Admission of Refugees to U.S.
(Free Ports and Emergency Shelter)
Dear Mr. Immerman:

The President has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter concerning the plan to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees from Europe in the Emergency Refugee Shelter being established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

I wish also to thank you on behalf of the War Refugee Board for your support and interest in this program.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Henry Immerman,
246 West 87th Street,
Los Angeles, California.
My Dear Mr President:

Permit me to express to you my gratitude for your efforts in behalf of the European refugees.

I feel particularly in a position to appreciate what it means to find a haven in this blessed country for those unfortunate subjected to persecution, for under the tyranny of the Tzar, life in Russia for the Jews was worse than a mere existence.

In 1884-86 years ago, I came to my beloved America, at the age of 8, grew to manhood, married and raised a family.

Most of my dear ones have passed away, but it is a great comfort to know that they died and were mourned as Americans.

Incidentally, Mr President, I honestly believe you are the greatest man ever to occupy the White House, and it is my sincere hope that you will be our next Chief Executive.

Respectfully yours,

Henry Immelman

(Henry Immelman)

246 W. 37 St.

Los Angeles.

Calif.
In reply please refer to: 1114

Dear Mr. Friedenberg:

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

Mr. Julius Friedenberg,
Secretary,
Independent Order Brith Abraham,
40 Broad Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.
June 7, 1944

War Refugee Board
Washington
D. C.

Gentlemen:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Board of Deputies of the Independent Order Brith Abraham wish to be recorded in favor of the proposed Legislation called "Free Ports" in the United States.

Very truly yours,

Julius Friedenberg
Secretary
After 3 days, return to
BOARD OF DEPUTIES I. O. B. A. OF MASS.,
Julius Friedenberg, Sec'y,
40 Broad Street,
BOSTON, MASS.

[Handwritten address]
War Refugee Board
Washington
D. C.

TREAS. DEPT.
Independent Order Brith Abraham
Board of Deputies of the State of Massachusetts

JULIUS FRIEDENBERG, Secretary
40 Broad St., Boston, Mass.
Room 1020
Tel. Hubbard 1890

June 7, 1944

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Pres. of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The officers and members of the Massachusetts Board of Deputies of the Independent Order Brith Abraham wish to be recorded in favor of the proposed legislation called "Free Ports" in the United States.

Very truly yours,

Julius Friedenberg
Secretary

JF:eb
Dear Mr. Eskin:

Thank you for your letters of June 19, 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.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Mr. Benjamin B. Eskin,
Recording Secretary,
Knights of Liberty Lodge,
No. 271,
Thomas J. Roberts Post Hall,
Park and Claybourne Streets,
Dorchester, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.
JUNE 19, 1944.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENTLEMEN:--

THE KNIGHTS OF LIBERTY LODGE #271, INDEPENDENT
ORDER BRITH ABRAHAM, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 187, IN REGULAR
MEETING HELD IN DORCHESTER, MASS., ON SUNDAY JUNE 19TH, 1944,
UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:--

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

WE, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF
LIBERTY LODGE, #271, OF DORCHESTER, MASS., REALIZING THE
DESPERATE SITUATION OF REFUGEES FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
AND THE NECESSITY FOR FINDING A HAVEN FOR THESE PEOPLE, DESIRE
TO RECORD OURSELVES IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION FOR THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF "FREE PORTS" IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

B. B. ESKIN,
149 WINTHROP RD.,
BROOKLINE, MASS.

BENJAMIN B. ESKIN, REC. SEC.
JUNE 19, 1944.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:--

THE KNIGHTS OF LIBERTY LODGE #271, INDEPENDENT ORDER BRITISH ABRAHAM, WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 197, IN REGULAR MEETING HELD IN DORCHESTER, MASS., ON SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1944, UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:--

BE IT RESOLVED THAT;

WE, THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF LIBERTY LODGE, #271, OF DORCHESTER, MASS., REALIZING THE DESPERATE SITUATION OF REFUGEES FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND THE NECESSITY FOR FINDING A HAVEN FOR THESE PEOPLE, DESIRE TO RECORD OURSELVES IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "FREE PORTS" IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

BENJAMIN B. ESKIN
BENJAMIN B. ESKIN, REC. SEC.

