Concerning
Refugee Settlement
IN THE
Dominican Republic

A DISCUSSION
AT THE
LAWYERS' CLUB
New York City
Pamphlet No. 3
Concerning
Refugee Settlement
IN THE
Dominican Republic

A MEETING
AT THE
LAWYERS' CLUB
New York City
June 12, 1940

No. 2.
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
165 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY
Room 1627

TELEPHONE CORTLANDT 7-6186
CABLE ADDRESS "DORSA"

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PEOPLE WITHOUT A COUNTRY
A Challenge to Civilization

Europe: Why Refugees? by John F. Rich
The United States: The Refugees Here by Gerhart Saenger

Also a Directory of National Agencies in the Refugee Field in the United States
December 19th '43

Dear Mr. *Name*:

The enclosed is without benefit of secretary, ill me therefore please en me the care during the delay.

You will find enclosed an outline of the Jewish refugee work throughout the world covered very confidentially by Mr. J. It is divided into three parts:

1. American organizations dealing with Jewish refugees outside of Palestine.
2. Jewish organizations dealing with Jewish refugees in Palestine.
3. One literature Mr. J has noted to illustrate some of the points he made.

His facts are accurate and judgments not only honest but sound. I am convinced as it should be for any man who has given as much time and thought to it and is trying to outline a practical path of salvation out of the chaos that besets us, that the entire field is in the hands of 1. Most professional Jews, Zionists and social workers trying to hold on to a job.

2. Field of good amateur philanthropists gratified by recognition, ignorant of the long-range implications of their program, and altogether unimaginative and uncreative in their approach.

The result is that most of this work is not only barren of productive results, but

1. Strengthens Hitler's racist propaganda by educating the democratic world, which up until recently was beginning to think of the Jew as a religious group who deserved equality as part of the common religious heritage of democracy where there is the separation of church and state, that the Jew as a religious teaching is not only a minority nationality or social group even in the free lands. This is implicit in all the above and explicit in all of Zionist ideology. This is exactly what Hitler has been preaching and the best tool to strengthen antisemitism in the future and weaken democracy. It is preventing the gradual spiritual integration of the Jew into a wholesome relation with the other phases of the Judeo-Christian tradition (even the Jews of assimilation who have intermarried and have been led to this work by a sense of guilt do not realize it) and setting the seeds of a dynamic antisemitism for the secular forces of the messianic society of tomorrow.

Enclosed is an enclosing

1. Note to Mr. *Name* stating that Mr. J could come down this coming Saturday or Thursday to spend the evening. It would take four or five hours, at least, to go into some of these background. You will find him a real person. If this time is not convenient I am sure that we will give up anything else we are doing to fit into your program.
2. The letter to you on the matter for the President. I do hope he will do it.

With warmest regards,

[Signature]

P.S. The note in margin of the penciled note by me. If you are too busy to read all then, make the note, which takes up much less than one page, will be informative.
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, with subsidiaries—Chairman, Paul Harewald; Co-Chairman, Edward M. M. Warburg. This is the largest of all the refugee organizations. It was founded in 1915, largely under the leadership of Jacob Schiff, Felix Warburg, and Julius Rosenwald. It has a nation-wide board of directors of over 100 leading people, and a so-called National Council of almost 1,500 personalities throughout the country. For the past two years it has been supported by the United Jewish Appeal, which is a joint drive of this organization and the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service. For 1940 the income of the J.D.C. will come to approximately $10,000,000. It is engaged chiefly in extending relief to victims of persecution abroad, and to assisting them in migration from the countries of persecution. It also, to some extent, is helping in resettling refugees, particularly in South America, and through one of its subsidiaries, in Santo Domingo, where it has a small group of about 250 people as the beginning of what it hopes will be a large settlement scheme. The J.D.C. has virtually no money except the contributions received annually, other than a fund that was set up after the last war for financing the resettlement of Ukrainian Jews in the Crimea. A large part of that fund was recovered from Russia, and it is now being applied to the Santo Domingo project. This organization has made it a strict policy to avoid doing any fundamental thinking or planning in connection with the general Jewish problem, and it has deliberately devoted itself solely to an "ad hoc" approach to helping refugees. For many years, in Poland, it financed a number of credit cooperative societies among the Jews, but naturally this entire investment has been lost.

National Refugee Service—Chairman, Professor Joseph Chamberlain. President, William Rosenwald. This organization has been formed within the last few years by the same group that has led the J.D.C., to take care of the adjustment of refugees who need public support to this country. Also, it has been ready to offer information and advice to refugees who did not need actual material assistance. For 1940, its income will probably amount to about $3,000,000. It has spent a good part of this money in assisting local Jewish family case work agencies throughout the country in coping with refugees in the various communities. While this organization also has a purely "ad hoc" approach, it has nevertheless had as an aim the distribution of the refugees as much as possible outside of New York City.

Refugee Economic Corporation—This is a stock company, organized some five years ago, to finance Jewish refugees anywhere to re-establish themselves, on a quasi-business basis, that is to say, with a hope of a return of the money eventually. The subscribed capital amounts to about $1,250,000, but a great deal of this has been expended in overhead. The major part of the actual
investments made by this company have been in mortgages in Palestine, on which some interest has been earned. The group behind this company are more or less the same as in the J.D.C. and National Refugee Service. The President is Charles Liebman. Felix Warburg and Henry Ittleson were the chief investors when the company was formed, since which time it has sought and obtained no capital. It has a reputation for being a very slow-moving organization, which has examined a great many possibilities of resettlement, but in the end has approved of practically none. There is much disappointment about this company's failure to accomplish better results, which failure probably can be ascribed largely to an excessive degree of caution on the part of the President. In my personal estimation he misunderstood his function from the start, in that he thought far more about the safety of the investment than about the end to be accomplished in resettling refugees. The fact that most of the money of this company, which has no Zionists of any kind connected with it, had to be largely invested in Palestine, is an interesting commentary on the fact that that appeared to be the safest and most promising field.

Hebrew Immigrant Aid and Sheltering Society--Chairman, Hebrew Immigrant Aid and Sheltering Society--Chairman, James Appeal. This organization is an old one, conducted by an entirely different group from that in the organizations heretofore mentioned. Its income, derived from contributions and not from the United Jewish Appeal, probably does not exceed $300,000 a year. It has not enjoyed a reputation for efficiency or effectiveness. For many years it purported to do more or less the same kind of work as the J.D.C. was doing. The J.D.C. was faced with the question of whether or not to absorb this institution, commonly known as HIAS, or to work out a basis for cooperation with it. The problem has not been faced squarely, in that while the HIAS has been given a special field of activity, which is the arranging of immigration into the United States of refugees from Europe, it has not been included in the budget of the United Jewish Appeal, and has to raise money independently. In my personal opinion, the chief reason why it exists as a separate body is that the J.D.C. group do not want to take the leaders of the HIAS on to the J.D.C. board, and these leaders are determined to be on some kind of a board in this field. On the basis of logic, it would seem to me that the HIAS should be put out of existence, its work taken over by the J.D.C., and some of its leading figures taken on to the J.D.C. board.
that the CRT as most irrefutable, and somewhat of a fake in
that the CRT claims to have a number of schools throughout
Europe for retiring Jewish boys in trades, whereas, according to
the J.D.C., the CRT has very small means and only is able to such
schools, most of which are small and not well conducted.
The CRT regards the CRT as non-existent, and somewhat of a fake in
the United States, in the hope of gaining recognition.

The J.D.C. may perhaps manage to collect as much as $200,000, in this
year, for this purpose, whereas, according to the J.D.C., the CRT has
very small means and only is able to such schools, most of which are small and not well conducted.

