committee for a Jewish Army of Stateless and Palestinian Jews, the Emergency Conference and the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

They also helped to bring about the great documentary pageant, "We Will Never Die," and the nationwide "Proclamation on the Moral Rights of Stateless and Palestinian Jews."

4. It is desired to lay stress on the Committee's definition of the term "Hebrew Nation." This definition will help to clarify the fact that our claim for the recognition of the Hebrew Nation is being made not in the name of all Jews the world over, but exclusively in the name of those Hebrews who are already in Palestine and those in occupied Europe who have been prevented from joining them and who do not consider themselves members of any other nation. Consequently, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation does not lay any claim whatsoever to speak for those American citizens of Jewish faith who are in fact Americans of Hebrew descent whose sole link with the Hebrew Nation is that of common origin.

It is essential to maintain the clear distinction between Hebrews, who are people belonging to a specific national and political entity - the Hebrew Nation - and the "Jewish people", which is a religious and ethical entity. "Jewish people" can be Americans, Russians, Britons, etc. Hebrews can be but one thing - Hebrews.

The following are, at the moment, the principal objectives of the appeal of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation to the civilized and democratic world:

(a) Recognition of the Hebrew Nation as a co-belligerent ally in the war against the Axis and as a member of the United Nations.

(b) Participation and representation of the Hebrew Nation on the Inter-Allied Commission on War Crimes, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and all other councils of the United Nations in which the interests of the Hebrew people are involved.

(c) Acknowledgment of the participation of the Hebrew Nation on the field of battle through the unification of the Hebrew-Palestinian units of the British Army and of the many fighting Hebrews now enrolled as "stateless" in the forces of various United Nations and of the underground forces into a Hebrew Army to fight under Allied command and with a status similar to that of the other United Nations overrun by Germany.

(d) Admission into emergency refugee shelters of every Hebrew escaping from Nazi mass murder who reaches the shores of Palestine.

5. In pursuance of the aims formulated in the attached statement and the additional points noted above, representatives of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation will take the liberty of calling, from time to time, on Your Excellency and on other representatives of the Government of the United States to discuss various matters of concern to the Hebrew Nation in this the time of its most desperate crisis.

I cannot terminate this first communication to you without referring to the heroic battle of liberation now taking shape in Europe with the participation of so many valiant American soldiers and under the command of an American general. In this solemn hour, our prayers go out for the intrepid armies under General Eisenhower's command that they may achieve triumphant victory in the shortest time and with the least possible sacrifice and suffering. I also wish to express my colleagues' and my deep admiration for the inspiring statement which you, Mr. Secretary, have made on the eve of the campaign of liberation, re-asserting once more America's glorious tradition of advocating independence and freedom for all peoples everywhere. Our thankfulness goes out for your re-assertion of the American principles that "have encouraged all nations to aspire to liberty and to enjoy it."

Those nations which are now "in chains of despotism", and the Hebrew Nation among them, will find hope and new faith in democracy in action and in its champion, the United States of America.

I have the honor to remain, Mr. Secretary,

Yours faithfully,

Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

June 10, 1944

Excellency,

The generous announcement by the President of the United States of June 9, regarding the establishment of a first Emergency Refugee Shelter in the United States focusses attention anew on the problem of countless Hebrew refugees in Europe.

This action is a further development of the noble initiative which the President took in creating the War Refugee Board. But, since the United States has no official obligation toward or responsibility for the Hebrew people beyond the elementary sympathy of a great humanitarian nation for suffering human beings, it is very well understood that its purpose of sheltering refugees is undertaken on a limited scale only, particularly in view of the distances and sea transportation involved.

The same considerations apply to the shelters which other Hebrew refugees have been given in Switzerland, in Sweden, in French territory in North Africa, and - in far larger numbers - in the United Kingdom.

Your Excellency will readily perceive that none of these programs, however worthy they are and however much they may be expanded, can come anywhere near fulfilling adequately the need for temporary refuge for the hundreds of thousands of Hebrew refugees now seeking to escape death.

The Right Honorable the Viscount Halifax, K.G.,
H. B. M. Ambassador,
Washington, D. C.

3186

Under the circumstances, you will allow me to call your attention to the utterly abnormal part played by Palestine in this matter. The political implications of Palestine's status as the internationally recognized national home of the Hebrew Nation are, as you are well aware, a matter concerning which a deep and regrettable difference exists at present between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Hebrew people. But this issue, together with other issues of a political character, the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is prepared to postpone until the day of common victory.

On the other hand, there can be no possible doubt or disagreement among men of good will that the country designated as the Hebrew National Home has a special responsibility to offer a home or at least a shelter to Hebrews in the hours of their greatest tragedy.

We therefore submit herewith the suggestion that the Government of the United Kingdom establish emergency refugee shelters in Palestine, open to all Hebrews escaping from enemy persecution. The establishment of these shelters should be publicly proclaimed and broadcast to the people of occupied Europe, so that Hebrews, with the aid of their neighbors, will be able to escape thereto. Countless thousands of Hebrews can thus be saved from horrible and useless death.

It is not suggested that the financial burden of this program fall on the British people. Undoubtedly, existing international agencies would be willing to share in these expenses, and so would be the Hebrew people in Palestine, who are clamoring for a chance to be of aid.

In the desperate condition of our nation, with its casualties mounting daily by the thousands, we frankly suggest this compromise which will not decide anything for the future, nor affect the present status of men or territories, but will merely keep human beings alive.

We wish to stress the extreme urgency of the situation and to express our hope for immediate consideration and action upon our proposal.

I beg to remain, Excellency,

Yours faithfully,

(SIGNED) DAVID W. ...

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

file

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

3186

June 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

I am sure you will be delighted with the following
secret cable just received from Ambassador Steinhardt *x462*
in Ankara:

"June 21, 1944

x5477
"For the War Refugee Board from the Ambassador

"I have been informed that the Rumanian
Government has decided to create an inter-
departmental board for Jewish emigration under
the supervision of the Prime Minister and to
establish an emigration office under the
direction of A. L. Zissu, the representative
of the Jewish agency in Bucharest and to
implement the same by making the Rumanian
S. S. ALBA JULIA and other Rumanian vessels
available for the transportation of Jewish
refugees.

x428

x76-c

x173

H

STEINHARDT"

JTBalc

June 24, 1944

3186

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of June twenty-first and to thank you for expressing the gratification which you experienced upon reading the message to the Congress relative to the establishment of a haven of refuge in this country for one thousand refugees. *(filed 3186)*

You will be interested in the enclosed copies of the President's cablegram of June eighth to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, and his memorandum of the same date to the heads of agencies concerned with the execution of the plan. #

The President has duly noted your observation concerning the reference to the Jewish race and your position that the Jews are held together only by religious ties. I am quite sure that that isolated sentence in the President's message was not intended to be a deliberate statement of racial theory. *x76-e*
x94

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. MASHETT
Secretary to the President

Mr. Leonard J. Rosenwald,
Jenkintown,
Pennsylvania. *x*

Enclosure

WDH/mdp

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL HASSETT.

I know Lessing Rosenwald, as I am sure you do, and he is a very estimable citizen. I have a great deal of sympathy with his position because it is very decidedly my own.

Do you think it would be inadvisable to add to your letter the following sentence:

"I am quite sure that that isolated sentence in the President's message was not intended to be a deliberate statement of racial theory".



S. I. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1944

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of June twenty-first and to thank you for expressing the gratification which you experienced upon reading the message to the Congress relative to the establishment of a haven of refuge in this country for one thousand refugees.

You will be interested in the enclosed copies of the President's cablegram of June eighth to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, and his memorandum of the same date to the heads of agencies concerned with the execution of the plan.

The President has duly noted your observation concerning the reference to the Jewish race and your position that the Jews are held together only by religious ties. *add:*

Very sincerely yours,

William D. Hassett

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

M

LESSING J. ROSENWALD
JENKINTOWN, PA.

June 21, 1944

*File
6-24-44
MJP*

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

My dear Mr. President:

It was with a deep sense of gratification that I read your message to the Congress of the United States, relative to the establishment of a haven of refuge in this country for one thousand refugees. Your action in this matter is tremendously appreciated by all of those affected by the terrible Nazi persecutions.

It is hoped that your forward-looking act will go far toward establishing a precedent for caring for the oppressed, and that in this act may be seen a great hope in the post-war world for all persecuted minorities.

May I call to your attention one sentence in your published message, "As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces draws closer, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out the Jewish race in Europe continues undiminished." I, a Jew, and many of my co-religionists, hold that the Nazi doctrine that the Jews are a race is false. We believe that the Jews are held together only by religious ties. We deny, of course, that we are of a separate race, and feel that ultimately any such theory can do only harm to Jewish citizens of this country and elsewhere.

I do not intend to detract from your magnificent action by bringing this matter to your attention, but I felt that you would not object to my raising this point which, I am sure, was inadvertent on your part.

Once more my deep thanks.

Very sincerely yours,

Lessing J. Rosenwald

3186

August 1, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Department of State for appropriate
handling.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

X X

Translation of telegram from South American Council of Free
Hungary, Montevideo, July 28, 1944, requesting that U.S. Govt
intervene with neutral governments to permit temporary entry
asylum Hungarian Jewish refugees.