B. B. ESKIN,
149 WINTHROP RD.,
BROOKLINE, MASS.
In reply please refer to: 1018

Dear Mr. Kratzok:

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

I am sure you will be glad to know that since my letter of June 5, to you, the President has taken action to establish 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.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Samuel E. Kratzok,
1907 North American Building,
N.E. Cor. Broad and Sansom Sts.,

Enclosures.
May 29, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

I enclose herewith copy of Resolution adopted at a meeting of the Max B. Willig Lodge No. 4, I.O.B.S. of Philadelphia, Pa., held on May 25, 1944, with respect to the creation of Free Ports for Refugees.

With extreme loyalty to our Country and with the utmost confidence in you, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

SEK: ab
Encl:
BE IT RESOLVED, THAT We the Max B. Willig Lodge No. 4, Independent Order Brith Sholom, consisting of 100 members, at a meeting held May 25, 1944, urge the President of the United States and his War Refugee Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for refugees in the United States for the duration. The establishment of Free Ports for refugees will translate into action the humanitarian desire of the American people to save as many victims of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

[Signature]
President

[Signature]
Secretary
In reply please refer to: 881

Dear Mr. Kratzok:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 1944, enclosing a resolution adopted by the Max E. Willig Lodge No. 4, I. O. B. S. of Philadelphia, 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

Mr. Samuel E. Kratzok,
1907 North American Building,
N.E. Cor. Broad and Sansom Sts.,
May 29, 1944

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C. (25)

Gentlemen:

I enclose herewith copy of Resolution adopted at a meeting of the Max B. Willig Lodge No. 4, I.O.B.S. of Philadelphia, Pa., held on May 25, 1944, with respect to the creation of Free Ports for Refugees.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

SEK: ab
Encl

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. JUN 5 1944
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date.
BE IT RESOLVED, THAT We the Max B. Willig Lodge No. 4, Independent Order Brith Sholom, consisting of 100 members, at a meeting held May 25, 1944, urge the President of the United States and his War Refugee Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for refugees in the United States for the duration. The establishment of Free Ports for refugees will translate into action the humanitarian desire of the American people to save as many victims of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

[Signatures]

President
Secretary
President Franklin D. Roosevelt;
White House;
Washington, D.C.

Your Excellency:

I endorse the plan for a free port in the United States to save the lives of innocent victims of Nazi terrorism.

Yours respectfully,

Hannah S. Ingram
(Mrs. Myron I. Ingram)
In reply please refer to: 906

JUN 3 1944

Dear Mrs. Ingram:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 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

Mrs. Myron I. Ingram,
3520 Lake Shore Drive,
Chicago 13, Illinois.
June 2, 1944

Mr. John W. Peble,
Executive Director
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I endorse the plan for a free
patriot in the United States to save
the lives of innocent victims
of Nazi terrorism.

Yours very truly,

Hannah S. Ingram
(Mrs. M. I. Ingram).
In reply please refer to: 1979

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letters of recent date 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.

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

Mr. Noah M. Jones,
International Representative,
International Brotherhood of
Boiler Makers, Iron Ship
Builders and Helpers of
America,
Room 204,
National Market Bank Building,
Baltimore 2, Maryland.

Enclosures
June 20, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:-

We, the boilermakers of Local 193, as a whole are heartily in favor of the plan to establish free ports in the United States, where refugees may find shelter until they can establish permanent homes.

This plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones and safe refuge from the tyranny of the despots, but would also demonstrate to the world, the determination of the American Government and the American people to alleviate the sufferings of these poor unfortunate.

We assure you this plan has our wholehearted support, and we respectfully urge its adoption.

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]

NMJ: RC

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Board Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington,
D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:—

We, the Boilermakers of Local 193, as a whole are heartily in favor of the plan to establish "free ports" in the United States, where refugees may find shelter until they can establish permanent homes.

This plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones and safe refuge from the tyranny of the despots, but would also demonstrate to the world, the determination of the American Government and the American people to alleviate the sufferings of these poor unfortunates.

We assure you this plan has our wholehearted support, and we respectfully urge its adoption.

Yours respectfully,

NMJ:RC


NOAH M. JONES, REPRESENTATIVE
MARYLAND, DELAWARE, VIRGINIA, DISTRICTS OF COLUMBIA AND NORTH CAROLINA

2140 WILKENS AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Room 204,
Baltimore, Md.

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To Files
Ans.
No. App. Req.
Initial
Date

Respectfully referred
for acknowledgment
and consideration

Secretary to the President
April 25, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
The War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of an open letter which I addressed to you on my Very Truly Yours broadcast over this station on Monday evening, April 24, at 9:30 P.M.

If you care to comment in any way, I should be very glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

NORMAN JAY

NJ: KK
April 24, 1944

DEAR MR. FEHLING:

AMERICA HAS A CONSCIENCE. I THINK WE'RE BEGINNING TO SEE IT IN THE ENTHUSIASTIC NATION-WIDE SUPPORT ACCORDED THE PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY SAMUEL GRAFTON, COLUMNIST OF THE NEW YORK POST, THAT THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISH FIERE PORTS FOR EUROPEAN REFUGEES. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO SEE IT EVEN MORE IF AND WHEN THE PROPOSAL BECOMES A PROJECT AND AMERICA CAN HEAVE A NATIONAL SIGH OF RELIEF AS IT FORSAKES THE UNNATURAL ROLE IT HAS PLAYED IN HARKING REFUGEES FROM ITS SHORES.

AMERICA WELCOMES YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT, SIR, THAT THE WAR REFUGEES BOARD, OF WHICH YOU ARE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IS OFFICIALLY CONSIDERING THE PLAN. FOR, ASIDE FROM THE COMPARATIVE FEW WHO'VE SWALLOWED THE FASCIST POISON, WHOSE HUMAN INSTINCTS HAVE BEEN CHILLED BY A STEADY DIET OF STUBBORN UNREASONING HATE, AMERICANS HAVE BEEN DESERVEDLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE INHUMAN ROLE THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING AS THE CHAMPIONS OF EXCLUSION.

DOING SOMETHING FOR THE UNHAPPY OF OTHER LANDS HAS BEEN IN THE AMERICAN TRADITION SINCE THIS NATION'S BIRTH. AMERICAN HOSPITALITY AND GENEROSITY TO THOSE IN NEED HAVE BEEN OUR TRADEMARKS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. YET OUR RECORD IN POSTWAR YEARS IS HARDLY ONE THAT WILL BRING PRAISE TO THOSE OF US WHO VIEW HUMAN LIFE AND SPIRIT AS PROFANE. WHO CAN FEEL SORROW AT THE SUFFERING AND ANGUISH TO WHICH FELLOW-HUMANS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD—DEFENSELESS AND INNOCENT—are being subjected by a philosophy of government that has made barbarism a national policy.

FOR AS A NATION WE'VE CLOSED OUR HANDS, OUR DOORS AND OUR HEARTS—AND OUR EYES TO THE ROLE OF AMERICA IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
BUT, SIR, I DON'T WANT TO APPEAR TO BE CHAMPIONING THE
LIFTING OF IMMIGRATION QUOTAS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I ONLY WANT TO
ASK, AS MR. CRAFTON DOES, THAT WE DO THE VERY LEAST THAT WE CAN UNDER
THE CIRCUMSTANCES. MR. CRAFTON POINTS OUT THAT WE HAVE A "FREE PORT"
RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK CITY, INTO WHICH FOREIGN GOODS—JUST Plain MERCHANDISE,
MIND YOU—MAY BE BROUGHT WITHOUT PAYING CUSTOMS DUTIES. GOODS BROUGHT
INTO IT FROM OVERSEAS ARE DESTINED EITHER FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO OTHER
COUNTRIES OR FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE HERE. AND MR. CRAFTON ASKS WHY WE
CAN'T SET ASIDE A "SMALL BIT OF LAND, A KIND OF RESERVATION" FOR HUMAN
BEINGS AS WE DO FOR GOODS. HE MAKES NO FURTHER DEMANDS THAN THAT. HE
MAKES NO PLEA FOR PERMANENT REFUGE OR FOR USEFUL OR NON-USEFUL WORK OR
FOR CITIZENSHIP FOR THESE HOMELESS. HE ASKS ONLY TEMPORARY STORAGE
UNTIL THE WILD WINDS OF WAR HAVE STOPPED BLOWING.