In my judgment, this is one of the large number of federations
of Jews from the various eastern European countries. All of them have made
some attempt to raise money for relief purposes, but this is the only
one that has managed to attract any general attention. Probably
in this year it will have raised $200,000. To any mind, it is the only
true American federation, similar to those that the J.D.C. had in mind,
to form a committee in America. It was included in the
United Jewish Appeal. In New York City it was included in the
second part of the J.D.C. campaign, and expressed a willingness to support it.
The CRT had a large number of organizations throughout Europe, and
in any case can no longer have any importance, so that no good people in America ever
would have had anything to do with it.
American Organizations Having to Do with Palestine

Only organizations that do any kind of resettlement work are mentioned here. Of them, some of them are educational bodies, since it is considered that education is essential for a large-scale resettlement job. No mention is made of the propaganda or political bodies.

United Palestine Appeal—Chairman, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. This organization purports to be non-political, but as a matter of fact it is simply the fund-raising agency in the United States of the Jewish National Fund and the Palestine Foundation Fund, both of which are operating subsidiaries of the World Zionist Organization, which is a strictly political body. The United Palestine Appeal is misnamed in that it includes within its scope none but the above two organizations, and therefore there are a large number of other Palestinian activities which, if they desire support from America, must seek it independently. The United Palestine Appeal has managed to get many non-Zionists on to its letterhead by purporting to be non-political, but as a matter of fact practically none of them give it any active assistance. For the past two years it has been one of the three beneficiaries of the United Jewish Appeal, previously mentioned in connection with the J.D.C. and National Refugee Service. It will have received somewhat in excess of $3,000,000 this year, which after overhead expenses is divided equally between the two above mentioned participating organizations, each of which has an American committee. The President of the Jewish National Fund of America is Rabbi Israel Goldstein, and the Chairman of the Palestine Foundation Fund of America is Louis Lipsky. The parent bodies of these two organizations claim to have done the major part of Jewish work in Palestine, but as a matter of fact between them they have brought into the country in the course of their entire existence no more than 20 per cent, if that, of the total Jewish money brought into Palestine in the last 50 years, and they have probably not had anything to do with the settlement of more than about one quarter of the 500,000 Jews now in Palestine. The Palestine Jewish Colonization Association, which has received no money from America, is an entirely non-political colonization body, which has derived its funds chiefly from Baron Edmond de Rothschild and Baron de Hirsch, and this organization has bought at least as much land in Palestine as has the Jewish National Fund, and has settled probably as many people in rural settlements. I mention this only to indicate the exaggerated nature of the pretensions of the United Palestine Appeal, and thus inevitably alienating the entire Jewish world.

Hadassah—The American Women’s Zionist Organization. President, Mrs. David de Sola Pool. This organization is made up of approximately 100,000 middle class women throughout the country. It is very efficiently organized, and plays a dual role. It inculcates Jewish nationalism in its membership and participates as a unit in the politics of the World Zionist Organization. At the same time it collects a considerable amount of money from its...
membership, and with that money operates its own independent social service activities in Palestine, for some of which it solicits money in America from others than its own members. For this year, its total collections, from all sources and for all purposes, probably will come to more than $1,500,000. The practical work done by this organization is of the highest kind, to which no one could possibly take exception. In my estimation, the only defect in this organization is its identification with politics. I think that if it had a solely practical purpose, without any nationalistic philosophy or political connections, it could probably enroll an even larger membership, especially among women of the wealthier ranks.

Palestine Economic Corporation--Chairman, Bernard Flexner. This is a stock company formed in 1903, by the J.D.C. putting up approximately $1,500,000. The capital now amounts to some $2,850,000, of which less than $1,000,000 has come from private individuals, and $400,000 of this was put in by Felix Warburg. The group behind this company is largely a J.D.C. group, although actually the most active and interested directors are Zionists, namely Robert Szold and J. B. Brodie. On the whole, it is a one-man organization. The company has operated on a quasi business basis, that is, with a view to preserving its equity, and in the long run perhaps reimbursing the investors for their capital. Nevertheless, the company has shown a profit for some years, and part of its present resources are accumulated earnings. The company has paid 2 per cent per annum on the stock held by private individuals for the past five years, but this year, because of the fall in the exchange value of the pound, will not pay a dividend. The company does not operate in its own name in Palestine, but it has made investments in industrial undertakings, and owns a mortgage bank and a water company outright and is the chief stockholder in a bank for cooperatives. In my estimation, this company has been very slow about seeking new funds in America. I think it could have obtained money quite easily during the last ten years, if it had been willing to present itself as an organization attempting to do a particular job. However, Mr. Flexner felt that he wanted the company to sell itself to the American public and make no representations, as a result of which it has sold practically no stock since shortly after its original formation. I think this has been a great opportunity missed, as without doubt this company has been set up on exactly the correct lines and on the whole has been well conducted.

American Friends of the Hebrew University--President, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. This organization is the chief one among probably or only 70 different educational, cultural, and social service activities in Palestine that have sought funds independently in the United States. There is an organization sponsored by one of the leading figures in the J.D.C. as well as in the Zionist movement. It has had to rely, however, chiefly on its
non-Zionist supporters, inasmuch as the Zionist leaders seem to be afraid that the success of this and similar activities in raising funds will hurt the collections of the United Palestine Appeal. The 1940 collections of this organization from the American public will amount to approximately $135,000, in addition to which it receives some $40,000 from endowment funds held in this country and also some bequests from the estates of deceased. The other activities in this field include the Palestine Orchestra, the American Economic Committee for Palestine, the Hebrew Institute of Technology in Haifa, and many others. An attempt is now being made to form a single body, called the American Palestine Fund, in which I am the moving spirit, to collect funds to be distributed to the various independent activities in Palestine without the necessity of their conducting independent campaigns in the United States. I have managed to bring on to my board a number of the leading J.D.C. figures, and a few Zionists. Whether the American Palestine Fund will succeed or not is still an open question. It is my opinion that the Zionist officialdom will do everything to oppose it, for fear that it may eventually rival the United Palestine Appeal.

League for Labor Palestine—President, Rabbi Alexander Kahn.
Chairman, National Executive Committee, Rabbi Edward L. Israel of Baltimore. This organization is backed by the Jewish labor unions in America and raises money to assist the Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine in its various undertakings, particularly the launching of business enterprises owned by the Federation. To my mind, this is an undesirable activity in several ways, particularly as it raises its money largely from people who do not know that in Palestine this money is used in a highly partisan political manner, not only for the benefit of those who are identified with the Labor Party in Palestine, but actually to combat all who are not identified with this party, which in its operations has become something of a labor racket, not dissimilar to the kind that are known in America. There are also one or two other bodies in America raising money that also goes to the Federation of Labor in Palestine or some of its branches.

Please note that this is a highly confidential document which must not fall in any other hands than those of N.C. and one other person.
December 10, 1940

Mr. Edward A. Norman,
60 Beaver St.,
New York City

Dear Mr. Norman:

I am sorry you found it impossible to attend last Sunday's meeting of the Business Men's Council.

Our next meeting will be held in the Board Room of the HIAS Building, on Sunday, December 15th, 1940 at 11 A.M., sharp, and will be a brief meeting.

Your counsel and advice are urgently needed.

I am looking forward to greeting you on Sunday morning, December 15th at 11 A.M.

With kindest regards,

Cordially,

[Signature]

Joseph Pulvermacher, Exec. Chairman
BUSINESS MEN'S COUNCIL OF HIAS

P.S.: If you have not as yet sent in your reservation for the Harvard Club Dinner, please do so now.

I am enclosing this just to give you the letterhead of one of the organizations I have referred to.
"Give Today --- Tomorrow May Be Too Late"

—DR. CHAIM WEIZMANN

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND (KEREN HAYESOD)
JEWISH NATIONAL FUND (KEREN KAYEMETH)
For the Settlement in Palestine of Jews of Germany, Poland, Rumania and Other Lands

41 EAST 42nd STREET NEW YORK CITY

December 9, 1940

Mr. Edward A. Norman,
H. Eents & Co.,
60 Beaver St.,
New York City

Dear Mr. Norman:

The year 1940 has been momentous in the annals of Jewish history. Worlds that we knew have crumbled. Peoples that we loved have perished or been scattered.

