Admission of Refugees to U.S.
(Free Ports and Emergency Refugee Shelter)
June 20, 1944

Mr. J. W. Fehle
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: (800)

Dear Mr. Fehle:

In the absence of Secretary Maurice Biagyer from the city, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 19 with enclosure.

Mr. Biagyer will return to the office next week, at which time I shall bring your communication to his attention.

Sincerely yours,

Brinny Rothschild

Office Manager
In reply please refer to: (800)

Dear Mr. Bisguyer:

Since my reply to your recent letter concerning temporary havens in the United States for refugees, the President has taken action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Port Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of the same date to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you again for the interest which you have expressed in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Maurice Bisguyer,
National Secretary,
Washington Brad Birth,
1003 20th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures.

EBTowler:sh 6/16/44
In reply please refer to: 903

MAY 31 1944

Dear Mr. Bisguyer:

Thank you for your letter of May 22, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]  J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Maurice Bisguyer,
National Secretary,
Eisted Ffyrth
1903 VW Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.
Mr. John Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

In the name of B’nai B’rith, we endorse the proposal to create free ports of entry for refugees from Nazi persecution for the duration of the war, so that they can be assured of the elemental necessities of human life until other arrangements can be made for them.

We believe this action necessary because at the present time refugees encounter almost insurmountable legal restrictions in the immigration regulations of democratic countries. The present situation will rapidly make the rescue of refugees an academic matter if steps are not taken now to preserve the minority populations in Nazi-occupied Europe from the steady decimation to which they are being subjected.

It is probable that if the United States establishes one or several havens for refugees, other countries will be encouraged to follow our example or, at least, give refugees shelter and grant them transit. For this and many other reasons, the establishment of a sanctuary in the United States by the War Refugee Board will be a great service to humanity.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ MAURICE BISGYER
National Secretary
In reply please refer to: 1024

Dear Mrs. Schwartz:

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Harry Schwartz,
President,
s'Ent B'rith Women of
Atlantic City,
7300 Ventnor Avenue,
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Enclosures.
B'nai B'rith Women of Atlantic City
District No. 3

The War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We, the Atlantic City B'nai B'rith Women, consisting of two hundred and fifty members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

We are

Very sincerely yours,

ATLANTIC CITY B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN

MRS. HARRY SCHWARTZ

President
To the President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

We, the Atlantic City B'nai B'rith Women, consisting of two hundred and fifty members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

May we add that we regard you as a great humanitarian whose sympathies are with those whom this proposal will benefit, and that we pray for your continued strength to guide our nation through these crucial War days to a just and lasting peace?

We are

Very sincerely yours

ATLANTIC CITY B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN

MRS. HARRY SCHWARTZ
President
Dear [Name]:

The President has referred to me your telegram of June 27, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Fehl
Executive Director

B'nai B'rith Women's Auxiliary,
Kingston Chapter,
Kingston, New York.

Enclosures.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 28, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
War Refugee Board for consideration
and acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSERT
Secretary to the President
Kingston NY Jun 27 1944 1228P

The President

The White House

We urge speedy action on free port policy for refugees.

B'nai B'rith Women's Auxiliary Kingston Chapter.
In reply please refer to: 1453

JUN 27 1944

Dear Madames:

Thank you for your letters of June 15, 1944, to the President and to me concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. C. Miller, Secretary,
Boulevard Women's Auxiliary of B'nai B'rith,
4854 G Street,

Enclosures.
Boulevard

Women's Auxiliary of B'nai B'rith

June 15th, 1944.

War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We, the Women's Blvd. Chapter of B'nai B'rith consisting of eighty members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. G. Lipschutz (Pres.)
Mrs. C. Miller (Sec'y.)
4804 C. Street.
June 10th, 1944.
Phila., Pa.

The Honorable,
The President of United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We, the Women's Blvd. Chapter of B'nai B'rith consisting of eighty members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

We feel that your past performances to help suffering humanity will not fail us in this great need.

