

Holocaust/Refugee Collection

Additional Materials from the ER Papers
Correspondence with BERWANG BRUCH

November 2, 1939

Dear Mr. Baruch:

I am sending you this copy of a letter I received, because it would seem that the time had come when money should go for Polish relief. I have sent a copy to Norman Davis and to the President asking what they have been able to arrange.

I hope you have seen Franklin by this time and that there may be some move towards the plan which you suggested to me. If nothing else can be done, or has been done, I think I will publish this letter, asking that women's organizations undertake to join together in a relief organization which shall cover all civilians as they need it, the money to be distributed through the International YWCA, YMCA, Friends Service Committee, and Red Cross.

I will not do anything, however, until I get back and have a chance to find out if the gentlemen have any plans.

Affectionately yours,

Memo. to
The Presi-
dent and
Mr. Davis

Mr. Bernard M. Baruch
597 Madison Avenue
NYC

0

make three copies of this letter

To the President:

It would seem from this letter that the time had come when either through the YMCA or the Red Cross, this relief work should begin. What have you been able to arrange.

E.R.

To Norman Davis

same thing

to Mr. Baruch:

I am sending you this copy of a letter I received because it would not seem that the time had come when money should go for Polish relief. I have sent a copy to Norman Davis and the President asking what they have been able to arrange.

I hope you have seen Franklin by this time and that there may be some move towards the plan which you suggested to me. If nothing else can be done, or has been done, I think I will publish this letter asking that womens organizations undertake to join together in a relief organization which shall cover all civilians as they need it, the money to be distributed through the International YMCA, YMCA Friends Ser. Comm and Red Cross. I will not do anything, however, until I get back and have a chance to find out if the gentlemen have any plans.

E.R.

of kindly people. And let me say here that all these good people did what they could, offering their homes and their help wherever would. Poles take money from us, American guests, though we were abundantly able to pay. But a word more about the children. We do not see Lavin a half of them could survive this awful street. How there were the old and the ill, who could endure it no better. It was dreadful to see the wren, worn faces. Many folk were without funds and some had walked for days. What cold weather will do to these helpless ones if they still live, we can only surmise.

In addition to the precarious conditions of such life, there was constant danger from bombs and machine guns. Buses coming here we have talked with a young doctor who was in charge of a train load of women, children and wounded soldiers being taken out of Krakow before the city fell. And to talk of how more than once they had to stop to take out the dead - 8, 10, 12 at a time. The Germans floundered continually bombed the train though it was evident that it was jelled with people being evacuated. I could write pages of similar stories if it were related to us by eye witnesses.

On the road German observation planes would come over - we saw them time and again every day - to be followed shortly by bombers or planes with machine guns. How many times our cars ran under the trees bordering the highway to escape observation, or we ourselves got out and ran like children before the tanks should be hidden in the fields!

We heard of such monstrous happenings all around us and saw the hundreds injured. Whole villages were destroyed by dropping incendiary bombs or trees.

Bucharest, Romania,
Sept. 26, 1939.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House, Washington, D.C.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am writing to you not as to the wife of the President of the United States but as to an American woman. You are, I know, already familiar with the present situation of the Polish people, but as a resident of Poland for the past 17 years - my husband, Paul Supis, and I are both Americans with no Polish blood, I would like to write you of what we ourselves have seen and experienced. As a point of contact, however vague, I may say that in August 1931 my husband, national secretary of the Polish YMCA, loaned by the American Association, and home on business, was recovering from an operation in the Fort Lioudergoys hospital at a time when you called and had the pleasure of a few minutes chat with you by his bedside. As for establishing my identity, I refer you to Ambassador and Mrs. Kiddle or Mr. J. Robert Drummond, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, for whom I have written a number of articles on Poland. I have continued sending to him since the war began, but I am by no means sure he has received any of them.

So much for who I am. Now for recent events.