In the midst of this universal disaster we have watched with increasing admiration the patience and the valor with which the Jewish community of Palestine has withstood the rigors of encompassing war. 1940 was a succession of trials for Palestine Jewry; but at the same time, it was also a period of growth and expansion. Tens of thousands of additional immigrants entered the country. New colonies were founded and old ones were consolidated. Utilizing the skills of the refugees who had come from all parts of the globe, the Palestine community witnessed the introduction of new industries of various types related both to military and to peacetime needs.

Keeping pace with these developments was the continued improvement in educational and cultural enterprises. On the threshold of the most critical period in its history, Palestine Jewry is prepared for all eventualities. Through the manpower already enrolled in the British forces and through those who stand ready to be called to service, it is eager to play an important part in the outcome of the struggle which will mean so much for the future of civilization.

As the year closes, I deem it a great pleasure to acknowledge the service that you have rendered in helping to support the Yishuv and the thousands of Jews who were enabled to enter the Jewish homeland during the year.

Through your participation as a leader and contributor to the United Jewish Appeal, through which the United Palestine Appeal conducted its fund-raising effort in 1940, you indicated to the Jews engaged in rebuilding Palestine that America is prepared to stand by its side with moral and material support.

The whole emphasis of the publicity of this body is "refugee resettlement." However, the money goes to the Jewish bodies to further the aim, and its resettlement work is altogether on nationalistic lines. E. O. B.
In appreciation of your effort to create a broader standard of generosity and to awaken a keener sense of responsibility, may I ask you to accept membership on the National Council for Palestine of the United Palestine Appeal? We in the United Palestine Appeal regard membership in the Council as a means of honoring the men and women in the nation whose devotion and effort have made possible the preservation of our structure in Palestine.

In order that I may have your consent to present your name on that Honor Roll at the National Conference for Palestine to be held at the Hotel Willard, Washington, D.C. on January 25th and 26th, 1941, I would appreciate your kindness in filling out and returning to me the enclosed card indicating your willingness to accept membership on the National Council for Palestine. Acceptance of membership will not involve you in additional labor but will give us the opportunity of sending you from time to time information as to developments in Palestine and such other material as you may require in the conduct of your community fund-raising efforts.

Very cordially yours,

Abba Hillel Silver
Abba Hillel Silver
National Chairman

P.S. I would be glad to receive any suggestions that you would like to make with respect to our work in Palestine and means of enlarging American Jewry's participation in it.
Refugee Settlements

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE January 28, 1941

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Mr. Wiley

Attached is a clipping taken from the Times-Herald of last Friday. It is supposed to be a rectification of the previous article which so offended Mr. Rosenberg.

The Department of State has sent Mr. Pell to San Domingo as its representative — a move which is intended to show the continuing interest of the State Department in the Sosua project. Mr. Rosenberg has asked a number of people, in addition to you, to send telegrams on the occasion of their celebration. In view, however, of Mr. Pell's mission and the more recent Times-Herald article, I doubt if it is necessary for you to accede to Mr. Rosenberg's request.
Refugee Colony
In West Indies
To Be Enlarged

Dominican Republic
Haven Mokes Ready
For Anniversary

The colony for refugees at Souca in the Dominican Republic has been so successful that the project is going to be enlarged both in size and in population, the Times-Herald has learned.

Souca, on January 30, celebrates the first anniversary of its settlement, in which the President and the State Department are taking a deep official interest.

Robert T. Snow, Division of European Affairs, sailed yesterday with George L. Warren, department's executive secretary of the President's Committee on Political Refugees, and James N. Rosenthal, president of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, to participate in the ceremonies. They left from New York on the S.S. Cosmo.

Gift of Ex-President

It was last January 30 that a contract was signed by the association and the Dominican government to permit the establishment of a refugee colony which eventually may care for as many as 100,000 persons.

Rafael Trujillo, former president of the Dominican Republic, offered the gift of 300 acres of land along the Atlantic coast, now numbering 200 refugees, after his plan was worked out whereby the project is expected to prove self-sustaining. Members of the colony are carefully checked by the United States and Dominican governments to ensure their bona fide status. Most of the present settlers are Jews, but only recently applications have been undertaken to bring in a number of Catholic refugees from the Nazis.

A letter to be read at the January 30 celebration carries an offer of several hundred acres of land in the mountains some distance from Souca. Trujillo wrote, "I recommend that for the maintenance of the health and general well-being of the colonists, they must have access to some region in the mountains where they can go for brief periods of rest and relaxation. I possess some land in the Cordilleras Dominicanas, of some hundreds of acres, accessible by automobile in approximately two hours from Souca. These lands are at an altitude of about 1,300 feet above sea level, and are situated in mountains of great beauty, which I desire to present as a free contribution to the association, whereby they can arrange to erect some modest houses where the colonists can go to seek recreation and breathe the fresh air of the mountains."

To Avoid Overpopulation

Trujillo explained in the letter that the Dominican Republic believes in the necessity of having "robust, healthy and diligent immigrants such as those the Settlement Association has selected, and who constitute a most valuable element in the development of the wealth of the country."

"It is very clear," he stated, "to students of international affairs that one of the main causes of the present chaos in Europe is the excess of population. In our country we hope to demonstrate with the success of this project of colonization, the manner of solution, even if only partially, of this problem of great magnitude."

Rosenthal has plans for choosing 1,000 more refugees for the Souca colony in 1943, he explained.

During the year the colony has been in existence, he said, 400 acres of land have been cultivated, they have more than 500 head of livestock. They now produce suf
Nazi Spies Fill
Santo Domingo
Refugee Haven

Gestapo Establishes
Threat to New U. S.
Base in Puerto Rico

By JOHN WHITE

German Gestapo agents have already infiltrated into the newly established Sousa Settlement for European refugees in the Dominican Republic, the Time-Herald learned yesterday.

According to reliable sources the Sousa project, which was set up a year ago as a "test tube" settlement for European political refugees, is now "crawling" with Nazi spies.

Peril to New U. S. Base

These agents of the German secret police would seriously menace American defense measures in Puerto Rico, where the huge U. S. naval base is being built near San Juan, only three hours by air from Santo Domingo. Still closer to the Dominican Republic is the new air base at Point Boring, on the extreme northwest tip of Puerto Rico.

While officials of the Dominican Republic have been careful to accept only bona fide refugees at the Sousa Settlement, agents of Nazi Germany have entered the colony, posing as refugees from their Fatherland, the Time-Herald was informed.

According to American residents of Ciudad Trujillo, the capital, it would be difficult for Dominican immigration officials, in many cases, to distinguish between authentic refugees and agents of the Nazi Gestapo.

Double Purpose

The latter would have a dual purpose in coming to the West Indies. One reason would be to check up on those who have fled from Nazi terror, while a far more sinister purpose would be to engage in subversive activities in a country located strategically close to Puerto Rico and the American defense area.

According to information from San Juan, the chief Nazi agent in the Dominican Republic is the local representative of German radios and electric appliance manufacturers. In Santo Domingo, while using his business activities as a "front," this agent is carrying on a subversive activities in the Caribbean.

Dominicans Helpless

The Dominican government is doing all it can to check these undercover operations, but the secrecy and skill of the Gestapo make it difficult to do so. Of all the Latin American nations, the Dominican Republic has been the most active and generous in opening its doors to refugees from war-torn Europe. Much progress has been made in establishing a "model colony."

Only recently it was announced that brides are being sought for the new pioneers, two-thirds of whom are men.
January 21, 1941

Mr. Edward Greenbaum
1245 29th Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Eddie:

I send you copy of a letter I have today sent to Sam Rosenman.

Maybe you can mention this to H. M. and get a hand for me. There are a few sinister, outrageous people in Washington who are trying -- the same people who are trying to sabotage aid to Britain -- to sabotage this Dominican effort. The President or H. M. ought to know this.

A telegram from H. M. to me on January 29 would be very valuable.

