ON

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

General - M-N

Folder 3 - "N"

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1391

Dear Mrs. Nagel:

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

Mrs. Edith Haggstrom Nagel,
301 West 108th Street,
New York, 25, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler: 7/20/44

10
War Refugee Bd

1391

301 West 108th Street,
New York 25, N.Y.
June 12, 1944.

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Dear President Roosevelt,

The appalling and inhuman suffering that has come to the political and Jewish refugees of Europe leads me to protest against our half-hearted attempts to help these people. I respectfully urge that the recentopening of a free port to but a thousand of these human beings, although it is an admirable expression of our good will toward them, be regarded as only a first step in alleviating their suffering. Our government should prepare itself to open more ports, quickly and in sufficient numbers, to admit every single individual who, without such sanctuary, would be unableto live on.

I also urge most respectfully the initiation and adoption of a feeding plan for needy nationals and refugees in Nazi held territory, on the model of the successful Greek feeding plan.

I cannot believe that there are insurmountable obstacles to our carrying through a humane program of this sort. The historical fact that our country has always provided asylum for the oppressed of other lands is good evidence to show that providing such asylum is part of the implicit ideal of American life. We must, however, profess this ideal not only implicitly, but actively and with passionate conviction. And I think that a wise and humane government should take the lead in popularizing this ideal and in helping to give it concrete embodiment.

Very respectfully yours,
Edith Haggstrom Nagel
Edith Haggstrom Nagel

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 816

Dear Miss Aries,

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Harriet S. Aries,
Director, Chicago Section
Service to the Foreign Born,
National Council of Jewish Women,
130 North Wells Street,
Chicago, Illinois,

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

In reply please
refer to: 816

MAY 31 1944

Dear Miss Aries:

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 Harriet S. Aries,
Director, Chicago Section
Service to the Foreign Born,
National Council of Jewish Women,
130 North Wells Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

EOT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-30-44

816

COPY

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Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 5/31/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
CHICAGO SECTION
DEPARTMENT of SERVICE to the FOREIGN BORN

Franklin 9555

MISS HARRIET ARIES
Executive Director

130 NORTH WELLS STREET

May 22, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We are heartily in accord with the proposal which has been made to establish free ports in the United States, where refugees from Nazi Europe can wait in safety until it becomes possible for them either to return to their homes, or to settle elsewhere.

This is a highly constructive suggestion which not only will make it possible for the United States to offer refuge to some of the victims of Nazism, but will also set an example for other countries. We urgently request that "free ports" idea be put into work, and hope that it will be possible to effect this soon.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ HARRIET S. ARIES

Harriet S. Aries
Director, Chicago Section
Service to the Foreign Born

HSA:db

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20
JUN 16
5-PM
1944

DIRECTORY SERVICE
HAS BEEN GIVEN
CHICAGO, ILL. (9)

Mrs. William H. Sahud,
President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Chicago Section
Chicago, Illinois

INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS
Returned to Writer
Reclaimed from
Chicago, Ill. (D.S.)

DO NOT REMAIL IN THIS ENVELOPE OR WEAR

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reply please
refer to: 939

JUN 15 1944

Dear Mrs. Sahud:

Thank you for your telegrams 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,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. William H. Sahud,
President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Chicago Section,
Chicago, Illinois.

Enclosures.

JUN 15 1944

In reply please
refer to: 939

Dear Mrs. Sahud:

Thank you for your telegrams 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

Mrs. William H. Sahud,
President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Chicago Section,
Chicago, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EAT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-14-44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 6, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

939 I

The White House
Washington

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

WB34 25 3 EXTRA JUN 5 8 00 PM 1944

BX CHICAGO ILL JUN 5 1944 412P

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE

WE HEARTILY ENDORSE PLAN FOR A FREE PORT IN THE UNITED STATES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF NAZI TERRORISM

MRS WILLIAM H SAHUD PRESIDENT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN CHICAGO SECTION.

RECEIVED

3

WU43 24 3 EXTRA

935

CHICAGO ILL JUNE 5 1944 412P

2882

JOHN H PEHLE, DIRECTOR

WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHDC

WE HEARTILY ENDORSE PLAN FOR A FREE PORT [redacted] IN THE UNITED 1944 JUN 5 PM

STATES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF NAZI TERRO

ISM

MRS WILLIAM H SAHUD PRESIDENT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF

JEWISH WOMEN CHICAGO SECTION.

600P

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 06
No Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

EASY TELEGRAPH TREASURY TEL

JUN 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 852

My dear Senator:

Reference is made to your letter of May 27, 1944, with which you enclosed a letter addressed to you by Miss Fannie R. Corbin, National Council of Jewish Women, Worcester, Massachusetts, concerning havens for refugees.

I am enclosing for your files a copy of a letter which I have today written to Miss Corbin, advising her of the President's recent action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Sinclair Weeks,

United States Senate.

Enclosure.

Original sgt. by Mr. Pehle

EBT EBTowler:agr 6-17-44

In reply please
refer to: 852

JUN 21 1944

Dear Miss Corbin:

Since my recent letter to you 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 Fanny R. Corbin,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Worcester, Massachusetts.
cc: Senator Weeks.

Original sgd. by J. W. Pehle

Enclosures.

EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

In reply please
refer to: 852

JUN 3 1944

My dear Senator:

I have your communication of May 27, 1944, enclosing a letter from Fanny R. Corbin, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of our letter to Miss Corbin. As requested in your communication, I am returning Miss Corbin's letter, a copy having been retained for our files.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Sinclair Weeks,

United States Senate.

Enclosures.

National Council of Jewish Women.