X-26-A

X-26-C

WDH/MIP/EAK

TRANSLATION

JB46 MVNLT2 MONTEVIDEO .23 28 VIA AAC

NLT PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT WHITE HOUSE WN

WE BEG GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE WITH NEUTRAL GOVERNMENTS
TO PERMIT TEMPORARY ENTRY ASYLUM HUNGARIAN JEWISH REFUGEES
SOUTH AMERICAN COUNCIL FREE HUNGARY

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 29, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Department of State for translation



WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

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OR CALL A MESSENGER
AND
FOR ALL OTHER INQUIRIES
CALL
DECATUR 4300

DUPONT CIRCLE BUILDING, 1332-1334 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED "VIA COMMERCIAL"

JB46 MVNLT2 MONTEVIDEO 23 28 VIA AAC
NLT PRESIDENTE ROOSEVELT CASA BLANCA VN



ROGAMOS GOBIERNO INTERVENIR ANTE GOBIERNOS NEUTRALES
PERMITAN ENTRADA TEMPORAL ASILO REFUGIADOS JUDIOS HUNGAROS
CONSEJO SUDAMERICANO HUNGRIA LIBRE

To the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

3186

I am with you heart and soul in your new move to save the victims of Hitler's terror in Europe. And I know that you would have not only my support but the support of most Americans, if you could see your way clear to open additional camps in which Hitler's victims could find temporary asylum in this country.

(Signed) Mrs. Milton Goldman
Address 1139 Olive Lane, La Canada, Calif

filed
6-28-44

July 3, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to
the Secretary of State for
attention and appropriate ac-
knowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

hms

x

x 76-c

Telegram from Johan J. Smertenko, Executive Vice
Chairman, Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People
of Europe, NYC, 7/3/44, to the President, in re reports
of the annihilation of 400,000 Jews in Hungary and
impending assassination of additional 350,000 by
July 24th. Asks action in the matter.

x 226-a

3186

9
The White House
Washington

file

AUG 2 7 01 PM 1944

4340 74 0000

BY WASHINGTON DC AUG 2 1944 687P

THE PRESIDENT

WISCONSIN

RECEIVED AT 11 A.M. RECEPTION CEREMONIES AT

OSAGE WILL BE HELD SUNDAY YOU MAY WANT TO WRITE A

MESSAGE OF WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR *x4247*

RECEPTION AUTHORITY AT OSAGE CEREMONIES

HAROLD HICKS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

16

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F
Y

Original to: STATE
Copy to: WAR REFUGEE BOARD

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE To Save The Jewish People of Europe, Inc.
25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y. - Bryant 9-4600

August 3, 1944

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

3186

My dear Mr. President:

Since my last letter to you, dated July 24, there have been some favorable developments in the Hungarian situation. In view of these developments, may I respectfully submit the request of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe for specific measures that will take advantage of the new opportunities.

We have been informed by the International Red Cross Delegation in Washington of their receipt of the enclosed cable from Geneva. We were also informed of their communication of July 25 from the ICRC that was submitted to the Department of State and to the War Refugee Board, as well as of the letter of July 26, addressed to Mr. John W. Pehle, both of which are enclosed. All of these indicate the urgent need for action in rescuing the Jews of Hungary and in alleviating the condition of those who remain there.

Therefore we respectfully suggest that you direct the State Department to issue immediately all visas assigned under the present immigration laws to Hungary for children under ten years of age, who under the arrangement between the International Red Cross and the Hungarian Government can be evacuated upon receipt of such visas, and that you further direct the State Department to issue Nansen-type passports which will safeguard the lives of the recipients and enable them eventually to emigrate from Hungary to available Emergency Refugee Shelters. We also call your attention to the arrangement between the ICRC and the Hungarian Government whereby all adult Jews in Hungary who have Palestine visas will be permitted to leave Hungary; and we respectfully request your kind offices in influencing the British Government to issue such Palestine visas to the adult Jews of Hungary, thereby enabling them to leave their country immediately. We submit that this step can be taken without affecting the political situation in Palestine and that it can be clearly indicated that these refugees will be kept in Emergency Refugee Shelters in Palestine for the duration of the war without prejudicing their status or the position of the British Government.

At the same time we appeal to you to instruct the Blockade Authorities to make available to the Red Cross the maximum amount of medical and food supplies for the relief of these unfortunates. As the ICRC points out in its communication to Mr. Pehle, the present decision of the Blockade Authorities makes a distinction between prisoners of war and civilian internees, on the one hand, and the people in concentration camps, on the other. This distinction deprives the latter group of the relief which the ICRC is prepared to furnish.

We know your warm sympathy for the people who have suffered so much from Nazi oppression and bestiality, and we are convinced that you will further all possible means to relieve them of their suffering.

Sincerely yours,
/s/ Johan J. Smertenko,
Executive Vice-Chairman

C O P Y

File

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE, INC.

25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y.

July 24, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

In reply to my telegram sent you on July 3, 1944, I have just received a letter from the State Department signed by Mr. George L. Warren, the last paragraph of which states:

Thus, active attention has been given to all means available for combatting these savage practices. In considering the question of applying measures of retaliation, it has been necessary to examine the relation of such measures to the major business of bringing about the early defeat of the Nazi enemy as the really effective way to end the sufferings of the great mass of innocent victims. Anything designed for purposes of retaliation which would divert military energies even momentarily would be inconsistent with the main purpose of defeating the German armies at the earliest possible moment, which must be accomplished if the Jews in Nazi-held territory are to be saved.

The Emergency Committee is in complete accord with your views, as expressed here by Mr. Warren, that nothing be done which will even momentarily divert military energies from the main purpose of defeating the German armies at the earliest possible moment. Nevertheless, I wish to submit most respectfully the view of the Emergency Committee that a number of measures of retaliation can be taken that will be consistent with this purpose and will in fact appreciably aid this purpose.

1. Railways and bridges leading from Nazi-occupied territory to extermination centers in Poland can be destroyed by bombing, specifying that this action is taken in order to prevent the transportation of the Hebrew people of these Axis countries to Hitler's slaughter houses. These railways also serve military purposes and their destruction will be of great benefit to our ally, Soviet Russia.

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt

-2-

July 24, 1944

2. The extermination camps themselves can be bombed, destroying the gas chambers where thousands of people are assassinated daily. This would enable the Hebrew people gathered in these camps to escape and offer them an opportunity to join the underground resistance forces where they can be of help in sabotage and resistance activities.

3. In accordance with the reiterated statements of the American and British Governments that the use of poison gas by Germans and Japanese would be followed by retaliation in kind, a specific statement can be issued that the extermination of Hebrew men, women, and children by the continued use of poison gas will be considered a provocation for retaliation in kind. We respectfully call your attention to the fact that authenticated reports from Czechoslovakian and Polish underground sources have disclosed that over a million and a half persons have been murdered in the poison gas chambers of Auschwitz and Birkenau camps and that the threat of widespread use of the same medium upon the German population will contribute to the disaffection of the German people and may result in a speedier collapse of Hitler's home front.

All these are measures that will not require any additional exertion of military forces nor call for any deviation from the successful military campaigns now in progress. On the contrary, they can be of substantial aid to the campaign of psychological warfare that is being waged simultaneously against our enemy.

At the same time, permit us to call your attention to the message the Emergency Committee has just received from the International Red Cross Delegation at Washington which states:

RECEIVED FOLLOWING FROM GENEVA QUOTE FOLLOWING ON THE STEPS TAKEN IN BUDAPEST BY THE ICRC IN GENEVA THE HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN THE COMMITTEE OFFICIAL ASSURANCES THAT TRANSPORTATION OF JEWS BEYOND THE HUNGARIAN FRONTIERS HAS CEASED AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ARE AUTHORIZED TO FURNISH RELIEF TO JEWS WHO ARE INTERNED OR IN FORCED RESIDENCE IN HUNGARY STOP THE COMMITTEE ARE FURTHERMORE EMPOWERED TO COOPERATE IN THE EVACUATION OF ALL JEWISH CHILDREN UNDER TEN YEARS OF AGE WHO ARE IN POSSESSION OF VISAS TO RECEPTION COUNTRIES AND ALL JEWS IN HUNGARY HOLDING ENTRANCE VISAS TO PALESTINE WILL RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHORITIES TO LEAVE FOR THAT COUNTRY UNQUOTE.

In view of the agreement between the International Red Cross and the Hungarian Government, we enter the most earnest plea that the United States Government issue as many visas as possible to the children in question and

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt

-3-

July 24, 1944

instruct the War Refugee Board to utilize every possible means to aid the International Red Cross in evacuating these children immediately from Hungarian territory. For it is obvious that even though the security of these children has been temporarily assured, their lives are still in danger due to the insufficient food and shelter provided for them in Hungary.

We also call your attention to the agreement between the International Red Cross and the Hungarian Government permitting all Jews in Hungary holding entrance visas to Palestine to leave for that country. We plead with you to make the strongest possible representation to the British Government requesting the issuance of such visas in unlimited quantities so that all of the Jews who can possibly be transported to Palestine may be saved. This need not be interpreted as a political act affecting the future status of Palestine. Temporary Emergency Refugee Shelters can be established in that country for the Hungarian Jews. Whether they return to Hungary, remain in Palestine, or are settled in other lands can be decided when the danger is past.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Johan J. Smertenko

Executive Vice-Chairman

JJS:sb

July 28, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of State for attention in connection with Mr. Smertenko's telegram of July third and appropriate acknowledgment.

x ✓ 0

A copy of Mr. Smertenko's letter is being brought to the attention of the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

*# 5477

In the absence of the President.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

x elb

*76-0

Ltr of 7/24/44 to the President from Johan J. Smertenko, Executive Vice-Chairman, Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc., 25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N.Y.; in further reference to annihilation of Jews in Hungary, there are a number of measures of retaliation which can be taken that will be consistent with this purpose and will in fact appreciably aid this purpose. Copy of ltr retained in file.