My husband has for long had extremely close contact with the Polish government and worked in cooperation with several ministries, especially those of Foreign Affairs and Social Welfare. My writing has brought me in contact with the former. Before the actual outbreak of hostilities, the Polish YMCA, a very strong organization, with government support, planned to carry on its share of service for soldiers and

criticism in case of error; but when fighting Aragon, such work was immediately placed to be out of the question, since former methods of warfare are so utterly different from those of the past.

Thus when the Minister of Social Welfare requested my husband to go with him and his staff south to Dublin and work from there in doing for refugees from the German occupied regions, we naturally agreed, but neither of us thought for an instant that we would be out of London more than a few days. Once having begun to move, however, we had to keep going. Dublin was crowded with fleeing refugees and increasingly increased by German air attacks and the army's advance. The system of travel was only just begun when we were moved on to Dublin, then to the east. (Aid two days later Dublin was bombed and bombed, with great loss of life). Dublin's hospitals, which sheltered us one night, were utterly destroyed 2 1/2 hours after our departure, that, when we talked on leave, and left a section of our party, suffered a terrible bombing the following day.

As Dublin, we were able to stay 5 days and get a beautiful piece of ground going, primarily for shelter but also plans for refugees. There was a big social and rest room, heating room, bath house, kitchen, nurse house, information service, hospital, etc., etc.

Then we had orders to again move on, this time to the little town of Drogheda just across from the Roumania frontier. Here my husband hoped to set up the headquarters for the Roumanian section. Dublin men to be headquarters for the latter section, and was left in charge of a small man with money and instructions to develop neighboring centers as fast as possible. A second order came but never sent north to Vlas with similar instructions. And with a third secretary we started to the Drogheda section.

Then we had only begun organization when word came that we were to report at every night our logs so we must get out before a Russian advance. We were caught between the Roumanian and the Russian. This was a thunder clap. But thanks to the Minister of Social Welfare we are safe in Roumania, where my husband is every day and night working with the Roumanian secretary of the Roumanian YMCA and representative of the Red Cross and the Roumanian and Polish governments in organizing relief work for the refugees, to be carried on by the Roumanian, Polish, and Roumanian YMCAs and the Red Cross.

It is at three P.M. I want to write you. From the house we left Rouman we have been travelling with crowds of them. The roads have been full of trucks, cars, wagons, motorcycles, bicycles, and lastly people foot. There were comparatively few motor vehicles in Poland, but since then gasoline has been almost completely unavailable. We always travel by horse for it, and then get a limited amount. Right next with what they will usually get together, and every vehicle was surrounded. I saw children dropped to motorcycles which mother and father carried the child out. They children and baggage packed the sides. The next week here, for this year, of all years, Poland had magnificent summer and autumn weather perfect for the Roumanian refugees to get it. Under with the happy lands.

In the little town where people stopped for food or to rest, the restaurants were frequently crowded and service of women especially inadequate. This was no extraordinary, this statement, it was extremely difficult to prepare food for babies and young children and no place to take or rest them but in the houses

many, many times that number who came meeting with fools on their heads; I saw 8 young women travelling thus together.

The spirit of these people has been providentially beyond compare. No one of them would have had French spittle to becoming demerol, though their eyes are full of suffering and of true happiness. In all of them the catastrophe that has befallen the country is a blur almost beyond endurance. And then there is always a terrible personal loss, loved one dead in battle or left behind, except as it were by inadvertent circumstances, how are less active wives and widows as in France, and wives who without husband. Every person I meet among the refugees has in a title of tragedy. None, these people are still haunted by the passing, even though it is the testimony of the state, their ancestors and they fought through 150 years to make and rebuild in the basis of respect for personality and human rights, the national and social structure accomplished in the 10 years of freedom was little that of marshall. The women will do nothing this might be going quietly about its own affairs, accepting the load and helping a people as they appeared, is something beyond the comprehension of Christian men and women. It is my conviction in a national scale, yet even in this last hour the place may it is not within her the wife will make Europe they will not believe a pair came with in this sad fate. But it is a bitter thing that the French nation must pay with its life for a just conduct. That money will be left to rebuild the French state arises from the blood and ashes!