Sincerely yours,

JNR:bd
Encl.
MR. MORGENTHAU'S OFFICE TO--

Mr. Bell       Mr. Thompson
Mr. Gaston     Mr. Foley
Mr. Sullivan   Mr. Graves

********

Mr. Alexander Mr. Haas
Mr. Allen      Mr. Hall
Mr. Bartelt    Mr. Hanna
Mr. C. S. Bell Mr. Harper
Mr. Berkshire  Mr. Harris
Mr. Bernard    Mr. Helvering
Mrs. Betts     Mr. Irey
Mr. Birgfeld   Mr. Julian
Mr. Blough     Mr. Kilby
Mr. Broughton  Mr. Mulvihill
Mr. Bryan      Mr. Rose
Mr. Cochran    Mrs. Ross
Mr. Collie     Mr. Schwarz
Capt. Collins  Mr. Sloan
Mr. Delano     Mr. Spangler
Miss Diamond   Mr. Tarleau
Mr. Districh   Mr. Upham
Miss Flanagan  Mr. White
Mr. Wiley:

Please read this and advise the Secretary personally.
January 21, 1941

Hon. Samuel Rosenman
135 Central Park West
New York City

Dear Sam:

There is a little group of people in Washington and another group in Puerto Rico who constantly and continually try to sabotage the work of this Association. As this work is all the outgrowth of the efforts of President Roosevelt, I earnestly hope that he will, on January 29 or 30, send me a telegram to 27 Malecon, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, expressing his gratification at the progress of the settlement work in the Dominican Republic. Such a telegram will be of extreme importance and value to the work.

A week ago today there appeared an outrageous, scandalous piece in the Washington "Times Herald", which I enclose herewith. The sources of this kind of thing are a group who want to sabotage and nullify all the splendid efforts on behalf of refugees undertaken by President Roosevelt. Of course the story is completely false. The 300 settlers who are in the Dominican Republic are mostly Jews, though not all. Everyone of them was checked by us for full record, background and antecedents, and double checked by our representatives in Europe, including those who came from England (about one-third) who were checked by Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. Their names and records were then submitted to and checked by the State Department, also by the Department of Justice, also by the Dominican Republic, also by the United States Minister to the Dominican Republic, Robert W. Scotten, who has on several occasions visited the colony; also the Naval attache in the Dominican Republic and representatives of the Department of Agriculture have visited the Sosua settlement. If ever there was a case of checking, double checking and triple checking to be sure that we got no Fifth Columnists, it was in connection with the settlement at Sosua. Moreover, Sosua is 250 miles away from the capital, Ciudad Trujillo. It is a farm colony of 25,000 acres, away from munition works, factory or industrial sites. If Hitler
wants to send his spies to the Dominican Republic, nobody can prevent him, not even the powerful arm of Uncle Sam. The Dominican Republic has diplomatic relations with Nazi Germany. There is a German Minister in the Dominican Republic, and if Mr. Hitler wants to send his spies to the Dominican Republic, he sends them as businessmen, in contact with the German Minister. He has no more object in sending Nazi spies to the distant farm colony than he has to send them to the mountains of the moon.

Every little while there crop up such attempts from anti-Semites and some other groups who want to sabotage -- isolationist and exclusionist groups, who are trying vainly to influence the State Department to knock out this Dominican Republic settlement enterprise, so they get things into the Press.

On January 30 there will be a big celebration in the Dominican Republic, at which there will be present many representatives of Governments, etc., and at which I will report to the Dominican Government as to progress of the work. Thereafter we will have a further meeting at Sosua. It would be extremely valuable to counteract these efforts to hurt this undertaking if President Roosevelt were to send me a telegram on January 29 which I could read on January 30. Such a telegram will have publicity in the entire press of the Western Hemisphere, as the New York "Times", the United Press and other foreign press services are sending their representatives for the January 30 meeting in the Dominican Republic. Therefore, a telegram from President Roosevelt to me, expressing appreciation to the Dominican Government for opening its doors to refugees, and stating the importance of constructively solving refugee problems and this method of settlement work proceeding slowly and scientifically is the sound method, will give the President an opportunity to help not only this important undertaking, but also to express once again his noble, humanitarian point of view. This is the only concrete result of Evian. It would be a shame if whisperers and foes of the President in Washington were to be allowed to sabotage this effort.

I therefore most earnestly hope you will be able to be of help in this matter.

Faithfully yours,

P.S. A copy of this letter is being sent to Edward Greenbaum.

P.P.S. My address in the Dominican Republic is 27 Malecon, Ciudad Trujillo.
December 24, 1940

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
2211 30th Street N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

I was very sorry on Sunday evening that I was unable to lay before you any definite plan or scheme for the settling of refugees in considerable number in the American hemisphere. As I said to you, I feel that the problem should not be thought of at the present time so much in terms of where refugees might be settled as on what basis. It is my feeling that the difficulty of finding places where refugees may go to establish themselves permanently will be greatly lessened once it is possible to state with assurance that refugees can add to the economic and social strength of a country, and that they will not tend to compete with or displace the present population, and thereby lower its economic level.

As I said to you, I feel that the project being conducted in the Dominican Republic under the leadership of James N. Rosenberg deserves careful watching. As far as I know, it is the only concrete scheme at present being undertaken, and I feel its results may well serve as an indication of what can be done in other places.

This morning I called the office of Dr. Joseph A. Rosen, and found that he was ill. However, I spoke to the Executive Director of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association, a Mrs. Reyher, and obtained certain information from her. It appears that at the moment there are just under 300 persons in the Sosua settlement that has been placed on the northern coast of Santo Domingo by the Association. It is the plan of the Association to settle the refugees as individual farm owners, with the hope that they will raise crops that will go a long way toward providing their own subsistence, but in addition will have surpluses for domestic sale or export that will give them a sufficient cash income not only to take care of their own needs but also eventually to repay the Association for its disbursements in connection with their settlement.

The matter is being gone into very carefully. The U. S. Department of Agriculture is advising the Association on crops suitable for the locality which have not been grown previously, and members of the staff of the U. S. Agricultural Research Station in Puerto Rico have been assigned to this task.
the present thought of the Association that castor oil as a substitute for gum oil as the base for paints may be a profitable crop, and consideration is also being given to certain plants the extracts of which are used as perfume bases. Studies are also being made in possible uses of sugar and batters (sugar cane waste). It is also hoped to earn money by selling dairy products locally, and in fact a small amount of business of this kind already has been done.

While the farms are to be owned individually, cooperatives for the marketing and processing of products are being set up, as well as for the purchase of necessities. The Association also hopes that some of the settlers will turn to small scale industry, for the production of articles needed by the agricultural settlers and also for general sale. It is hoped that such workshops as may be set up will employ both settlers and natives.

Since I have no personal connection with this scheme, and since it is in its earliest stage, perhaps I have no right to express any opinion about it. However, if I were asked for a comment on the plans of this Settlement Association, the only one I would want to make would be that I am afraid that the success of the plan depends too much on the earning of cash, and that not enough thought is being given to the possibility of settling people on the basis of very restricted monetary incomes. I do not mean to say that I think this project is headed for failure, but I can see that it may in time need to revise the fundamental economic and social concepts on which it is based.

It is a sad fact that at this moment when there is such a pressing need for a large-scale transference of people that no satisfactory method is available. Perhaps there is some historical connection between on the one hand the need of people to leave Europe, and on the other hand the lack of a satisfactory way to live without dependence on profitable markets. As I informed you, I am hoping to make an attempt in this country to develop a method, similar to the collective community which has demonstrated its value in Palestine, that may turn out to be a useful instrument in solving this great fundamental problem.

I am sure that I need not tell you that I consider it a great privilege as well as a pleasure to have been able to meet you and spend last Sunday evening with you.

With kindest greetings of the season,

Most sincerely yours,

Edward H. Herman

EAM FSW
Report of Frederick Perlstein at Board of Directors

Meeting of the Dominican Republic Settlement

Association on Tuesday, November 26, 1940

In a fortnight it will be a year since Dr. Rosen and I started off for the Dominican Republic to find the first spot to become our settlement project.