X 26-A

July 28, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board for attention and
appropriate acknowledgment.

The original letter has been
sent to the Secretary of State.

In the absence of the President.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

elb

Ltr of 7/24/44 to the President from Johan J. Smertenko, Executive
Vice-Chairman, Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of
Europe, Inc., 25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N.Y.; in further refer-
ence to annihilation of Jews in Hungary, there are a number of
measures of retaliation which can be taken that will be consistent
with this purpose and will in fact appreciably aid this purpose.
Copy of ltr retained in file.

August 7, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to the
Secretary of State for attention in
connection with previous correspondence.

A copy of Mr. Smertenko's letter
is being brought to the attention of the
Executive Director of the War Refugee
Board.

In the absence of the President.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

8/3/44 - Ltr. to the President, from
Johan J. Smertenko, Executive Vice-Chairman,
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Inc.,
25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N. Y.

Says that since his last letter there have been some favorable
developments in the Hungarian situation, and suggests that the
State Dept. be directed to issue immediately all visas assigned
under the present immigration laws to Hungary for children under
ten years of age, and the issuance of Nansen-type passports which
will safeguard the lives of the recipients and enable them eventu-
ally to emigrate from Hungary to available Emergency Refugee
Shelters, etc.; also that the Blockade Authorities make available
to the Red Cross the maximum amount of medical and food supplies
for the relief of these unfortunates.

Copies enclosed: Cable from International Red Cross Delegation,
dated July 21, 1944, to Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish
People of Europe, 25 W. 45th St., NYC. Communication of 7/25/44
from ICRC & ltr. to J. W. Pehle, War Refugee Bd., forwarding same.
Ltr. dated 7/26/44 to Mr. J. W. Pehle from Alfred E. Zollinger,
Delegate of the ICRC

sjm

Ames

3186

August 14, 1944.

Dear Mary:-

Your letter has come to me out on the Pacific Coast. Since you wrote we have taken in one thousand refugees -- mostly from the Balkans -- and parked them at Fort Ontario. They will, of course, have to go back after the war.

We do not need any more free ports at the present time because of the physical problems of transportation, and we are taking care of thousands of others in North Africa and Italy.

I do hope that you are getting on well. Some day soon I hope to see you again.

As ever yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

* P.P. 7.640
* Ben
Miss Mary V. Hun,
31 Elk Street,
Albany 6,
New York.

July 27

Miss Mary V. Hun
31 Elk Street
Albany 6, New York

My dear Franklin, as you probably know already I believe in "Free Ports" for refugees - Jews & Gentiles. The terrible conditions in Europe force responsibility upon us.

Jews & Gentiles, I think, both at the inception and during the maintenance

of these ports, should completely observe the laws of the United States - more especially the immigration laws - whether they are considered good or bad. Failure to act lawfully might prevent generous behavior on the part of the United States in the future.

Again I ask for "Free Ports" for the oppressed.
Best wishes for you and
Yours sincerely Mary V. Hun

Miss Mary V. Hun
31 Elk Street
Albany 6, New York

3186

August 16, 1944

My dear Mrs. Henry:

Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August twelfth, which will be made available to the President. I know he will be very glad to have this expression of your views.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASKETT
Secretary to the President

Mrs. C. E. Henry,
Lincoln Park,
Pennsylvania. x

ngs

acted
8/11/44

10

ea

August 10th

1944

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Sir: As descendants of
Protestant refugees from religious
persecutions, we dare not exclude
from our country Jewish nor
other exiles who can escape
from Nazi cruelty - at least
up to our quota limits. Tem-
porary refuge may be advis-
able in some cases.

Employment, good housing
& civil rights for all citizens
constitute a democracy.

may not the overreaching
strikes be the work of enemy
agents to paralyze the war
effort - instead of a racial
or political question?

I am opposed to using valuable
fruits & man-hours to manu-
facture liquor, especially non.

We cannot afford the resulting
destruction - moral & physical.
Let us not wait for elections
to accomplish needed reforms
& to set up the machinery for
dealing vigorously with
international problems.

Very respectfully,
Adelaide Ernestine Henry

Mrs CW Henry
Lincoln Park
Berks Co Pa. ✓

August 17, 1944

3186

My dear Dr. Silver:

Thank you very much for your letter of July twenty-fifth and its enclosure, which I found on my desk when I returned this morning from the Pacific trip with the President. I shall be glad to bring it to his attention.

With kind, personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ERWIN M. WATSON
Major General, U. S. Army
Secretary to the President

x ^{PP2}
4570
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,
American Zionist Emergency Council,
312 Madison Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.

LD
sjm

x76-c

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

*ackd
8/17/44
AJM*

CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

July 25, 1944

Major General Edwin M. Watson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

x 100

My dear General Watson:

I recall with great pleasure our meeting on March 9 when Dr. Wise and I had the interview with the President.

*x 1871
x 1871-a*

Last week the Democratic Party meeting in Chicago included in its platform a very splendid plank on Palestine. You may be interested in the enclosed release which I issued on the occasion of the publication of the Democratic platform.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would bring this statement of mine to the attention of the President.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

Abba Hillel Silver

Abba Hillel Silver

AHS:EG
Enc.

AMERICAN ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

Associated Organizations:

Zionist Organization of America • Hadassah • Mizrahi • Poale-Zion
342 Madison Avenue • New York 17, N. Y. • MU 2-1160

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. SILVER HAILS PALESTINE PLANK IN DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

- - - - -

Cleveland -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Zionist Emergency Council, today hailed the Palestine plank included in the platform of the Democratic National Convention which favors "the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration and colonization, and such a policy as to result in the establishment there of a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth" and declared that "it will be specially welcomed by the Jews of America who will be greatly heartened by this magnificent expression of friendship and helpfulness at a time of deep crisis and tragedy for Israel."

In a statement issued here, Dr. Silver expressed his gratification that "the Democratic Party, under the leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, now reaffirms its loyal support of the Zionist movement which more than a quarter of a century ago was so eloquently championed by another great Democratic President, Woodrow Wilson."

Pointing to the similar action taken by the Republicans at their convention last month, Dr. Silver asserted that "it is now the declared purpose not of one political party or another but of the entire American people which has come to regard this constructive solution of the basic Jewish problem in the world today as one of the important objectives of a just world peace which is to follow this War."

The text of Dr. Silver's statement follows:

"The whole-hearted endorsement by the Democratic Party at its convention in Chicago of the rights of the Jewish people to unrestricted immigration and land

(more)

acquisition in Palestine -- rights which have been denied by the current White Paper policy of the Mandatory -- and the recognition of the historic aspiration of our people to build in Palestine a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth, is an act of greatest political significance and statesmanship. It will be warmly welcomed by all sections of the American people which have always manifested profound sympathy for the efforts of the Jewish people to re-build their national life in their ancient home. It will be especially welcomed by the Jews of America who will be greatly heartened by this magnificent expression of friendship and helpfulness at a time of deep crisis and tragedy for Israel.

"The Democratic Party, under the leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, now reaffirms its loyal support of the Zionist movement which more than a quarter of a century ago was so eloquently championed by another great Democratic President, Woodrow Wilson.

"The action of the Democratic Party following the similar notable action of the Republican Party at its convention in Chicago last month, now puts both major parties squarely behind the ideal of a Jewish Palestine. It is now the declared purpose not of one political party or another but of the entire American people which has come to regard this constructive solution of the basic Jewish problem in the world today as one of the important objectives of a just world peace which is to follow this War."

vld

August 31, 1944

Respectfully referred for consideration and acknowledgment.

3186

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Letters to the President --

HUNT, Guy C., Box 1268, Sophia, West Virginia. 8/28/44. Writer asks help in getting a stove to display. Writer has been in the general merchandise business for the past seven years; he never filled out an application as a stove dealer because he never carried stoves in stock but furnished his customers as they needed them. Writer feels that it is very unfair not to give him a certificate to sell stoves. Referred to the Office of Price Administration. Enc. self address (3¢) stamped envelope.

WILSON, W. T., R#1, Trussville, Ala. 8/28/44. Asks help in getting gas stamps in order to go to and from work. Writer has been working for the War Department since 1940. Referred to the Office of Price Administration.

HARTSOCK, Mrs. Isaac, 3148 Dover St., Langview, Washington. 8/29/44. Writer appeals for twenty gallons of gasoline a week in order to take her seven year old boy to Tenino, Washington to receive treatments. Her son is a cripple due to spastic paralysis; these treatments would mean the recovery of his health. Enc. 2. Referred to the Office of Price Administration.

SHIVERS, Alice C., 636 So. 10 Street, Louisville, Ky. Undated. Writer works in a war production plant and has been notified that she will have to have her birth certificate by September 1st. Writer asks help in getting her birth certificate. Referred to the Department of Commerce. (Census Bureau.)

GORK, Tiny, 42 East Avenue, Tonawanda, N. Y. 8/28/44. Writer, who was recently eighteen years old, asks help in getting into a group to entertain service men. Writer talents are singing and dancing. Referred to the United Service Organizations for National Defense.

BERNSTEIN, Pearl, 147-32-97th Ave., Jamaica, Long Island, New York. 8/28/44. Urges passage of the bill to Establish Refugee Ports in Palestine. Asks that this be done immediately so as to save the remaining Jews of Europe from destruction by the Nazis. Referred to the War Refugee Board.

SYPCZYNSKI, R. E., 106-N.W. 1st Ave., Portland 9, Oregon. 8/25/44. Writer has decided to let his attorney handle his fight for compensation. Asks return of previous letters regarding Longshoremeus Compensation. Sends best regards to President and his coming election. Referred to the United States Employees Compensation Commission.

