

Admission of Refugees to U.S.  
(Free Ports and Emergency Shelter)

General - E-F

FOLDER: E

In reply please  
refer to: 3030

JUL 29 1944

Dear Sirs:

The President has referred to me your telegram of July 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

Eastern Tissue Corporation,  
55 - 33rd Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

RBH  
RBHutchison:agr 7-27-44

JW -

**THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON**

July 18, 1944

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

**WILLIAM D. HASSETT**  
Secretary to the President

3030

The White House  
Washington

JUL 17 7 06 PM 1944

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

*War Ref*

WB8Q 27

BTM BROOKLYN NY JUL 17 1944 423P

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT PRESIDENT OF THE US

THE WHITE HOUSE

PLEASE TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER ALLIED  
POWERS TO ESTABLISH FREE PORTS AND SAVE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE  
OF THE JEWS OF THE OPPRESSED COUNTRIES

EASTERN TISSUE CORP.

*55 - 33 Ad 1024 (2-23)*

WASHINGTON D.C.  
MYR BELLORE BOYND  
RECEIVED

In reply please  
refer to: 3048

JUL 29 1944

Dear Sirs:

I have your recent resolution in support of House Resolution No. 576 concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you were glad to see the accounts 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

East Side Community Committee,  
1128 Lexington Avenue,  
New York 21, New York.

Enclosures.

RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-28-44 Jot ✓

3048

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_

To: Files \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS millions of innocent and helpless people of various races and religions, particularly Jews, have been ruthlessly murdered in Nazi dominated Europe by the Hitlerite hangmen, and

WHEREAS millions more are threatened by a similar fate. Hitler having declared it to be his intention to exterminate all the Jews in occupied Europe, and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that temporary havens of refuge be established so that some of these unfortunates may have a chance to survive; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the United States take the lead in this humane endeavor, the intention to do so having already been expressed by President Roosevelt who created the War Refugee Board which has been rescued many thousands; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 576 introduced by Congressman Samuel Dickstein, Chairman of the House Immigration Committee would help in the establishment of free ports in the U. S. as temporary havens for refugees; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ~~support~~ National Unity Conference being held today, support H. Res. 576 and call upon the Congress of the United States to adopt it. Be it further

RESOLVED, that this National Unity Conference called by the East Side Community Committee support the rescue program of our Commander-in-Chief and the work of the War Refugee Board.

Copies of this Resolution to be sent to President Roosevelt; Hon. John W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board; and Congressman Samuel Dickstein.

VOTERS FOR ROOSEVELT  
East Side Community Committee  
1128 Lexington Avenue  
New York 21, N. Y.

325



~~Miss Hadel~~  
Honorable John W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

190 Mrs Towler 194

In reply please  
refer to: 3324

SEP 14 1944

Dear Miss Eberhart:

The President has referred to me your letter of September 1, concerning the plight of the Jews of Europe.

Since its establishment in January of this year for the purpose of rescuing the victims of enemy persecution and affording them all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, the War Refugee Board has initiated numerous measures to accomplish its task. These measures include programs to assist persons to escape from enemy-occupied territories, 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. Established private organizations engaged in refugee and relief activities have cooperated in the development and execution of these programs and are rendering a valuable service. The Board has stationed representatives in strategic countries to expedite these measures.

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for persons enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, the President recently took action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees 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.

With respect to the Jews of Hungary, I am enclosing 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. This Government, in cooperation with other governments and with private refugee organizations, has taken and is taking all practicable measures to protect the Jews of Hungary.

I assure you that the War Refugee Board will continue to do everything in its power to accomplish its humanitarian objectives.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Elizabeth B. Eberhart,  
40th Street,  
Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Enclosure.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 9/11/44

Jat ~



Board  
Refugees  
Board

3324

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
 To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

William D. ...  
Secretary to the President

September 1st.

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

My dear Mr. President,

May I express my great desire to see the Jews of Europe given asylum immediately in this country. We have waited for too long as it is but let us not increase our crimes by being altogether too late with our help.

You have very wisely set up the War Refugee Board. May we hope to see some immediate + decisive action to rescue the "persecuted minorities of Europe."

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth B. Eberhart

40th St  
Va. Beach, Va.

In reply please  
refer to: 3115

AUG 13 1944

Dear Miss Eckel:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 24, 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 with 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 Clara L. Eckel,  
Kent Acre,  
Kent, Connecticut.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-31-44

Wm  
P. E. E. E.  
P. E. E. E.

