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Breck. Long

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

September 28, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR JUDGE ROSENMAN

As per our telephone
conversation.



Breckinridge Long

The United States Government is being asked again to extend its help to the Jews under the jurisdiction of the Axis powers and to take measures to save them from further persecution and from possible extermination.

In this global war this and other problems of a humanitarian nature as well as of a military and political character require and receive the constant attention of the Government of the United States. We have long been conscious of the atrocities perpetrated against the Jews and our efforts to relieve them have been numerous and are continuing.

The Government of the United States has for many years been cognizant of the persecutions which have been heaped upon those who opposed the vicious activities of the Axis powers and of the atrocities which have been perpetrated against those who have incurred their enmity because of race, religion or political beliefs.

The United States Government has long realized that among those who suffered from this tyranny the Jew had been singled out for special persecution and even for slaughter. Likewise our efforts to alleviate their condition and to rescue and provide refuge for them whenever possible have been continuing and in large measure successful.

Acting in its traditional role as a haven of refuge for those oppressed by persecution on the ground of race, religion, or political belief, the United States has welcomed into its midst many thousands of refugees. We have received them not as members of a religious group nor as a particular race, but as human beings in distress. We received them in the spirit of America, where freedom from persecution is as old as the nation itself. We have denounced their oppressors as criminals. We have conferred repeatedly and co-operated continuously with other governments in matters affecting the welfare of the persecuted peoples in enemy-occupied territory. Such of these people

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people as we have found outside the jurisdiction of the enemy we have helped to locate temporarily in places of safety. We have jointly initiated an international conference at Bermuda and we have participated in setting up an Intergovernmental Committee which sits at London for the specific purpose of continuing the special and particular care of the refugees whom it is possible to help.

While it has been possible to bring assistance to those who have escaped the clutches of the vicious leaders of the Axis group, it has proven impracticable to alleviate the suffering of those who are still within the military jurisdiction of those enemies, except by the use of the overpowering force which we are at present in the act of exerting and for the successful continuation of which it is necessary to have the full and complete co-operation of all of our allies and all of the groups within the allied countries.

However, we have declared we will hold individually responsible those representatives of Nazi terrorism responsible for these crimes and bring down on their heads the fullest measure of punishment. Conversely those within the orbit of Nazi influence who abstain from perpetration of these crimes, who protect these unfortunates and who hinder the execution of plans to molest and destroy them will find favor in our eyes when punishment is administered to the guilty.

The Government of the United States is also conscious of the hardships, the privations and the persecutions of the Poles. We have made public reports of the barbarous treatment inflicted by the Nazis upon the residents of large districts of Poland and the bestial methods employed by them in their efforts to

exterminate

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exterminate the populations in whole areas in order to open those regions to settlement by Nazis.

The Government of the United States realizes full well the sad fate of those millions in German-occupied territory, sufferers in their own home lands infested with agents of the Gestapo and vindictive executioners of Nazi military power. They have our deep sympathy and are encouraged to endure a while longer pending the day of final liberation. The fate of the peoples of those occupied countries and the serious measures to be taken in their behalf are becoming increasingly apparent.

Our own prisoners in the Far East, our friends in the Philippines and the other submerged peoples in the Far East under the barbaric heel of Japan are being oppressed and vengeful action is being taken in respect to them. They are suffering immeasurably from privation and from exotic punishment inflicted by the attenuated tentacles of barbaric policy.

Each of these is the tragic result of the overweening ambition of a few willful men who have resorted to the use of force in an attempt to extend their control over the world.

In the broad stretches of the Atlantic, in the north of Africa, in the continent of Europe itself, in the Near East, the Far East, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean, the armed forces of the United States are fighting side by side with our valiant allies in a supreme effort, the outcome of which is not in doubt, to overthrow these malign enemies of humanity and to restore the world to a position of peace and order under law.

Out of the turmoil which has been created by our malicious foes have arisen many political and humanitarian questions and more are bound to arise. Although it is difficult to come to any concrete and complete solution of these questions during the strain of war, the Government of the United States is nevertheless

endeavoring

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endeavoring to prepare the way for fair and just settlements and to do whatever may be possible and practicable during the war to bring some of them into a state of control.