August 31, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to the
Department of State. The petition
was presented to General Watson at
the Executive Office on August
twenty-ninth.

x 20

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

hms

Undated letter addressed to the President, signed by
Rabbi Eliezer Silver, Agudas Israel of America,
Rabbi Reuben Lenovitz, Rose Keane, Secretary, Emergency
Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe, Washington,
D.C., Rabbi Ben Zion Notelevitz, Union of Orthodox Rabbis
of America, Rabbi Baruch Korff, Emergency Committee to Save
the Jewish People of Europe, and Alex Wilf, American League
for a Free Palestine, attached to which is a mimeographed
"Memorandum Submitted to the British Ambassador in
Washington by Delegation of the Emergency Committee to Save
the Jewish People of Europe", urging the mass evacuation
of the Hebrew people from Europe to Palestine.

x 48

x 700
x 76-c

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MRS. DENNISON:

The General received
these from the group of Rabbis
August 29 1944.

RB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7

TO SEE GENERAL WATSON

Tues. Aug 29, 1944 --

5:00 pm - ~~Bishop Athanasios~~
Rabbi Elias Silver
Rabbi Baruch Korff
Mr. Alex Wilf
Miss Rose Keane

(to present petitions from
Emergency Committee to save the
Jewish People of Europe)

Rabbi Ben Zion Wotleswitz - N.Y.
Union of Orthodox Rabbis

Rabbi P. Levovitz, N.Y.

Rabbi Elazar Schoenfeld, N.Y.

Rabbi Zolles, Philadelphia

*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 28, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

Judge Rosenman recommends that you see this group. They are going to the Capitol in the afternoon.

RB

not more than 5

5:00 pm 8/29/44
Miss Keane to advise names of
5 who will come

ep

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3-1 Cap

8-26-44

S. McCormack's

Roberta:

~~Bishop Athenagoras~~ Bishop Cannon ✓
Rabbi Elias Silvery Arthur Schick ✓
Rabbi Korff and several others want to
arrange an appointment with the Presi-
dent on Tuesday some time to present a
petition or resolution -- something
like that -- in re Emergency Committee
To Save The Jewish People of Europe.

They are going to the Capitol on
that day to present something to some
Senators on the steps of the Capitol.

Rose Keane, executive secretary of
the Committee here -- Adams 0436 --
called on this.

1/2 million

J. Romagna

2 add 8 9 15

WB5 NL

NEW YORK NY AUG 26 1944

STEPHEN EARLY SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE

MAY I ADVISE YOU OF A RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES
OF CONGRESS REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE
TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY
REFUGEE SHELTERS IN THE MANDATED TERRITORY OF PALESTINE
SIMILAR TO EMERGENCY SHELTER OSWEGO NY SO THAT THE JEWS
OF EUROPE MAY FIND THERE A HAVEN FROM THE ORDEALS OF
PERSECUTION. THIS RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE BY
SENATORS ELBERT THOMAS FERGUSON MURRAY AND TAIT. IN THE

HOUSE THIS RESOLUTION WAS SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMEN SOMERS
SCOTT BALDWIN AND LANE. HALF MILLION PETITIONERS REQUESTED
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF OUR NATIONAL OFFICE THE IMMEDIATE
ESTABLISHMENTS OF SHELTERS IN PALESTINE. IN VIEW OF THE
ABOVE I HEREBY RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOU
ON TUESDAY AUGUST 29. FOLLOWING ARE THE MEMBERS OF OUR
COMMITTEE WHO WILL COME DOWN SPECIALLY TO WASHINGTON FOR
THIS INTERVIEW: ARCHBISHOP ATHENAGORAS BISHOP JAMES CANNON
ARTHUR SZYK DR LI YU YING AND MYSELF. THE SAME COMMITTEE
IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON THE STEPS
OF THE CAPITOL TUESDAY AUGUST 29 8 PM PLEASE ADVISE BY WIRE

COLLECT

RABBI BARUCH KORFF DIRECTOR RESCUE ACTIVITIES EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE 25 WEST
45 ST NEW YORK 18 NY.

3186

September 1, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board for attention and
appropriate acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Harold E. B. Speight,
Acting President,
The St. Lawrence University,
Canton, New York.

Letter to the President, dated 8/29/44.

Encloses a newspaper dispatch in regard to protests received
against the refugee camp at Oswego, N. Y., which houses 984
refugees. He states if the facts in this article are true
concerning this work that he expresses his approval and regrets
that protests have reached the President.

First copy filed - SPEIGHT, Harold E. B.

New York, September 3rd 1944

To the
New York Journal-American
New York City,

3186

Gentlemen,

I want to congratulate you to having sponsored the mass citizens's protest meeting next Saturday against Nazi persecution of Europe's defenseless minority groups.

The unspeakable acts of atrocities committed by the Nazis, which are now being laid before the civilized world as country after country is being liberated, are so horrible that no adequate punishment can possibly be imposed upon the perpetrators of these crimes. However I feel that something should be undertaken to keep these shameful acts also before future generations in order to castigate those who have committed or condoned these crimes.

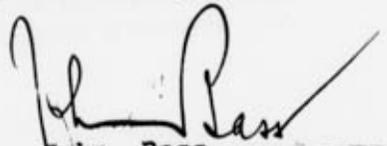
I therefor propose that an international shrine be built in memory of the tortured and persecuted victims (such as a "Hall of Horrors") to house some of their remains, and in which there should be displayed official records, pictures, relics, publications, etc. etc., gathered from all countries who suffered under the Nazi heel and which shrine should be the object of annual pilgrimages.

Appropriate Research Committees should be established now in every country to gather such evidence for this purpose before same is destroyed or allowed to disappear. A representative and forceful Committee should be chosen to put such a program into operation and citizens of all countries should be given the privilege to contribute with as little as 10 cents to the creation and maintenance of such a memorial shrine.

I herewith pledge my contribution in the amount of tenthousand Dollars to such an organization as and when created.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have your organization sponsor such an undertaking and to have same proposed and voted upon by the Steering Committee at next Saturday's rally.

Very sincerely yours


John Bass
99 Wall Street
New York City

FGB

September 4, 1944.

Respectfully referred by memorandum to Department of State

M. C. Latta
Executive Clerk

3186

Letters to the President:

- WELLS, GEORGE H., 4445 Verdugo Road, Los Angeles 41, Calif., 8/24/44. Thinks every weapon and all ammunition now anywhere in Germany, or under German control should be destroyed and then they should be watched until re-education may have shown the people that Nazi-ism is very harmful to them, and cannot be tolerated by other World Powers. Encloses some suggestions which may be found of use. 1 encl.
- HENNESSEE, MRS. CECILE, 2931 H St., Sacramento, Calif., 8/24/44. Letter written in the French language, the substance of which is that the writer thanks the President for the liberation of France, her country.
- SINGER, JAMES W., JR., Executive offices of RENARD LINOLEUM & RUG CO., St. Louis, Mo., 8/31/44. Has just read SUMNER WELLES' "Time for Decision", and thinks it is a truly great book. Hopes that our Government now, as well as in planning for future peace, will make official use of Mr. Welles, his outstanding ability and the far-sighted diplomacy which he represents.
- CAMPBELL, JEANNETTE O., 905 Main St., Wellsburg, W. Va., p.m. 9/2/44. Three copies of THE CAMPBELL PLAN for World Federation. (Pamphlet form). No covering letter.
- TREUHAF, C. J. (MRS. A. TREUHAF), 350 Stegman Parkway, Jersey City, N. J., 8/31/44. Thanks the President for establishing the "REFUGEE SHELTER". Prays that this shelter may be one of many to follow. Says that FRANK HAGUE is not an asset in the President's camp. Promises that she will work zealously to give the President the sixteen electoral N. J. votes, help wherever and whenever she can in New York and all neighborhoods where she happens to travel but she makes no such promise for Democratic Senators, etc. Says they must protect themselves from injustice practised on them in Hitler fashion in Jersey City.
- BEAULIEU, PAUL X., 111 Normal Ave., Presque Isle, Me., 9/1/44. Did not receive a reply to his first letter, so is sending a copy of the "world security" as he thinks the President probably did not receive it. Gives a few suggestions which are hard to understand as it is written in such broken English. Clipping enclosed.

September 27, 1944

3186

Respectfully referred to
the Secretary of State for appropriate acknowledgment.

x40

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

x463-a

Four telegrams to the President, each dated Sept 26, 1944, in the interest of prisoners at Oswiecim, Poland; request the President to do his utmost to save these victims of racial and religious persecution from extermination by Nazi authorities.

x198.a

From: Mr. William Green, President, American Federation of Labor, A F of L Building, Washington, D. C.

filed 3186

Mr. Adolph Held, Chairman, Jewish Labor Committee, 175 E. Broadway, New York, N. Y.

x76-c

Rabbi Israel Rosenberg, Union Orthodox Rabbis of United States and Canada, 133 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y. Zone 7.

filed 3186

Mr. Jacob Rosenheim, President, Agudas Israel World Organisation, 1123 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

Letter dated 10/5/44 in reply to Mr. Hassett's letter of 9/27
received & sent to State Dept. 10/11/44 re above subject.

September 27, 1944

My dear Mr. Hald:

Your telegram of September twenty-sixth to the President has been received and will be made available to him. It is also being brought to the attention of the Secretary of State.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASETT
Secretary to the President

Mr. Adolph Hald,
Chairman,
Jewish Labor Committee,
175 E. Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

END

STATE (BY MEMO)

3186

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
ADAMS 2800

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

7
min.