July 24<sup>th</sup> 1944  
3115

KENT ACRE  
KENT  
CONNECTICUT

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Rec. \_\_\_\_\_  
United States \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Franklin D. Roosevelt: President of the

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

William C. Eichel  
Secretary to the President

My dear Mr. President,

I beg you to act  
promptly to establish Peace Camps  
for the wretched Jewish people of  
Europe, and to urge like action  
upon our allies.

Respectfully yours,  
Franklin D. Eichel.

JUL 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 2031

Dear Miss Eisenstein:

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 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.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Blanche B. Eisenstein,  
5916 No. 19th Street,  
Philadelphia, 41, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓  
EBTowler: 7/20/44

2031

3  
Urban Refugee Bd.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

5916 No. 19th St.  
Phila. 41- Penna.  
June 17, 1944

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

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

*William D. ...*  
Secretary to the President

Dear Mr. President:

Your humane and special efforts in behalf of the refugees of Europe, fleeing from the ruthless and brutal scourge of the Nazis and Fascism are heartily applauded and strongly supported by me, my family and friends. The only suggestion we would like to make is that the number provided for (1000) out of the millions of homeless and starving and destitute refugees is not sufficient.

We feel sure, Mr. President that this immense and wonderful country of ours, which was a haven of refuge for the early settlers can well afford to offer a temporary haven, and even a permanent haven to thousands and thousands of refugees, who, we are sure, have much to offer our country, civilization and way of life. Surely, we who believe in helping others, in democracy and preach democracy to the whole world, and believe in liberalism, and have become the leaders of the world and are looked to as the saviors of the world, must needs exercise that leadership and confidence in us by setting an example to the whole world and throw open our shores to those who are in desperate need of our assistance, and make available numerous "free" camps, ports or havens to them.

Please know that we are all with you in your magnificent efforts in behalf of humanity.

Very truly yours,

*Blanche B. Eisenstein*

RECEIVED  
MAY 11 1944  
MICHIGAN D.  
6078 REFUGEE BOARD

In reply please  
refer to: 3173

AUG 12 1944

Dear Mr. Eisner:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 29, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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, 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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Edward Eisner,  
177 Seventh Avenue,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EAT-ABH Hutchison:agr 8-7-44

3173

*Refugee Bd.*

EDWARD EISNER  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
177 SEVENTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK  
—  
CHELSEA 2-4138

*12*  
W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date \_\_\_\_\_

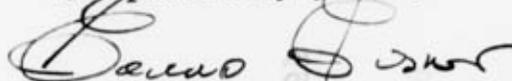
July 29, 1944

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President Of The United States of America  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I solemnly appeal to you to establish temporary Rescue  
Camps within the United States to all people who can  
flee Nazi murder squads and to entreat all other friendly  
and allied powers to take like action.

Respectfully yours,



Edward Eisner ✓

e/e

In reply please  
refer to: 3025

JUL 26 1944

Dear Miss Elkan:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 17, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in 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 recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which is equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands, at the end of the war.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Belle Elkan,  
5457 Hyde Park Blvd.,  
Chicago, Illinois.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

*War Refugee Board*

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION  
*W. R. B.*  
5457 HYDE PARK BLVD. the President  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

July 17, '44

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

Dear President Roosevelt,

Please, in the name of humanity,  
do all that is in your power  
to help rescue the Jews in  
Nazi-dominated countries, and  
prevent the extermination of the  
race. Help to provide permanent  
or temporary asylum for those  
who can escape. Change our  
immigration laws to allow  
more to enter this country.

Belle Elkan  
5457 Hyde Park Blvd, Chicago

JUN 17 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1118

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ellison:

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,

Michael J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Ellison  
725 North 7th Street,  
Philadelphia 23, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

ESTV

ESTowler:imp 6/15/44

1118

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phila. Pa. June 8, 1944

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.

Allen & Bertha Ellison  
725 N. 7th St., Phila. 23. Pa.

Harry & Jennie Kurtzberg  
723 N. 7th St., Phila. 23. Pa.

AUG 2 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 3094

Dear Miss Ely:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 21, 1944, requesting assistance for the Jewish people in the occupied countries 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 recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which is equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands, at the end of the war.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Grace D. Ely,  
3378 Stephenson Place,  
Washington, D. C.