Sincerely yours,

Claire Miller

Mrs. G. Lipschutz (Pres)
Mrs. C. Miller (Secy)
4848 S Street.
In reply please refer to: 1217

Dear Mrs. Carson:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 8, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

J.W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Harold M. Carson,
President,
The Charter Chats,
2036 N. Park Avenue,

Enclosures.
PHILADELPHIA B'NAI B'RITH — CHARTER CHAPTER

2036 N. Park Ave.
Phil. Mea.


RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William S. Kimmel
Secretary to the President

Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The Charter Chapter of B'na'ni B'rith Women of Philadelphia, consisting of 163 members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish a Free State for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. Harold C. Carson
President
Dear Mr. Frankel:

Since my reply to your recent telegrams concerning temporary havens in the United States for refugees, the President has taken action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of the same date to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you again for the interest which you have expressed in this matter.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Robert Frankel,
President,
Philadelphia B'Nai B'rith Council,
709 N. Franklin,

Enclosures.
In reply please refer to: 853

Dear Mr. Frankel:

I have your telegram of May 26, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Robert Frankel,
President,
Philadelphia B'nai B'rith Council,
709 N. Franklin,
JOHN W. PEAHLE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHDC

THE PHILADELPHIA B'NAI B'RITH COUNCIL URGES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
A SYSTEM OF FREE PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A
TEMPORARY HAVEN FOR WAR REFUGEES WHO CANNOT AT PRESENT ENTER THIS
COUNTRY UNDER EXISTING IMMIGRATION LAWS

PHILADELPHIA B'NAI B'RITH COUNCIL ROBERT FRANKEL

PRESIDENT LEONARD ORLOFF SECRETARY.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
War Refugee Board for consideration
and acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSAN
Secretary to the President
PHILADELPHIA PENN MAY 25 1944

PRESIDENT F D ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE

THE PHILADELPHIA B’NAI B’RITH COUNCIL URGES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF FREE PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A TEMPORARY HAVEN FOR WAR REFUGEES WHO CANNOT AT PRESENT ENTER THIS COUNTRY UNDER EXISTING IMMIGRATION LAWS

PHILADELPHIA B’NAI B’RITH COUNCIL ROBERT FRANKEL

PRESIDENT LEONARD ORLOFF SECRETARY.
Dear Mrs. Katz:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 1, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refuge Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. William Katz,
President,
B'nai B'rith Women,
Germantown Chapter,
1833 Chestnut Street,

Enclosures.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Would greatly appreciate if you would give serious consideration to the proposal to establish free courts for refugees in this country for the duration. Positive action by you on this will be greatly appreciated.

Gratefully,

[Signature]

[Position and Name]

(150 women comprise the membership of the Germantown Chapter.)
In reply please refer to: 948

JUN 15 1944

Dear Mr. Levin:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President’s action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pule

J. W. Pule
Executive Director

Mr. Herbert S. Levin,
President,
Hillel Lodge, No. 1813,
B’nai B’rith,
510 Lafayette Building,
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

[Signature]

J. W. Pule
Executive Director

Mr. Herbert S. Levin,
President,
Hillel Lodge, No. 1813,
B’nai B’rith,
510 Lafayette Building,
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
June 6, 1944.

War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We, the Hillel Lodge of B'NAI B'RITH, consisting of 50 members, urge you to give serious consideration of the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration of the present war.

Respectfully yours,

HILLEL LODGE

By: Herbert H. Lewis
President

[Signature]

By: N. L. Hirsh
Secretary
HILLEL LODGE, NO. 1513
B'Nai B'rith

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR ACCESSION AND CONSIDERATION

William E. Ness

Secretary to the President

June 6, 1944.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

We, the Hillel Lodge of B'NAI B'RITH, consisting
of 50 members, urge you to give serious consideration of
the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the
United States for the duration of the present war.