We selected the 26,000 acre tract at Sosua as the most desirable. This magnificent tract was contributed to the Association by Generalissimo Trujillo.

The first day I arrived in Sosua our work commenced. I began immediately to cultivate a piece of land by planting various kinds of seeds. I was interested in the soil, also in ascertaining just how strenuous the work would be under tropical conditions, so I took a spade and turned the soil with my own hands. Not being used to the tropical climate, I perspired more than I would have under conditions to which I am accustomed, but still felt well. I then picked three settlers from the refugees already in the Dominican Republic. The first garden field, which we plowed with oxen, was planted with corn, Yucca, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, and other vegetables. Despite the fact that we did the planting out of season, i.e., in the beginning of the dry season, the results were an average yield.

TRANSPORTATION

In the following weeks, my time was spent exploring our extensive grounds by horseback, the only means of transportation then available, and on foot. Today we are now able to reach the most important parts of our property by car. About ten miles of new roads have been constructed. As the main means of transportation in the Dominican Republic are horses, mules, and donkeys, it was natural that we concentrate our efforts on improving the native stock of horses and donkeys in order to breed for a suitable mule. For long distance hauling and heavy loads we have acquired a truck, station wagon, automobile, and 30 oxen teams and wagons.

ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE-STOCK:

A great amount of pasture land gave us the opportunity for a large herd of live-stock as follows: 200 cows, 200 calves, 100 heifers, 100 various live-stock such as horses for breeding purposes, mules, donkeys, etc. We bought a good herd of cows. Average milk production is on a par with the best average in the country. Using modern methods in treating cattle, we overcame the danger of tropical diseases. We employ hygienic methods of milking and use advanced methods of breeding to improve our herd. We now get nearly 1,000 lbs. of milk daily and our settlers are selling cheese. Cattle and its by-products are one of the most promising types of farming to make a living for the settlers.
CHEESE AND BUTTER PRODUCTION:

One of the most important meat supplies in the tropics is chicken. We had to decide on the most suitable breed not only to survive in the tropical climate, but to give the most meat and eggs. We decided Rhode Islands could be best raised with our methods giving a fairly good-sized chicken and a satisfactory number of eggs. Export of chickens to the islands surrounding the Dominican Republic, for instance, Curacao, is an important possibility for the settlers.

IMPROVEMENT OF PASTURE LAND:

As to cultivation of virgin soil with regard to agriculture, the first step was to clear abandoned and neglected pastures, repair existing fences and subdivide the large pastures in order to establish a correct rotating of our grazing land. We are actively working on this as on the drainage and water supply. We are also trying to improve the quality of grass by sowing seeds of various and higher quality. We are cutting fence posts out of our own timber. This serves a double purpose as it clears our woods and makes them accessible for other purposes, such as the removal of lumber for house building, also giving the remaining trees more space and air for growth.

CULTIVATION OF VIRGIN SOIL AND PLANTING OF CROPS:

Our two tractors were greatly responsible for the large acreage that is already under cultivation. Let me take this opportunity to give credit to the settlers who operated these tractors and undertook the arduous task of plowing this virgin soil with devotion, skill, and diligence. I would like also to mention other settlers who work equally hard in the same fields. They have established on the land groves of bananas, plantains, yucca, sweet potatoes, corn, beans, coconuts, peanuts and they are planting citrus fruits in quantity. The present crops serve as a food supply for the settlers and their live-stock. We have also started plantations which will be worked as cooperative enterprises, for instance, banana plantations, and some thousands of lime trees. Also, for the production of essential oils and industrial exploitation, we have planted groves of llan-llan and lemon grasses, producing important oils for perfumes, an industry which we expect to develop.

WATER SUPPLY AND SOURCES:

Our water supply is sufficient. We find water in sufficient quantity for domestic use on the sea level water table almost anywhere in the area within 5 or 6 miles of the sea appears excellent. An old well on the property in the same region in which we installed a hand pump and cleaned and re-conditioned also supplies us with large amounts of good drinking water. These wells are in the vicinity of the first homesteads on our property and give us a secured water supply for the colonists. The main water supply up to this time is derived from the Sosua River. Due to our increasing population we had to replace the old steam engine with a new powerful Diesel engine and modern pump, thereby increasing its efficiency. We also replaced long stretches
of water pipelines using the 150,000 lbs. of pipes and large supplies of plumbing equipment shipped from the States. The past summer was the driest in 40 years, but the Sosua River kept approximately the same water level. In the highest section of our property reaches an elevation of about 800 feet. No stream crosses this high region. Nevertheless, it should be possible to settle on this part of our property later on as a project is being developed to obtain the water supply from the rain water. The heavy downfall in the rainy season is sufficient to supply the people with water the year around if the proper means are taken to gather and preserve the rain water which can be used during the dry season, just as they do on the Island of Bermuda where their only source of water is rain. We are now using this method for an additional water supply for the three large dwellings we built for trainees and new arrivals.

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT:

To give a few details of building activities-supplies that have been shipped to Sosua include 120,000 sq. ft. of metal roofing, 500 gallons of paint, etc., more than 4,000 lbs. of nails have been used in assembling and erecting the various buildings.

The houses on the property were put into condition. Dormitories were built for the reception of newcomers. These buildings were constructed from the standpoint of ventilation, sanitation, and utility. Adjoining buildings contain modern kitchens, laundries, shower rooms, and storage facilities. A community house which, in emergency, could also serve as a dormitory is being built; also a new school house. In Laguna de Higuero, where the first group of settlers is placed, five families are already settled in their homesteads, seven more will be ready for occupancy within the next few weeks. A pump house was installed, the cheese factory enlarged. The dwellings and houses are equipped with running water and electricity. Electricity is furnished by a two Kilowatt electric plant. There is in construction for our settlement a new electric plant of seven kilowatts.

A project to transmit electricity from Puerto Plata is under consideration. A proposed contract has been negotiated.

HOUSE FURNISHINGS:

250 beds, sufficient mattresses, pillows, blankets, linens, household and kitchen equipment, tables, chests, chairs have been acquired. The Physician's office has been furnished with medical instruments and medicines costing more than $1,000. This medical equipment will soon be used to take care of baby settlers.

FOOD SUPPLIES AND ACTIVITIES:

We have five classifications of people on our property.

1. The settlers already living and working on their homesteads.
2. Prospective settlers being trained, proving their fitness to work on their homesteads by a six months trial on agricultural duties. These will be settled when the new home-
steads are completed.

3. New arrivals being instructed. They will have to prove their ability before they may be considered ready to take over homesteads.

4. Trainees from 15 to 21 years of age, who must be educated in farming, carpentry (we have just inaugurated a carpentry shop), and mechanics, for a two years' course.

5. Children of school age will be educated physically and mentally and morally to live up to the standards being set before them.

While the trainees are working in the fields and other departments of the settlement only half a day, the remaining hours being spent in lectures and sports, the other people are working 7 to 8 hours in the fields, milk barns, cheese factory, mess-kitchen, laundry, carpenter shop, building departments, etc. The women are very important to our community, earning their livelihood by general household duties.

All work ceases from noon till late afternoon. This period is spent at lunch, rest and siesta. In this subtropical climate, chief meals are breakfast and dinner. Breakfast consists of native fruits, such as, oranges, limes, bananas, also milk, cheese, bread, eggs, sausages, and excellent Dominican coffee. Lunch and supper consist of the fundamental crops of the Dominican Republic, namely, rice, beans, yucca, sweet potatoes, plantains, corn, and in season, avocados, mangos, coconuts, pineapples, and other kinds of vegetables. Meat is obtained from our chickens. Every week we slaughter one of our cattle for food. After work many people enjoy a swim on our lovely beach, then prepare for dinner. The evenings are passed in study on various subjects, especially languages. On Saturday, evening, there is usually an entertainment and dance. The favorite form of amusement on Sunday is horseback riding.

