Holocaust / Refugee File

Additional Materials from the EH Papers
Correspondence with Max Lerner
NIGHT LETTER

Mr. Max Lerner
Suite 712
1 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y.

July 25, 1943

No one in this country will withhold any help that can be extended and I send every good wish to your committee which is trying to save the Jewish people of Europe. It is hard to say what can be done at the present time but if you are able to formulate a program of action I am quite sure that the people of this country who have been shocked and horrified by the attitude of the Axis powers toward Jewish people will be more than glad to do all that they can to alleviate the sufferings of these people in Europe and to help them reestablish themselves in other parts of the world if it is possible to evacuate them

Eleanor Roosevelt
NEW YORK NY JUL 17 1943

MRS FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH THE INTREPID AMERICAN AND BRITISH ARMIES ON EUROPEAN SOIL, VICTORY IS LOOMING ON THE HORIZON, THOUGH THE STRUGGLE AHEAD MAY STILL BE HARD AND LONG. BUT THERE IS REAL DANGER BUT WITH THE ADVANCE OF THE VICTORIOUS UNITED NATIONS ARMIES THE GERMANS WILL SPEED UP THEIR EXTERMINATION OF THE WHOLE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE AS GOEBBELS HAS THREATENED UNLESS SOMETHING URGENT IS UNDERTAKEN IN BOTH DIRECTIONS TO IMPRESS THE GERMANS TO STOP THE MASS SLAUGHTER AND TO EVACUATE THOSE WHO CAN BE SAVED. THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE, TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK CITY ON JULY 20-25 AT THE HOTEL COMMODORE, WILL ELABORATE PLANS TO BE PROPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. WE FEEL THAT VIGOROUS AND REPEATED ATTEMPTS MUST BE MADE BEFORE THESE PEOPLE ARE WRITTEN OFF AS LOST. WE APPEAL TO YOU, AS THE MOST COURAGEOUS AND HUMANITARIAN FIRST LADY THAT HAS EVER GRACED THIS FAIR LAND OF AMERICA, TO SEND YOUR MESSAGE OF HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THIS CONFERENCE AND TO THE MILLIONS OF HITLERS VICTIMS WHO WILL FIND IN IT THE STRENGTH AND SOLACE THEY SO DESPERATELY NEED RESPECTFULLY YOURS

MAX LERNER EMERGENCY CONFERENCE TO SAVE THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE SUITE 712 1 EAST 44 ST.
EMERGENCY CONFERENCE
TO SAVE
THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF EUROPE

1 EAST 44th STREET
New York 17, N. Y.

31st of July
1943

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

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

May I express my own gratitude
and that of my colleagues for the splendid
message which you sent to the "Emergency Conference to Save
the Jewish People of Europe. It was most helpful and
heartening.

You will be interested in the
attached statement issued by the Conference in
comment upon the response which the Conference evoked.

Thanking you again for the
encouragement you have given, not only to us, but to
the millions of Hitler's victims to whom this Conference
was dedicated, Iam

Very respectfully yours,

Max Lerner
Executive Board
Emergency Committee to Save
the Jewish People of Europe

Dr. Max Lerner
Statement Attached

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

31st of July, 1943

"As members of the Emergency Conference, we have been impressed by the widespread public interest and active sympathy the conference has met. We have also been encouraged by the public statements from leaders of American opinion and from American political leaders of both parties. In particular, we welcome the messages to the Conference by President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull. Both are motivated by the noblest concern for human suffering and the dignity of man in this war for survival. Both are generous and sympathetic. Both leave the door open for action such as the Conference has met to study. At the same time we wish to state our earnest conviction that the intergovernmental agency, as well as the other steps which the governments have taken to date, have been most inadequate to the magnitude of the problem, and that no appreciable saving of lives has resulted from them. The problem of the European Jews is centrally the problem of those Jews still remaining in Axis-held territory and especially and uniquely marked for destruction as a people by Nazi Germany. Only a governmental agency specifically charged with the task of saving the Jewish people of Europe and only one given sufficient authority to act can successfully accomplish this task. We of the Conference do not believe that our work has been completed. It has just begun. The Conference has, therefore, decided to become the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. We shall continue our efforts within the framework of an unconditional surrender victory until the job is done."