

Samuel Rosenman Papers
Box 17
War Refugee Board

Note by Judge Rosenman -

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
should receive credit for pressing for the
establishment of the War Refugee Bd. The
attached are undoubtedly written by him.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET:

I have decided to take the following steps at once:

1. Publicly declare that it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue those victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and to afford such victims all possible aid and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.
2. Establish a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. This Board shall be charged with full responsibility for seeing that this announced policy is carried out with the utmost vigor and directness.
3. Have the Board designate an executive director of capacity, energy, and resourcefulness, known to be sympathetic to war refugees and deeply interested in their rescue and relief.
4. Arrange for the State Department to appoint special attaches with diplomatic status to be selected by the Board and to be stationed at points where they can render the most effective aid to war refugees.
5. Arrange to make available to the Board immediately out of the President's Emergency Fund one million dollars for initial administrative expenses and such further sums out of the President's Emergency Fund and other available appropriations, including Lend Lease, as the Board may from time to time certify as necessary for its operations.

I want an Executive Order accomplishing these purposes ready for my signature as soon as possible. Judge Rosenman is familiar with what I have in mind. I have asked him to expedite the matter for me.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

I have been deeply concerned for a long time with the cowardly persecution of the Jews by the Nazis. I fear that as the war approaches the end Hitler will redouble his efforts to exterminate the remaining Jews in Europe. It is imperative, therefore, that we take vigorous action at once. In view of the growing criticism of our efforts to date, I think it is also important that we let our own people know of our determination to do all that is within our power to save these people.

I have asked that there be prepared for my signature an Executive Order carrying out the proposed course of action outlined in a memorandum which I am enclosing. In order to save time, I have asked Judge Rosenman to clear it with you.

Enclosure.

Pehle

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT.

I have received a number of phone calls from New York about these reports about the Nazi intentions with respect to mass extermination.

I have talked with Mr. Pehle of the War Refugee Board, and the attached is his suggestion which I think is fine.

S. I. R.

January 20, 1944

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attention: Mr. Hugh Cox

I refer to the discussion this morning between Mr. Ansel F. Laxford of my office and Mr. Hugh Cox of your Department regarding the proposed Executive Order establishing a War Refugee Board.

This will confirm Mr. Laxford's statement that Section 4 of the proposed Order contemplates that Title XI of the Second War Powers Act will be employed in accepting contributions and that such contributions to the Board or to the State, Treasury or War Departments will be made in strict accordance with all provisions of such Act relating to the acceptance of conditional gifts by the Secretary of the Treasury to further the war program.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Randolph Paul

General Counsel.

The Honorable,

The Attorney General of the United States.

The President today, by Executive Order, set up a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War, to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of as many as possible of the Jews of Europe and the other civilian victims of enemy persecution.

The Executive Order declares that "it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war".

The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the successful execution of this policy, the Board, of course, would cooperate fully with the Intergovernmental Committee, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and other interested international organizations.

The President stated that he was going to ask for and that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other foreign governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken

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at once to forestall the plan of the Nazis to exterminate all the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

It will be the duty of the full-time Executive Director of the Board to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures inaugurated by the Board.

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