BAT RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-31-44 JCH -

Wm  
Refugee  
Board

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUL 21 1944

3094

William V. Howell

July 21, 1944

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dear Mr. President:

As an American citizen and a member of the Conference of Christians and Jews, I am appealing to you on behalf of the Jewish people so cruelly persecuted in the occupied countries of Europe, asking especially that food may be sent them according to the Greek plan and that more refugees be admitted to this country or that temporary asylum be afforded them. So shall the name of America continue to be the symbol for justice and mercy.

Very respectfully yours,  
Grace D. Ely

3378 Stephenson Place  
Washington, D. C.

In reply please  
refer to: 3130

AUG 12 1944

Dear Miss Ende:

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

I am sure you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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 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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Dorothy Ende,  
1735 Davidson Avenue,  
New York 53, New York.

Enclosures.

EST v PH Hutchison:agr 8-3-44

3130

1-  
Wm  
Rogers

RECEIVED JULY 27 1944  
FOR ACTION AND  
LTD CONSIDERATION

William C. Russell  
Secretary to the President

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

1735 Davidson Ave.  
New York 53, N. Y.  
July 27, 1944

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

You no doubt have already received thousands of letters of appreciation for your establishment of the War Refugee Board and the other efforts you have made toward saving the remnants of persecuted Jewry in Europe, and to these expressions of appreciation I wish to add my own.

This is certainly a step in the right direction but another and very immediate one is still necessary - that is, the creation of temporary rescue camps within the United States not only to serve in themselves as havens for these unhappy people, but also to set an example for other United Nations to open their doors to those Jewish People who are able to make their escape from the Nazi murderers.

I also believe it is of paramount importance that you make known to the British Government the desire of liberty and freedom loving Americans that Palestine admit without restriction all Jewish People who can be rescued from the terrorism they are now suffering and who can be transported to that country, for there is no reason in the world to deny to this group alone, and to no others, the free access to Palestine which means life itself to them.

In order that our aims in this war shall be more than hollow words to be forgotten almost as soon as they are uttered, I appeal to you to use your great and good influence to establish with all possible speed temporary havens of refuge within the United States for the Jewish People of Europe, to urge our Allies to do the same where at all possible, and to stress to the British Government the necessity for opening Palestine's doors to the Hebrews.

I am confident that if you work toward these goals, your efforts will be heralded and acclaimed by all of us who live and fight for the democratic way of life that is the moving spirit of our United States.

Yours respectfully,

*Dorothy Ende*  
(Miss) Dorothy Ende

JUN 19 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1086

Dear Mr. Endzweig:

The President has referred to me 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 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. Hyman Endzweig,  
1652 - 53rd Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓  
EBTowler:inp 6/17/44

1086

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. President,  
Won't you please use your good  
offices to extend the Ports to  
Refugees.

1652 - 53rd St.  
Bklyn, N.Y.

Sincerely,  
Hyman Eshwig

In reply please  
refer to: 1400

JUN 24 1944

Dear Dr. England:

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.

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

Dr. Albert C. England, Jr.,  
68 Louis Prang Street,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

Free Post

EBP ✓

RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-23-44

1400

W. R. B.  
Refugee Board

DR. ALBERT C. ENGLAND, JR.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority  
To: Files  
A.S. 6/24/47  
Date  
Initial

June 9,

RECEIVED AND FILED  
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
AND CONSIDERATION

Dear President Roosevelt,

William C. Bennett  
Secretary to the President

Re: matter of Free

Ports for political refugees demands your  
prompt definite executive action! A temporary  
refuge to many, especially the homeless Jews  
is a physical necessity. The sluggish inactivity  
of our government as well as our policy is shameful.  
This plan is extra legal - it avoids the  
complicated details of social migration.

I can only submit my support of  
Samuel Grafton and L. F. Stone's  
suggestions.

With respect,

Albert C. Leopold, Jr., M.D.

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1944 JUN 17 AM 11 02

65 Louis Braille Street  
Boston, Mass.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REASON FOR NON DELIVERY CHECKED

Moved, No Address..... Refused.....

Unknown Address.....

No such Member.....

Printed Name No Order.....