Original signed by Mr. Pehle

EBS BH RBHutchison:agr 5-30-44

In reply please
refer to: 852

JUN 3 1944

Dear Miss Corbin:

Senator Weeks has referred to me your letter of May 23, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

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

The duties and authority of the Board are defined in the Order, which declares it to be the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve the great humanitarian objectives for which it was created.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Fanny R. Corbin,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

EAT RBHutchinson:agr 5-30-44

United States Senate

May 27, 1944

Respectfully referred to
Mr. John W. Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board, Treasury Building

---

with thanks for such favorable consideration as the communication herewith submitted warrants, and for a report thereon, to accompany return of inclosure.

By direction of

... 9—3479 Sinclair Weeks U. S. S.

852

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. JUN 3 1944
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

C
O
P
Y

Worcester Section

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

Worcester, Massachusetts.

May 23, 1944

Senator Sinclair Weeks

House of Senate

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The Worcester Section National Council of Jewish Women an organization of five hundred women, urge you to support the Free Port Plan for Refugees and also to support any measures which will put this plan into immediate operation.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours very truly,

(SGD) Fanny R. Corbin

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

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. JUN 15 5-PM 1944

Mrs. Louis Rembaport,
President,
New Jersey State Conference,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Rend 25+1

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

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reply please
refer to: 1022

JUN 14 1944

Dear Mrs. Rappaport:

The President has referred to me your telegram 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,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Louis Rappaport,
President,
New Jersey State Conference,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Enclosures.

JUN 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1022

Dear Mrs. Rappaport:

The President has referred to me your telegram 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. Louis Rappaport,
President,
New Jersey State Conference,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ BH RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

1022 I

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION
William D. Kassell

JUN 6 3 20 PM 1944

War Refugee Board

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

WB108 46 1 EXTRA

ELIZABETH NJ JUNE 6 1944 215P

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED RESPECTFULLY URGES THAT YOU EXERT YOUR GOOD INFLUENCE IN BEHALF OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE PORT PLAN IN THE UNITED STATES AS A HAVEN FOR THOUSANDS OF PERSECUTED PEOPLE IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

MRS LOUIS RAPPAPORT PRESIDENT NEW JERSEY STATE CONFERENCE.

In reply please
refer to: 1700

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mrs. Greenberg:

The President has referred to me 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Louis B. Greenberg, Sec'y.,
Trenton Section,
National Council of Jewish Women,
Trenton, New Jersey.

Envelope addressed to 32 Laclede Avenue.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓

EBTowler:inp 6/23/44

1700

EDUCATION • IMMIGRATION PEACE • RELIGION • SOCIA EGISLATION • SOCIAL SERVICE

W. R. B.
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To: Files
Ans.
No Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

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National Council of Jewish Women

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

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32 Laclede Avenue

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY
30 Laclede Avenue

MRS. SAMUEL SWERN
AUDITOR

June 1 , 1944

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

Dear Sir:

The Trenton Chapter National Council of Jewish Women joins its voice with a continuous and reverberant plea to you to proclaim certain areas in this country "free ports" and to give those stricken people of Nazi-plagued Europe a ray of hope.

We Americans who are looked to by all of Europe must point the way of example to rescue these persecuted, homeless and hungry people by giving them haven.

We dare not wait until after the war to begin a plan to help our brothers. Now is the time !! Before the Nazis in their murderous anger wreak their vengeance in retreat. We Americans want to save those people NOW !!

Mrs. Louis B. Greenberg, Sec'y.

In reply please
refer to: 1997

JUL 21 1944

Dear Mrs. Sands:

The President has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your recent telegram 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.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Irving J. Sands,
President,
Brooklyn Section,
National Council of Jewish Women,
202 New York Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

EBT ✓ EBTowler: 7/20/44

1997

The White House
Washington

Ack 6/20/44 a me

JUN 14 3 02 PM 1944

W. R. B. RL
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No Ans. Req.
Initial
RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION
William D. Karnett
Secretary to the President

WB25 DL

BROOKLYN NY JUN 14 1944 245P

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

BROOKLYN SECTION/NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN/WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW OF ITS DEEP GRATIFICATION IN THE STEPS YOU HAVE TAKEN IN SETTING UP THE WAR CAMP FOR REFUGEES AT FORT ONTARIO. OUR FAITH IN YOUR HUMANITARIAN OUTLOOK HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN.

MRS IRVING J SANDS PRESIDENT.

202 ny ave

1

7/3112

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN INC.

1819 BROADWAY NEW YORK 23 · N Y ·

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No Ans. Req. ✓
Initial
Date 8/5/44
See #3067

FLORA R. ROTHENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEL. CIRCLE 6-0175
CABLE: COUNCIL

July 19, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I thought you would be interested in seeing copies of the letters I have sent today to President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Welt

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MGW:CB
Encls.

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Filing Authority
To Files
Ans.

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Mrs. Julius Wolff, New York, N. Y.

*Ex-Officio
**President, National Council of Jewish Juniors

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
'44 JUL 27 AM 10 34

July 18, 1944

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

Sir:

The National Council of Jewish Women wishes to record its appreciation of the work begun at Oswego by the War Refugee Board. We hope that Fort Ontario will be the first and perhaps the smallest of several havens to be established in the United States under the free port plan for surviving European refugees.

The National Council of Jewish Women wishes, at the same time, to entreat you to authorize the extension of the free port plan as rapidly as possible, for the immediate rescue of as many as yet can be saved of the persecuted peoples of Europe. Our country, a rich, powerful and humane democracy, has pledged its national honor to do all in its power to effect the escape and temporary settlement of those who remain alive. The opening of Fort Ontario to one thousand refugees is visible evidence that the United States intends to carry out this pledge. We trust others of the United Nations will accept it as such and will act quickly in a like manner.