Respectfully yours,

HILLEL LODGE

By: Herbert L. Levin
President

Ned L. Hirsch
Secretary
Dear Mr. Goldberg:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahlen

J. W. Pahlen
Executive Director

Mr. Herman R. Goldberg,
Secretary,
Lincoln Lodge, No. 780,
B'nai B'rith,
6036 N. 13th Street,
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
Lincoln Lodge, No. 780
B'nai B'rith


June 14th, 1944

Chairman,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the Lincoln Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, consisting of 400 members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

We know of your humane attitude to all suffering refugees, and urge your immediate action.

Yours very respectfully,

[Signature]

[Signature]

HERMAN R. GOLDENBERG, Secretary

Meets Every Third Thursday—Bellevue-Stratford Hotel
President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.

Honorable President:

We, the Lincoln Lodge of the B'nai B'rith, consisting of 400 members, urge you to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration.

We know of your humane attitude to all suffering refugees, and urge your immediate action.

Yours very respectfully,

[Signature]

HERMAN E. GOLDBERG, Secretary
JUN 27 1944

Dear Mrs. Davis:

The President has referred to me your recent communication concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. B. W. Davis,
B'nai Israel Temple Sisterhood,
1116 St. George Street,
East Liverpool, Ohio.

Enclosures.
"SPEECH IS THE MESSENGER OF THE HEART"
THE TALMUD

To President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Address Washington, D.C.
City

We urge that you use your influence to establish "Free Ports" for the relief and refuge of harassed minorities of Europe.

Signature Brni Israel Temple, Savannah
Address East Liverpool, Ohio
UNIONGRAMS, a project of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, serve the cause of religious education. Their proceeds are used to support Sisterhood sponsored free religious schools or to supplement the Federation's Hebrew Union College Scholarship and Religious Education Fund. This fund provides partial dormitory maintenance scholarships for eligible students at Hebrew Union College and makes possible certain religious educational work of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations including its Department of Youth Activities.

THE COLLEGE, located in Cincinnati, Ohio, is dedicated to the training of Liberal rabbis. The first Rabbinical Seminary in America, its more than 400 graduates occupy leading pulpits throughout the world. Scholars of many religions and from many lands use its magnificent library and the resources of its unusual faculty.
In reply please refer to: 1206

JUN 20 1944

Dear Mrs. Wolans:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 9, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

The concern of your organization for the fate of refugees and its interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mrs. Walter Wolans,
President,
B'nai Zion Temple Sisterhood,
3501 Greenway Place,
Shreveport 64, Louisiana.

Enclosures.
President F. D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

On Thursday, June 8th, 1944, our organization passed a resolution calling upon the United States government to establish "Free Ports" for refugees.

In the name of humanity, we hope you will take the essential action.

Thanking you, we are

Sincerely yours,

B'nai Zion Temple Sisterhood

(Carl Walter) Celia H. Wolens

President
In reply please refer to: 764

MAY 23 1944

Dear Mrs. Bohman:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) F. G. Fehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. S. Bohman,
2877 Remington Ave.,
Hon. John W. Peake

Dear Sir:

The newly proposed idea of free ports for refugees I consider an excellent one. I hope that you will use your influence in every way possible to see that it is carried out.

Very truly yours

[Signature]

2871 Remington Ave, Phila, Pa.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Document Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clara Adams</td>
<td>General Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Davis</td>
<td>General Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Smith</td>
<td>General Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Jones</td>
<td>General Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lee</td>
<td>General Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Miller</td>
<td>General Report</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECEIVED**
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1944 MAY 20 PM 12.34
In reply please refer to: 1015

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bechmer:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's recent action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944 to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Fohle

J.W. Fohle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. David Bechmer,
1838 - 47th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
David Bochner
1535-47th Str.
Brooklyn N.Y.

War Refugee Board
John W. Fehle
Washington, D.C.

June 6, 1942

Dear Sir:

We are in favor of Free Ports for Refugees and ask you to extend your good offices and see that this great project is speedily accomplished.

