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

The President has referred to me your letter of August 3, 1944, concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, to give temporary asylum to approximately 1,000 refugees who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, and urging action to save the Jews of Hungary.

Details of the plan to establish the Emergency Refugee Shelter 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.

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 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
Executor Director

Mr. Broadus Mitchell,
Acting Chairman,
Post War World Council,
112 East 19th Street,
New York, 3, New York.

Enclosures

Hutchison 8/25/44
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of this organization, we express to you our appreciation for the precedent our country has set in opening a free port for refugees. Acknowledging that this will be of value in saving the lives of the thousand which the haven at Port Ontario can accommodate, we point out that this is merely a token rescue.

Our country has, at this moment, the opportunity to be the decisive factor in action to save 400,000 human beings - the remaining Jews of Hungary - by giving them their last chance to escape.

The Hungarian government has announced that it will permit any Jew to leave who can secure an entry visa for Palestine. It will also permit Jewish children under the age of 10 to go to any country of the United Nations willing to receive them.

It is no longer a matter to be debated, whether or not our country should use its influence to permit the saving of these 400,000 people. Until the Hungarian government made this announcement, the fate of the Jews in Hungary was possibly beyond our influence. Today, it is our responsibility!

Both the Republican and Democratic party platforms have declared for unrestricted immigration into Palestine. These declarations voice the unanimous feeling of the people of America that a haven must be kept open to receive persecuted people. Great Britain is today our ally and between allies there should be reciprocity. We have the right to ask that Great Britain cut the red tape which is today barring the gates of Palestine. We urge you to bring pressure on the British government to admit the Hungarian Jews into Palestine.

But this is not enough. We must open our own doors to these people. Failure to act in time will be participation in wholesale murder. The time to act is now and we call on you to take this action before it is too late and the complete annihilation of these 400,000 people is our guilt.

Sincerely yours,

Broadus Mitchell  
Acting Chairman  

Elsie Elenbein  
Executive Director  

Madeleine Trimmer  
Administrative Secretary
Executive Office of the President
Mrs. Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

J.W. Peble
Executive Director (1889)

Dear Sir,

Your communication dated July 6, 1944 was a most gratifying. Indeed the action taken by our Grand President in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, N.Y., is a direct manifestation of his humanitarian efforts in behalf of the oppressed in Nazi Europe.

The enclosures are appreciated and will help our many members in the knowledge of what is being done for those refugees who today are our concern. May we soon see the day when war torn world will resume
normal life with life, liberty and
The pursuit of happiness. In the
people there.
with much appreciation in
your efforts as stated in 2889 Sam.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Mr. Samuel J. Stone
President N.E. Regio.
Nijishi Women's Corp. of Am.
208 Rawson Rd.
Brookline
Mass.
SAMUEL J. STONE, C.P.A.
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING
80 FEDERAL STREET
BOSTON 10, MASS.

Mrs. E. J. Stone
208 Rawson Rd.
Brookline,
Mass.

Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Miss Hodel
J. W. Fleece
Room 190

Executive Director.
In reply please refer to: 2889

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mrs. Stone:

The President has referred to me your recent 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

Mrs. Samuel J. Stone,
President,
H.E. Region Mizrachi of
Women's Organization of
American
208 Rawson Road,
Brookline, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

We, the officers and membership of
N.E. Region Mjuzachi of Women's Org. of Am.
organization city or town
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: Mrs. Samuel J. Stone
Secretary of President
Address: 208 Rawson Rd.
Brookline
Mass.
In reply please refer to: 3066

JUL 29 1944

Dear Mrs. Molat:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 15, 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. J. H. Molat,
2114 East 14th Street,
Brooklyn 29, New York.

Enclosures.
Sir:

I am in complete accord with the plan for "Tree Ports" to help to save innocent Jews from Nazi domination. Those who are still alive deserve to receive a friendly hand from America across the sea. American Jews all stand to back the "Tree Port" idea.

As a United States citizen, I add my plea in behalf of the ever decreasing number of Jews who remain to be saved.

Please help them before it is too late.