There is little time left to prevent the complete annihilation of the Jews of Europe. We all know that their extermination is a predetermined objective of Hitler's Government and that more than three million have already suffered inhuman cruelty and death. Approximately one million Jews remain alive in the Balkans, and only instant evacuation can save them. This evacuation depends finally on the willingness of ourselves and the other United Nations to provide temporary shelter.

We ask that the American people be made aware, through widespread publicity, that the free port plan is absolutely necessary if any of these doomed refugees are to be saved; and that this plan in no way departs from national immigration policy. We ask also that they be told about the haven at Fort Ontario and about all plans for immediate establishment of similar havens, adequate in number and capacity.

If all Americans are made fully aware that failure to act in time is equivalent to participation in wholesale murder, there can be no doubt that national opinion will demand instant opening of sufficient ports of refuge.

(continued)

In this vast free country, several millions of people could be easily accommodated for a brief period, and the American people would be willing to accept hundreds of thousands of refugees, especially since they know that these unhappy victims will be returned to their homelands or resettled as soon as conditions permit.

You, as our honored President, have the unique opportunity to awaken our beloved country to a sense of its obligation and to execute for all of us, through the War Refugee Board, a national act of sublime and enduring importance. We pray that you may be able to act in time.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MMW:SG

July 18, 1944

The Honorable Cordell Hull
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The National Council of Jewish Women wishes to record its appreciation of the work begun at Oswego by the War Refugee Board. We hope that Fort Ontario will be the first and perhaps the smallest of several havens to be established in the United States under the free port plan for surviving European refugees.

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(continued)

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You, as our honored Secretary of State, have the unique opportunity to awaken our beloved country to a sense of its obligation and to execute for all of us, through the War Refugee Board, a national act of sublime and enduring importance. We pray that you may be able to act in time.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MGW:SG

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
JUL 21 AM 10 32

In reply please
refer to: 3087

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mrs. Welt:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

RHuchison:inp 7/25/44

3067

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN, INC.

1819 BROADWAY NEW YORK 23 · N Y ·

FLORA R. ROTHENBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

CIRCLE 6-3175
CABLE: COUNJEW · N. Y.

July 18, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Sir:

The National Council of Jewish Women wishes to record its appreciation of the work begun at Oswego by the War Refugee Board. We hope that Fort Ontario will be the first and perhaps the smallest of several havens to be established in the United States under the free port plan for surviving European refugees.

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If all Americans are made fully aware that failure to act in time is equivalent to participation in wholesale murder, there can be no doubt that national opinion will demand instant opening of sufficient ports of refuge.

(continued)

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*Ex-Officio
**President, National Council of Jewish Juniors

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New York, N. Y.

Ways and Means
Chairman—Mrs. Simon E. Sobeloff
Baltimore, Md.

In this vast free country, several millions of people could be easily accommodated for a brief period, and the American people would be willing to accept hundreds of thousands of refugees, especially since they know that these unhappy victims will be returned to their homelands or resettled as soon as conditions permit.

You, as our honored President, have the unique opportunity to awaken our beloved country to a sense of its obligation and to execute for all of us, through the War Refugee Board, a national act of sublime and enduring importance. We pray that you may be able to act in time.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Welt

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

MGW:SG

JUN 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 686

Dear Mrs. Welt:

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

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/21/44

In reply please
refer to: 686

MAY 13 1944

Dear Mrs. Welt:

Thank you for your telegrams of May 9, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York 23, New York.

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-15-44

FB

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1944

Respectfully referred to
the Executive Director of the
War Refugee Board for prepara-
tion of reply for my signature.

William D. Hassett

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

686

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. May 19/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

The White House
Washington

MAY 9 5 47 PM 1944

WB29 80 4 EXTRA

NEWYORK NY MAY 9 1944 513P

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WE HEARTILY ENDORSE THE PLAN FOR A FREE PORT IN THE UNITED STATES AS A MEANS OF SAVING IMMEDIATELY THE LIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF NAZI TERRORISM SUCH ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVE TO THE WORLD THE SINCERITY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS PROMISE TO RESCUE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE BY ANY PRACTICAL MEANS OUR COUNTRY BY ACCEPTING THIS

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RESPONSIBILITY WOULD FURNISH AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER NATIONS TO FOLLOW

MRS JOSEPH M WELT PRESIDENT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN 1819 BROADWAY NY.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1881/2

655
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Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. May 19/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

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BWA MAY 9 PM 5 43

NEWYORK NY MAY 9 1944 513P

JOHN W PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WE HEARTILY ENDORSE THE PLAN FOR A FREE PORT IN THE UNITED STATES AS A MEANS OF SAVING IMMEDIATELY THE LIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF NAZI TERRORISM SUCH ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVE TO THE WORLD THE SINCERITY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS PROMISE TO RESCUE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE BY ANY PRACTICAL MEANS OUR COUNTRY BY ACCEPTING THIS RESPONSIBILITY WOULD FURNISH AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER NATIONS TO FOLLOW

MRS JOSEPH M WELT PRESIDENT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN 1819 BWAY NY. (25)

537P

1819..

TREASURY TELEGRAPH TREASURY TELEGRAPH TREAS

JUN 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 930

Dear Mesdames:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 26, 1944, regarding temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

Since my reply to your recent letter to me concerning the same matter, 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 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,

[redacted]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Anne B. Prensky, Field Executive
Mrs. Jerry Harris,
National Council of Jewish Women,
El Paso Section,
El Paso, Texas.

