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President's Secretary's File
Subject File
Refugees Box 158

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

PSF
Rufengus

November 21st, 1938

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

My dear Mr. President:

The map which I promised to send you in answer to your second inquiry was delivered to Secretary Morgenthau at his home in Washington last evening and he and I spent the evening examining it and other maps and documents. He will write you about them. My purpose in writing this letter is to summarize the results of an inspection of Northern South America. You will find detailed summaries region by region pasted on the map itself.

The two critical contours on the map are the 3,000 foot contour and the 8,000 foot contour. Below the first the tropical conditions are severe; under 2,000 feet and between 2,000 and 3,000 feet they are still difficult for European colonists. Any site below 3,000 feet would offer special technical difficulties in the fields of health and outdoor labor. Also, there would be required forms of tropical agriculture which are both specialized and difficult for European labor. Above 3,000 feet the climate is distinctly better, horticulture is possible, subsistence farming is practicable and it is possible for the European to become adjusted to both elevation and climate. Above 8,000 feet pulmonary and heart troubles increase rapidly. Eighty percent of the population of highland Bolivia and Peru die of pulmonary diseases, mostly pneumonia. If colonists were young they could stand a greater elevation. Even 8,000 feet is extreme for people beyond the age of 50, as a rule.

The net result of an inspection of all these limiting conditions is that Northern South America offers no place for colonization, on a large scale, of people such as we have in mind. This will be cleared if the summaries on the map are read in connection with the following text.

I NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

1 - The Guiana Highlands

The Guiana Highlands are out of the picture. The land is either rough or swampy, the distances to the Orinoco or other streams is great, road construction is difficult and expensive and the insect inhabitants are both numerous and varied. It would be a major task of reclamation and land modification to make the region habitable and the cost would be excessive. In enterprises of this sort the physically possible and the economically profitable would have to be kept in balance. It would be like a city at the South Pole. Civilization could maintain it, but the cost would be prohibitive.

2 - Venezuela

I described the llanos country in an earlier letter. A word

President Franklin D. Roosevelt - 2

here as to the western border of the plains country. Irrigation is necessary and this requires considerable capital to begin with. Irrigated areas will produce products which must be handled expertly if they are to find an outside market; and then comes the difficulty of transport to the market. If there were a tract of favorable climate and terrain that would accommodate 100,000 people, transport might be provided over metalled roads to the coast, but no such tract is available. The areas are scattered. They are local alluvial deposits. I will spend no more time on them since from every standpoint they fail to provide the necessary conditions for tolerable living.

3 - Highland Colombia

There are a great many local tracts in Highland Colombia which could sustain European inhabitants in comfort and prosperity. The trouble is that they are scattered and each would require a special field survey to determine its capacity and the scale of the facilities that would be required to provide an outlet for colonists. As you see from the map, the highland areas available between 3,000 and 8,000 feet are marginal to a higher plateau. The higher parts of Colombia are already occupied and no displacement of the relatively dense highland population is possible. This means a survey valley by valley and region by region and will take both time and money. In the end, groups of from 500 to 5,000 people would be accommodated. This would all add up to a minor item considering the total population to be relieved.

II CENTRAL AMERICA

A protégé of mine for some years, Dr. McBride, now of the University of California at Los Angeles, has just returned from a six months' field study of land tenure and land use in Central America. Two of his associates have also studied the region within the past year. At my telegraphic request they have sent me a 1,000 word summary of colonization possibilities in Central America. Secretary Morgenthau will send you a copy of this summary. I left my only copy with him last night to be forwarded to you, together with a covering letter from him.

The summary adds up in brief to this: that only one country has major possibilities and that is Costa Rica. I should estimate a fairly immediate capacity for 50,000 people and possibly a capacity for 100,000 people. The total population of Costa Rica is about 500,000. The available land is located on the western and relatively dry side of the Cordillera. All of the eastern slopes of Central America are heavily wooded and the plains near the coast are jungle-covered, in response to excessive rainfall. It is only west of the mountains or in drier pockets in the mountains that the white race has established itself on an important scale.

From the standpoint of health, marketable production, transport, group settlement, and the like, Costa Rica is unrivalled in Latin America.

III BRAZIL

1 - Western São Paulo

Here is a large pioneer zone in process of rapid development. I doubt if Brazil will permit large numbers of foreign colonists to enter this

zone. Her own people need it and the⁺⁺ products are of little value for subsistence, outside of coffee, and Brazil already has an embarrassing^{except} large quantity of coffee. The political aspects of this settlement area outweigh all other considerations and I need not trouble you with details until these political aspects are cleared up.

2 - Northeastern Brazil

In view of the experience of some of the colonists in dry land countries at the Eastern end of the Mediterranean, it is worth while to consider the possibility that the Brazilian Government would extend a welcome to such colonists who may help Brazil in reclamation projects in the states of Ceara, Parahyba and Rio Grande Do Norte. This area suffers from recurrent droughts. It is highly productive when irrigated. It is that part of Brazil which corresponds with our dry West. They have borrowed our engineers and our ideas extensively and have made progress. The advantages of settlement here might be summed up in the following terms: fair-size group settlement, controlled health conditions, nearness to the sea, settlement based on capital economically expended on technical projects whose character is well known. The low latitude (4°degrees to 8°degrees S) seems to be a drawback, but there is some elevation above the sea and the capital expenditures would sustain low-grade labor available^{elsewhere} elsewhere in Brazil.

IV BOLIVIA - PARAGUAY

1 - Bolivia

There is room for perhaps 50,000 people along the mountain border of Bolivia facing the Gran Chaco. This would require a brief field survey. Now that the boundary line has been settled, development will proceed rapidly. Capital is greatly wanted in Bolivia. The government would probably welcome such a settlement. While the region is within the tropics, its latitude is about 18°to 22°degrees and the elevation^{sufficient} sufficient to make it tolerable. No doubt there will soon be a good outlet to the projected new port on the Paraguay River. The greater part of the Gran Chaco is not suited for settlement under present conditions. It is either too dry or flooded, very much as in the case of the llanos of Venezuela.

2 - Paraguay

There are possibilities for settlement of perhaps 25,000 people in Paraguay, looking ahead for ten years. The cultural level is low. The colonists would have to bring their culture with them. This requires group settlement and outlets to the Paraguay River. It is no paradise, but space can be found for a quite limited number in relatively small groups. It is not a recommended area.