Respectfully,

Ester Molat
(mrs. I. H. Molat)
In reply please
refer to: 887

Dear Mrs. Moldawer:

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,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. W. B. Moldawer,
6436 Woodcrest Avenue,
Philadelphia 31, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
In reply please refer to: 887

JUN 9 1944

Dear Mrs. Moldawer:

Thank you for your letter of June 1, 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. N. B. Moldawer,
6436 Woodcrest Avenue,
Philadelphia 31, Pa.
June 1, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Peble,

I understand that your Board is now considering the establishment of a Refugee Rescue Camp or Free Port in the United States for Refugees.
Mrs. N. B. Moldawer
8436 Woodcrest Avenue
Philadelphia No. 31, Pa.

fleeing the latter terror.
I hope that in the interest of humanity & the preservation of human life wherever possible, that your Board give this matter your serious consideration.

Very truly yours,

Thebina Moldawer
(Mrs. N. B. Moldawer)
Mr. John W. Behle,  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 1194

My dear Judge Moore:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 5, 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 C. Edwin Moore,
Judge of the District Court,
Ninth Judicial District of Iowa,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Enclosures.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.,  
My dear Mr. President:  

A few days ago my attention was called, by  
Rabbi Monroe Levens of this city, to the proposed plan  
for establishment of refugee rescue camps to be used as  
temporary havens for persons seeking relief from Nazi  
dominated countries. And as I listened to my radio last  
night I was shocked to hear that approximately fifteen  
per cent of the people of Greece have starved to death  
since the seizure of their country by the Germans.  

Certainly if our government can establish some  
agency to relieve such suffering we will be greatly repaid  
in the future.  

I trust that some plan for "free ports" can  
be established.  

Very Respectfully,  

Judge District Court, Ninth  
Judicial District of Iowa.
In reply please refer to: 2005

Dear Dr. Monat:

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

Dr. Seymour M. Monat,
St. Louis Maternity Hospital,
St. Louis 10, Missouri.
To the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I should like to let you know that I am heartily in favor of your recent move to offer asylum here in the United States to refugees from war-savaged Europe.

If you could even open up additional camps to these unfortunate, I am sure you would have not only my support but that of every American.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Address]

[Date]
In reply please refer to: 3123

Dear Miss Morris:

The President has referred to me your telegram of July 20, 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 Hilda Morris,
790 Riverside Drive,

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

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington

JUL 20 11 PM 1944

RS NEW YORK NY JUL 20 1944 1228P

HON FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT
WHITE HOUSE

DEAR MR PRESIDENT PLEASE GIVE YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF FREE PORTS. WITH THE PASSING OF EACH DAY IT BECOMES MORE VITAL FOR US TO ACT TODAY FOR TOMORROW WILL BE TOO LATE.

UNLESS WE DO THE HUMANE THING THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF HUNGARY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

RESPECTFULLY

HILDA MORRIS 790 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK CITY 32.
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.
Dear Miss Morse:

The President has referred to me 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.

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 Miriam F. Morse,
429 E. Madison Avenue,
Wheaton, Illinois.

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

Sir:

I am one among many thousands of people in the United States who are grateful that an organization such as the President's War Refugee Board has been formed, but who are passionately convinced that much stronger efforts should be made, and made immediately, to rescue the Jewish people who can yet be saved from starvation and torture in Europe.

The present methods of administering our immigration laws prevent the admission of many refugees who might enter the United States under the existing quotas. About half a million more immigrants could have been admitted since the war began without increasing the total number even now allowed under the law.

Cannot immediate and forceful measures be taken to open our doors wide to the needy refugees of Europe? If this is not done, we shall be guilty of the death of thousands of innocent people.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Miriam F. House.
HONORABLE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE WHITE HOUSE

MR. PRESIDENT: THE MOTION PICTURE ALLIANCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN IDEALS, A NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS IN ALL BRANCHES OF MOTION PICTURE MAKING, WISHES TO ASSURE YOU OF THE WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROGRAM YOU PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS TO AFFORD SHELTER FOR THE VICTIMS OF NAZI INTOLERANCE. IN EXTENDING HELP TO THE OPPRESSED YOU ARE UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST IDEALS IN THE AMERICAN TRADITION.

SAM WOOD   PRESIDENT   MOTION PICTURE ALLIANCE.
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reply please refer to: 1702

JUN 29 1944

Dear Mr. Wood:

The President has referred to me your telegram of June 13, 1944, concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter recently established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

The interest and support for this program which you have expressed in the name of your organization are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Sam Wood,
President,
Motion Picture Alliance,
Culver City, California.
In reply please refer to: 1702

JUN 29 1944

Dear Mr. Wood:

The President has referred to me your telegram of June 13, 1944, concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter recently established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

The interest and support for this program which you have expressed in the name of your organization are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Sam Wood,
President,
Motion Picture Alliance,
Culver City, California.
WB56 DL 1 EXTRA

CULVER CITY, CALIF JUN 13 1944 637P

HONORABLE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE WHITE HOUSE

MR. PRESIDENT: THE MOTION PICTURE ALLIANCE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN IDEALS, A NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS IN ALL BRANCHES OF MOTION PICTURE MAKING, WISHES TO ASSURE YOU OF THE WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROGRAM YOU PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS TO AFFORD SHELTER FOR THE VICTIMS OF NAZI INTOLERANCE.