There are who are not seeing happiness. They are working with the YMCA - and may I say that they look to my husband as their greatest friend - to get themselves established and improve their work. Money they have not, but they have, have not money, money must come from their Quince, which hardly have in my hills in this battle for world freedom, and which, under their own, will make little money for a number of years.

My husband and I shut they have out to every thing we see, to a piece of the Paris YMCA and director of American Y club work for Paris, I to help wherever I see, chiefly, so far as Quince is concerned, by writing, his last letter was than the others no less so, having had to leave everything in my beautiful Thomas Lane, and without doubt a mass of ruin. We shall get only enough things to keep us warm. This is no time when good clothes are necessary. The Paris will do their part in keeping up morale. At Rouen (Rouen), where we, too, were interned 4 days because our passports had not been returned with Quincean wives, I saw the wife of a department director industriously cleaning the windows of their car with broom and brush and soap and water. Then I laughingly asked if she were cleaning house, she replied quietly, "Yes, this is the only house we have now, and why not keep it in order? It is better than asking 'emigrants' for Quince. Upon being being busy and making life as normal as possible. And that is true of most of them. I have not seen no in Paris, though their eyes will haunt me as long as I live.

But these people must have money, or die. They must have reception, and for a time that must be as more or less non-remuneration reception - the learning of a trade or anything to keep from being idle and breaking. Remember, if we can, with the things they have, and help generously is just there. But if a man has not one far, that might as well cost a 1000 far.

And as, Mrs. Roosevelt, in the name of humanity I appeal to you to do what you can for these people who have been victims of their own and division from their former Paris. I know, how much she tells to return, saying that Quince will take care of them. The Paris know how to take care of them, and how much faith can be put in their fair promises. They cannot shut themselves to Paris. It is to England, France, and Quince they must look for help. If England and France give their arms and share the suffering and loss of every family Quince will come forward with relief funds. I am not addressing you,

I repeat, as the wife of the President, but as a woman deeply interested in human decency.

You are free to use what I have written in any way you may see fit, seeing, please, my few name, Ann Cardwell, instead of my real name if you quote me. For the present this is necessary, why that may be advisable. In ordinary times such a lengthy letter, or any at all, from me, a comparatively unknown woman, to you would be more than presumptuous. In these bitter hours I hope you will not consider that I have overstepped my privilege as one of your countrywomen in appealing to you to use your influence in the work of supporting Polish relief. All Polish money will pass through the hands of Mr. James W. Brown and my husband, Mr. Brown having been asked by the American Legation to be treasurer of American funds received through Legation channels. Such money can be remitted to my husband through regular YMCA channels - Mr. E. E. Barnett, Executive Secy. of the Int. Com. of the YMCA, 347 Madison Ave., New York City. To the extent that it is able the Polish government will continue to back my husband's work.

This letter has been written bit by bit - I am so often interrupted. But I hope it is not too incoherent, and that we may count upon you for assistance.

Sincerely yours
(Mrs. Paul) Margaret L. Soper.

Address for the present,
Care YMCA, P.O. General Barchelat 10, Bucharest.

Thomas must leave, and never return. Railroad etc. -
There was the first target. But often than not they missed
their mark and had to drop bombs often but before they got
what they were after. For hostility and sympathy and friend-
liness the world has never remained at anything like the
instability met by Hitler and his men.

How many Gals have escaped from France, nobody knows.
There has been a chance to see a woman. They have seen as she
is, to avoid falling into German or Russian hands. He has no
fear of bombing or bombardment. That it is a strike, is death,
and the rest of it, and since death must come some day,
no decent person will ever fear it, leaving his loved ones.
But the fact will show the fact that women do this if they
can under German or Russian authority, no matter what
promises were held out to them. They have been neighbors to them
before and had respect for them. You know how better. There
is no doubt but we mean of getting into the army - for the Polish
lack of equipment makes it possible to see only a limited number
of men - get out of the country if possible.