V SOUTHERN CHILE

There is only one area in Chile that is still capable of absorbing immigrants. It is the province of La Frontera. Only those colonists who are strong physically should attempt to settle here. The type of settlement is like that in Michigan and Ohio in pioneer days. The hoe and axe would be wielded. Mixed farming is the rule. There is an excess of rain during half

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT - 4

the year, but the health of the colonists seems good; however, the Chileans themselves need the land. I doubt if it is feasible to induce them to open the door to more than 10,000 people.

VI AFRICA

My time being limited, I have asked for an assistant, who will join me on Wednesday morning at nine o'clock and compile similar summaries of settlement conditions in the former German colonies of Africa and elsewhere on that continent, as well as in South Eastern Asia. Within two weeks at the latest these summaries will be ready, together with appropriate maps. If it is agreeable to you, I will forward them through Mr. Morgenthau, since he will be more closely informed of your whereabouts.

It is an exciting search. May I say that it has given me great pleasure to supply the information that you desire.

Sincerely yours,

Isaiah Bowman

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

PST Refugee file



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

November 21, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

Sunday night, at my house, I had a most interesting discussion with Dr. Isaiah Bowman on colonies.

Dr. Bowman secured for me the information contained in the attached telegram. You will note that the only country in Central America which offers possibilities for colonization is Costa Rica. I am securing maps of Costa Rica and as soon as I have them I will send them down to you. I would also like to remind you that it is Costa Rica that Mr. Zemmurray, of the United Fruit, informed you (and Jeff Coolidge informed me) is in need of \$5,000,000 to put them on their feet financially.

Dr. Bowman left with me a map which he has prepared, at your request, covering the countries south of the Rio Orinoco. I am forwarding it to you.

He is also going to give me a memorandum on possible locations for colonization in South America.

At my suggestion, he has retained an assistant who is an expert on the colonies in South Africa and as soon as he has a report I will advise you.

Have you any suggestions as to how we should proceed in regard to Costa Rica?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Guthrie Jr.".

The President,

Warm Springs, Georgia.

*Alvarez
file*

COPY

WESTERN UNION

CAL4 811 NL COLLECT 7 EXTRA 1/141 - SANTAMONICA CALIF 19
DR ISAIAH BOWMAN
OAK PL BALTO

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT PREPARED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MY COLLEAGUES DOCTORS FITZGIBON POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HUSSEY HISTORY BOTH OF WHOM SPENT RECENT MONTHS IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THIS SUMMARIZES OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL COLONIES. INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL OPENINGS FOR LIMITED NUMBER MIGHT BE EXPECTED IN TIME. WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL LABOR EXTREMELY LOW IN ALL SECTIONS. ROAD SYSTEMS BEING ACTIVELY EXTENDED IN MOST COUNTRIES AND AIR SERVICE MAKES MANY REGIONS NEWLY ACCESSABLE.

COSTARICA OFFERS BEST POSSIBILITIES FOR SEVERAL 10,000 GROUPS. COUNTRY DEMOCRATIC AND SYMPATHETIC TOWARD IMMIGRATION. UPPER RIM OF MESETA CENTRAL AND UPPER SLOPES BEYOND THAT RIM CONTAIN FERTILE VOLCANIC SOIL WELL DRAINED EASILY CLEARED AT ELEVATION OF 3,000 to 6,000 FEET. WHILE LOWER ELEVATIONS OF MESETA ARE THICKLY PEOPLED HIGHER ELEVATIONS ARE SPARSELY INHABITED. DISTANCE TO MARKET NOT GREAT OVER FAIR ROADS RAPIDLY BEING IMPROVED. CLIMATE EXCELLENT. WESTWARD SLOPE TOWARD NICARAGUA ALSO SPARSELY

CA14 2/160

INHABITED AND ABOVE 3,000 FEET OFFERS POSSIBILITIES PARTICULARLY ABOUT HEADWATERS OF SANCARLOS AND ON PACIFICWARD SLOPE. PENINSULA OF NICOYA ALSO OFFERS POSSIBILITIES AS DOES RATHER ROUGH MOUNTAIN TERRAIN OF TALAMANCA CORDILLERA. MOST OF REGIONS MENTIONED ARE SUITABLE FOR CEREALS BEANS AND FRUITS FOR SUBSISTANCE AGRICULTURE AND COFFEE FOR EXPORT. THIS COUNTRY PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE POPULATION IS MOSTLY WHITE.

HONDURAS. MOST OF HIGHLAND 3,000 TO 5,000 FEET ELEVATION CONTAINS SPARSE POPULATION. THE SOIL IS GOOD THE RAIN VARIES FROM 30 - 50 INCHES RESULTING IN A GOOD GROWTH OF VEGETATION AND EXCELLENT FORESTS OVER MUCH OF THE AREA. LONG DRY SEASON FROM NOVEMBER TO APRIL OFFERS A PROBLEM AND HAS HELPED TO KEEP AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DOWN BUT SHOULD NOT PREVENT EXTENSIVE PROFITABLE GRAIN FARMING IF ROADS ARE CONSTRUCTED AS OUTLETS TO MARKET THOUGH INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE MAY NEVER BE POSSIBLE. A MUCH LARGER ANIMAL POPULATION SHOULD BE POSSIBLE ALSO WITH INTELLIGENT MEASURES AGAINST TICKS WHICH NOW CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS HANDICAP.

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CA14 3/160

MINING TOO OFFERS GOOD POSSIBILITIES KNOWN DEPOSITS OF GOLD AND SILVER BEING NUMEROUS. THESE AREAS ARE SUITABLE FOR PIONEER SETTLEMENTS AND WITH FURTHER EXTENSION OF ROADS AND RAILROADS SHOULD SUPPORT MANY 10,000 GROUPS. PINE LUMBERING INDUSTRY ALSO PROMISING. ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT TOWARD IMMIGRATION DOUBTFUL.

NICARAGUA. UPLANDS FROM MATAGALPA TO UPPER SEGOVIA REGION SPARSELY INHABITED BUT CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING TWO OR THREE 10,000 GROUPS BY SUBSISTANCE AGRICULTURE, TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE, AND COFFEE PRODUCING FOR EXPORT IF MARKET EXISTS. ROADS FROM MANAGUA AND TO ATLANTIC COAST RIVERS BEING IMPROVED.