Sender's Initials *MS* Remits No. *MS*

Miss Ester Engel,  
949 - 49th Street  
Brooklyn, New York



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$500



RETURNED TO SENDER  
By Brooklyn, N. Y. P. O.  
UNDELIVERABLE  
JUN 14 1944  
DO NOT POST AGAIN IN THIS  
ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reply please  
refer to: 961

JUN 14 1944

Dear Miss Engel:

Thank you for your recent cards 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. W. Pehle".

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Ester Engel,  
949 - 49th Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

JUN 14 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 961

Dear Miss Engel:

Thank you for your recent cards 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

Miss Ester Engel,  
949 - 49th Street,  
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/13/44

961

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
A. S. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

John W. Pehle  
War Refugee Board  
Dear Sir, Washington D. C.

949 47 271  
Beverly  
June 6, 49

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

Yours truly,  
Esther Engle  
ENGE

x1054

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

President F. 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  
great project is speedily accomp-  
lished.

Yours truly,  
Ernest Engel

JUN 20 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1184

Dear Mrs. Epstein:

The President has referred to me 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Edward Epstein,  
The Bolivar,  
230 Central Park West,  
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

*FRT* *RM* RBH:utchison:agr 6-19-44

1184

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

THE BOLIVAR  
550 CENTRAL PARK WEST  
New York

WAR  
Refugee Board

To the President F. D. Roosevelt  
United States -

William D. Barrett  
Secretary of War

Honored Sir: -

Dear friend of the people, that  
the ports be kept open to admit  
the distressed, oppressed and sad  
refugees. My prayers, to-day, the 28-  
day of the invasion are replete with pray-  
ers may we be answered, may you  
be spared many more years in health and  
strength, to guide us with

1184

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your wisdom, sympathy and  
understanding —

Yours faithfully  
Mrs. Edward Sara B. Epstein

June 6-1944.

RECEIVED  
MAY 12 1944  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



JUN 17 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 1034

Dear Mr. Epstein:

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 Onatic, 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. Max Epstein,  
1236 - 49th Street,  
Brooklyn 19, New York.

Enclosures.

EPA ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/15/44

1034

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

1236-49 Street  
Brooklyn 19 N.Y.  
June 8, 1944.

Honorable Sir:

Mankind will long  
remember your approval  
of "Free Ports" for defenseless  
human beings. G'd bless you!

Respectfully yours  
Max Epstein  
MAX EPSTEIN

JUL 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 2990

Dear Miss Erskine:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 7, 1944, and its enclosure, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in 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 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 recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which will be equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands at the end of the war.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

You may be interested in the enclosed copies of the President's message of June 12 to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8 to the heads of the agencies concerned in the establishment of the Emergency Refugee Shelter.

*Free State*  
Miss Dorothy Erskine,  
233 Chestnut Street,  
San Francisco, California.

Enclosures.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

EBT

RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-17-44

233 Chestnut Street

San Francisco  
FOR AGENT'S REVIEW  
AND CONSIDERATION

2990  
California

W. R. B.

Filing Authority

To: Files

Ans.

No. Ans. Req.

Initial

Date

William V. Brown  
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Mr. President:—

Your humanity, wisdom and far-sightedness have done so much to save this country not only during this war but long before the blow came,—that I, and I know countless Americans feel as I do,—appeal again to act swiftly and save a few of the Jews now being exterminated in Europe. I understand that you have suggested a Free Port

—May Lewis.

233 Chestnut Street

San Francisco

California

And that other nations will follow  
our lead & do likewise if we resolu-  
tely act. Four million Jews  
are estimated to have died under  
the barbarous Nazi policy. I  
cannot bear to think that America,  
which has grown great by being  
the refuge for the oppressed &  
hard-driven, - should fail in  
this desperate crisis to help  
the remnant of a fine & proud  
people who have suffered so  
unspcakably under Hitler. I  
beg you to do all in your power  
to clear the way for action, knowing  
well your great & generous feelings  
for all men everywhere who have  
suffered. Most sincerely Dorothy B. Stein

-May Lewis.

RECEIVED  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

JUL 14 AM 11 41

#### VISA

—of that name belonging to each person  
(Thus designating all one human family),  
—desire to live;  
To hold in decency the gift of life.  
What do I need? Not the decree of God;  
He wills it, since I breathe;  
Not food—a crust suffices now and then;  
Nor shelter—doorways, under a bridge, will do;  
Rags make a covering;  
What do I stand in need of  
Desperately?  
A slip of paper; signed by some small man  
Officially grown big.  
That is the raft of rescue; only that.  
O God! that one, supposedly my brother;  
Has it within his power to refuse.