October 17, 1944

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

476-c

Mr. President:

I take the liberty of submitting for your consideration a proposal that may succeed in halting or slowing down Germany's campaign of extermination of the Hebrew people of Europe. On various occasions the Government of the United States, through Presidential statements, has warned Germany to refrain from the use of poison gas against either civilian or military populations, and has declared that if poison gas should be used against the inhabitants of any one of the United Nations, the United States would retaliate in kind against Germany.

x198-a

It has been officially established that hundreds of thousands of Hebrew people in Europe were asphyxiated through the use of poisonous gases. We therefore suggest that, in accordance with the above mentioned policy of the United States, a specific statement be issued warning Germany to cease forthwith the practice of using poison gas against the Hebrew people.

We beg to stress the importance of this not solely because it might induce Nazi Germany to stop the use of poison gas; such a warning is also important because of the constant need to impress upon Germany the fact that the governments of the United Nations consider and treat the Hebrew people of Europe as human beings deserving full equality and consideration with other members of the United Nations.

On the advice of the Department of State, the foregoing proposal has been submitted by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation to the War Refugee Board. The Committee was advised however by the War Refugee Board that since the

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15477

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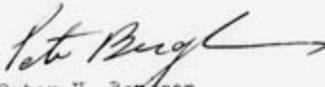
-2-

proposal is one involving military considerations, the Board was not prepared to comment on it. The proposal was thereupon submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Committee is now in receipt of a letter from Admiral Leahy informing it that the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that, from a military point of view the proposal is one which does not come within their cognizance. In view of the importance and urgency of the issue involved, I take the liberty of submitting this proposal to the personal attention of the President of the United States in the hope that you, Mr. President, will give it your early and favorable consideration and will entrust the appropriate agency of the Government of the United States or of the United Nations with further action on this matter. 15014

You will permit me to emphasize that the extermination of Jews in German controlled territory is going on apace, and that according to various reports, the Germans prepare to intensify the extermination of the surviving Jews on the eve of their defeat. The Swiss press prominently published alarming reports to the effect that a special division of the Gestapo has arrived in Hungary for the purpose of renewing the deportation and extermination of the Jews of Hungary. Action on our proposal at this time may, therefore, directly contribute to the saving of human lives.

I beg to remain, Mr. President

Yours faithfully,


Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

GESTAPO DIVISION ARRIVES IN HUNGARY WITH ORDERS TO
EXTERMINATE ALL REMAINING JEWS

LONDON, Oct. 16 (JTA) -- With Budapest controlled by German troops, it was reported here today from reliable Hungarian sources in Stockholm that a special division of Nazi Elite units has arrived in the Hungarian capital with orders to exterminate the remaining 300,000 Jews in the country. Another division is en route.

From Switzerland it was reported today that the Basler National Zeitung says that "very reliable sources" reveal that the deportation of Jews from Hungary is to be resumed and that two transports of 150,000 Jews each are being prepared. The Swiss newspaper added that the deported Jews are being sent "to slaughter houses and extermination camps."

The Swiss paper appeals to the Pope "not to remain indifferent to events in a country that is especially close to the Vatican." It refers to the protests against German extermination of Jews made during the summer by the Swiss Government and by the Red Cross and adds that the Swiss people "expect from their government that, in this case, too, we shall not fail to do what we can within the limits of our powers to prevent the war from taking on unnecessary cruel forms."

2315 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.
ADAMS 8800

הוועדה החרדית לנצחון

HEBREW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

*file
u.s.*

October 17, 1944.

The Honorable William B. Hassett
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hassett:

Referring to the letter addressed by the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation to the President of June 14, 1944, and to your reply of June 19, 1944, I beg to enclose copy of a letter which is being sent to the President today.

*- from
file
3/26*

I am also enclosing an excerpt from today's Daily News Bulletin of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from which you will readily appreciate the gravity and urgency of this matter.

I would be deeply grateful if you could give the matter your personal attention and if I could have the opportunity to discuss it with you within the next few days. Accordingly, my secretary will call up the Executive Offices of the President in an attempt to make an appointment for me to see you.

Sincerely yours,

Peter H. Bergson
Peter H. Bergson
Chairman

COHEN, Miss Ann
Women's American ORT,
New York 10, New York
Nov. 20, 1944 - ack. 11/27/44.

3186

Let. to the President requesting a message of greeting to be read at the Regional Tea to be given Nov. 29 by Women's American ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) The object of the Organization is to give tools and skills to refugees, supply craftsmen and artisans for post war reconstruction tomorrow and give man, women and youth means of self-support always.....Sorry Pres. cannot comply with request.

SEE WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT

END

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Bernard J. Engbarth,
Lennon Hotel,
Oswego, N. Y.

Telegram to the President, dated 12/1/44.

Quote: "PLEASE INSTRUCT BRIDGE RESTAURANT THAT REFUGEES WILL BE
TAKEN CARE OF AS PER ORDERS"

Referred to the War Refugee Board for consideration and acknowledgment,
12/2/44.

See - BRIDGE RESTAURANT

3186

FGB

December 2, 1944.

3186

Respectfully referred to the
War Refugee Board for consideration
and acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Bernard J. Engberth,
Oswego, N. Y.

Telegram to the President, dated 12/1/44.

Quote: "PLEASE REMOVE REFUGEES FROM OSWEGO TERRITORY AT ONCE"

First copy filed - OSWEGO

FBI

was.

SIMMONS, Mrs. David (SIMMONS, Dorothea Murray)
Castle Deloy,
Walkerswood P.O.,
Jamaica, B.W.I.
January 11, 1944

3186

Writes to the President stating that she is "one of the Forbes cousins". Refers to the newspapers' accounts re making up a list of War Criminals in order to punish them says no one suggests that we should make up a list of the "Friends of Liberty" in or from Germany and Japan, in order to confer with them. Thinks there should be such a list and that these "Friends of Liberty" should be given the government of their countries after the war, as they could better understand the psychology of their own people, and would be in a better position to know their needs, and what loans and trade concessions were vital to them. Thinks it would be easy to find such persons among refugees, and other groups of persons who have defied Hitler. Asks that if the President ever comes to Jamaica he visit them.—On 2/4/44 the President wrote to Mrs. Simmons expressing his interest in her suggestion, and stating that he has turned it over to the Department of State for study. He further said that we want every American citizen who feels that he or she has something to suggest to the government about the conduct of foreign relations to put their thoughts in writing for our benefit. He adds that while he has no idea as to when he might be going to Jamaica, in the event he should go, he would like very much to see that part of the country.

See P.P.F. 8656

MOG
TO:
ROSENWALD, William
National Refugee Service, Inc.
New York, N. Y.
Jan. 14, 1944.

3186

The President wrote that the neighborly assistance and guidance offered by public-spirited organizations and individuals to those who have found haven in this country has helped them to adjust more rapidly to our American life, to contribute to the enrichment of our economy and culture, and to participate loyally in our struggle for national survival, and that the National Refugee Service is responsible in large measure for the successful program of aid to new Americans. The President recalls that three years ago he suggested that the program of the National Refugee Service might provide a model of constructive absorption of immigrants into American life. The record of accomplishment since then, under stress of war conditions, has confirmed that view. The President states that it is heartening to know that due to the efforts of high-minded men and women, our country is prepared to continue the well-conceived and effective program for aiding newcomers to fulfill their hope of becoming good Americans. - - -Pen and ink notation - I telephoned Miss Estelle Friedrichs in Dave Niles' Office, advising her that the signed original of this letter was sent direct to Mr. Rosenwald. hms - - -Attached - Letter to Mr. David Niles dated Jan. 12, 1944, from Mr. Albert Abrahamson (address unknown) enclosing a draft of a letter, which he had spoken to Mr. Niles about, to Mr. William Rosenwald to be signed by the President. Mr. Rosenwald is completing ten years of leadership in organized refugee work in the U.S. and five years with the National Refugee Service. He is being honored at a testimonial on Jan. 16 and will be presented with a book in which will be bound the letter from the President and others from prominent men.

See - PPF 7406

FVS

WISE, Dr. Stephen S.
New York, N. Y.
1-18-44

3186

Wrote to the President saying he has had reports from several sources, including England, of far-reaching importance concerning Palestine, which will necessitate their reaching important decisions. These decisions may also require an immediate trip to England by one or more of the American Zionist leaders. Said Dr. Silver and he, co-Chairmen of the American Zionist Emergency Council, hope the President will see them at the earliest possible moment for brief consultation. Commended the President's message to Congress. - The above letter was forwarded via note to Gen. Watson, 1-17-44. -- Gen. Watson replied to Rabbi Wise, 1-21-44 re appointment after Jan. 29. -- Office memo for Miss Barrows, 1-26-44 reported that the Postmaster General, Mr. Frank Walker, talked to Gen. Watson about a Jewish Committee seeing the President; said Gen. Watson says Judge Rosenman is going to supply the names and will ask the President about seeing the Committee Monday or Tuesday. -- Gen. Watson sent memo to Miss Barrows, 1-27-44 re phone call from Mr. David Niles about the appointment. -- Gen. Watson sent telegram to Dr. Wise, 1-29-44 re appointment for him and Dr. Silver, Feb. 14. -- Miss Barrows sent memo to Gen. Watson, 2-2-44 re changing appointment back to original time instead of Feb. 14. Notation on memo indicates that they will stick to Feb. 14. --- Gen. Watson wrote to Mr. Adolph Hald, Mr. Jacob Blaustein, Mr. Joseph Proskauer, Dr. A. H. Silver, Dr. Stephen Wise, Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mr. Henry Monsky, 2-3-44 re appointment with President, Feb. 14 to discuss continuance of immigration into Palestine and the settlement of refugees thereon. -- Gen. Watson sent telegram to each on 2-4-44 asking that they regard his letter of Feb. 3 as confidential. ---- Gen. Watson sent telegram to each of the above-mentioned men, 2-10-44 postponing indefinitely the conference scheduled for Feb. 14 and saying he will advise when another date has been set.