This is but a sketchy picture of the Sosua project, now one year old. In our settlement begins a new life of mutual benefit to the settlers and the Dominican Republic.

Perhaps the settlers' lot is not of the easiest, what with hard toil and completely new customs to become acclimated to, yet it is the only light shining for them through all the world to set an example and a pattern of and for other Sosuas yet to come.

Shall we go ahead? In my opinion, assurance of the success of this undertaking has been proved. Large development now hinges on sufficient financial support. Within a reasonable period of time - beginning in two or three years - the settlers will be able, in our opinion, to repay what we expend. At the beginning of such an enterprise as this, large capital expenditures must however be made to establish a good foundation.
Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary (or may I say Henry):

I am writing you this letter partly to send you and your family all my best and sincerest wishes for 1941, also to say that there is one, and one reason only, why I have not availed myself of your suggestion made last Spring that I come to see you and tell you about the progress of the Dominican Republic work.

That reason is the following: though this enterprise is an important one in its significance and implications in the Western Hemisphere, the matters with which you are engaged are so very much more important, and weigh so heavily on your days and nights, that I have not felt free to take even a minute of your time.

I do, however, want you to know that this undertaking, which has received the splendid backing and support of President Roosevelt, the State, Treasury and Agriculture Departments, is moving ahead encouragingly. There are now about 300 settlers in the Dominican Republic. The settlers are beginning to earn a little money. We have over 500 head of livestock, and have entered into a variety of important agricultural undertakings. Over 1000 settlers have been selected to come to the Dominican Republic next year. The Dominican Republic is cooperating splendidly, and though the undertaking in respect of numbers of settlers as against the millions of disposessed,
unhappy people in Europe is only a small one, I believe it possesses a far-reaching significance, and that it is proceeding, despite the tremendous difficulties of transportation, with as much expedition as is possible.

I am sending you herewith photostats of letters from many quarters, which will give you an idea of the importance which is attached to this matter.

With all best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

JNR:bd
Encls.
June 28, 1940

My dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I have received your letter of June 15, 1940 as well as your telegram of June 18 and have given careful consideration to your plan to expand the activities of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association so as to include refugees from England and France.

I hope your efforts will succeed and I wish you all success in your undertaking which the humanitarian support of the Dominican Republic has made possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. James N. Rosenberg,
Dominican Republic Settlement Association, Incorporated,
165 Broadway,
New York, New York.
Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of February 13 enclosing the photostats of the official English translation of the Agreement for the settlement of refugees entered into by your Association with the Dominican Government. I congratulate you on the successful outcome of your negotiation which marks concrete progress in the realization of the Evian program.

I hope that you will keep me closely informed of the further progress of your work which merits recognition and support.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. James N. Rosenberg,
165 Broadway,
New York, New York.
December 17, 1939

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I have received your kind letter of November 22 in which you enclose a copy of the communication to you from the Dominican Minister at Washington announcing the agreement of his government to a large-scale settlement of refugees in the Dominican Republic.

I am very grateful to you for this information and wish you well in your undertaking which marks a constructive turning point in the history of refugee work.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mr. James N. Rosenberg,

165 Broadway,

New York, N. Y.
December 12, 1940.

Mr. James H. Rosenberg,
166 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

As you know, I have long been deeply interested in the plans and in the work of the Santo Dominónico Corporation. I have read with very great interest the Report of Progress which has come to me. The report as well as the photographs of Sosúa are decidedly encouraging and give promise of what I hope will develop into a large and very effective undertaking. I am very grateful for the generous cooperation of the President and Government of the Dominican Republic. Certainly, this project offers very real hope of building up a refuge for a substantial number of refugees. I hope that it may continue to grow and prosper.

I will be much interested in receiving further reports, and hope that I will be kept advised with regard to the development of the project.

With kind personal regards and best wishes, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

December 11th, 1940.

Mr. James H. Rosenberg,
166 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Jim-

I have read with great interest the pamphlet you sent me in the matter of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association. You and your associates have made an intelligent start upon this problem so far reaching in its importance and effect. I know you will carry on in the same splendid way which brought about such magnificent results in Russia through the Agro-Joint. Best power to you.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]

December 6, 1940.

Mr. James H. Rosenberg,
President,
Dominican Republic Settlement Association,
166 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

After reading the recent report on the continuing development of the Dominican settlement project, I wish to express to you my sincere appreciation for what has already been accomplished and to urge you to go forward in this effort.

I have followed the progress of the Dominican undertaking since its inception at the First Conference of thirty-two governments called by President Roosevelt in 1938. It is the concrete result of that conference and the most substantial hope at present for a new life for many of the peoples of Europe, and perhaps most important, the one testing ground of the practical possibilities of settlement on land as a solution of the refugee problem.

You and your associates in the project have devoted yourselves unselfishly to the task of bringing the project to its present state of achievement. I hope most sincerely that you may find the resources to go on. I cannot over emphasize the importance of this demonstration of the possibilities of settlement on land. It must succeed.

With every good wish, I am,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Thank you very much for the copy of your third pamphlet describing the progress of the settlement at Sosua in the Dominican Republic for which your Association is responsible. It is a splendid testimonial to the constructive enterprise of your associates and yourself. I wish you all success. What you have accomplished so far augurs well for the fulfillment of the fine humanitarian task which you have undertaken. You can be assured of the continued interest of this Government in the first settlement made under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Committee for Political Refugees.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

November 25, 1940

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Dear Jim:

Very many thanks for my copy of Pamphlet No. 3 showing the progress of the work at Sosua. You know my sentiments. They are expressed, somewhat lamely, in the pamphlet. May I merely add that my conviction is that daily it is becoming more and more imperative that this work should not only go on but should expand. I am sincerely hopeful that you will get the support which you merit because the Association should soon begin thinking in terms not of hundreds but of thousands of settlers. I know that this is an expensive business but I am certain that the large and small givers in this country, when they know the true import of Sosua, will wish to share in this splendid and constructive work.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Robert T. Pell

Mr. James M. Rosenberg,
Dominican Republic Settlement Association,
165 Broadway,
New York, New York.
December 5, 1940

Mr. James N. Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York City

Dear Jim:

I have read with much interest the literature you sent me with regard to the Dominican Settlement. It strikes me as most intelligently done, and very promising; in spite of the fact that the numbers are limited. I congratulate you on the progress made.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

James H. Rosenberg, Esq.
Dominican Republic Settlement Ass'n., Inc.
165 Broadway
New York City

December 4, 1940

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 2nd and the accompanying documents which I have read with great interest and admiration for what you and your associates in the Dominican Republic Settlement Association have accomplished.

It is a very moving and heartening story. I am sure that the progress that you have been so successful in establishing the Agricultural Settlement at Sousa on such a thoroughly sound foundation. Your success so far justifies not merely the hope but the well-grounded expectation that ultimately this Settlement will develop into a home and a thriving community of many thousands. The solution of the enormous difficulties you have had to overcome, called for the exertion in the highest degree of human sympathy, will, perseverance and wisdom. I am particularly impressed by the amount of spade work that has been done in studying all the possibilities, favorable and unfavorable, and in making such complete preparation for the coming of the settlers and for their future guidance.

There are great difficulties still ahead but the fine record you have made gives assurance that these too will be surmounted. My heartfelt congratulations.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

George Rublee

December 5, 1940

Mr. James N. Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York City

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I have just finished reading the reprint of the discussion at the Lawyers' Club on the Refugee Settlement in the Dominican Republic. It is truly an inspiring document. This thrilling drama of human reclamation, begun perhaps with hesitation, certainly as an experiment, must not only give joy to those who have sponsored and carried it through thus far but it must strengthen the determination of all who are interested in the alleviation of human beings to build further on the foundations already established. The Sousa development must go on.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Morris S. Leberson
MISTER ROSENBERG: I AM INFORMED THAT YOU WILL SPEAK NEXT SUNDAY AT A MEETING WHICH WILL DEAL WITH THE COLONIZATION ENTERPRISE THAT DORSA IS CONDUCTING IN THIS COUNTRY. STOP I AM GLAD TO TELL YOU AGAIN THAT THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS COOPERATION IN THIS ENTERPRISE AS IN EVERYTHING WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO OUR COUNTRY. STOP THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS INSPIRED BY THE SENTIMENTS WITH WHICH ITS GREAT LEADER TRUJILLO TOOK UP THE NOBLE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AT EVIAN AND RECEIVED WITH OPEN ARMS THE EUROPEAN REFUGEES PROTECTED BY THE COVENANT OF JANUARY 30, 1940.