Respectfully yours,

David and Dora Bochner
To the President of the United States of America.
Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

We are in favor of Free Ports for Refugees and ask you to extend your good offices and see that this grant project is speedily accomplished.

Respectfully yours,

David and Dora Bochner
Dear Mrs. Bodek:

The President has referred to me your recent letter concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to Southern Italy.

Your support for this program and your interest in measures for saving the lives of the victims of enemy oppression are deeply appreciated.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue these persecuted people and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety and be cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. In this connection, I am sure you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Lillie Bodek,
1709 49th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.
1705 49 St.
Brooklyn, New York
June 18, 1945

President Roosevelt,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for establishing a haven for one thousand war
refugees inuptate New
York. This is very en-
couraging, and a good
start. But you know
there are hundreds of
thousands more war-
stricken people who
are looking hopefully,
to your noble heart and kind hand.

Will you please make every effort to establish many, many more of these homes very, very soon for these sorely oppressed people, over whose heads truly hang the sword of Damocles?

I am one of probably millions who pray time and again for your welfare, because like these people, without number, I consider you one of the most outstanding humane
people of our time.

More power to your noble heart and your kind deeds.

Very respectfully,

(Mrs.) Lellie Bodie.
In reply please refer to: 1415

Dear Mrs. Bodek:

Thank you for your communication of June 14, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fohle

J. W. Fohle
Executive Director

Mrs. L. Bodek,
1705 - 49th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
Dear Sir:

The one in favor of Open Ports for Refugees and ask you to extend your good offices and see that this most pleasant is speedily accomplished.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

[Note: The handwriting is somewhat unclear, especially the signature.]
Dear Miss Boehm:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 17, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Margaret D. Boehm,
5709 Roland Avenue,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Enclosures.
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House, Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President—

Like many humane Americans I am deeply concerned about the extermination of the European Jews—so deeply concerned that I am taking the liberty of writing to you to urge that all that can be done to save them be done quickly, for in this task of salvation, speedy action is absolutely essential. Your War Refugee Board is an important step in the right direction. It is composed of fine and able but busy men, who perhaps have not done all that is possible to provide asylum, permanent or temporary, for those who
can escape. I understand that even under the present quota system many more refugees could be admitted to this country, if our immigration laws were administered in a more liberal spirit. I am a housewife and would gladly continue the present national ten years to share our abundance & save these poor people from starvation.

Assuming you of my enthusiastic support along these lines, I am

Respectfully yours,

(Miss) Margaret D. Behm.

Bohm

NEW YORK N.Y. 11110

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20524

War Refugee Board

Received
In reply please refer to: 3198

AUG 26 1944

Dear Miss Bonsteel:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 26, 1944, urging immediate action to save the refugees of Europe.

On January 22, 1944, the President created the War Refugee Board for the purpose of taking all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and to afford them all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

To accomplish the purpose for which it was created, the War Refugee Board has initiated numerous measures to assist persons to escape from enemy and enemy-occupied countries, to find havens of refuge for them, to obtain better treatment for those for whom escape is not possible, and to induce the satellite countries to desist from cooperating with the Nazi policy of persecution and extermination of minority peoples. The Board has stationed representatives in strategic countries in order to expedite these measures.

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for those who are enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, you will be interested to know that the President has taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees, who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. Arrangements also have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.
- 2 -

With respect to the problem of Hungarian Jews, I enclose a copy of a joint statement recently issued by the United States and British Governments which I am sure will be of interest to you.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ruth N. Bonsteel,
200 Todd's Lane,
Wilmington, Delaware.

Enclosure.
Dear President Roosevelt,

I believe that is my second letter to you regarding the rescue of those refugees of European Jewish origin. I urge you again to take immediate action with the Allied Powers to save the countless lives of the Hungarian Jews, who are disappearing.
Because of our delay in the event of the host's illness, I am unable to attend. Sincerely,

[Signature]
May 19, 1944

In reply please refer to: 600

Dear Miss Brainerd:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees. Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Eveline W. Brainerd

Haddam, Connecticut.
Temporary Havens
To
Mrs. John W. Hillier
Director
War Refugees Board
Dear Sir,

Could I have publicity be given the proposal for "free ports" in the U.S. for war refugees?