THIS ISN'T, AS YOU SEE, A QUESTION THAT REQUIRES ANY RESEARCH.
IN URGING THAT THE WAR REFUGEES BOARD ACT FAVORABLY ON THE PROPOSAL,
NEITHER MR. CRAFTON NOR I NOR ANY OF THE OTHERS WHO ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL
HAVE TO PROVE HOW INTIMATELY AMERICA'S GROWTH HAS BEEN RELATED TO
IMMIGRATION. FOR AFTER ALL, WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED IS NOT IMMIGRATION.
WE DON'T HAVE TO PROVE THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT ASSIMILATING FOREIGN-BORN
INTO AMERICA'S BLOOD-STREAM THROUGHOUT THE YEARS OF THIS NATION'S HISTORY
HAS ENRICHED ALL OF US. FOR WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED IS NOT ASSIMILATION.
WE DON'T HAVE TO PROVE THAT ACCEPTING PEOPLES OF OTHER NATIONS INTO OUR
OWN HAS INVIGORATED OUR CULTURE... AND HAS PROVIDED THE MANPOWER AND
BRAINPOWER TO BUILD AMERICA INTO THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL POWER IN THE WORLD.
FOR WHAT IS BEING SUGGESTED IS NOT ABSORPTION.
NO, MR. PEASE, WE'RE NOT SUGGESTING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT
UPSET OUR NATIONAL POLICY TOWARD FOREIGN-BORN. THAT MIGHT TAKE US INTO
THE REALM OF POLITICS AND GIVE SOME OF OUR NATIONAL HALF-PINTS A CHANCE
TO SOUND OFF ABOUT ALIEN INFLUENCES AND THREATS TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF
AMERICANS AND OTHER EXAGGERATIONS THAT SERVE SO ADMIRABLY TO COVER UP
THEIR OWN EMPTINESS. AND WE'D RATHER STAY IN THE REALM OF SIMPLE
HUMANITARIANISM.

WE'D RATHER MAKE IT AS SIMPLE AS FINDING A BABY ON YOUR
DOORSTEP AND TAKING IT INTO YOUR HOUSE FOR CARE UNTIL YOU CAN HAND IT
OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES. WE'D RATHER KEEP IT AS SIMPLE AND
NON-DEBATABLE AS A RESCUE AT SEA.

SOMEBODY, BIR, THE CIVILIZED PART OF THE WORLD DOESN'T WEEP
FOR THOSE WHO MANAGE TO KEEP A STEP AHEAD OF NAZI BUTCHERY. FRANKLY,
I DON'T KNOW WHY. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THEIR SITUATION HAS NEVER BEEN REAL TO
US. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED WHOLESALE SHATTERING OF
HOMES AND DISPERSAL OF FAMILIES. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT
IT IS TO BE HUDDLED ON A BARGE FLOATING DOWN THE DANUBE... OR FREEZING
IN SOME MID-EUROPEAN WHEAT FIELD. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER KNOWN
THE TORTURE OF WONDERING WHAT'S BECOME OF OUR KIDS OR WIVES OR MOTHERS.
MAYBE THE HUMAN MIND CAN'T EMBRACE THE AWFUL HORROR OF IT UNLESS IT'S HAD
SOME COMPARABLE EXPERIENCE— AND THANK GOD WE HAVEN'T.