It is, then, the very tragic of situation that today separates
the civilized world. They in Romania show one arm to the
and another who send no troops to meet in Poland, and that has
for intention - giving men troops to get on to France and the
army. They are thousands of civilians, practically penniless, for
their little Polish money, if so little value now, will last no
time. Many are absolutely dependent upon charity. They are
men and women from all classes of society. One class another
steals from another - that is the young man in civil life. They may
go to France to join the army, they will take a great many.
But no man should be a soldier any more. There are in prison
camps. There are a few individuals who come across the
border in their own cars, and with all their cars and any
valuables they have with them in order to live. But there are

August 8, 1942

100
✓

Dear Mr. Baruch:

I am sending you these papers which were left with me by Mr. Bergman, who is now attached to the Army and is in Washington. I have seen him before and he has given me fairly accurate information in the past.

I thought you ought to have a chance to go over this material before I give it to Franklin, not just from the rubber angle, but from the angle of the whole thing.

He gives the list of names of the Jewish refugees who are in this country and who held positions of responsibility in the German situation until their exile.

Perhaps you will be willing to see Mr. Bergman when you are in Washington. He is staying at the Mayflower Hotel. I understand that Mr. Ickes spoke to you about seeing him.

Affectionately,

August 17, 1942.

Dear Mr. Baruch:

Thank you so much for seeing
Mr. Bergman. Now that I have turned
this over to you, I am satisfied that
if Mr. Bergman has anything to contribute
he will be able to do so.

Affectionately,

100
✓

Frank D. Roosevelt

Mr. Bernard M. Baruch
597 Madison Avenue
New York, New York.

VDS

Baruch -

Thank you so much
for seeing Mr Bergman.
Now that I have turned
this over to you I am
satisfied that if Mr
Bergman has anything
to contribute he will
be able to do so -

affec

ER

(In sending this you
need not send whole
file - just letter - file
rest)

BERNARD M. BARUCH
597 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK

ack
8/17/42
Thank him for seeing
Lt. B. & say how that
intimidates him to him
Washington, D. C.
August 12, 1942. *Labelled*

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received your letter of August 8th, *think of him*
and the papers by Mr. Bergman which you enclosed. *for*
I thank you for the helpfulness that prompted you to *write*
write to me. *how*

I have already met Mr. Bergman and I intend
to see him again in the next few days. I am familiar,
in general, with the information he laid before you.
It is known, too, to the Army and to the Navy, and
others who, like myself, have preached industrial
war preparedness ever since the World War. I am
astonished that he seems unaware of what we did and
what we are now trying to do.

Mr. Bergman seems to have a good idea of
what the Germans have done. But he does not appear
to know that we have in this country men who know that
system Germany says she "conscientiously copied from
our (American) industrial mobilization plan."

I find among the names mentioned as the
authors of the German plan at least one, - and I
think there are several more, - who was sent over
by the German government to study our system of
industrial mobilization. They took it back and used
what we had invented.

In the early part of 1941 some of those
German officers who had been here wrote to American
Army officers that "they were using our system which
Americans were carefully not using" and wondered why
we were not using it.

I have advanced plans and lectured since the
World War to help build the plan that is practically
the same system which the Germans have set up. You
will recall many of my advocacies as to price regulation
but perhaps you are not so familiar with industrial
mobilization.

2.

I am not saying that we will not learn anything from what the Germans have done. I am only saying that the Army and the Navy are familiar with it. General Somervell only recently endeavored to get a reorganization along those lines. I believe that a faulty organization has had much to do with the failure to control inflation and with the bad distribution of materials which now is closing our factories. We have not organized to get the best out of production nor have we simplified or standardized practices that would give us more war materials and give the necessary items to our civilians.

I have studied these things for a lifetime and they have been near to my heart, but the greatest failure has been myself who has been unable to convince my fellow Americans of the need of out-generalling the Germans on the economic front.

However, this letter is already too long.

Sincerely yours, *affly*

Bernard M. Baruch

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

P. S. In his memoirs Field Marshal Von Hindenburg said of the participation of American industry in the World War:

"Her brilliant, if pitiless, war industry had entered the service of patriotism and had not failed it. Under the compulsion of military necessity a ruthless autocracy was at work and rightly, even in this land at the portals of which the Statue of Liberty flashes its blinding light across the seas. They understood war."