—May Lewis.

JUN 14 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 867

Dear Miss Ortner:

Since my replies to your recent letters 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

Miss Anna Ortner,  
Executive Secretary,  
Evening Adult Students'  
Association,  
Room 811, Board of Education,  
110 Livingston Street,  
Brooklyn 2, New York.

Enclosures:

SBTowler:db 6/13/44

EST ✓

In reply please  
refer to: 801

MAY 31 1944

Dear Miss Ortner:

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Anna Ortner,  
Executive Secretary,  
Evening Adult Students' Association,  
Headquarters of the Council of Delegates,  
Room 811, Board of Education,  
110 Livingston Street,  
Brooklyn 2, New York.

O. K. Free Parts

EST RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-30-44



**CONTROL COPY**

COPY

801

EVENING ADULT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES  
ROOM 811, BOARD OF EDUCATION  
110 LIVINGSTON STREET, BROOKLYN (2) N.Y.  
Telephone Main 4-2800, Ext. 293

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority

Jo: Files

Ans. 5/21/44

No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

May 22, 1944  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Treasurer  
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PERRY L. SCHNEIDER

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Julius Solomon  
Julius J. Weil  
Max E. Weiner

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

Dear Sir:

I understand that your committee is considering 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 the country under existing immigration laws.

I am writing in behalf of the 17,000 members of the Evening Adult Students' Association, who ask that you exert your good offices in behalf of the bill establishing "free ports." The members of this Association are adult students in the evening schools of this city, most of whom are foreign-born. They are keenly conscious of the difficult situation in which refugees find themselves. They are good, loyal American citizens and want to do what they can to extend a helping hand to so many who are in great need.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Anna Ortner

ANNA ORTNER,  
Executive Secretary

PLS:EK

In reply please  
refer to: 867

JUN 7 1944

Dear Miss Ortner:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 29, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

The interest of your organization in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Anna Ortner,  
Executive Secretary,  
Evening Adult Students'  
Association,  
Room 811, Board of Education,  
110 Livingston Street,  
Brooklyn 2, New York.

O.K. Free Post

207 PCH:BBHutChison:agr 6-5-44

201 -

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly from a binder or adjacent page, including some illegible markings and numbers.

In reply please  
refer to: 867

JUN 7 1944

Dear Miss Ortner:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 22, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

The interest of your organization in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Miss Anna Ortner,  
Executive Secretary,  
Evening Adult Students'  
Association,  
Room 811, Board of Education,  
110 Livingston Street,  
Brooklyn 2, New York.

*O.K. Free Parts*

BBP RBH Hutchison:agr 6-5-44

*RBH -*

EVENING ADULT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
 HEADQUARTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES  
 ROOM 811, BOARD OF EDUCATION  
 110 LIVINGSTON STREET, BROOKLYN (2) N. Y.  
 TELEPHONE MAIN 4-2800, EXT. 293

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Filing Authority  
 To: Files  
 Ans. 6/7/44  
 No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

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1943-1944

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MORRIS EPSTEIN  
ABRAHAM HURFMAN

Sergeant-at-Arms

HARRY SCHWARTZ

Executive Secretary

ANNA ORTNER

Treasurer

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 JULIUS SOLOMON  
 JULIUS J. WEIL  
 MAX E. WEINER

210

May 22, 1944.

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED  
 FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
 AND CONSIDERATION

*William J. Farrell*

Secretary to the President

The President  
 The White House  
 Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

I understand that there is under consideration a proposal to establish a system of "free ports" in the United States, which would provide a temporary haven for war refugees who cannot at present enter the country under existing immigration laws.

I am writing in behalf of the 17,000 members of the Evening Adult Students' Association, who ask that you exert your good offices in behalf of the bill establishing "free ports." The members of this Association are adult students in the evening schools of this city, most of whom are foreign-born. They are keenly conscious of the difficult situation in which refugees find themselves. They are good, loyal American citizens and want to do what they can to extend a helping hand to so many who are in great need.

Respectfully yours,

*Anna Ortner*  
 ANNA ORTNER,  
 Executive Secretary

PLS:EK

RECEIVED MAY 30 6 20 11



WASHINGTON D.C.  
 WVB REEFER BOARD  
 RECEIVED