SEE 700

RVS

SKE 5477

3186

dated 1-22-44
for EXECUTIVE ORDER/establishing in the Executive Office of the President
a War Refugee Board. The Board shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary
of the Treasury and the Secretary of War, and the Board may request the heads of other
agencies or departments to participate in its deliberations whenever matters specially
affecting such agencies or departments are under consideration. It is established in
order to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of such victims of
enemy oppression. The duties and responsibility and functions of the Board are set
out in the Order. --- A rough draft of the Order is attached to the file, also
copy of the Press Release on the order.

vah.

HON. HERBERT E. GASTON
Asst. Sec'y. of the Treasury
February 15, 1944

3186

Writes memo to Mr. Early transmitting excerpts from an editorial on the War Refugee Board which appeared in the Manchester Guardian, which he thinks might be of interest to the President. (Pencil notation on this: "For S.E.R. to read and return - S.E.")--Enclosure, above-mentioned, consists of a cablegram, dated 2/12/44, from Ambassador Winant in London to the Secretary of State, and it is headed: "For Secretary of the Treasury and the War Refugee Board from Casaday." The editorials published in the Manchester Guardian relate to the War Refugee Board and its program; they refer to the seeming neglect on the part of the United Nations to this problem, and they point out the urgency for more consideration in the matter. Attention is called to the step taken by President Roosevelt "which holds out the promise of that sort of practical action which has hitherto been largely lacking", and it is suggested that Britain take a similar step in this direction.

See 5477

POOL, Mrs. Tamar Desola (Mrs. David Desola Pool)
Member of the Board of Managers,
National Youth Aliyah Committee

New York, N. Y.
Feb. 20, 1944.

3186

The writer, together with Mrs. Judith G. Kostein (Mrs. Moses P. Spetain), National President of Hadassah and Mrs. Gisela Warburg Byrnsfeld (Mrs. Charles Byrnsfeld, Jr.), Chairman, National Youth Aliyah Committee, and the board of directors on behalf of Hadassah, its National Youth Aliyah Committee, and the board of managers of Youth Aliyah calling attention to the tenth anniversary celebration of the Youth Aliyah Movement, under the leadership of Henrietta Seid, and requesting the President to send a message to Miss Seid upon the celebration of this occasion.

-- The President wrote Miss Seid on Mar. 2, 1944, extending hearty congratulations upon the tenth anniversary of the Youth Aliyah Movement of which she is the honored founder. The President states since 1930, when Miss Seid organized the first English and Americanization classes in her native Baltimore, she has devoted herself to the best social and educational ideals, both here and in Palestine. The ten years of Youth Aliyah's existence have witnessed an attempted head extermination of whole peoples colder and far more systematic than the mass slaughters of Tzetzars. During those years her organization has freed many thousand children from German hands. The caring, training, and useful employment with which she provides them will go far toward redeeming their hearts from terror and their minds from nightmare memory. She has helped redeem the future these children will make. The President states in closing that the coming liberation of Europe will present us all with unparalleled problems. We must heal broken bodies, rebuild shattered lives and faith. He is sure that in this task Youth Aliyah with Miss Seid's guidance will take its place to the forefront, as in the past.

-- Attached Correspondence - Letter to Judge Rosenman dated Feb. 20, 1944, from Mrs. David Desola Pool, enclosing copies of letter to the President and to Mrs. Roosevelt re the 10th anniversary of Youth Aliyah Memo for Secy. Bassett dated Feb. 21, 1944 from Judge Rosenman memo for Hon. Elmer Davis dated Feb. 22, 1944, requesting a draft of a letter for the President's signature to Miss Seid, forwards Judge Rosenman's letter from Mrs. David Pool memo for - - Bassett Feb. 26, 1944 transmitting a draft of letter for the President's signature, as of above.

See - PFF 3025

Web.

BROUGHTON, Hon. J. Melville,
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, N. Car.
February 28, 1944

3186

Writes to the President stating that the sentiment in North Carolina is highly favorable to the passage of pending resolutions relating to enlarged opportunities of the Jewish people in Palestine. Says he is in full accord with the purposes and principles of these resolutions, and earnestly hopes they will be passed.--On 3/17/44 the President wrote to Gov. Broughton. He referred to the statement issued by Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Wise with respect to Palestine, which was authorized by the President. The President expresses his belief that this covers the situation adequately under present circumstances. The President adds: "I am sure you are aware of the deep sympathy which we all feel for the Jewish people during these days of persecution. We are doing what we can to rescue as many of them and as many of the other persecuted peoples of Europe and Asia as possible."

See 700

vah.

BROWN, Mrs. LaRus (Dorothy K. Brown)
New York, N.Y.
March 14, 1944

3186

Writes to the President telling him that their friend, Dr. Robert Dexter, who is director of the Unitarian Service Committee and has spent the last couple of years in Lisbon, is to be in Washington the latter part of that week. She thought it would be useful for the President if he were to see Dr. Dexter for a few minutes before he goes back to Portugal. Says he is one of the best-informed men anywhere on that part of the world, and on the whole refugee problem. — On 3/17/44 the President wrote to Mrs. Brown, in part as follows: "I do wish I could see Dr. Robert Dexter. He sounds most interesting." The President states, however, that every minute is taken up for the next two weeks.

See P.P.F. 1189

RVS

HULL, Hon. Cordell
SECRETARY OF STATE,
3-14-44

3186

Sent Memorandum to the President re statement of Rabbis Abba H. Silver and Stephen Wise (on authority of the President, concerning Jewish national home, Jewish commonwealth and White Paper of 1939, and Jewish refugees). Attached a copy of Cairo's telegram no. 593 (from Hon. Alexander C. Kirk, our Minister), 3-11-44 transmitting an inquiry from the Egyptian Prime Minister to Mr. Kirk, re statement of Rabbi Silver and Rabbi Wise after their interview with the President on March 9. Also attach a copy of Cairo's 585, 3-11-44 summarizing the version of the statement appearing in the Cairo press, and copy of telegram no. 56 from our Legation at Baghdad, 3-11-44 asking for instructions as to what can be said to the Iraqi Government. Enclosed telegrams they propose to send to Cairo and Baghdad if the President considers them satisfactory. --- Carbon initialed "C.H. O.E. F.D.R." and returned to Secretary Hull, 3-15-44.

SEE C.F. STATE

MEMO
April 3, 1944 (filed)

3186

"After the reading of first paragraph of statement on refugees.

Some of you people who are wandering around asking the bellhop whether we have a foreign policy or not, I think that's a pretty good paragraph. We have a foreign policy. Some people may not know it, but we really have" /s/ Jack Romagna

Penciled notation "Mr. Romagna says to file this note. E.B." --
"Used at 462 Press Conference"

See 36

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vah.

GOLDSTEIN, Samuel,
Pres., United Galileian Jews of America,
New York, N.Y.
April 10, 1944

3186

Writes to the President requesting a greeting for their Seventh Convention to be held on May 21, 1944 at the Commodore Hotel, N.Y.C.--On 4/13/44 Mr. Hassett referred the above letter by memo to the Secretary of State - for proper handling.-- Attached is a letter, dated 5/3/44, from Mr. Goldstein to Mr. Early with further reference to above request.--On 5/13/44 Mr. Hassett wrote to Mr. Goldstein, in effect, that the President directs him to request that he express to the United Galileian Jews of America his warm greetings and best wishes on the occasion of their Seventh Convention. Mr. Hassett further stated that the President has taken note of the activities of the Organization, in question, and their support of the war effort and also their activities in connection with the relief of victims of Nazi oppression abroad, and the President expresses the hope that the organization will intensify these efforts in this fateful year.--Mr. Hassett's letter was furnished by the State Department in attached memo of 5/12/44.

See P.P.F. 5265

MORSENTHAU, Henry, Jr.,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.,
April 19, 1944 - not ack.

3186

Let. to President, encl. clipping re plans of the War Refugee Board, to establish safe parts of temporary residence in the United States for refugees from Nazi Europe and also the experiences of Mr. Iva Strachmann in Turkey; clipping was taken from the NEW YORK TRIBUNE of 4/19/44, which might interest the President.

See 5477

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vah.

HON. HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.,
Secretary to the Treasury,
April 24, 1944

3186

Writes to the President recalling to him that at the time of the creation of the War Refugee Board, Myron Taylor was somewhat disturbed about the confusion and difficulties that might arise in relations between the new Board and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. Thinks the President might be interested in learning that as a result of a talk which Sec'y. Morgenthau had with Mr. Taylor, Sir Herbert Emerson, Director, and Mr. Patrick Malin, Vice Director of the Intergovernmental Committee, came to Washington to carry on conferences with Mr. Fehle and to meet with the Board. Says these meetings have been extremely cordial and that a complete agreement has been reached on relations and the future seems most promising. Adds that Mr. Taylor has indicated his complete satisfaction at the way the whole matter is progressing.--(Pencil notation on this: "H.M., Jr. This is fine F.D.R.")

See 5477

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT
FROM MR. Labin
April 29, 1944.