Envelope addressed to 824 Mills Bldg.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

930

EL PASO SECTION

EL PASO, TEXAS

War Refugee Board

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
Torn Filed
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

PRESIDENT
MRS. CHARLES LEVY
1617 N. MESA AVE.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MRS. ISIDORE KAHN
504 HAGUE ST

FIELD EXECUTIVE
MRS. ANNE B. PRENSKY
824 MILLS BUILDING

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett II
Secretary to the President

May 26, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

The El Paso Section of the National Council of Jewish Women wish to go on record endorsing the plan for a 'free port' in the United States, to serve as an emergency refuge for war victims until concrete plans for their rehabilitation may be out lined.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs Anne B. Prensky
Mrs. Jerry Harris.

Mrs. Anne B. Prensky, Field Executive
Service to the Foreign Born

Mrs. Jerry Harris,
Member of the National Committee
Service to the Foreign Born

In reply please
refer to: 863

JUN 7 1944

Dear Mesdames:

Thank you for your letter of May 26, 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

Mrs. Anne B. Prensky,
Mrs. Jerry Harris,
National Council of Jewish Women,
El Paso Section,
El Paso, Texas.

EDT RBHutchison:agr 6-5-44

863

COPY

CONTROL COPY

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

EL PASO SECTION
El Paso, Texas

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

May 26, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The El Paso Section of the National Council of Jewish Women wish to go on record endorsing the plan for a 'free port' in the United States, to serve as an emergency refuge for war victims until concrete plans for their rehabilitation may be out lined.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Mrs. Anne B. Prensky
/s/ Mrs. Jerry Harris.

Mrs. Anne B. Prensky, Field Executive
Service to the Foreign Born

Mrs. Jerry Harris
Member of National Committee
Service to the Foreign Born

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1110

Dear Mr. Delman:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of June 1, 1944, enclosing a 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.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. J. David Delman,
President,
National Council of Young Israel,
200 West 40th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EKS ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

1110

3 — War Refugee Bd.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL
200 WEST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

J. DAVID DELMAN
PRESIDENT

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

June 1, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ... AND CONSIDERATION
William D. ...
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Mr. President:

I was deeply gratified to learn that the War Refugee Board which you recently appointed for the purpose of investigating immediate steps for the rescue of refugees from war-torn Europe, is considering a project of establishing free ports in the United States for those refugees who can yet be snatched from Hitler's clutches.

I beg to inform you that at a meeting of the National Council on May 22, at which were present the representatives of our 50,000 members throughout the United States, the enclosed resolution was adopted.

I earnestly hope that you will use your good offices to the end that this splendid plan be encouraged and ultimately implemented. It would be superfluous to tell you how many lives could thus be saved.

With all good wishes for your continued good health and happiness, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. David Delman

J. DAVID DELMAN
President

JDD:FW
Enc.

RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR REFUGEES FROM WAR-TORN EUROPE --- PRESENTED TO THE DELEGATES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY EVENING, MAY 22, 1944.

WHEREAS public announcement has been made of the consideration by the President's War Refugee Board of the establishment of a refugee rescue camp or free port in the United States in which refugees would be given a haven for the duration, and

WHEREAS the establishment of such free port would provide the means for saving thousands of lives at no expense or burden to the United States, inasmuch as such refugees would be self-supporting during their sojourn in the free ports,

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Young Israel memorialize the President of the United States and members of Congress, expressing the approval of the National Council of Young Israel for the establishment of free ports in the United States, and urging the materialization of this project at the earliest possible moment in order that the greatest possible number of refugees may be rescued.

MAY 29 1944

In reply please
refer to: 713

Dear Mr. Patton:

Your letter of May 12, 1944, to the President, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees, has been referred to me.

Your interest in this problem is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. James G. Patton,
President,
National Farmer's Union,
430 Munsey Building,
Washington, D. C.

Free Postage

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-23-44

713

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W. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 5/29/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION

430 Munsey Bldg.
Na. 9750

May 12, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have been reading with much interest the recent editorials in support of the United States establishing "free ports" for the refugees of war-torn Europe. It is my sincere hope, Mr. President, that you are giving serious consideration to the possibilities of such a step and that soon "free ports" will be a reality.

With millions of human beings destitute, homeless and hunted like wild beasts due to the fiendish cruelty of our enemy, Adolph Hitler, responsibility is placed on this nation to act if we would by deed support the principles for which our youth fight.

I am confident, Mr. President, that if the American citizens were acquainted with the true facts of Nazi persecutions, they would cry out with one voice, asking that this country point the way in this proposed humanitarian task of providing temporary havens for European refugees.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Jim Patton
James G. Patton, President
National Farmers Union

Chauncey (for the Secy.), DuBois, Hodel, Lesser, Friedman, Luxford, E.M.Bernstein, Gaston, Abrahamson, Laughlin, Mann.

JUN 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 975

Dear Mrs. Hartmann:

Thank you for 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

Mrs. Hugo Hartmann,
President,
The National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods,
Merchants Building,
Cincinnati, 2, Ohio.

Enclosures.

EBV RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

975

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF *Temple Sisterhoods*

Office of the President: MRS. HUGO HARTMANN

MERCHANTS BUILDING · CINCINNATI, OHIO

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

June 5, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

On behalf of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, an organization of 55,000 American Jewish women spread throughout the entire country, I respectfully urge upon you and all our officials the immediate establishment of free ports in which persecuted Jews and other victims of National Socialist discrimination will be saved from annihilation. This request is made not only for the sake of those to be helped, but also for the good name of our own country with its long tradition of offering a haven to the oppressed as well as in the name of humanity itself.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs. Hugo) Rina K. Hartmann

President

RKGH:EC

Dictated June 2.
Transcribed June 5.