Another humanitarian and political problem relates to Palestine, the question of a homeland for the Jews and places for their settlement. Notwithstanding that there is some division in the councils of the Jews on this question, the Government of the United States has given and is continuing to give its serious consideration to this problem. Though not a party to the original authority under which the mandate is exercised over that territory by a co-belligerent power, the Government of the United States approaches the subject in that broad spirit which has always characterized its attitude towards troubled and persecuted peoples and intends to continue its conversations with other governments in the expectation that when circumstances permit a fair and equitable settlement of that problem may be made, as well as of other problems of a political and humanitarian nature.

The Government of the United States will continue its efforts to settle satisfactorily these and all the other political problems which disturb the peace of the world as well as the humanitarian problems which appeal to the conscience of mankind, including those in Europe, in Asia and in the Islands of the Pacific.

Confident of that complete success which justice, our cause and the might of our armed forces assure, the United States together with its allies will bring as rapidly as possible an enduring relief to those who suffer, many of whom are our own citizens in prison camps and other persons who are helpless under the yoke of the enemy forces which still occupy large sections of those wildly scattered areas.

Jewish Labor Committee

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK, N. Y.



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 JOSEPH BASKIN, *Secretary*
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Washington, D. C.
 September 24, 1943

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Hon. Cordell Hull,
 Secretary of State,
 State Department,
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Adolf Hitler has solemnly warned the civilized world that should the Nazi hordes face defeat, they will not leave a single Jew alive in their retreat. The same diatum of terror has been made by Dr. Joseph Goebbels, the voice of Hitler, and by Robert Ley, his henchman in the destruction of the free German labor movement.

Today Hitler stands on the brink of defeat. Italy has surrendered unconditionally; on the Eastern Front the Nazis are crumbling; the German legions are in retreat everywhere.

Free American labor, which feels a kinship with the victims of Nazi terror, has been horror-stricken by the slaughter being carried on against the Jews.

We, therefore, take this occasion to urge the government of the United States to warn -- through short-wave radio and all other available means of communication -- all those guilty of aiding the Nazi leaders in their inhuman campaign of exterminating the defenseless Jewish population of Europe, that they will be held accountable as war criminals, and will be punished for every innocent life they have taken.

In the years of his rule, Hitler has destroyed millions of Poles, Russians, Serbs, Czechs, Frenchmen, and Greeks, and has laid waste cities and towns. But, for the Jews of Europe, the Nazis have prepared a special doom: total extermination.

Time and again the desperate cry of the Jews languishing in the ghettos, death-chambers, and concentration camps has reached us here. Time and again the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and Americans of all walks of life, of all creeds and

colors

L. ARKIN, Boston
 H. BERGER, Philadelphia
 J. BERNSTEIN, Detroit
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colors, have declared their revulsion at the abominable crimes perpetrated by the Nazis upon a defenseless people. But to no avail.

The United States, therefore, must warn the German people that the United Nations have decided to establish the identity of those Germans who are responsible for the acts of savagery against the Jews and other peoples; that as each of these criminal deeds is committed, it is being investigated, and evidence is relentlessly being piled up for the purposes of justice.

American labor seeks no mass reprisals against the enslaved people of Germany. But the murderers of our fellow human beings, the ring-leaders and their aids, must be named, apprehended, and tried in accordance with the judicial process of criminal law. We appeal to our government to warn the German people to refuse openly to be identified with the cruelties perpetrated by their leaders and members of their armed forces, against the Jews, and to expose all those guilty of these crimes, lest the German people themselves be regarded as partners of the Nazi criminals.

Only thus, will German honor be saved.

At the same time, we appeal to the Government of the United States to do all that is humanly possible, and consistent with our successful persecution of the war, to bring immediate aid and succor to the Jews in the Nazi-occupied countries. The Jews in the ghettos can no longer be regarded as civilians. They are prisoners of war, and should be legally regarded as such. Ways and means must be found to feed the hungry men, women, and children who are doomed to a death of starvation. We also appeal to our government and to the governments of the United Nations, to admit to all territories under their control, Jewish refugees who may succeed in escaping from the Nazi hell. Now is the time to salvage these Jewish people who are still alive and who can still be saved.

American labor, on its part, in answer to the mass horror that is being inflicted on our brothers in Europe, pledges again, to use all its efforts in the future, as it has done in the past, for the complete destruction of the enemies of democracy and its legions of death. We shall fight on until our enemies have surrendered unconditionally.

Philip Murray

Philip Murray, President
Congress of Industrial Organizations

Adolph Held

Adolph Held, Chairman
Jewish Labor Committee

Respectfully,

William Green

William Green, President
American Federation of Labor

David Dubinsky

David Dubinsky, President
International Ladies Garment Workers
Union