BUT WE WOULDN'T HESITATE LONG IF WE KEEP THE SIMPLE FACT IN
MIND THAT THESE REFUGEES ARE RUNNING FROM DEATH BUT HAVEN'T ANY PLACE TO GO.
THE LIMEKILNS AND GAS CHAMBERS ARE CLOSE BEHIND THEM— AND THEY FIND
THEMSELVES ON A DEAD-END STREET.
DEATH WITH A GERMAN ACCENT STALKS THEIR HEELS—AND GOVERNMENTS WHOSE FRIENDSHIP THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT AND REASON TO EXPECT CLOSE THE GATES TO THE ONLY AVENUES OF ESCAPE.

THEY WANT ONLY A PLACE TO REST THEIR WEARY BODIES. THEY WANT ONLY TO FEEL THAT THE MURDERERS CAN'T PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE WITH THEM ANY MORE. THEY WANT ONLY THE SMALLEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF SECURITY.... A WORD THAT HAS COME TO HAVE NO MEANING AT ALL FOR THEM SINCE THE NAZIS OVERRAN THE BALKANS.

WE'VE GOT IT IN OUR POWER, SIR, TO SET UP THESE "FREE PORTS" FOR REFUGEES AND THUS TO ENCOURAGE ALL OTHERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DO LIKEWISE. WE'VE GOT IT IN OUR POWER TO RELIEVE TO SOME SMALL EXTENT AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE SUFFERING. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE MILLIONS WHO HAVE PERISHED OR HAVE BEEN ENGULFED IN THE NAZI WAVE. BUT CAN WE TURN OUR BACK ON THOSE WHO STILL LIVE? CAN WE... WHEN THE SOLUTION IS TO TREAT THEM WITH THE SAME CONSIDERATION—AND NO MORE—THAT WE GIVE TO MERCHANDISE?

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER, MR. PEHLE, INSCRIBED ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. IT GOES:

"GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE—THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE. SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST TOST TO ME. I LIFT MY LAMP Beside THE GOLDEN DOOR."

VERY TRULY YOURS,

NORMAN JAY
In reply please refer to: 819

Dear Miss Blackwell:

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. Puhle

J. W. Puhle
Executive Director

Miss Marion Blackwell,
Executive Secretary,
International Institute of Boston, Inc.,
190 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Enclosures:

RBTowler:db 6/14/44
Dear Miss Blackwell:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 20, 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 Marion Blackwell,
Executive Secretary,
International Institute of Boston, Inc.,
190 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.
May 20, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

I am very much interested in the new plan that has recently been suggested to save refugees by the establishing of a system of "Free Ports" in the United States and I wish to have you know of my approval of the proposal and earnestly hope that you will urge its adoption. Certainly it is the least that we in the United States, as we are, should do everything in our power to help those who have been displaced from their homes in Europe.

Very sincerely yours,

(Miss) Marion Blackwell
Executive Secretary

mb/1a
In reply please refer to: 797

MAY 29 1944

Dear Miss Blackwell:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 1944, 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

Miss Marion Blackwell,
Executive Secretary,
International Institute of Boston, Inc.,
190 Beacon Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.
May 20, 1944

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am very much interested in the new plan that has recently been suggested to save refugees by the establishing of a system of "Free Ports" in the United States and I wish to have you know of my approval of the proposal and earnestly hope that you will urge its adoption. Certainly it is the least that we in the United States, as we are, should do everything in our power to help those who have been displaced from their homes in Europe.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ MARION R. BLACKWELL

(Miss) Marion Blackwell
Executive Secretary

mb/ia
In reply please refer to: 3003

Dear Miss Cooper:

I have your letters of July 11, 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.

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

Miss Helen S. Cooper,  
Secretary,  
International Institute,  
St. John Street at Leith,  
Flint 6, Michigan.

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

My dear Mr. President:

The Directors of the International Institute of Flint have asked me to tell you of our great interest in the proposal to establish a system of "free ports" in the United States, to provide a temporary haven for war refugees who cannot enter the country under existing immigration laws.

We hope that all the details of this humanitarian project can be worked out satisfactorily, and that the proposal will be adopted.