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

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON. D. C.

1944 JUN 8 PM 12 51

MRS. HUGO HARTMANN
MERCHANTS BUILDING
CINCINNATI 2, OHIO

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON. D.C.

1944 JUN 8 PM 12 51

1160

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF *Temple Sisterhoods*

Office of the President: MRS. HUGO HARTMANN

MERCHANTS BUILDING · CINCINNATI, OHIO

June 5, 1944

RECEIVED WHITE HOUSE
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, an organization of 55,000 American Jewish women spread throughout the entire country, I respectfully urge upon you and all our officials the immediate establishment of free ports in which persecuted Jews and other victims of National Socialist discrimination will be saved from annihilation. This request is made not only for the sake of those to be helped, but also for the good name of our own country with its long tradition of offering a haven to the oppressed as well as in the name of humanity itself.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs. Hugo) Irma N. G. Hartmann

President

RKGH:EC

Dictated June 2.
Transcribed June 5.

8481

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No Ans. Req. ✓
Initial EMS
Date 7/1/44

RECEIVED
MAY 26 12 43 PM 1944

WB14 26

WILMINGTON DEL MAY 26 1944 1206P

HON FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

RESPECTFULLY URGE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BE GIVEN TO FREE PORT ENTRY FOR HUMAN BEINGS SEEKING TO PRESERVE THEIR LIVES UNTIL THEIR PROBLEM CAN BE ADJUSTED

NATL JEWISH WORKERS ALLIANCE LADIES CLUB.

1240P

No address

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1452

Dear Mr. Stewart:

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

Mr. Charles Howard Stewart,
Executive Director,
National Patriotic League,
210 East Market Street,
Akron, Ohio.

Enclosures.

EBT

MBTowler: 7/20/44

3 War Refugee Bd.

1452

NATIONAL PATRIOTIC LEAGUE

ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY AND COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE DEFENCE OF THE UNITED STATES, THE WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENS, AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

OHIO DISTRICT OFFICE
210 EAST MARKET STREET
AKRON, OHIO

CHARLES HOWARD STEWART
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE HE 5823

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. Req.
Date.

June 14.1944

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

Re Refugee Camps.

Sir:

Delegates of this organization have authorized me to write stating our members heartily approve your effort to save the innocent victims of the Nazi regime in Europe.

You will have our loyal support in any measures you may suggest for the shelter and sustenance of these sufferers. Our suggestion is at least 10 camps be established in suitable inland locations. These camps will bring to the people of the United States a picture of Hitler's savagery that could be presented in no other way.

They will impress our men and women in industry, and cause them to work more earnestly to hasten the day of Victory. Anything we can do to further this work in Ohio, please command.

Respectfully yours

Charles Howard Stewart.

S/M

In reply please
refer to: 775

MAY 29 1944

Dear Miss Evans:

Thank you for your letters of May 18, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Jane Evans,
Executive Director,
National Peace Conference,
8 West Fortieth Street,
New York 18, New York.

Free Ports

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-23-44

COPY

CONTROL COPY

775

NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE
8 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, N. Y.
Telephone: CHickering 4-6236

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files 5/27/44

JANE EVANS
Executive Director

No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

May 18, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

It is my privilege to inform you that at a meeting of the National Peace Conference held in New York City Monday, May 15, 1944, the Conferees present and voting unanimously declared themselves in favor of the immediate establishment within the United States of "Free Ports" as temporary havens of refuge for refugees until such time as they can be permanently relocated.

The writer was ordered to transmit word of this action to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of State, in the hope that through your good offices this necessary humane step will be taken at once.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ Jane Evans

Executive Director

JE:L

776

NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

8 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, N. Y.
Telephone: CHickering 4-6236

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 5/22/44
Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

JANE EVANS
Executive Director

Steering Committee
WALTER W. VAN KIRK, *Honorary President*
JOHN PAUL JONES, *President*
RICHARD R. WOOD, *Vice President*
MRS. HARRISON THOMAS, *Treasurer*
G. S. BARKER
EDWARD C. BOYNTON
J. HENRY CARPENTER
DOROTHY DETZER
MRS. DOROTHY GROELING
PENNINGTON HAILE
EMILY HICKMAN
MRS. WALTER JACOBS
MRS. ESTHER HOLMES JONES
JOHN HOWLAND LATHROP
DOROTHY LEET
PAUL M. LIMBERT
MRS. EDGERTON PARSONS
ELINOR PURVES
HELEN RAEBECK
ELIAS SOLOMON
OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD

National Constituents
American Friends Service Committee
American Unitarian Association
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Catholic Association for International Peace (Consultative)
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Church Peace Union
Commission on World Peace of the Methodist Church
Council for Social Action of the Congregational and Christian Churches
Department of International Justice and Goodwill of the Federal Council of Churches
Department of Social Education and Action, Presbyterian Church (Consultative)
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Foreign Missions Conference
Foreign Policy Association (Consultative)
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends' General Conference
Girls' Friendly Society
Institute of International Education
International Society of Christian Endeavor
League of Nations Association
National Board of the Y.W.C.A.
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council for Prevention of War
National Council of Women of the United States
National Council of the Y.M.C.A.
National Executive Board of the Woman's Auxiliary, Episcopal Church
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
National Student Federation
National Woman's Christian Temperance Union
National Women's Conference of the American Ethical Union
National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America
Post War World Council
United Council of Church Women
United Synagogue of America
War Resisters League
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches
World Peaceways

181

May 18, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Mr. President:

It is my privilege to inform you that at a meeting of the National Peace Conference held in New York City Monday, May 15, 1944, the Conferees present and voting unanimously declared themselves in favor of the immediate establishment within the United States of "Free Ports" as temporary havens of refuge for refugees until such time as they can be permanently relocated.