The editorial in the Times this morning is a help, but I was not sure as to the bill (if it be a bill).
The sponsor ship. Do not leave three there on land to make their mark. Public opinion — the cause. The cause has taken in it. If one has taken in its best to reform it, it's a bit upon its name. There is a chance to at least be just.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

At Pany, May 4, 1944.
John W. Fehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Please extend your good offices in favor of "Free Ports for Refugees", and see that this great project is speedily accomplished.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Eva Brennan
JUL 21 1944

In reply please refer to:  2006

Dear Chaplain Brill:

The President has referred to me your recent letter concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to Southern Italy.

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cabledgram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy persecution and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety and be cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. In this connection, I am sure you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Very truly yours,

(Blinded) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Chaplain Mordecai L. Brill,
Camp Chapel,
Camp Forrest, Tennessee.

Enclosures.
Dear Sir:

I strongly urge that more camps be opened in this country as "free ports" for the uprooted humanity of Europe who through no fault of their own find themselves at death's door.

I also hope you will be able to ask other countries such as Turkey to establish "free ports."

With every good wish and with faith in your leadership,

M. L. Brill

Camp Forrest, Tenn.

ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD
In reply please refer to: 768

MAY 23 1944

Dear Mrs. Brilliant:

Thank you for your letter of May 17, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. S. Brilliant,
5831 Webster Street,
Philadelphia 43, Pennsylvania.

Temporary Havens
May 17, 1944


Dear Sir:

I believe the more free ports for unfortunate refugees will result the more.

I kindly urge your good offices in every way possible to see to the government's approval of free use of ports for refugees.

5837 Webster St., yours truly,
Phila., Pa. (Mr.) S. Brillius
MEMORIAL  FEBRUARY 17TH 1846

John B. lettuce

Hon. John C. Calhoun
Com. U.S. War Refugees Bd.
Washington, D.C.
BRITAIN'S 'FREE PORT' FOR REFUGEES

The report that the U. S. Administration is considering establishing a system of "free ports" in the U. S. A. for the admission of war refugees, who would be otherwise barred from entrance by immigration laws, suggests a plan almost identical to that put into operation by the British Government in 1939 at the famous "Richborough Camp" for refugees.

This camp, a few miles from the port of Dover, was established by voluntary refugee organisations in Britain, to rescue thousands of Germans and Austrians who were being held in Nazi concentration camps while awaiting their turn under the U. S. immigration laws, a wait of about two years.

The British Government allowed these transmigrants to enter the British camp, without giving them any status in Britain, in addition to the thousands admitted under normal visas. "Richborough" represented salvation to the poor refugees who had no friends to give financial guarantees for them. Many of these refugees are today in the United States; the remainder are playing their part in the British war effort.

At the same time, it is interesting to recall the statement of Mr. Peake (Under Secretary for Home Affairs) on May 19, 1943, that "no refugee who reaches Britain without a visa has been turned back", and that "many thousands of refugees from enemy-occupied countries have arrived, and are still arriving without visas."
Britain's record as a refuge for the victims of the Nazis is one that should not be allowed to become forgotten. It is particularly notable when the size of the island, and the wartime conditions are remembered - stringent restrictions in food and clothing, overcrowding with Allied troops, and total preoccupation with the prosecution of the war. Despite these conditions, Britain admitted some 60,000 non-British refugees between May 1940 and April 1943, since when, according to announcement made last December, they were still being admitted at an average rate of 800 a month.
In reply please refer to: 1127

Dear Dr. Brown:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's recent action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944 to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Peble

J. W. Peble
Executive Director

Dr. A. J. Brown,
1928 North Seventh Street,

Enclosures.
DR. A. J. BROWN
1928 N. SEVENTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

6-9-44

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

We are vitally interested in the
establishment of "free ports" in the United
States for refugees from stricken
lands of Europe. We understand
that proposals regarding these ports
are now being discussed in
congress, and we sincerely urge
you to speak favorably on them.