Respectfully yours,

Helen S. Cooper
Secretary

Member of the Flint Community Chest and The National Institute of Immigrant Welfare
John W. Fehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Fehle:

The Board of Directors of the International Institute of Flint has asked me to tell you of our great interest in the proposal to establish a system of "free ports" to provide temporary haven for war refugees who cannot enter the country under existing immigration laws.

We hope it will be possible to work out the details of this project in a satisfactory way, and that enough "free ports" can be established in this and other countries, to take care of the refugees from Nazi tyranny.

Sincerely yours,

Helen S. Cooper
Secretary

Member of the Flint Community Chest and The National Institute of Immigrant Welfare
John W. Pehle, Executive Director

War Refugee Board

Washington, D. C.
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEES BOARD

To:
(1)...Mr. Behle... (Room) (Rig.)
(2)... (Room) (Rig.)
(3)... (Room) (Rig.)

Heresewith a copy of a declaration
by the Workers Delegates at the I.L.O.
conference with respect to Nazi
persecutions and the opening of
Free Ports in the democratic
countries.

L. S. Lesser
5/15/44

From:... (Date)
The undersigned members of the Workers' Delegations of the twenty-sixth session of the International Labor Conference held in the City of Philadelphia, once again call the attention of peace and liberty loving people the world over to the unspeakable crimes perpetrated by the Nazis upon the defenseless civilian populations groaning under their yoke.

In the Nazi orgy of persecution and death, the Jews have been singled out for total extermination. The closer Hitler comes to military defeat by the armed forces of the United Nations, the greater becomes his determination to carry out his mad design of annihilating a whole people.

More than three million Jews have already been murdered in cold blood. Only mass graves are now to be found where once Jewish communities were rooted. The Nazi axe is about to fall on the last remnants of the Jewish population in Hitler dominated and occupied Europe.

For more than eleven years Jews have borne the brunt of Nazi aggression. They have resisted to the utmost the Hitler march to world domination. Under the leadership of their labor organizations, and with the aid of the underground movement, the surviving Jews in the ghettos of Poland took up arms, and rose in open revolt against the Nazi armies. They fell in battle after exacting a severe toll from the Hitler hordes. Their last words to the world were, "Do not count the dead - remember the living.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews facing death may still be saved if the democratic world comes to their immediate aid. Not another minute must be lost.

We urge the governments of the United Nations to repeat their warnings that the Nazi criminals will have to account with their lives for their crimes against defenseless people of every faith, race and nationality. No citizen of Germany or of a satellite country should be able to claim ignorance of the crimes committed by the dictatorial regimes, as an excuse for condoning, or remaining passive in the face of the Nazi butcheries.

We urge that the remaining Jews in Nazi Europe be recognised as war prisoners by the governments of the United Nations.

We urge that "Free Ports" be established in the democratic countries to provide shelter to refugees who succeed in escaping from the Nazi countries until such time as they will be able to go back as free men to their liberated native lands.

We urge that the gates of Palestine be kept open for Jewish immigration.

We salute the memory of the heroes of the ghettos who have fallen in the cause of freedom and democracy. We greet the surviving Jews who continue to fight for a civilized world and human brotherhood. They are not forgotten or forsaken. The hour of liberation is at hand. At just world emerging from the defeat of the greatest enemy of mankind has ever had to face, will remember the sacrifices of the first and worst victims of Nazi aggression.

MORE
Signatures:

UNITED STATES
Robert J. Watt

AUSTRALIA
Percy James Clarey

BELGIUM
Jef Hens
Paul Finet

BRAZIL
Dario de Mattos Lima

BRITISH EMPIRE
Joseph Hallsworth
Anne Loughlin

CANADA
Percy R. Bengough
Norman S. Dowd

CHILE
Arturo Velasques Quiroga

CHINA
Chi Haueh-pan

CUBA
Carlos Fernandez R.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Josef Kosina

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Jose Maria Morales

FRANCE
Charles Louis Laurent
Albert Guigui

INDIA
Jasminadas Mehta

MEXICO
Vicente Lombardo Toledano
Alejandro Carrillo

NORTH AMERICAN UNION OF TRADE UNIONS
Walter Schevenel, Genl. Secy.