The writer was ordered to transmit word of this action to the Secretary of State and to Mr. John W. Pehle, Director of the War Refugee Board, in the hope that through your good offices this necessary humane step will be taken at once.

Faithfully yours,
Jane Evans
Executive Director

JE:L

The National Peace Conference, composed of representatives from each of its national affiliates as well as from community and state groups of similar interests, is the most inclusive agency in the United States for the exchange of ideas on international relations and world order. The present major emphasis of the Conference is on problems of the post-war world.

MAY 6 1944

In reply please
refer to: 606

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

Thank you for your letter of April 26, 1944, concerning the possibility of establishing temporary havens of refuge in this country.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Stamped] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. William Rosenwald,
National Refugee Service, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York 13, New York.

Free Ports

EBT RHTowler:agr 5-1-44

___Secretary Morgenthau

___Mr. Gaston	___Mr. Lesser
___Mr. Paul	___Mr. Luxford
___Mr. White	___Mr. Stewart
	___Mrs. Taylor
___Mr. E.M. Bernstein	___Files
___Mr. DuBois	_____
___Mr. Friedman	_____
✓ Miss Hodel - 190	_____

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS THE CONTROL COPY AND PREPARE REPLY.

JWPehle

J. W. Pehle

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

PHONE: CAnal 6-5000 COPY Cables: NACOMREF, New York

606

NRS
National Refugee Service, Inc.
139 Centre Street
New York 13, N. Y.

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

CONTROL COPY

April

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We of National Refugee Service read with tremendous satisfaction your courageous statement which may lead to the establishment of places of temporary refuge in this country.

We hail this as a great humanitarian gesture which, if put into effect, will not only save the thousands of lives of those brought here, but will also serve as an inspiration and example to other nations and will therefore save countless more lives.

Believing as we do in your program and efforts, we would be less than frank if we did not point out some of the difficulties which may arise, and some of the ways in which our agency, with its years of experience in preventing the influx of refugees from becoming a public problem, may cooperate with you in keeping to a minimum these difficulties and such criticisms as they may provoke.

Since our earlier conference with you we have visited approximately twelve of the largest communities in the East, Middle West and Far West. We have learned that in order to avoid critical attitudes and possible repercussions which might endanger the smooth operation of the program, interpretation and explanation are essential. Interpretation is needed as to why group care is the only method of saving substantial numbers of people -- what would the nature of such havens of refuge be -- why is it necessary to use group or congregate facilities -- where are such places likely to be located -- under what auspices would they be operated -- is there any assurance that other countries will establish similar programs. Such places are certain to shelter relatives and friends of citizens and refugees already in the United States. Emotional ties of such people would make it essential that they have an understanding of the entire program.

We believe that National Refugee Service, the largest refugee organization in the United States, can be of major assistance in many ways. Even before the actual completion of plans we can, through our committees in all parts of the

COPY

United States, and with the aid of other cooperating sectarian and non-sectarian organizations, help to provide the necessary interpretation and understanding. We can provide the social work service to act as an intermediary between persons whom you bring across and relatives and friends throughout the country. It will be essential to deal with the fears, insecurities and problems of such people. We believe our experience dealing with thousands of similar refugees would enable us to be of service to these people. We will undoubtedly be able to provide the many special needs which may be required to adjust people more adequately to group life -- or to help to secure these needs.

In these and many other ways National Refugee Service, with its many activities, can help to insure the success of the program.

We have already written that we stand ready to make available our years of experience in refugee work and to provide such aid as may be required, within the limits of our resources, for all refugees whom the War Refugee Board is able to bring to the United States.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William Rosenwald

William Rosenwald

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1186

Dear Mrs. Naumburg:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 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. Alfred Naumburg,
114 East 84th Street
New York 28, New York.

Enclosures.

Ebl ~ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-17-44

1186

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

MRS. ALFRED NAUMBURG 114 EAST 84 ST. NEW YORK 28, NEW YORK

June 12/44

Dear Mr. Pehle:-

I should like to record my approval of the plan to establish a system of free ports in the United States, which will give war refugees temporary asylum.

I hope you will use all your influence to further this important and humanitarian idea.

Sincerely,

Florence E. Naumburg

186

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

1405

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

MRS. ALFRED NAUMBURG 114 EAST 64 ST. NEW YORK 28, NEW YORK

FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

6/14

Bd.

June 12/44

Dear Mr. President —

I should like to record my approval of the plan to establish a system of free ports in the United States, which will give was refugees temporary asylum —

I hope you will use all your influence to further this important and humanitarian idea —

Sincerely,
— Florence E. Naumburg.

In reply please
refer to: 3087

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mr. Neiman:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 21, 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

Mr. S. Neiman,
217 Jericho Turnpike,
Floral Park, New York.

Enclosures.

RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-26-44 DEV

3087

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

3
War Refugee Bd.

Floral Park, N.Y. 7/21/44

The President of the United States of America
Washington. D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In the name of humanity I urge and implore you to take early action to establish temporary Rescue Camps within the United States for the Jewish and other persecuted people of Europe

gratefully yours
(Mr.) S. Neuman
217 Jericho Turnpike.
Floral Park N.Y.