GUATEMALA. TWO REGIONS OFFER GOOD PROSPECTS. HIGHLANDS OF ALTA VERA PAZ 3,000 to 4,000 FEET ELEVATION HAVE HEALTHFUL CLIMATE, RICH SOIL, ABUNDANT VEGETATION; HEAVY RAINS, BUT WITH GOOD DRAINAGE DUE TO UNDERLYING LIMESTONE. ROAD SYSTEM UNDER CONSTRUCTION; RAILWAY AND RIVER OUTLET TO LIVINGSTON; AIR LINE TO GUATEMALA CITY. ANOTHER REGION IS HIGHER PART OF WESTERN END PACIFIC COASTAL PLAIN EAST AND WEST FROM COATEPEQUE AND ALONG FOOT OF VOLCANIC RANGE

CAL4 4/178

EASTWARD FROM THERE. THIS IS PIEDMONT SLOPE ABOUT 1,000 FEET HIGHER THAN NEIGHBORING UNITED FRUIT COMPANY BANANA REGION, WELL DRAINED VOLCANIC SOIL SUFFICIENT RAINFALL AND EXCELLENT WATER SUPPLY. SOME DANGER OF MALARIA. GOOD FOR CATTLE, SUGAR CANE, CORN, BEANS, TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL FRUITS. ROADS LEAD TO GUATEMALAN HIGHLANDS AND RAILROADS TO PORTS OF OCOS AND CHAMPERICO. PRESUMABLY THE PETEN REGION THOUGH ONCE OCCUPIED BY POPULOUS MAYAN CITIES IS IMPOSSIBLE NOW UNLESS AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF MALARIA ERADICATION COULD BE CARRIED OUT. THE TWO RECOMMENDED GUATEMALAN REGIONS ALREADY CONTAIN MANY GERMAN FINCAS, MAINLY COFFEE FARMS, ALSO SOME INFLUENTIAL ENGLISH AND AMERICAN FARM OWNERS. SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE AS YET UNEXPLOITED BUT PROMISING. GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO FAVOR IMMIGRANTS, BUT SOME FOREIGN LAND OWNERS LIKELY TO OPPOSE. IN BOTH REGIONS IMMIGRANTS MIGHT BETTER BE SCATTERED THAN CONCENTRATED IN COMPACT COLONIES. AVAILABLE LANDS OCCUR IN LIMITED TRACTS.

BRITISH HONDURAS. (BELICE) INTERIOR HILL COUNTRY OF THE SOUTH WOULD SEEM TO OFFER PLACE FOR MANY SETTLERS IN COUNTRY BETTER THAN IN BELICE WHERE OVER 1,000 WHITES ALREADY LIVE. THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN BRITAIN'S HOLD ON THE TERRITORY

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PANAMA. THE PACIFIC SLOPE WESTWARD FROM THE CANAL TO THE COSTARICA BORDER WOULD SEEM TO OFFER ROOM AND SUITABLE CONDITIONS FOR SEVERAL 10,000 GROUPS. ISOLATED VALLEYS WITHIN THE CHIRIQUI MOUNTAINS ALSO OFFER LIMITED SITES AT ELEVATIONS OF 1,000 TO 2,000 FEET. THE COASTAL PLAINS ARE SPARSELY INHABITED AND THE FOOTHILLS LARGELY UNDEVELOPED. THE REGION IS DRY ENOUGH FOR HEALTHFUL LIVING, BUT WITH SUFFICIENT RAIN FOR PASTURE, CEREAL CULTIVATION AND FRUIT GROWING. ACCESS TO PORTS IS EASY AND A ROAD FROM THE CANAL REACHES TO BEYOND DAVID.

SALVADOR. THIS COUNTRY PROBABLY OFFERS NO POSSIBILITIES DUE TO DENSE POPULATION AND INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

HUMID LOWLANDS HAVE NOT BEEN SUGGESTED BECAUSE OF UNSUITABLE HEALTH CONDITIONS. EACH OF THE SEVERAL COUNTRIES COULD PROBABLY ABSORB A LIMITED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS PARTICULARLY OF THE PROFESSIONAL CLASSES AND THOSE FINANCIALLY ABLE AND PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE INDUSTRIAL OR HORTICULTURAL ENTERPRISES. WE WOULD STRESS SUBTROPICAL HORTICULTURE FOR COLONY ACTIVITY, AS YET UNTRIED ON LARGE SCALE BUT EVERYWHERE SUCCESSFUL ON A SMALL SCALE.

GEORGE M MCBRIDE 710 VIA DE LA PAZ
PACIFIC PALISADES CALIF.

RF: Refugees

Refugees file



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

OF 20
In accordance with the request contained in your memorandum of November 26 there is enclosed a brief memorandum concerning possible opportunities for Jewish colonization in various parts of the world.

The memorandum does not discuss geographical factors, as I know you are thoroughly familiar with them.

Sincerely yours,

The President,

The White House.

MEMORANDUM

British Empire

Great Britain.

The British Government is understood to be admitting refugees from Germany at the rate of 75 a day to Great Britain proper, a rate practically identical with that of admission to this country under the German quota. The British Government is unwilling to make any public announcement concerning its admission of these refugees and desires to avoid any publicity concerning it.

Palestine.

Jewish immigration into Palestine from 1933 through 1936 was:

1933	30,327
1934	42,359
1935	61,854
1936	<u>29,727</u>
Total	164,267

These figures include a substantial number of emigrants from Poland.

The British Government sharply restricted Jewish immigration during 1937, the number falling to 10,536. The restrictions were slightly relaxed later in the year, the total Jewish quota for the nine-month period August 1937 - March 1938 being fixed at 9,600, and the quota for the

the

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the six months from April through September 1938 being 8,550. Total Jewish immigration during 1938 is expected to approximate 15,500.

The recent outbreaks led to further drastic restrictions, the quota for the six months October 1938 - March 1939 being only 4,870. These restrictions do not cover students and dependent wives and children of both new immigrants and immigrants previously legally admitted, who will continue to be admitted without numerical limitation.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, announced in the House of Commons on November 24 that proposals by the Jewish Agency for Palestine for immediate admission from Germany of 10,000 children between the ages of 6 and 14 years, 2,500 boys and girls between 15 and 17 who had begun agricultural training, and 7,500 trained farm workers between 18 and 25, were receiving "immediate and most careful consideration."

Australia.

It is understood that Australia is admitting refugees from Germany at the rate of 5,000 a year, but that the Government is likewise anxious to avoid any publicity concerning it.

Canada.

No specific information has yet been received from
the

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the Canadian Government. Under Canadian law immigrants from continental Europe must be either agriculturists with capital or dependents of residents of Canada. Admission of other classes is granted only by special Administrative Exemption, which is made "with due regard to existing unemployment and the requirements of the industrial and economic conditions in Canada, and to the particular circumstances of each individual case."

New Zealand.

No specific information is available. New Zealand law has no numerical limitations or restrictions by occupation or amounts of capital.

South Africa.

The Government declined to be represented at Evian. It is reported that there is strong and increasing anti-Semitism in the Union.

British Guiana.