A. J. Brown, M.D.
Mr. John W. Rehle
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 774

Dear Mr. Green:

Since my reply to your recent letter concerning temporary havens in the United States for refugees, the President has taken action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of the same date to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you again for the interest which you have expressed in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Samuel Green, Secretary,
Cardoso Lodge No. 400,
416 Walnut Street,
Commercial Union Bldg.,
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures:

EM: Fowler 8/14/44
In reply please refer to: 774

MAY 29 1944

Dear Mr. Green:

Thank you for your letter of May 18, 1944, and its enclosure, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Samuel Green, Secretary,
Cardozo Lodge No. 400
416 Walnut Street,
Commercial Union Bldg.,
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania.

B'tze Shelom
Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am enclosing herewith copy of resolution pertaining to the matter of Free Ports for Refugees in this country. Your assistance in this humanitarian effort will be greatly appreciated.

Cordially yours,

/s/ Samuel Green

3G eg
encl.

Samuel Green, Secretary
416 Walnut Street
Commercial Union Bldg.
Philadelphia, 6, Pa.

May 18, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.
RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that we, Cardozo Lodge No. 400, Brith Sholom, consisting of 625 members, at a meeting held May 17th, 1944, urge the President of the U. S. and his War Refugee Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the U. S. for the duration. The establishment of such Free Ports would translate into action the humanitarian desire of the American people to save as many victims of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

/s/ Samuel J. Marks President Samuel Green Secretary
HOLD250 RR NL

LOS ANGELES CALIF JUNE 9 1944

PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE PORTS FOR THE DURATION AND SAVE MANY UNFORTUNATE REFUGEES. HUMANITY LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR HELP.

MRS IDA BRUDER

Free Ports
In reply please refer to: 2934

Jul 13 1944

Dear Mrs. Brummer:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 3, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Orville Brummer,
530 Penning,
Wood River, Illinois.

Enclosures.
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I think we should provide temporary asylum in this country under carefully controlled conditions, for political refugees, with special attention to the Jewish people.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Flora Brunner
(Mrs. Orville) Brunner
chairman Spiritual Life dept.
In reply please
refer to: 1003

JUN 17 1944

Dear Mr. Bruner:

Thank you for your recent card concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's recent action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944 to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. J. Bruner,
215 North Easton Road,
Glencliff, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
Dear Sir:

We are vitally interested in the establishment of "free ports" in the United States for refugees from stricken lands of Europe. We understand that proposals regarding these ports are now being discussed in Congress and we sincerely urge you to speak favorably on them.


[Handwritten notes]

Name: [Signature]
Address: 615 N. Geater Rd. Pensacola

Name: [Signature]
Address: 2171 N. Geater Rd. Pensacola
In reply please refer to 938

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brylawski:

Thank you for your recent card concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cables to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944 to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brylawski,
The Lenox, 13th and Spruce Streets,
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
June 6th 44

Mr. John W. Reade

Dear sir,

We are vitally interested in the establishment of free ports of the United States, for refugees from the thin lands of Europe. We understand that proposals regarding transports are now being discussed in Washington and we sincerely urge you to speak favorably on them.

Very truly yours,

[M. & M. Edward Poynter]

[The Court, 12 Sussex St. Philadelphia, Pa.]
June 12, 1944.

My dear Mr. Buckley:

Thank you very much for your fine letter of June 10. You may be sure that the War Refugee Board is striving in every way possible to rescue and protect civilians in danger of death from the enemy.

Since the date of your letter, the President has taken action in this matter. I am enclosing for your information a copy of the White House press release indicating the action taken.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. E. Pehle
J. E. Pehle
Executive Director.