PRESIDENT TRUJILLO

TRANSLATION

Ciudad Trujillo DR

DEL Nov 21, 1940

DORSA NEW YORK

MISTER ROSENBERG: I AM INFORMED THAT YOU WILL SPEAK NEXT SUNDAY AT A MEETING WHICH WILL DEAL WITH THE COLONIZATION ENTERPRISE THAT DORSA IS CONDUCTING IN THIS COUNTRY. STOP I AM GLAD TO TELL YOU AGAIN THAT THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS COOPERATION IN THIS ENTERPRISE AS IN EVERYTHING WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO OUR COUNTRY. STOP THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WAS INSPIRED BY THE SENTIMENTS WITH WHICH ITS GREAT LEADER TRUJILLO TOOK UP THE NOBLE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AT EVIAN AND RECEIVED WITH OPEN ARMS THE EUROPEAN REFUGEES PROTECTED BY THE COVENANT OF JANUARY 30, 1940.

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PRESIDENT TRUJILLO
AMERICAN RED CROSS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I have just received from the State Department
a pamphlet No. 3 concerning the "Refugee Settlement in
the Dominican Republic".

The ardor displayed by the refugees settled there
seems to warrant the assertion that the future is assured.
The stage of pioneering — which might still characterize
the colony after a few months — has already been passed.
Sosua is not only a success in quality, but also represents
a record in speedy achievement.

Among the clouds which obscure the skies at the
time, I still appear a few wits, modest but
of good omen. Sosua has already taken its place on the
horizon of a better future. It is a pleasant duty for
one of the initial workers of the Committee of Elyan to
greet this beneficent appearance on the shores of the
New World.

It is also his definite wish, as this year ends,
that new sources of cooperation will enable increasing
numbers of refugees to start life anew in 1941, far from
persecution, in liberty and in the dignity of work
at last regained.

With kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

(Georges Coulon)

Sosua Settlement
1st December 1940

Mr. J. N. Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York City

Dear Sir,

According to our promise, we are able now
after staying for about 8 months on the Settlement
to give you our first impressions and

We confidently can state to have got
accustomed to the life and habits, so that we
are quite happy and contented.

First of all because we have escaped the
very unpleasant circumstances in Europe and able
to build up on the more happy future.

Climate, food and life conditions are not
easy to be faced in the first instant, but
fortunately we have all that behind us by now.

The work is not too hard and gives us at
least the security to get our parents and dear
relatives over.

For studying, entertainment and other kind
of using our free-time is always something

So we really hope for the best for our
immediate future and remain with the best regards;

Yours respectfully,
November 26, 1940

Mr. James Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

First of all, let me personally express my thanks to you for coming here and talking to a group at yesterday's luncheon and the meeting we held last night. I am not writing to you because I want to praise your efforts, as I know that is the last thing you are looking for. I am writing to you simply because the spirit and interest of last night's meeting was so different from that of any meeting we have held in years past.

From the questions that were asked of you after your talk, you could well judge the interest in the Dominican project. Of course I cannot vouch for it, but judging the spirit as an observer, I do not think there would have been any difficulty in raising money for the project if you had asked for it.

As a member of the audience, I personally was very much impressed with the possibilities of Santo Domingo and would be ready to support your project in my limited way if you should ask me to.

Besides the good you have done for the Dominican project in Cleveland, which I hope will materialize in the future, we have learned lessons which may be helpful to us in future meetings.

From the interest displayed last night by the audience, I learned that people are not as selfish as we have thought them to be if a worthwhile project is put before them properly. In raising money, it isn't the emotional appeal that is necessary but a plan or project which is well conceived and properly explained to an audience.

Should your time permit, I will call on you when I am in New York next week. I would like to get additional information on the project and also discuss with you further the subject we started at our meeting.

Again thanking you for your efforts and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

May 1940

American Friends Service Committee
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mr. James Rosenberg
Dominican Republic Settlement Association, Inc.
165 Broadway
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I appreciate very much your sending me Pamphlet No. 5 concerning the Dominican Republic resettlement project. I shall read it with great interest.

Important as is the infiltration process in re-establishing refugees, I think all of us who are dealing with the matter are conscious that nothing short of large-scale resettlement projects will at all adequately meet the need. If eventually opportunities for colonization open up in other countries, particularly in Latin American states, it will probably be to some degree because of the success of the venture in the Dominican Republic. But even though it is at the present time, it is the training ground for learning how large ventures may be carried out, and it is a kind of guarantee to a supporting public that such colonization plans will work.

It seems to me, therefore, extremely important that this first, and thus far only venture, outside Palestine, shall be a success, and the reports thus far seem to indicate that this is true. I earnestly hope that the venture may continue to have generous support.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Executive Secretary
Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I am enclosing my check for part of the funds which I have pledged for the social center to be established in Ciudad Trujillo. The rest of the contribution I will make in two payments within a year.

Wishing all success to your various enterprises and with personal regards,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Illia

Mr. James N. Rosenberg
Dominican Republic Settlement Association, Inc.
165 Broadway
New York, New York

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Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I want to thank you for sending me a report on the recent development at the settlement in the Dominican Republic. This seems to me a very constructive development and I hope it will serve as a good example for further progress along such a line.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dr. James N. Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York, New York

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Julius Rosenwald Fund

November 15, 1939

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Following our conversation after the luncheon in honor of Senor Ortiz, I have thought carefully about the question of raising funds for the project.

From every angle, I think it is better to secure this from the Joint rather than go before the country on another separate endeavor.

In another year, when additional funds are needed, I even think it would help the Joint and I.P. Drive if this settlement project was put in the open. It would do much to present tangible things to many subscribers who have formed erroneous opinions of what we can do on account of the war condition in Europe.

Kind personal regards.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

William J. Thalmann

Thalmann Brothers

November 15, 1939

Mr. James N. Rosenberg
Dominican Republic Settlement Ass.,
165 Broadway
New York City

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Thank you for the interesting report on the proposed settlement of refugees in the Dominican Republic. This sounds like a substantial beginning on this difficult problem. I hope you can organize the settlement under something approaching the brilliant management that Doctor Rosen furnished to the Russian colonization. My congratulations and my best wishes.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Mr. James N. Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York City

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My dear Jim:

Many thanks for your letter of December 14th, with the accompanying copy of President Roosevelt's letter to you.

I am indeed sorry that I cannot join you on the trip to the Dominican Republic. I sincerely hope, however, that your visit will be quite successful.

As you know, I am deeply interested in this project. The Dominican Republic has offered a wonderful opportunity, and I shall look forward to hearing the results of your visit upon your return.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

James N. Rosenberg
165 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
From 1600, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, November 7, 1939

Mr. James H. Rosenbloom,
160 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenbloom:

QUALITY

I am writing to you in connection with the recent developments in the Dominican Republic and to express my views on the matter.

In view of the current situation, I believe it is essential that we take immediate steps to provide assistance to the refugees. The Dominican government has promised to cooperate fully with the Inter-American Refugee Committee in this matter.

The government has already begun to implement the provisions of the statute, and I am confident that we will be able to achieve our objectives within a short period of time.

Furthermore, I wish to express my gratitude to the authorities of the Dominican Republic for their cooperation and assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. James H. Rosenbloom,
160 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

December 20, 1939.

Mr. James H. Rosenbloom,
160 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenbloom:

I have had the pleasure of reading your letter of November 7, 1939, and I am pleased to inform you that the government of the Dominican Republic has taken decisive action to ensure the safety and well-being of the refugees.