An area of at least 10,000 square miles in the interior is stated to be available for colonization if "careful surveys by experts indicate its suitability." Agricultural development in this area has hitherto been prevented by unfavorable conditions and lack of communications.

Suggestions

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Suggestions have been made by Jewish and other unofficial sources in this country that the major part of British and French Guiana be taken over, possibly as part payment on the war debts, as a new Jewish homeland. The combined areas of the three Guianas is approximately 170,000 square miles, or half again as large as France, and the territory is comparatively rich in resources; but Dutch Guiana is in the middle, the climate unfavorable, transportation almost entirely lacking, and the expense involved would be enormous. Very careful study and extensive surveys would be essential to serious consideration of such a project.

Other British Colonies.

Plans have been announced for making 50,000 acres in Tanganyika available for colonization and in addition for the individual settlement of some 200 settlers. Kenya is admitting small numbers of trained agriculturalists. The Governors of Northern Rhodesia and Nyassaland state that small-scale settlement in those colonies might be possible.

Other

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Other Colonial Empires

Suggestions have been made of colonization in Madagascar and French New Caledonia, but neither France nor either of the remaining colonial empires represented on the Intergovernmental Committee, Belgium and the Netherlands, has indicated any willingness to permit colonization.

The American Republics

Mexico.

The Government has been unreceptive to proposals for the admission of refugees and has adopted new restrictive immigration legislation as of November 1. A provision in the decree that immigrants must establish "mezizo families" was interpreted by the press to mean that they must marry Indians. The Mexican Foreign Office, however, holds that this interpretation is incorrect and that the provision merely means that immigrants are expected to become Mexican citizens and to become incorporated into Mexican life.

Many proposals have been made for the establishment of a new Jewish homeland in Lower California, some proposals linking it with a settlement of the controversy over expropriation of the property of the petroleum companies. Despite the difficulties due to lack of water, natural resources and communications, these proposals persist and a Dr. Otto Goldschmidt, formerly professor of Economics at the University of Mexico is now in Mexico City attempting informally to secure an indication of the attitude of the Mexican Government. In view of the intense antagonism in Mexico to any suggestion for alienation of any part of the national domain it is believed that the attitude of the Mexican Government will be strongly unfavorable.

Cuba

Cuba.

Cuba has been relatively hospitable to refugees but has so far not been willing to make any specific commitment concerning the numbers which it can accept. It is believed that most refugees going to Cuba consider it merely the doorstep for entry into the United States.

Haiti.

The Haitian Government has indicated willingness to cooperate in receiving refugees but it is believed that the absorptive capacity of the country is too limited to provide a possibility of large-scale settlement.

The Dominican Republic.

The Dominican Government offered at Evian to accept 10,000 refugees and at the August meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee in London increased its offer to from 50,000 to 100,000 refugees. This offer has just been reaffirmed, subject to the reservation that immigrants must qualify in every respect with Dominican immigration law. The Legation at Ciudad Trujillo is skeptical of this offer and points out that of 2,000 refugees who have applied for Dominican visas during the past four months only 20 were granted visas. The Advisory Committee expects to send an expert there in the very near future to investigate the possibility of large-scale settlement.

Honduras.

The Legation was advised on November 25 that the
Honduran

Honduran Government had approved a definite plan for the admission of not to exceed 1,000 refugees provided that they were adapted and prepared to engage exclusively in agriculture and were provided with adequate assurances of support, probably one thousand dollars each.

Costa Rica.

The Foreign Office is unsympathetic toward this Government's program and there is said to be considerable anti-Semitic feeling in the country. The President is nevertheless stated to be sympathetic toward the admission of refugees and the Refugee Economic Corporation has been successful in acquiring a substantial area of land for colonization and in setting up a Costa Rican corporation, with a number of prominent Costa Ricans as officers, to carry out its colonization project.

Nicaragua.

While no specific information is available, it is understood that a fair number of refugees has been admitted into Nicaragua.

Salvador.

The Government declined to be represented at Evian or to accept any refugees.

Guatemala.

No specific information is available.

Panama.

Panama.

No specific information is available.

Colombia.

The Foreign Office states that 5,000 refugees have been legally admitted during the past year and that from 3,000 to 5,000 more have entered the country illegally, that they are practically all small traders, that more have already been admitted than is compatible with the best interests of the country, and that it will be extremely difficult if not impossible to admit any more.

Ecuador.

No specific information is available, but the attitude of the Government is somewhat unfavorable due to the fact that substantial numbers of Jews admitted last year as agriculturalists all settled in cities as small traders. Deportation of these refugees was ordered but the order was rescinded due to the efforts of the local Jewish community.

Venezuela.

No specific information is available, but the Foreign Office states that Venezuela will be represented at the December meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee and will at that time be prepared to make a public statement of the numbers it can accept and a confidential statement of what it may be able to do in addition.

Brazil.

Brazil.

Although the potentialities for settlement in Brazil are probably greater than those in any other American Republic, the Government has hitherto been disinclined to admit substantial numbers of refugees. A Council of Immigration and Colonization has been recently created, and the Embassy reported on November 24 the belief that the policy of the Government was becoming considerably more liberal with respect to the admission of certain categories of Jewish refugees than had previously been the case.

The Brazilian Foreign Minister has now agreed that Brazil will be represented at the December meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee through one of its most capable officials who will accept the position of Vice Chairman. Brazil has further agreed to make a public statement at the meeting of the number of immigrants she is prepared to take and to make a confidential statement of the additional assistance she will be able to offer in the solution of the refugee problem.

Argentina.

Approximately 350,000 Jews are already resident in the Argentine, more than in the rest of Latin America combined. The Government admits the need for additional agricultural immigrants but finds little disposition on the

the

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part of Jewish refugees to settle on the land. New and more restrictive immigration regulations went into effect October 1. It is nevertheless probable that the Government will continue to admit a not inconsiderable number of refugees.

Uruguay.

No specific information is available but new immigration restrictions have been adopted since Evian.

Paraguay.

The Paraguayan Government was represented at Evian but was not represented at the London meeting in August. It is believed that Paraguay will be willing to take a considerable number of refugees provided she can be assured that they will not become a burden on the state and that they will be prepared to devote themselves exclusively to agriculture.

Chile.

The attitude of the Government has in general been unfavorable to the admission of refugees and restrictive immigration has been adopted since Evian. No specific information is available.

Bolivia.

It is believed that the possibilities of settlement are limited.

Peru.