Honorable Charles A. Buckley,
House of Representatives.

Enclosure
June 10th, 1944.

Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am deeply concerned and have been contacted by many people with the problem of the establishment of a free port in the United States for the rescue of those unfortunate human beings who now face death abroad.

I know that the President is sincerely interested in the problem and I would be deeply grateful to you if you would advocate the opening of such a port in the United States.

I am in favor of this and will cooperate with you, in any way possible, to bring it about.

The lives of thousands of refugees depend upon our doing something at this time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Buckley
In reply please refer to: 2632

Jul 21 1944

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Buff:

The President has referred to me your recent letter concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Port Ontario, Oswego, New York, to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees who have fled from their homelands to Southern Italy.

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board is doing everything in its power to rescue the victims of enemy persecution and to find havens of refuge for them where they can remain in safety and be cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. In this connection, I am sure you will be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Buff,
1223 Linda Rosa Avenue,
Los Angeles, California.

Enclosures.

EBTowle/r/np 7/20/44
June 10, 1944

Dear President Roosevelt:

That idea of having a temporary refuge for the Jews in this country, that Grafton spoke of in his column, seems the very least we can do, in my humble opinion. I am not a Jew, nor an ardent friend of Jews in general;—although an ardent friend of some Jews—and hope that this little 1950 refugees will be increased soon to many thousands. It isn't much, but at least it is a gesture.

Sincerely yours,

Conrad Buff

Marylu [illegible] Buff
In reply please refer to: 934

MAY 1 1944

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Burdett:

Your letters of April 16 and 18, 1944, to the Honorable Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., concerning the possibility of bringing Jewish refugees to this country, at least on a temporary basis, has been referred to me.

I am enclosing for your information copies of the Executive Order establishing the Board, the White House Press Release of the same date, and the Statement on Nazi atrocities issued by the President on March 24, 1944.

The duties and authority of the Board are defined in the Order, which declares it to be 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 to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

The Board is doing everything in its power to achieve the great humanitarian objectives for which it was created.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Burdett,
2 Grace Court,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
The Hon. Edward R. Stettinius
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Stettinius,

The people of America are concerned over the plight of the Jewish Refugees. Must this Government act at once to provide for them at least a temporary haven in this country? We urge you to act before it is too late!

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

April 18, 1944.
Dear Mr. Stettinius,

The people of America are concerned over the plight of the Jewish Refugees. Cannot this Government take action at once to provide at least a temporary haven for them in this country?

We urge you to take action before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth White Burnett
(Mrs. O.L.)
MAY 23 1944

In reply please
refer to: 773

Dear Mrs. Bartman:

Thank you for your letter of May 17, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. V. Fahle

J. V. Fahle
Executive Director

Mrs. Rose F. Bartman,
5643 Lebanon Avenue,

(Temporary)
(Havens)
May 17, 1944

Mrs. John W. Reed
Dear Mrs. Reed,

I am very grateful for your assistance in contacting Mrs. A. (and the many others) about the New York Center and am very pleased that you have helped me. I have been in contact with Mrs. A. and am pleased that you have been able to assist her.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robert Gatz
544 S. Lemon St.
Philad... Pa.
To Honorable John W. Geble
Ever Hereing War Refugens
Washington D.C. 26
JUN 20 1944

In reply please refer to 1964.

Dear Mr. Butterworth:

Thank you for your recent communication concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

Your concern for the fate of refugees and your interest in the problem of providing places of asylum for them are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Francis J. Butterworth, Jr.,
West Prospect Avenue, R 42,
North Wales, Pennsylvania.

Copy to: M. S. Axelrod

Enclosures.
Dear Sir:

We are vitally interested in the establishment of "free ports" in the United States for refugees from stricken lands of Europe. We understand that proposals regarding these ports are now being discussed in Congress and we sincerely urge you to speak favorably on them.

Name: W. Pyeages - R.

Address: 1432 7th St. N.

Name: M. L. Beards

Address: 1952 7th St.