NORTH REUTERLAND
Jacobus Hendrik Oldenbroek
Roelof Adriaan Schotman

NEW ZEALAND
Francis Cornelius Allerby

NORWAY
Konrad Nordahl
Einar Johansen

PERU
Juan P. Luna

POLAND
Alojzy Adamczyk
Ch. Wasser

SWEDEN
Gunnar Andersson

YUGOSLAVIA
Cesar Milos

PALESTINE
I. Moreinski

UN. FED. OF TRADE UNIONS
Walter Schevenel, Genl. Secy.
Dear Mr. Dardieck:

I have your telegram of July 13, 1944, in support of House Resolution No. 576, 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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. Dardieck,
Legislative Committee,
INA Branch 283,
Los Angeles, California.

Enclosures.
LOS ANGELES CALIF JUL 13 1944

JOHN W PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD
TREASURY DEPT

DEAR SIR IN SUPPORT OF H REX. 576 WE THE MEMBERS OF IWO BRANCH 253
ARE IN FULL SUPPORT OF THIS BILL YOURS TRULY.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE M DAR DIECK.

JUL 14 10AM
In reply please refer to: 1395

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

The President has referred to me your resolution 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. J. Goldberg,
President,
Lodge 182 of I.W.O.,
48 Church Street,
Lynn, Massachusetts.

International Workers' Order

Enclosures.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

We, the officers and membership of

Sodge 192 of W.W.O. organization sym ma

realizing the desperate situation of refugees

from European countries, and the necessity for

finding a haven or refuge for these people,

desire to record ourselves in favor of legislation

for the establishment of "free ports" in the

United States of America.

By J. Galbreth, President

Secretary of President a stopper

Address: 48 Church St. see

SYM ma

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William H. Barrett
Secretary to the President
to the President of U.S.A.
Washington, D.C.
NOW MORE THAN EVER THE FURY OF HITLER WILL RISE IN REPISALS OF THE INVASION. THOUSANDS OF JEWS STILL CAN BE SAVED FROM SLAUGHTER BY OPENING FREE PORTS HERE. MANY SHIPS COMING BACK HERE FROM EUROPE ARE PRACTICALLY EMPTY. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN SAVE THEM. RESOLVED WE, THE, TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS OF LODGE 27 INTERNATIONAL SWKERS ORDER URE YOU TO USE YOUR AUTHORITY IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY TO SAVE THEM.

CELIA OKIN SECRETARY.
In reply please refer to 3269

Dear Miss Isenberg:

I have your recent communication 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, 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. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 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 until 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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss Shirley Isenberg,
69-81 108th Street,
Forest Hills, New York.

Enclosures.
Dear Mr. Pehle,

I urge you to do your utmost in support of the plan to establish immediately free ports in the United States as temporary refuge for the homeless victims of Nazism. It is to do so in inhuman and cruel.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Place and Date]
In reply please refer to: 1014

Dear Miss Israel:

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 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

Miss Anita Israel,
1589 Prospect Place,
Brooklyn 33, New York.

Enclosures.
To: Mr. John Behle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

June 7, 1944

Dear Sir,

Since the beginning of humanity, people have been persecuted for their belief in certain faiths or customs. Today we too are faced with the problem of religious persecution. Many millions of people are now as a result of this left entirely homeless. It is up to us, the free people of the United States, to see to it that they
are given a place of refuge. These people do not ask for a permanent place to settle, they only plead for a temporary home until victory.

In the fifth book of the Bible, the book of Deuteronomy, it is quoted by the Lord: "The Lord Thy God will restore thy captivity and have mercy upon thee, and He will gather thee from all the nations, whether the Lord Thy God hath scattered thee." Which only goes to prove that they will not depend upon us endlessly. By the helping them we will be rewarded with a special recompense and their helpless victims will return to their promised land and enjoy the future lifetime of peace.
For this reason I now a humble individual plead with you to have pity on these refugees by taking quick actions for the establishment of safe ports as a haven for them. I know that I can rely upon you to see that this 'kill is' enforced. 'Thank you. Respectfully Yours,' Miss Ethel Israel.
In reply please
refer to: 1681

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. M. Walter Jacobson,
57 East 88th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

MBTowler: 7/20/44
57 East 88th Street
New York

June 18, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President -

I wish to congratulate you on the noble action taken to open a refugee camp on our shores.