Thinks the President might be interested in the attached note that he has rec'd from Ira A. Hirschmann, who has just come back from Turkey where he did some work for the War Refugee Board.--Mr. Hirschmann letter told how much the folks in Central Europe appreciate the President and what he is trying to do for the world. (Refugees)

SEE 5477
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3186

BALOKOVIC, Mr. Zlatko
JAFYE, Sam
The Theatre of All Nations
New York, N.Y.
May 17, 1944. Ackd. 5/30/44

3186

Let. to the President asking him to become honorary sponsor of the concert they have dedicated to "Free Ports for Refugees". State that "Free Ports for Refugees", originally proposed by Samuel Crafton of the New York "Post", offers the only constructive and realistic solution to rescue-problem of countless war victims. On 5/24/44 Mr. Blake referred above to John W. Penle, Executive Dir. of the War Refugee Board, asking him to draft reply for STE's signature. Let. returned with draft on 5/29/44. Request denied.

SES: PPF-129-A

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CROWLEY, Hon. Leo T.

Administrator, Foreign Economic Administration
June 3, 1944.

3186

Wrote the President re the United States agreement to place to the account of the Polish Government the sum of \$3,000,000 for the purpose of transporting and caring for Polish refugees in Mexico. Further states that the exchange of notes states that this Government will "place to the account of the Polish Government" the sum of \$3,000,000. Secy. of State stated that he regards advances to be made under this agreement as in the nature of a loan and that Mr. Crowley agrees with this. Would like a statement from the President, verifying their understanding that the advances to the Polish Government are to be regarded as a loan, and not as a gift.

- - -Ink notation - L.T. C. OK F.D.R. 6/5/44 - copy initialed 6/5/44 Retd. to Mr. Crowley 6/6/44.

See - 463

MCG

TAYLOR, Hon. Myron C.
New York, N. Y.
June 6, 1944.

3186

Wrote the President enclosing a copy of a letter received from Archbishop Edward Mooney of Detroit, Mich. which Mr. Taylor thinks will interest the President. Letter to Mr. Taylor from Archbishop Mooney dated May 29, 1944, re the plans for the "Clothes for Italy" campaign, which he has had occasion to see the extent which Mr. Taylor's "American Relief for Italy," organization is succeeding in the difficult task of bringing the various Italo-American groups into cooperation for the welfare of their needy kinsmen in the battered homeland. States the Mr. Taylor's prestige in leadership is contributing a great deal to the result. Further speaks of the bombing of Rome and its beautiful buildings and the prospect of taking Rome by an enveloping movement rather than by siege is good and a great blessing for civilization. - - - Covering letter to Miss Tully from Mr. Taylor dated June 6, 1944, requesting that she transmit the above letter to the President.

See - PPF 423

BARBER, Leslie C.
Aurora, Ill.
June 9, 1944. Ackd. 6/27/44.

3186

Let. to the President commending him on the D-Day Prayer and hoping that the "part about helping us to understand each other better may be answered when de Gaulle comes to Washington." Favors free ports for the Jewish people; favors 4th term. -- Let. referred to Mr. Barnes, 6/23/44, ackd. by him and returned to us.

S. 4166

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REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
June 10, 1944.

Sends memo. to the President: SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF \$200,000 to the Dept. of State for the former Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation.--The President, June 10th, wrote to the Sec. of the Treasury giving approval. This amount is to be expended by the Dept. of State, in connection with emergencies affecting the national security and defense, for relief, reconstruction, and rehabilitation in territories liberated from Axis occupation by the armed forces of the United Nations and for relief abroad of refugees from territories occupied or controlled by the Axis. The President asked the Sec. of the Treasury to arrange for the necessary transfer of funds and to advise the Dept. of State accordingly.--Orig. to Budget 6/12/44.

SEE 79 AUTHORIZATION TREASURY NO. 44-84

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3186

REPRODUCED FROM HOLDINGS AT THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

Mrs. Irving J. Sands,
President, Brooklyn Section,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Brooklyn, New York.

Telegram to the President dated 6/14/44; ackd. 6/20/44 by Mr. Hassett.

Commending President for steps taken in setting up a war camp
for refugees at Fort Ontario.

Referred to the War Refugee Board, 6/21/44.

See - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

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3186

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TO:

MORGENTHAU, Hon. Henry, Jr.

Secretary of the Treasury

July 13, 1944.

3186

President wrote stating that by letters of 3/13/42 (No. 42-103), 4/1/42 (No. 42-107), and April 20, 1942 (No. 42/3-10), \$8,000,000 was allocated to the War Relocation Authority, which was later reduced by letter of 6/4/43 (42/3-141), to a balance of \$6,300,000. These allocations were made to carry out the functions and duties of the War Relocation Authority. In addition to the purposes stated in the aforementioned allocations, they shall also be available to the War Relocation Authority for all necessary expenses connected with the administration of program set forth in President's message of 6/12/44, to Congress (H. Doc. 856, 78th Cong.).---Attached is a memorandum for the President, dated 7/13/44, from the Director of the Budget re allocation of funds to the Secy. of the Interior to provide for administration by War Relocation Authority of a War Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, near Oswego, New York.

SEE - 79 Authorization, Treasury No. 45-10

MCB

TO:
MORGENTHAU, Hon. Henry, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
May 15, 1944

3186

The President allocated from the appropriation entitled "Emergency Fund for the President, National Defense, 1942-1944," the sum of \$2,000,000 to the War Refugee Board. This allocation is additional to the allocation made by letter of January 29, 1944 (44-58) for the same purpose and shall be consolidated with said allocation and be available for the same objects of expenditure and under the same conditions. Attached is a memo. for the President, dated 5/12/44, from Paul H. Appleby, Acting Director of the Bureau of the Budget, re above allocation to War Refugee Board and stating that the proposed allocation to the Inter-Governmental Committee for Political Refugees is to fulfill previous commitments made by the Department of State to the IGC. Also attached are: copy of memo. to the President, re: above appropriation, which was signed by Cordell Hull, Henry Morgenthau, and Henry L. Stimson, and approved by the President on 5/25/44; and a memo from Mr. Hassett to Mr. Latta, dated 5/25/44 re memo for the President from the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War - original was approved 5/25/44 and returned to Budget 5/26/44.

SEE 79 Authorization - Treasury No. 44-80

1005

FLANAGAN, The Right Reverend Edward J.
Boys Town, Nebraska.
Aug. 3, 1944.

3186

Wrote the President re the post-war problem of caring for the great number of orphan children left homeless, destitute and abandoned as a result of the war. Presents three plans for the caring of these children and also their widowed mothers. Offers his services in this respect and feel his knowledge of this problem, gained through his many years of experience, can be effectively applied. - Mr. Hassett on Aug. 9, 1944, in a Memorandum for Hon. Charles P. Taft, Committee on Post-War Programs, Dept. of State requests a draft of an appropriate acknowledgment for the President's signature in answer to the above letter from Father Flanagan. - Letter to Mr. Hassett from Mr. Charles P. Taft dated Aug. 19, 1944, enclosing two alternative replies and saying he is inclined to feel that UNRRA is the place where this letter really should be taken care of. Encloses a draft of letter to Governor Lehman, Director of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for the President's signature. - The President in a letter to Father Flanagan dated Aug. 23, 1944, stating that this matter is one which disturbs the minds of all who have any responsibilities for the situation in Europe after the German collapse. The President states that this seems to be a matter in which the major responsibility lies with the governments of the countries where these children belong. Many of them will not be in a position to do an adequate job because of the lack of financial resources, and of skilled personnel to direct the operations. Further states that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was set up in order to meet problems of exactly this character. In their Welfare Division and in their Division of Displaced Persons, Miss Craig McEachy and Mr. Fred K. Hoehler, respectively, they have two individuals who are most competent and most eager to meet such responsibilities and the President is sending a copy of Father Flanagan's letter to Governor Lehman and asking him to investigate the possibility of providing leadership in such an enterprise as suggested. In closing the President states that his interest and most timely suggestions are greatly appreciated. - The President in a letter to Hon. Herbert H. Lehman dated Aug. 23, 1944, encloses a copy of the letter from Father Flanagan. States that Father Flanagan's suggestions deserve most careful consideration and the President would like to hear of Governor Lehman's plans which the Administration may have in mind. Suggests that consultation with Father Flanagan might prove to be of value.

SEE - 58

PERLE, Hon. J.W.
Exec. Dir. War Refugee Board,
8/24/44.

Writes the President as follows: "From the unallocated balance of the \$85,000,000 made available by the Congress thru the ERAA of 1941 and the Third Supplemental Nat'l Defense Appropriation Act of 1942, it is recommended that the sum of \$783,750 be made available to the Office of Distribution of the Dept. of Agric. for the American Nat'l Red Cross. Also it is recommended that the sum of \$285,000 be made available to The Treasury Procurement. These allocations will cover the costs involved in the procurement and shipping of 285,000 food parcels of three kilos each for ultimate distribution by the International Committee of the Red Cross to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps in enemy Europe." The American Red Cross has been consulted and will arrange for the packing and the shipment of these parcels.--Mr. Latta, August 24th, referred this matter to the Dir. of the Budget for recommendation to the President.

SEE 79 AUTHORIZATION TREASURY RED CROSS

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3186

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ROZMARZEK, Charles, Pres.,
Polish National Alliance,
John J. Olejniczak, Pres.,
Polish Roman Catholic Union,
& Honorata Wolowska, Pres.,
Polish Women's Alliance,
Chicago, Illinois.
August 30, 1944.