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Peru

The Government approves and will support our efforts. It is prepared to accept a limited number of agriculturalists, certain types of specialists and industrialists possessing capital. The Foreign Minister states that almost all refugees recently admitted have settled in the cities and that definite plans for preventing this must be made before increased numbers can be admitted. Ambassador Steinhardt believes that the absorptive capacity of the country is limited but that the Government is disposed to cooperate and that it will admit larger numbers than it could otherwise be expected to absorb if a substantial number are agriculturalists and the remainder provided with capital to establish many non-existing industries which the country seriously needs.

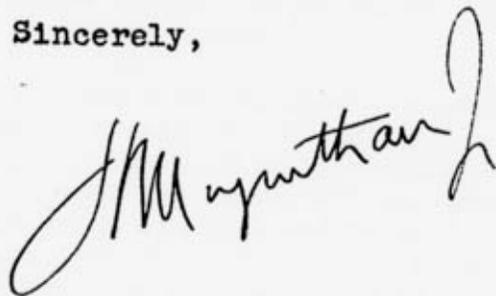
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

At the request of Dr. Isaiah Bowman, I am sending to you herewith his memorandum, addressed to you, on the subject of Costa Rica. The map, referred to, is being mailed to you, under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. M. C. Young". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "The President".

The President,

Warm Springs, Georgia.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 25, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

I have pleasure in handing you herewith a map consisting of two sheets of the Millionth Map of Hispanic America pasted together to show the whole of Costa Rica and parts of adjacent states. The map should be examined in the light of McBride's telegram and my earlier comment of which copies have been sent you.

The area between 3,000 and 5,000 feet above the sea is marked off by heavy inked lines where the two sheets join. If we include country above 1,500 feet this area would be doubled; and if above 1,000 feet it would be trebled. Settlement would have to be adjusted to all of the elements of the environment and not to elevation only, since some of the higher land on the eastern side of the mountains is too wet and too heavily forested to permit agriculture.

One may get a clear idea of possibilities by looking at the inset in the middle bottom of the map, called the San José-Cartago region which is one of the most densely populated areas in Latin America. One observes villages crowded together all the way up to 3,000 feet and down to 400 feet and less. Given an adequate water supply the soil of central and western Costa Rica is highly productive.

I have not spoken of the political difficulties which a large foreign immigrant group would create if planted in this small Latin American country, assuming that Costa Rica is willing to receive them. The effect of such a group upon the state, and the possibility that through the presence of the group we might become seriously involved in European quarrels, are matters upon which reflection is needed. My own feeling is that we keep our position uncompromised in the Western Hemisphere only so long as we do not interest ourselves directly in the importation of European population elements. The moment we do so we are likely to be charged with the importation of an European quarrel into America. Even if we are right about such importation from the humanitarian standpoint, we thereby give the other fellow a chance to claim that we are wrong. Do we want to run that risk? Do we wish to confuse our position and dilute our argument respecting the Monroe Doctrine?

Why not keep the European elements within the framework of the Old World? Even if we do not favor migration to Latin America, but allow it, difficulties will arise. If we both favor it and allow it,

President Roosevelt: 2

November 25, 1938

we commit ourselves to the consequences. These consequences will surely involve us in the rightness or wrongness of acts of the governments of the states of Central Europe.

All this is gratuitous advice. I am forwarding my letter through Secretary Morgenthau, together with the map in question, so that he may make his own independent comment on the contents of this letter.

The African material is now in course of rapid compilation and will be sent the moment it is ready. It will be illustrated with clarifying maps.

Sincerely yours,

Isaiah Bowman

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

AS: Here is a round-up on Tanganyika, suggested for Sunday use. S.S.

**TANGANYIKA TERRITORY COULD BE LITERAL LAND OF MILK AND HONEY, FOR INDUSTRI-
OUS AND WELL-ADAPTED COLONISTS**

By DR. FRANK THONE
Science Service Editor in Biology

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WASHINGTON — Tanganyika, most discussed among potential new Promised Lands for Jewish exiles, could be made literally a land of milk and honey by industrious colonists who know how to farm and can adapt themselves to life in the tropics. Such is the opinion of Dr. H. L. Shantz of the U. S. Forest Service, based on two visits to the territory during which he made studies of the ecological conditions that influence possible agricultural and ranching uses of the land.

Tanganyika is a big country, bigger even than Ethiopia, Dr. Shantz pointed out. Except for a malarious coastal strip, it offers good living conditions for white men, for although the climate is tropical it is never really hot.

The total area of Tanganyika is about 366,000 square miles, of which 299,000 square miles is potentially productive land and 67,000 square miles is desert or otherwise unusable. There is relatively little dense forest — only about eight per cent. of the total, or 11,000 square miles. The greater part of the natural cover is a kind of savanna-like open forest, with trees standing scattered in grassland, as in a park. About 111,000 square miles carry this type of vegetation.

Of especial interest from the colonization point of view is the fact that a generous section of the country will grow temperate-zone crops, especially the small grains, and at the same time will produce bananas and coffee. This "cool-weather crop" area comprises some 56,000 square miles — a block about the size of Iowa or Wisconsin, and nearly one-third the size of all post-war Germany. In addition, there are "warm-weather crop" areas totaling 243,000 square miles, capable of producing cotton, corn, casava, coconuts, etc.

The grazing possibilities of Tanganyika are very great. Approximately 269,000 square miles might be used for high-production ranch lands, with an additional 66,000 square miles capable of carrying smaller numbers of cattle, sheep and goats. At present, the livestock population, owned principally by natives, comprises nearly five million cattle and more than five million sheep and goats.

There are still enormous herds of big game, ranging all the way from elephant and rhinoceros to antelopes and apes. Problems of wildlife adjustment will come very much to the fore if extensive European colonization is undertaken.

Under cultivation at present are about two and one-half million acres in large European-owned plantations and over four million acres farmed by natives. The plantations produce money crops, principally sisal, coffee, cotton and corn, with a

Tanganyika Territory -- (Cont.)

SS 11/25/38

few coconuts. The natives raise a great variety of crops, principally for their own use. Millet is the great food grain of the natives; more than a million acres are in that crop alone. Others are corn, wheat, potatoes, beans, peas, bananas, peanuts, tobacco, sisal, cotton, etc.

At present there are so few white men in Tanganyika that they fairly rattle around in the country. There are only about 6,600 of them, embedded in a dark matrix of nearly 4,800,000 Negroes and 24,000 Asiatics. The possible effects of rapidly introducing half a million or more white people into the land are hard to calculate.

ITALIAN REFUGEE BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

21 February 1944

SUBJECT: Yugo - Slavs and other Nationals in Italy.

TO: Brigadier M.S.LUSH, ACC.

I discussed today with Mr. Malin the general Refugee situation in Italy, and in one respect the policy and activities of the IGC have an important bearing upon military operations here. I refer in this connection to the second paragraph on page 4 of Mr. Malin's letter to you dated 19 February 1944.