IN EXTENDING HELP TO THE OPPRESSED YOU ARE UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST IDEALS IN THE AMERICAN TRADITION

SAM WOOD PRESIDENT MOTION PICTURE ALLIANCE.
Mr. Sam Wood,
President,
Motion Picture Alliance,
Culver City, California.

9484 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Cal
In reply please
refer to: 790

MAY 29 1944

Dear Miss Nott:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 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 Beulah Nott,
271 South 63rd Street,

O.K. Free Pinte
Dear Sir:

I am in favor of a free port and hope you will do everything possible to help in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

May 21, 1924

271 South 2nd Street
In reply please refer to: 794

Dear Miss Mott:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 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 Zeldah Mott,
271 South 63rd Street,
Hon. John W. Rule  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Please do all in your power to see that we have a free port for war refugees. I hope you will do all that you can to see that this is put through.

Very truly yours,

Zelmer Wall
In reply please refer to: 1402

Dear Mr. Firestone:

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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Milton P. Firestone,
President,
Mount Zion Temple,
Holly at Avon,
St. Paul 5, Minnesota.

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

Dear Mr. President:

At a meeting of the Board of Administration of Mount Zion Temple representing more than 350 Jewish families in our community, the following resolution was adopted:

"We commend the President of the United States for his visionary leadership and for his profound sense of humanitarianism in championing the cause of the oppressed and persecuted both in word and deed. Particularly, do we take this means to express our deep gratitude for his sincere efforts which led to the formation of the War Refugee Board which we hope will save hundreds of thousands of innocent people from death.

We heartily endorse the proposed plan of the War Refugee Board to set up temporary havens of refuge to be known as "free ports" and we trust that the President of the United States will lend his great influence and prestige to this humanitarian project. We urge the setting up at once of these "free ports" upon 'the free and cherished soil of our beloved country'.

Most obediently yours,

Mount Zion Temple Congregation

President

Rabbi
Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 2639

JUL 3 1944

Dear Miss Munro:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 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 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 A. B. Munro,
Route #2,
Concord, New Hampshire.

Enclosures.
To the Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

I am writing in response to an Elevated Hour address to Americans "from the "Mother's International League for Peace and Freedom" to urge them all of conscience, to take up a refuge for the persecuted and whitewash clandestine Jews in race dominated Europe shall be promptly done, and all our influence be brought to bear on the other nations that should take such steps. It is as hopeless a cause, one
To evoked by our minds and the way in which we are led into the hands of the stage leaders, and failed to give the help they could have given, in time to save number of people who have already perished.

With all my heart, I urge that we do all that can be done to preserve our own traditions of a great and free nation.

Sincerely yours,

A. B. Thruston,
June 24th, 1844
Dear Mr. Murphy:

I have your letter of June 23, 1944, concerning the program for the establishment of the Emergency Refugee Shelter 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,

[Typed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Harry Murphy,
2nd Floor,
317 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Dept. of Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Strongly urge support for H Res 576 requesting President to admit refugees temporarily to "Free Ports" -- in greater numbers than the 1000 recently announced. This is a step true Christians as well as Jews will applaud as being in accord with genuine American principles of merciful aid to oppressed and persecuted innocent men, women, and children.

Very truly yours

Harry Murphy

Harry Murphy
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Dept. of Treasury
Washington, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 1691

My dear Judge Murrow:

The President has referred to me 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 8th, 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

Honorable Tom K. Murrow,
Judge of the Ninth Judicial District of Iowa,
District Court Chambers,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Enclosures.
June 7, 1944.

The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

I am in accord with the proposed establishment of refugee rescue camps in the United States to provide temporary haven for unfortunate persons who have had to flee Nazi Europe. It is my understanding that the proposed plan does not contemplate admission of these persons as permanent residents unless they qualify through regular immigration procedure.

It is an act of humanity, and should result in friendly sentiment for America in foreign countries when the war is over.

Respectfully yours,

Tom Brokaw