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 944

Dear Mr. Nemzoff:

Thank you for your recent letters 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

Mr. Samuel A. Nemzoff,
19 Beaconsfield Road,
Brookline, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

EBT EBTowler:inp 6/15/44

944

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

19 Beaconsfield Road
Brookline, Massachusetts
June 6, 1944

War Refugee Board
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Realizing the desperate situation of refugees from European countries and the necessity for finding a haven of refuge for these people, I desire to record myself in favor of legislation for the establishment of "free ports" in the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Samuel A. Nemzoff

SAMUEL A. NEMZOFF

SAN/rcs

19 Beaconsfield Road
Brookline, Massachusetts

BOSTON, MASS.
JUN 6
7 30 PM
1944

War Refugee Board
Washington D. C.

War Refugee Board.

1164

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

Secretary to the President

19 Beaconsfield Road
Brookline, Massachusetts
June 6, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

Realizing the desperate situation of refugees from European countries and the necessity for finding a haven of refuge for these people, I desire to record myself in favor of legislation for the establishment of "free ports" in the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Samuel A. Nemzoff

SAMUEL A. NEMZOFF

SAN/rcs

In reply please
refer to: 2044

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mr. Neuburg:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 22, 1944, with respect to Senate Resolution 297 concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in this country for refugees.

I am sure that you were glad to see the accounts of the President's recent action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am enclosing as a matter of interest to you copies of his message to Congress on June 12, 1944, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

Your interest in measures for saving the lives of the victims of enemy persecution is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Alfred Neuburg,
Neuburg Sales Service,
103 Park Avenue,
New York 17, New York.

Enclosures.

EBTowler:inp 6/29/44

2044

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 2-2773

400 DAVIS STREET
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

NEUBURG SALES SERVICE
103 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

June 22, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

May I urge your favorable interest and prompt action on Senate resolution #297, introduced by Senator Gillette of Iowa, to help salvage some of the Jews that are left in Europe?

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Alfred Neuburg

AN/ln

2039

In reply please
refer to: 2039

JUL 6 1944

Dear Miss Neuburg:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 22, 1944, with respect to Senate Resolution 297 concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum in this country for refugees.

I am sure that you were glad to see the accounts of the President's recent action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am enclosing as a matter of interest to you copies of his message to Congress on June 12, 1944, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

Your interest in measures for saving the lives of the victims of enemy persecution is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ethel Barnett Neuburg,
112 East 19th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT EBTowler:inp 6/30/44

2039

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Bushnell
Secretary to the President

10 ✓ War Refugee Bd

TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 7-139

ETHEL BARNETT NEUBURG
CONSULTING DESIGNER AND DECORATOR
112 EAST 19TH STREET
NEW YORK

June 22, 1944

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

My dear Mr. President:

May I urge your favorable interest and prompt action on Senate resolution #297, introduced by Senator Gillette of Iowa, to help salvage some of the Jews that are left in Europe?

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

E. B. Neuburg

Ethel Barnett Neuburg

EBN/ln

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 691

Dear Mr. Gottesman:

Since my reply 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 w hich you have expressed in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Edmond Gottesman,
Secretary-Treasurer,
New York Joint Board
of Neckwear Workers,
7 East 15th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures:

EBTfowler:db 6/16/44

EBT

In reply please
refer to: 691

MAY 22 1944

Dear Mr. Gottesman:

Thank you for your letters of May 11, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Edmond Gottesman,
Secretary-Treasurer,
New York Joint Board
of Neckwear Workers,
7 East 15th Street,
New York, New York.

EBT RBHutchison:agr 5-19-44

CONTROL COPY
W. R. B.
File
Ans. 5/22/44
Lo. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

NEW YORK JOINT BOARD
OF NECKWEAR WORKERS

7 East 15th Street

New York, N. Y.

May 11, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

We have learned that the War Refugee Board has under serious consideration a plan to establish "free ports" in the United States, where refugees from Hitlerism can find shelter until they are settled in permanent homes. The proposal has been endorsed by leading newspapers throughout the country.

We consider the establishment of "free ports", which would give innocent victims of the raging halocaust, the privilege we now accord Axis prisoners, a most practical and feasible one.

The plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones, and safe refuge, and thereby save the lives of innocent people fortunate to escape the claws of the Gestapo, but would also demonstrate most dramatically to the whole world the dogged determination of the American government and the American people to spare no effort in saving as many of the sufferers as possible.

Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi hand and will further encourage the ever-growing resistance to German barbarism.

The plan has our wholehearted support and we respectfully urge its immediate adoption.

Yours very truly

(signed) Edmond Gottesman
Secretary-Treasurer

712

CONTROL COPY

To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

NEW YORK JOINT BOARD OF NECKWEAR WORKERS

7 East 15th Street
New York

May 11, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

We have learned that the War Refugee Board has under serious consideration a plan to establish "free ports" in the United States, where refugees from Hitlerism can find shelter until they are settled in permanent homes. The proposal has been endorsed by leading newspapers throughout the country.

We consider the establishment of "free ports," which would give innocent victims of the raging halocaust, the privilege we now accord Axis prisoners, a most practical and feasible one.

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Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi hand and will further encourage the ever-growing resistance to German barbarism.