The government has established a special committee to handle the matter, and I am confident that they will continue to work closely with the Inter-American Refugee Committee to achieve our objectives.

I am grateful for your support and cooperation, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Mr. James H. Rosenbloom,
160 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

January 2, 1940.

Mr. James H. Rosenbloom,
160 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenbloom:

I am pleased to inform you that the government of the Dominican Republic has taken decisive action to ensure the safety and well-being of the refugees.

The government has established a special committee to handle the matter, and I am confident that they will continue to work closely with the Inter-American Refugee Committee to achieve our objectives.

I am grateful for your support and cooperation, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
DORSÀ
Santo, Puerto Rico

On September 25 the steamship "Conn" of the New York and Puerto Rico Line brought 12 refugees to the Dominican Republic. The 12 adult bound for the Dornican Settlement were healthy and cheerful young people, each from a country where there was a fear of persecution and war was offered refuge. During their parents after a separation of one to two years.

The youngest one was 10 years old, Monisa Hess. The infant was brought from Berlin to England, just when war broke out. The Society of Friends had found foster-parents for Monisa in the country, whilst her father studied in Germany and was not allowed to enter Great Britain. She is in Berlin waiting for the permit to enter Great Britain, and will then reunite with her family in the Dominican Republic. In the meantime Monisa's father was interned and subsequently sent to Canada.

Little Monisa sailed in care of a young refugee girl. On her departure from London, with tears running down her cheeks, saying goodbye to her foster-parents, she said:

"I am a happy woman," said Monisa's mother, when she got the news that her little daughter had arrived in New York safely.

When the "Conn" arrived on Wednesday, Mrs. Hess found a little girl who did not recognize her mother. "Are you my mummy?" Monisa asked, after having washed her mother's face. "Yes, I am your mummy," Mrs. Hess replied, taking little Monisa into her arms. "You hold me tight," Monisa said on the way home. "Please hold me tight and don't leave me." "I won't leave you any more, darling, and I will hold you tight," her mother assured her.

Monisa is at home. A cheerful girl with big blue eyes and smiling little face, she is practicing the old, new word "Mummy" from morning until night.

How we hope you will be able to bring Mr. Hess to the Dominican Republic.
after a most impressive and ceremonious triple wedding in the tastefully decorated new barracks No. 4, the newlyweds, all
nees, nearest relations and the Sonia staff of DOMA persons
were at a wedding dinner tendered in the honor of the new

couples.

The assembled guests were greeted by Mr. Sandheiser who read
the congratulatory telegram received from Dr. and Mrs. Rosen
headquarters of the Colorado office of DORSA. A toast was
drunk to the three couples.

A short speech of congratulations was thereafter made
dr. Elinger as he followed by Mr. Peppers who addressed
the couples in Spanish, facilitated the ceremony. I then expressed
the wish that their happiness and the welfare of Sonia, which
are as closely linked, together grew. The gift of the
address was translated by dr. Elinger.

In response to the foregoing words, dr. Deutsch (one of the
bridegrooms) addressed the gathering as follows:

"Dr. Schwebler, Friends! I wish to speak, not only for myself
but for the other happy couples who are sitting here with
us today, and I believe that what I will say will ring as
true with those who hear it.

"This is an occasion of great happiness for us all, an event
of great beauty and taste, and an event for which we are grate-
ful for the opportunity of our hearts. It is my great privilege to
express on behalf of all the three couples here our sincerest gratitude
and thanks to Sonia, Dr. Rosen, and you, Mr. Schwebler.

"For all you have done to make this occasion so beautiful,
and for all you have done to make this occasion so meaningful,
I am deeply grateful. And I specifically wish to thank Dr. Rosen who, unfortunately,
was not able to be here today. And from Mr. Schwebler and from the press that he is much
better, and we wish and pray that he will soon be in our midst again.

"I now wish to make a personal remark. More than anyone of us
here, I have occasion to be grateful to Sonia, Dr. Rosen and
Director Schwebler. For it is only through their great
undertaking efforts that I stand here beside my bride. If I have
troubled and bothered you, Dr. Schwebler, I want to tell you that after I did a walk across the dangerous waters
separating me from my dear bride, and soon thereafter she was on
her way to me.

"It is this interest in the personal and individual welfare
of the settlers which we so particularly appreciate and are
grateful for. Thus we have confidence in Sonia, and as future
work to build up side by side.

"In this sense I will ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to rise
with me and raise your glasses to this splendid organization.
DORSA! May it prosper! Hurray! Hurray! Hurray!"

On behalf of the organization, I acknowledge Mr. Deutsch's
words, and the assembled guests then gave three cheers for
Dr. Rosen.
James N. Rosenberg, Esq.,
President,
Dominican Republic Settlement Ass'n, Inc.,
165 Broadway, New York.

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

Upon the invitation of President Roosevelt, representatives of many nations assembled at Evian, France, in July of 1938, and sought through intergovernmental cooperation to find some method of relief to those distressed persons who, for political, religious or racial reasons, had been warned by the German government to leave Germany and countries under German control.

The history of those days, tragic for the peoples involved and awakening a broad sympathy in their behalf throughout the civilized world, calls for no repetition at this time. I was fortunate and am very happy to have had a part in the deliberations of the meeting at Evian, which led to the creation of a permanent Intergovernmental Committee, with its seat in London, and latterly, though of a private character, in the formation of the Coordinating Foundation, whose function is to study and revise and co-ordinate projects of resettlement.

In the work of the permanent Intergovernmental Committee at London, in which Mr. Robert T. Pell played such an important role, as did others, one of the most heartening incidents occurred on a day when I was invited to luncheon by the Honorable Dr. M. Enriquez-Urena, the Minister of the Dominican Republic to the Court of St. James's. I met there a group of most friendly colleagues of the host, and at the conclusion of the luncheon, but with surprisingly little elaboration, Dr. Enriquez-Urena informed me in the presence of the assembled guests that he had been authorized by the head of his government, His Excellency Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, to state that the Dominican Republic would take 100,000 of the refugees to form a colony.

I was surprised and overjoyed at this most generous proposal, and made known the satisfaction with which the Intergovernmental Committee and the Government of the United States would view it.

I promptly reported the proposal to my colleagues of the Intergovernmental Committee, and they found great satisfaction in the prospect.
The situs of the proposed settlement was thereupon investigated by representatives of the private organizations interested in the work, augmented by experts loaned by the Government of the United States. Their report proving favorable, it came about in due course that I had the pleasure of meeting Generalissimo Trujillo in Paris and discussing the project in general terms and the circumstances in which the organizations which proposed to undertake and finance it in behalf of the emigrants were acting and would continue to carry on with respect to it.

Although I have been absent from America almost continuously since that time, I have read with profound interest the reports of progress of the Dominican Settlement Association, and followed with close attention your splendid work and that of Doctor Rosen, which must not be permitted to flag.

Moreover, while I was in Italy during this period I conferred on various occasions with those who were concerned in having groups embark for America at Italian ports, and gave them what assistance I could as a manifest of my continuing interest in this project.

The gift which Generalissimo Trujillo has made of the very large acreage of well situated land for the purposes of the colony, is another evidence of his interest and generosity, and it would appear that the selective processes, which are being adopted in providing colonists who are suited to the work of development and the subsequent work of production and marketing of the products of the colony, will result not only in opening new fields of trade for the Dominican Republic, but will bring to that country increased revenues and a body of citizenry which will appreciate a home in which peace may prevail, property rights will be respected, and where the fruits of their efforts and their personal liberty may be enjoyed without fear.

The Dominican Republic may well claim to be the first to offer on a sizable scale a refuge to harbor these tortured and weary souls, and the cooperation and helpfulness displayed by that country will bring very great credit to those of its public officers whose foresight and generosity made possible this successful undertaking.

With kind regards and best wishes for the continuing success of the Association, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Myron C. Taylor (Signed)