The Nationals mentioned in that paragraph amount, I understand, to several thousand (I have no precise figure - but it may be from 5000 to 10000).

As operations progress, we (the Refugee Branch of ACC) are being pressed more urgently to remove refugees in ever growing numbers from battle zones and forward lines of communication; and it is imperative that we do this.

But the difficulty of finding asylum or dispersal areas for these Italian refugees is growing, and many provinces have already reached saturation point. However, the campaign in Italy still has a long way to go, and every means must be explored for the handling in future of more refugees, and for preparing in advance to disperse whatever numbers operations may make it necessary to move.

Every Yugo - Slav, or Jew of Czeck, Austrian, Polish, etc. nationality - mentioned in Mr. Malin's letter - that can be removed from Southern Italy, means so much more space for Italian Refugees from the battle zones. If the former are not evacuated from Italy, we shall very soon have to think of shipping Italians from the mainland, and this will mean shipping them back again at a later date. The other Nationals, will on the otherhand, sooner or later be shipped out of Italy in any case.

In view of the above, I believe that AFHQ and the other authorities mentioned in Mr. Malin's letter should be urged at once to get the evacuation of Nationals in question pushed ahead with, within the shortest possible time.

L.R.HULLS,
Lt. Col.
Commanding

Copy:
Mr. Malin, Vice President, IGC

75F Refugee folder 4-40

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON
March 6, 1944

Bx177

Dear Steve,

Herewith is the Declaration on the refugee
matter which was discussed with you by representatives
of the Treasury recently. It has been approved by
Mr. Hull personally, and Mr. Stimson himself has
worked on the statement and has made certain changes
since you saw it.

I am sending it to you because of your familiarity
with the matter and hope that you will be good enough
to bring the declaration before the President as
soon as possible.

Many thanks.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Stephen Early
The White House
Washington, D. C.

P.S. We in the State Department feel that in issuing this
statement the President is taking a very important step
and we hope he will have an opportunity to study it with
great care.

F.R.S.

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

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

We submit herewith for your signature a declaration on the Nazi extermination of the Jews.

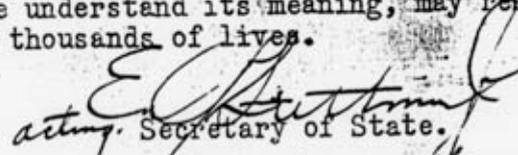
At this stage of the war, if we can convince the people in Germany, and particularly the satellite countries, of the seriousness with which we view this matter, we have a chance of saving many of these people from death.

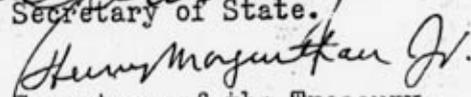
This declaration is a natural followup to the general statement on the punishment of atrocities issued at the Moscow Conference. Although the United Nations Declaration of December 17, 1942 dealt specifically with the crime against the Jews, a forceful declaration issued now, at a time when Germany and her satellites know they have lost the war, has potentialities so great that it can hardly be compared with the declaration which was issued in 1942.

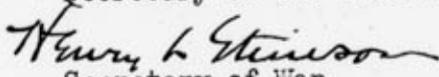
The Office of War Information, which is cooperating with the War Refugee Board in bringing home to the peoples in German controlled Europe the fact that we mean business in this matter, has stated that the issuance of this declaration would be a tremendous help in making this program a success.

Since time is of the essence, it is our recommendation that you issue this declaration immediately and we will then request the other members of the United Nations to issue similar declarations.

It is our considered judgment that the issuance of this declaration by you, followed by an intensive campaign designed to make the people in German controlled Europe understand its meaning, may result in the saving of many hundreds of thousands of lives.


acting Secretary of State.


Secretary of the Treasury.


Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

One of the blackest crimes in history, the systematic murder of the Jews of Europe, continues unabated.

The Nazi leaders have made it clear that they have not abandoned the plan to exterminate all the Jews within their grasp. More than two million men, women and children already have been put to death solely because they were Jews.

The world will not forget the Japanese torture of our soldiers nor the slaughters of Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking. The world will not forget the murder of the Jews.

Our youth is fighting and dying on the battlefronts to make a world in which tyranny and barbarity can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality, and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

It is, therefore, fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in such acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. Let that warning now be repeated so that no one shall fail to hear and understand. Let it be clearly understood that this applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates, whether they be in Germany or in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

The Hitlerite forces are committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. Let every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination by his actions demonstrate to the world that in his heart he does not share these insane desires. Let him hide these victims, help them to get over the borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. Let him also keep watch, and record the evidence that can one day soon be used to convict the guilty and acquit the innocent.

In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, we shall persevere in our efforts to rescue the victims of Hitler's brutality. In so far as the necessities of military operations permit, this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of Jews and other intended victims of the Nazi executioner. We call

- 2 -

upon all the peoples of Europe to lend assistance to this task. We call upon the free peoples of Europe to open their frontiers to the victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means to assure their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands.

In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving nations rally to this righteous undertaking.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MAR 6 1944



Memorandum for Secretary Morgenthau

While we all realize that the War Refugee Board in its five weeks of operation has barely scratched the surface of the problem, you will be interested in the following of its more outstanding accomplishments:

1. The Bulgarian bottleneck has been broken by our arrangements for the rail transportation of 150 children every 10 days from Bulgaria to Palestine via Turkey. This small step may have important implications in the whole Balkan refugee situation.
2. To open the way for a flow of refugees from occupied areas into Turkey and Spain, we have asked our ambassadors to request the Turkish and Spanish Governments to relax their border and other controls and publicly to announce their willingness to accept refugees. We have indicated that we will arrange for the maintenance of refugees in Turkey and Spain and for their transportation to other temporary havens.
3. To induce the Spanish Government to accept more refugees, we are taking steps to expedite the removal on a compulsory basis, if necessary, of refugees now in Spain to Camp Marechal Lyautey near Casablanca which is ready to receive them, but still empty.
4. We received word that it might be possible to evacuate 1,000 refugees from Constanza, Rumania, across the Black Sea to Turkey, if a guarantee could be made to the Turkish Government to replace an available boat, in case of its loss. Within 24 hours the War Refugee Board obtained commitments from War Shipping and Lend-Lease and our representative in Turkey was authorized to give the necessary assurances to the Turkish Government.

Admiral Land has ordered Myron Black, Field Director of War Shipping, from Cairo to Ankara to assist Ira Hirschmann, our representative in Turkey, on the Black Sea shipping problem.