Saving a thousand hunted human beings is a fine deed. I know you will open more
such camps as quietly as you can do so. The need is urgent as you know.

Again, my felicitations and sincere hopes for more camps—Yours respectfully,

Wells Johnson
Dear Miss Jamieson:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 16, 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.

Very truly yours,

[ Signed ] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Florence Jamieson,
52 East Palmer,
Detroit, Michigan.
The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I feel very strongly that this country should take the lead in giving the greatest possible aid to the Jews of Europe in their present plight. To fail to do so is to consent, in effect, to the atrocious treatment they are receiving.

I believe as many as possible should be admitted to this country by the proper administration of our present immigration laws and that many more should be given temporary asylum here. I believe our influence should be exerted to hasten the colonization of Palestine by the Jews, and that neutral countries should have our financial aid and encouragement in aiding him and giving him refuge. Food should be furnished to the Jews and other people in Nazi-held countries on the Greek plan. The work of our War Refugee Board should have our utmost help and encouragement.

Sincerely yours,

Florence Jamieson

52 - E. Palmer
In reply please refer to: 3242

Dear Mr. Jaskow:

The President has referred to me your letter of August 1, 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, 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. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 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 until 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. Joseph L. Jaskow,
Princess Shop,
911-913 Third Avenue,
Huntington, West Virginia.

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

Sir:

Our great nation is now engaged in a conflict with two governments responsible for the persecution and enslavement of many peoples. Not only are we fighting so that our way of life may be secured; we are fighting to redeem and ensure the liberty of the oppressed.

The people living in these conquered countries will, when Victory has been achieved, be the basis for their nations' reconstruction. In view of this, would it not be wise to establish free ports now for these refugees, offer them comfort and security within the borders of our land until such time as their own countries will be rehabilitated.

I respectfully submit the above proposal for your consideration, and ask that you do all within your power to further it.

Respectfully yours,

J.L. Jaskow

JLJ/vw
In reply please refer to: 929

My dear Mr. Mayor:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 31, 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

Honorable Edward J. Jeffries, Jr.,
Mayor of the City of Detroit,
Detroit, Michigan.

Enclosures.
May 31, 1944

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that the War Refugee Board which you established recently is interested in what is referred to as the "Free Ports" plan.

After hearing this matter discussed at length
I am of the opinion that we can do no less than adopt a program of this type.

It seems these days that our civilization has been only a veneer at most, and in many places it has worn very thin. We owe it to ourselves and to the rest of the world to prove that we do believe human beings have a right to live, and under as favorable circumstances as can be provided.

I am pleased to urge you to sponsor the "Free Ports" program.

Respectfully,

Edward J. Jeffries, Jr.
Mayor
In reply please refer to: 2619

Dear Mrs. Jennings:

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 telegram 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

Mrs. Percy Hall Jennings,
Cold Spring Harbor,
Long Island,
Woodbury, New York.

Enclosures.
June 23, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

The horrible sufferings and wiping-out of the Jews of the world is troubling the conscience of this Christian land.

The United States of America should seriously attend to the problem of saving as many of the remaining Jews as possible.

We should be generous in providing permanent and temporary homes for hundreds of thousands of refugees, not just for "1000".

We should ease immigration into this country and into Palestine to take
care of these homeless ones. We can absorb them in our melting pot, and make good citizens, so setting an example that the other nations would be ashamed not to follow.

Financial help and food supplies should be provided for them with all speed.

Your War Refugee Board should be empowered to help them quickly, and so express our horror at this unspeakable sacrifice of human beings.

We appreciate being Americans who can write freely to our elected representatives to express our desires.

Thanking you for your help so urgently needed, I am

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Archimedes Jennings

Mrs. Percy Hall Jennings