3186

Telegram to the President urging that something be done to prevent the mass //
murder of some 150,000 Polish men, women and children, who have been rounded up by
the Nazis in Warsaw and sent to a camp at Pruszkow.—Referred to Secy. of State, 8/30/44

SEE - 463-A

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Sept. 11, 1944.

3186

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget wrote re the subject: Food Parcel Program for Unassimilated Persons in European Enemy Concentration and Refugee Camps. Attaches for the President's signature, a memorandum in four copies, indicating the respective responsibilities of the heads of appropriate agencies in connection with a food parcel program for unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy. Further states that this memorandum constitutes an effective reply to the letter of Mr. J.W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, addressed to the President on Aug. 24, 1944, which letter is attached, and states it is recommended that the sum of \$783,750 be made available to the Office of Distribution of the Department of Agriculture for the American National Red Cross. Also recommends that the sum of \$285,000 be made available to Treasury Procurement.*Mr. Smith closes his memorandum by saying that the food parcel program is clear evidence of this Government's resolve to aid helpless people hurt by the enemy. The attached memorandum will bring about such assistance and has the approval of all interested agencies and he (Mr. Smith) recommends the President give his approval. - -The President on Sept. 12, 1944, in a Memorandum for War Food Administrator, Secretary of the Treasury, Chairman of the American National Red Cross, and Executive Director of the War Refugee Board states that on the recommendation of the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board that 265,000 food parcels be procured by this Government for distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in that part of Europe now held or occupied by the enemy, certain steps should be taken as expeditiously as possible: (1) The unobligated balances of funds allocated to the Department of Agriculture from the appropriations for Foreign War Relief, shall be available to the War Food Administrator to procure necessary agricultural supplies up to a certain value. (3) As agreed between the American National Red Cross and the War Refugee Board, the Chairman of the American Nat. Red Cross shall arrange for the packing of the food parcels and their shipment and distribution. (4) The Executive Director of the War Refugee Board shall exercise over-all responsibility for this project. - -No. 2 of the above was omitted in the briefing. - -Pen notation - Orig. to Budget 9/14/44.

See - 892

*Mr. Smith also states that the Combined Blockade Committee in London has approved the delivery of these food parcels to the unassimilated persons mentioned above.

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WISE, Rabbi Stephen S.,
New York, N. Y.
Sept. 14, 1944.

3186

Wrote to Mr. Early enclosing let. of same date for Pres. urging that decision on future of Palestine be no longer delayed, and submitting mimeographed copy of "Memorandum on Palestine and Partition Submitted to State Department, July 7, 1944."---Above correspondence sent to Secy. of State, 9/20/44, as per penciled notation "Secy. of State To prep. reply."---9/23/44 Secy. of State sent memo. to Mr. Early, returning above, together with draft of reply. (Mr. Early did not send this letter to Dr. Wise.)---9/28/44 Rabbi Wise and Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Co-Chairmen of American Zionist Emergency Council NYC, wrote to Pres. requesting opportunity to resume their discussion of last March with respect to future of Palestine and settlement there of Jewish refugees - believe it is urgent to settle problem of what is to be done with surviving Jews in liberated areas of Europe and in other areas about to be freed.---Attached are: let. to Pres. from Dr. Wise, dated 9/16/44, re political importance of settling this problem (pencil notation on let., in Miss Tully's handwriting: "General Watson - Will you arrange appt?") and let. to Pres. from Senator Robert F. Wagner, dated 9/29/44, in re this question.---10/9/44 Judge Rosenman sent memo. to Roberta Barrows re Senator's let.---10/9/44 FER sent following telegram to Rabbi Wise: "IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT MY POSITION IS SAME AS BEFORE. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY."---Attached is telegram to Mr. Early from Rabbi Silver of Cleveland, Ohio, referring to his and Dr. Wise's let. and requesting early reply and appointment. Also attached is note stating that Gen. Watson talked with Rabbi Wise's office in NYC 10/10/44 and was advised that Rabbi is traveling and had not seen President's wire-- would be available Thurs. and would call Gen. Watson.

- 700

10/13/44 RB sent memo. to Gen. Watson saying that Mr. Hassett said he had a 'phone call from Leo Sack, an old newspaper man, who is attending Zionist Convention at Atlantic City. It appears that Rabbi Silver is in a fix, more or less, with Convention, because he did not get to see the Pres. the other day, although Rabbi Wise did. Silver claims he wrote to Pres. on 9/26/44 asking for the appointment and never heard from White House. As matter of fact he and Wise both signed letter, but as Gen. will recall, appt. for Wise was made from Hyde Park, and Silver was not included. Sack was referred by Mr. Hassett to Gen.'s office and he is now calling Gen. Watson. - pencil notation on this memo: "General Watson talked to Leo Sack 10/14/44 told him sorry could not arrange appt for Rabbi Silver right now."

msg

O'CONNOR, Hon. Basil
Chairman, American Red Cross
Sept. 19, 1944.

3186

Letter to the President suggesting that the President give consideration to the submission of a request to Congress for an appropriation of an additional \$25,000,000 for the purchase in the U. S. of supplies to be distributed by the American Red Cross or such govt. or other agency as the President may designate, for the relief of men, women and children rendered sick or destitute as the result of hostilities or invasion. - Mr. Latta on Nov. 17, 1944 referred the above to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget for recommendation to the President. - -Letter to Mr. Hassett from James T. Nicholson, Vice Chairman of the American Red Cross dated Nov. 16, 1944, attaching a copy of the letter of Sept. 19th addressed to the President by Mr. Basil O'Connor re above.

See - 124

no8

STRAUS, Hon. Nathan,
Honorary Chairman,
United Palestine Appeal,
New York, N. Y.
Sept. 28, 1944.

3186

Wrote to Pres. stating that 1944 Yearbook of United Palestine Appeal, central fund-raising agency in U. S. for reconstruction and ~~refugee settlement~~ in Jewish homeland in Palestine, will be published on occasion of 11th annual presentation of "Night of Stars" - 11/14/44. Requests Presidential message for publication in forthcoming Yearbook. --9/30/44 Pres. wrote to Mr. Straus stating that work in behalf of suffering humanity, to be made possible because of 11th annual presentation of "Night of Stars," must appeal to all whose hearts beat with compassion for oppressed and underprivileged. Pres. trusts that Mr. Straus and his associates will continue unswerving in this good work which they have carried on so faithfully through so many years. Great is the need for help, but that need in itself will inspire all to labor with renewed determination to make easier the lot of tens of thousands who suffer through no fault of their own.

SEE - PPF-601

IBM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
October 4, 1944

3186

Hon. J. W. Fehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board, sends a report from the War Relocation Authority setting forth its activities in connection with the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego, New York. Attaches the report which was sent, September 19, 1944, to the War Refugee Board by D. S. Myer, Director.

See - 4849

meb

HANNEGAN, Hon. Robert E.,
Democratic National Committee.
October 9, 1944.

3186

Sent memo. to Mr. Harry L. Hopkins asking that President immediately consider appointment of Dean Swietlik (Polish) to the National Relief Committee (Myron Taylor, Chairman).-----10/16/44 Miss Tully returned Mr. Hannegan's memo. to Mr. Harry Hopkins, attaching memo. of 10/13/44, prepared by Mr. J. Hopkins, regarding the matter. Miss Tully states that nobody seems to know what committee this is to which Bob Hannegan refers.

SEE - 3065

GOLDSCHMIDT, Mrs. Mieke
New York 34, N.Y.
Nov. 18, 1944

3186

Let. to the President - thanks the President for bringing relatives to the refugee camp at Fort Ontario. Writer says she is 65 and came to this country in 1940 from Danzig. Heard the President's hobby is collecting coins and sends him a box containing seven coins of German emergency money from World War I, produced in Meissen, Province Sachsen.

Referred by Miss Tully on 11/27 by memo to George T. Summerling for appropriate acknowledgment of accompanying communication - asks that the coins be returned to this office when they have served their purpose.

SEE 876

emc

mcg

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HASSETT
Dec. 27, 1944.

3186

Hon. David K. Niles stated that the attached correspondence is self-explanatory. Says that the occasion for a letter at this time is that the National Refugee Service is having its annual meeting at the Hotell Commodore in January. - - Enclosure - Letter to Mr. Albert Abrahamson, War Refugee Board, Wash., D.C. from Mr. Ephraim R. Comberg stating that attached is draft of a letter, addressed to Mr. Riegelman, for the signature of the President. States that the President has frequently signed letters of this character, also attached copies of other letters which the President has signed. - -Mr. Hassett on Jan. 1, 1945, in a memorandum for the Dept. of State forwarded the above correspondence for recommendation by the State Dept. Further advises that under date of Jan. 14th, 1944, Mr. William Rosenwald of the National Refugee Service, received a lengthy letter from the President in recognition of the tenth anniversary of Mr. Rosenwald's work with the service. - -Memorandum for Mr. Hassett dated Jan. 6, 1945, forwarding a draft of a letter which the President may wish to sign in re the above. - - The President on Jan. 8, 1945, in a letter to Mr. Charles A. Riegelman, President National Refugee Service, Inc., New York, N. Y. said "The satisfying adjustments made by many refugees who have been admitted to our country in recent years are an encouraging demonstration of the essential soundness of our policy of asylum to those oppressed for reasons of race, religion or political belief. Among them are many who have joined our armed forces, and many scholars, scientists and professional people who have made substantial contributions to the war effort. The National Refugee Service has helped to facilitate these adjustments and has thus enriched the community life of the nation. These invaluable services should be continued so long as they may be required."

See - PPF 7406