- 2 -

5. Several actual evacuation operations within occupied Europe are now under way as the result of our facilitating the speedy transfer of funds, the use of free exchange in enemy territory and the necessary communications with enemy territory. Specifically, projects under the auspices of private organizations have been commenced to bring refugees from Poland and Slovakia, where they face imminent death, into Hungary, a place of relative safety, and to transfer persecuted people from France and Rumania into Switzerland.

6. O.W.I., at our request, has started a program to bring home to the people in Germany and the satellite countries our determination to forestall further exterminations of the Jews and other persecuted minorities and to facilitate their escape.

7. For the first time, this Government now has 25 professional employees working full time on this problem.

8. At our request the State Department is making appropriate representations through neutral channels to the Bulgarian, Hungarian and Rumanian Governments to desist from deporting Jews to Poland and to assist in their escape. Similar representations are being made through the Vatican to the President of Slovakia.



PARAPHRASE OF CABLE BEING SENT TO MISSIONS IN
BERN, STOCKHOLM, LISBON AND ANKARA.

The Department is aware that you have been approached by the Rumanian, Bulgarian and Hungarian Governments through various channels and that means are available to you through which you can send messages to such Governments.

Using such channels you are instructed to convey to such Governments the following.

The United States Government is currently aware that the Governments of Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria are engaged in programs of persecuting Jewish minorities and refugees of other nationalities who have escaped into their territory. Among other forms, this persecution consists in sending such refugees beyond the borders of their own countries into Poland, there to undergo various forms of cruelty and even death, dictated by Nazi degeneracy. Another form of persecution consists in the prevention of the escape of refugees to neutral countries where their lives might be preserved. The United States Government is determined to do everything in its power to rescue such unfortunates who are in danger of death and to find havens of refuge for them. It should be made clear that this Government views with great seriousness and will keep in mind in the future, any continuation on the part of these governments of the execution of these policies of Hitlerite persecutions. The position of the United States Government in this matter has recently been restated unequivocally by the President in establishing the War Refugee Board. (Department's cable to Bern No. 201, January 25.) In the view of the United States Government, these governments, as well as their subordinates and functionaries, are fully responsible for the actions of persecution committed on their territories, and should desist therefrom immediately in the interest of humanity. Further, they should be informed that they will be well advised in their own interests to take advantage of such opportunities as may be available to them in the future to permit refugees to depart across their borders into territories of any neutral countries which may be prepared to receive them.

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



Analysis of Messages Received by the President Following
Announcement of Establishment of War Refugee Board

1. Total number of letters and telegrams received
All messages received were favorable, expressing gratification for the creation of the Board and offering support and assistance.
2. 850,000 persons were involved in messages received from organizations specifying their membership.
3. 25 messages were received from large organizations not specifying their membership, including:

50

The American Jewish Conference
National Council of Jewish Women
The American Jewish Committee
Hadassah
Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People
of Europe, Inc.
South African Jewish Board
American Defense - Harvard Group
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States
and Canada
Agudas Israel World Organization

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR JUDGE ROSENMAN

Subject: Declaration in Parliament
on the White Paper.

I enclose herewith a copy of the
debate in the House of Commons on Novem-
ber 10, 1943 regarding the statement of
the Colonial Secretary on the White
Paper concerning which you telephoned
this morning.

Enclosure.



COPY:NEA:GFH

SOURCE: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, NUMBER:
House of Commons,
10 November 1943.
London. Cols. 1152-1154.

PALESTINE
(JEWISH IMMIGRATION)

*Encl. to 12,278 from London,
Nov 17/43.
867-01/2029.*

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Colonel Oliver Stanley): The Statement of Policy relating to Palestine which was issued as a White Paper in May, 1939, provided for the admission to Palestine of 75,000 Jewish immigrants during the period of five years ending 31st March, 1944, subject to the criterion of the economic absorptive capacity of the country. It was contemplated that there should be an annual quota of 10,000 and, in addition, as a contribution towards the solution of the Jewish refugee problem, 25,000 refugees would be admitted as soon as adequate provision for their maintenance was assured.

The war has prevented the fulfilment of this programme. The number of Jews who entered Palestine legally or illegally up to 30th September, 1943, against the total of 75,000 to be admitted under the existing quota system is 43,922. There are thus 31,078 who, it may be fairly assumed, would have reached it before 31st March, 1944, but for the exigencies of the war. His Majesty's Government have been considering this position, and have reached the conclusion that it would be inequitable to close the doors of Palestine to these persons on account of the time factor. No effort will be lacking on the part of His Majesty's Government to facilitate their arrival, subject to the criterion of economic absorptive capacity.

Earl Winterton: Will my right hon. and gallant Friend make it clear, in order to avoid disappointment, that one of the great difficulties about moving refugees to Palestine or anywhere else is the question of shipping and that that will not necessarily become easier in the next few months?

Colonel Stanley: I am glad my noble Friend has raised that point. I hope nobody will think that because of this there is any guarantee that these unfortunate people will be able to reach Palestine. All we have done is to remove what might be a legal obstacle.

Sir Percy Harris: But will the Government make it as easy as possible, in view of the unfortunate position of these people?

Colonel Stanley: The chief obstacle is the domination of Hitler over Europe.

Commander Locker-Lampson: Does not my right hon. and gallant Friend think that in this connection Jews come first?

Miss Rathbone: While I recognise the value of the concession which has been made, would the right hon. and gallant

Gentleman

-2-

Gentleman let us know whether the Government also intend to remove the restriction on the number of adults entering on the immigration quota, as hitherto the fact that the majority have to be children with only accompanying adults has been the greatest obstacle to the entry of the permitted number?

Colonel Stanley: That is quite a different question. Perhaps the hon. Lady will put it down.

Mr. Mack: Having regard to the expected improvement in the military position in that area and elsewhere, is it possible that a number of these refugees may be subsequently saved, and should not greater facilities be accorded to them to enter Palestine as soon as practicable?

Colonel Stanley: We do what we can. I am afraid I cannot forecast as optimistically as the hon. Gentleman the future course of military events in that area.

Mr. Mack: Do I understand the right hon. and gallant Gentleman to mean that after having discharged what he regards as his obligation to these 30,000 odd Jews to enter Palestine, no further numbers would enter in any circumstances?

Colonel Stanley: That is quite a different matter.

Mr. Hammersley: Is it inherent in the right hon. and gallant Gentleman's statement that additional shipping facilities will be given to the 32,000 as and when shipping facilities are available?

Colonel Stanley: The hon. Gentleman must realise that the difficulty at the moment is that these unfortunate people are not allowed to leave.

Miss Rathbone: Will the right hon. and gallant Gentleman give early attention to the point which I raised about permitting adults to enter within the limits of the White Paper number, as, often it is easier for adults to escape than for children to secure permission to leave?

Colonel Stanley: Perhaps the hon. Lady will have a word with me afterwards.

Mr. Pickthorn: Is the right hon. and gallant Gentleman's declaration to be taken as settling the question of principle that rations of immigration can be kept over from year to year and accumulated?

Colonel Stanley: I am not sure that I quite appreciate the hon. Gentleman's point. I think that this settles no question of principle but merely one of equity. Something which would have happened under the White Paper but for the war has been put right.

Mr. Pickthorn:

-3-

Mr. Pickthorn: Is the right hon. and gallant Gentleman really clear to the House in his distinction between principle and equity; and is not the question quite clear-- does this or does it not settle as a matter of principle, that where a maximum quota of immigration is fixed for a year any number not reached in that year can be carried on to the next year, and the next year, and so on indefinitely?

Colonel Stanley: I am afraid that I still do not see the hon. Gentleman's point. The quota system would come to an end at the end of March, and there was no question, therefore, of succeeding years. All that this settles is that those who did not get in by 31st March, because they were prevented by the war, will not be kept out because of that fact.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

In the meantime in most of Europe and in parts of Asia the systematic torture and murder of civilians -- men, women and children -- by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors innocent Poles, Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos -- and many others -- are being starved or frozen to death or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

The slaughters of Warsaw, Lidice, Kharkov and Nanking -- the brutal torture and murder by the Japanese, not only of civilians but of our own gallant American soldiers and fliers -- these are startling examples of what goes on day by day, year in and year out, wherever the Nazis and the Japs are in military control -- free to follow their barbaric purpose.

In one of the blackest crimes of all history -- begun by the Nazis in the day of peace and multiplied by them a hundred times in time of war -- the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabated every hour. It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participate in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that Justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowingly take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

Hitler is committing these crimes against humanity in the name of the German people. I ask every German and every man everywhere under Nazi domination to show the world by his action that in his heart he does not share these insane

- 2 -

criminal desires. Let him hide these pursued victims, help them to get over their borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangman. I ask him also to keep watch, and to record the evidence that will one day be used to convict the guilty.

In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. In so far as the necessity of military operations permit this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Jap executioner -- regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return.

In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which international tyranny and aggression can not exist; a world based upon freedom, equality, and justice; a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity.

In the meantime, in most of Europe and in parts of Asia the systematic torture and murder of innocent civilians -- men, women and children -- by the Nazis and the Japanese continue unabated. In areas subjugated by the aggressors, innocent Poles, Czechs, Norwegians, Dutch, Danes, French, Greeks, Russians, Chinese, Filipinos -- and many others -- are being starved or frozen to death, or murdered in cold blood in a campaign of savagery.

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-2-

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-3-

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In the meantime, and until the victory that is now assured is won, the United States will persevere in its efforts to rescue the victims of brutality of the Nazis and the Japs. In so far as the necessities^y of military operations permit, this Government will use all means at its command to aid the escape of all intended victims of the Nazi and Japanese executioner -- regardless of race or religion or color. We call upon the free peoples of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to all victims of oppression. We shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means for their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return.

In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving people rally to this righteous undertaking.

INSERT A

The War Refugee Board recently established by me will implement this policy with every possible resource.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1944
12:30 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE STEPHEN EARLY:
Secretary to the President

The President just handed me the attached papers and binder and asked me to take up with you before leaving the White House

1. The President wishes you and Sam Rosenman jointly to redraft the declaration. He does not wish it to be a declaration -- he wishes it to be only a statement. He further states that there is too much emphasis on the Jewish situation and thinks it should be redrafted along more general terms.
2. The President made an additional point that the statement will have to be cleared with the British before issued and stated that after he has approved your redraft that it be submitted to the State Department for clearance with the British.

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS
Under Secretary of State

(NOTE: Dictated by Mr. Stettinius to Mrs. Ruwelt)
A copy of this memo has been sent to Mr. Stettinius' office, at his request.

Refugee statement
for F. D. R.

Do you want A. S. K. to check
with British? W.S.P.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 7, 1944

MR. EARLY:

Telephone call

2:15 - Mr. McDermott, State Department, called in re the statement the President ~~has made~~ ^{has made} late ~~this afternoon~~ ^{in re} Jews ~~and~~ ^{and} refugees.

Mr. McDermott says this Government has a commitment to the British Government that if it is decided to issue such a statement, we would notify them in advance so that they could consider what to do about it.

Mr. McDermott says they ought to get a week's notice -- which means the statement should not come out ~~today~~ ^{before}.

~~Mr. McDermott asks that you please call him.~~

- - -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 8, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of the Treasury telephoned today about the declaration which he gave to you yesterday with an accompanying letter signed by Secretary Stimson and Stettinius and himself.

He understands that you are going to rewrite it and if you expect to use it, he would like very much to see it in its changed form. He says he might want to make some suggestions.

GGT

file

PSF Refugee folder 4-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of the Treasury called re the declaration about the refugees. He feels that this is an opportune time to release the statement about treating the refugees better now that Germany has marched into Hungary. If this statement could not only come from the President but from Mr. Churchill and Mr. Stalin, it would have quite an effect.

OR STE

The Secretary also called re John Pehle being made a full Director permanently. He brought it up at the War Refugee Board yesterday and says both Mr. Hull and Mr. Stimson are agreeable.

djb

JOHN W. PEHLE

*PSF Refugee folder
4-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 23, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of the Treasury called re his conversation with you about the necessity of sending someone to Spain on the refugee situation. He suggested Tommy Corcoran to you and you said you liked the idea and wanted to handle it yourself.

The Secretary wanted to know if you had handled it or if you wished him to do it.

djb

FILE MEMO:

I telephoned to tell the Secretary that the President has been sick and asks him to handle it.

djb

file

*PSF Refugee folder
6-44*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

Basil O'Connor telephoned to read me the following telegram which he has just received from Alfred E. Smith. He wonders if you know anything about this and asks for advice in replying:

"Will you join prominent American Christians in statement addressed to President Roosevelt urging our Government and Allied Governments to use all available facilities to save nearly one million Jews facing extermination in Hitler occupied Hungary and endorsing the idea of establishing refugee havens in this country and allied countries as means of encouraging marked victims to escape from Nazi ridden countries and as evidence of our good faith and moral leadership.

ALFRED E. SMITH"

G. G. T.

I telephoned him to say that the President thought it was a fine thing to do but the President thought the word "temporary" should be inserted in front of "refugee havens".