The plan has our wholehearted support and we respectfully urge its immediate adoption.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Edmond Gottesman
Edmond Gottesman
Secretary-Treasurer

In reply please
refer to: 2628

JUL 24 1944

Dear Mrs. Simonson:

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.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Rebecca C. Simonson,
President,
The New York Teachers Guild,
Local No. 2, American Federation of Teachers,
Two East Twenty-Third Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

RSH EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

2628

THE NEW YORK TEACHERS GUILD

LOCAL NO. 2, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
TWO EAST TWENTY-THIRD STREET · GRAMERCY 7-6262 · NEW YORK CITY

To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

REBECCA C. SIMONSON
President

JOHN L. CHILDS
ELIZABETH DANIN
LESLIE C. SCHWARTZ
ELIZABETH SHERIDAN
Vice-Presidents

MAX ROSENHAUS
Treasurer

CHARLES SALKIND
Assistant Treasurer

CLARA N. GLUCK
Secretary

ROSALIND H. LEVIEN
Assistant Secretary

ABRAHAM LEFKOWITZ
Legislative Representative

HYMAN SOROKOFF
MORRIS D. FORKOSCH
Asst. Legislative Representatives

Executive Board
LOUISE ANTZ
EARL BIRNBAUM
JOSEPH BLOCK
CHARLES COGEN
EDWARD M. COHEN
GEORGE S. COUNTS
URANIE PENN DAVIS
JOHN J. DONOHUE
MICHAEL GLASSMAN
LOUIS A. GOLDMAN
ROSE GOLDMAN
JOSEPH GREENBERG
MARY V. HOULIHAN
MARION D. JEWELL
DAVID I. KAPLAN
DOROTHY KELLY
MAX KLINE
DANIEL G. KRANE
LAYLE LANE
JOHANNA M. LINDLOF
ALICE F. MARSH
MAE L. NAFTAL
PAULINE M. PAPKE
DOROTHY RICHARDSON
ALBERT LEE SMALLHEISER
WILLIAM C. WOOLFSON

A. MARK LEVIEN
Counsel

SYLVIA F. SHIPMAN
Executive Secretary

June 21, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President

The Delegate Assembly of the New York Teachers Guild, Local #2, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Labor, at its meeting today unanimously endorsed the following resolution:

Whereas:

Millions of Jews and Anti-Fascists already have been put to death by the bloodstained Nazi tyranny of death while the few who survive in Axis Europe live daily in the shadow of death, doomed to extinction unless the democratic world acts.

Whereas:

The Nazi occupation of the Balkans now menaces the Jews and other opponents of Hitler who are trapped in Hungary and Roumania.

Whereas:

Action, Vigorous, sustained, and commensurate with the gravity and urgency of the situation, must be undertaken to rescue those who may yet be saved.

Therefore:

We, the Teachers Guild, Local #2 of the A. F. of T, commend the President of the United States for his action in creating a "free port" for refugees at Fort Ontario, N.Y.

We respectfully address a most earnest appeal to the President to use his good offices to effect the establishment of other such sanctuaries for refugees in this

THE NEW YORK TEACHERS GUILD
LOCAL NO. 2, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
TWO EAST TWENTY-THIRD STREET · GRAMERCY 7-6282 · NEW YORK CITY

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WILLIAM C. WOOLFSON

A. MARK LEVIEN
Counsel

SYLVIA F. SHIPMAN
Executive Secretary

country, and in other countries, and thus proclaim to the world the right of asylum for those who can escape the Hitlerite fury.

Respectfully

Rebecca C. Simonson
Mrs. Rebecca C. Simonson
President

RCS:fg
af/oe
23076

Affiliated with American Federation of Labor, New York State Federation of Labor, Central Trades and Labor Council, Metropolitan Council of A.F.T. Locals, Joint Committee of Teachers Organizations.

In reply please
refer to: 3026

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mrs. Nickels:

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

Mrs. Frank Campbell Nickels,
3060 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ABK RHutchison:inp 7/25/44

3026

M

War Refugee Board

MRS. FRANK CAMPBELL NICKELS
3060 Sixteenth Street N. W. Washington 9, D. C.

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
July 7 1944
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

Hon. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States of America,
Executive Mansion
Washington D.C.

My dear Mr President: I am sure you must be deeply concerned about the sad condition of the Jews of Hungary. This is to assure you of one more persons approval of your immediate action together with the other Allied Powers to establish "rescue camps" and "free ports" in the United States and the other allied countries until these unfortunates can be assigned some permanent refuge.

Sincerely
Frances F. Nickels

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1163

Dear Mrs. Noble:

The President has referred to me 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Sue Noble,
4840 Pine Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT EBTowler:inp 6/17/44

1163

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Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

4840 Pine St.
Phila Pa.
June 6, 1944.

Franklin H. Roosevelt.
President of U. S. Wash, D.C.
Dear Mr. President
Please support the establishment of free ports in the United States for war refugees
Very Truly Yours,
Mrs. Sue Noble

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
William T. Harrett
Secretary to the President

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2981

Dear Mrs. Hollenberger:

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

Mrs. W. E. Hollenberger,
11661½ Magnolia,
North Hollywood, California.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler: 7/21/44

2981

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

W. R. B. _____
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To: Files
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

July 3d, 1944
1166 1/2 Magnolia
North Hollywood
California

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.
My dear Mr. President:

Those of us who have long prayed for some concrete help from the United States to the refugees of Europe are heartened by the creation of a "free port" and the proposed admission of one thousand refugees.

It is to be hoped that this project will speedily be enlarged to provide a haven for those thousands more whom we could save if we would.

Yours very truly,
Catherine E. Mallenberger
(Mrs. W. E. Mallenberger)

In reply please
refer to: 2633

AUG 12 1944

Dear Mr. Norman:

Thank you for your recent letter in support of House Resolution No. 576 and urging the establishment of additional camps for refugees.

I am sure you and those who signed with you will be interested in reading the enclosed copies of the President's message of June 12 to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan to establish the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

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. S. Norman,
S.W. Corner Broadway and Thomas,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
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Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
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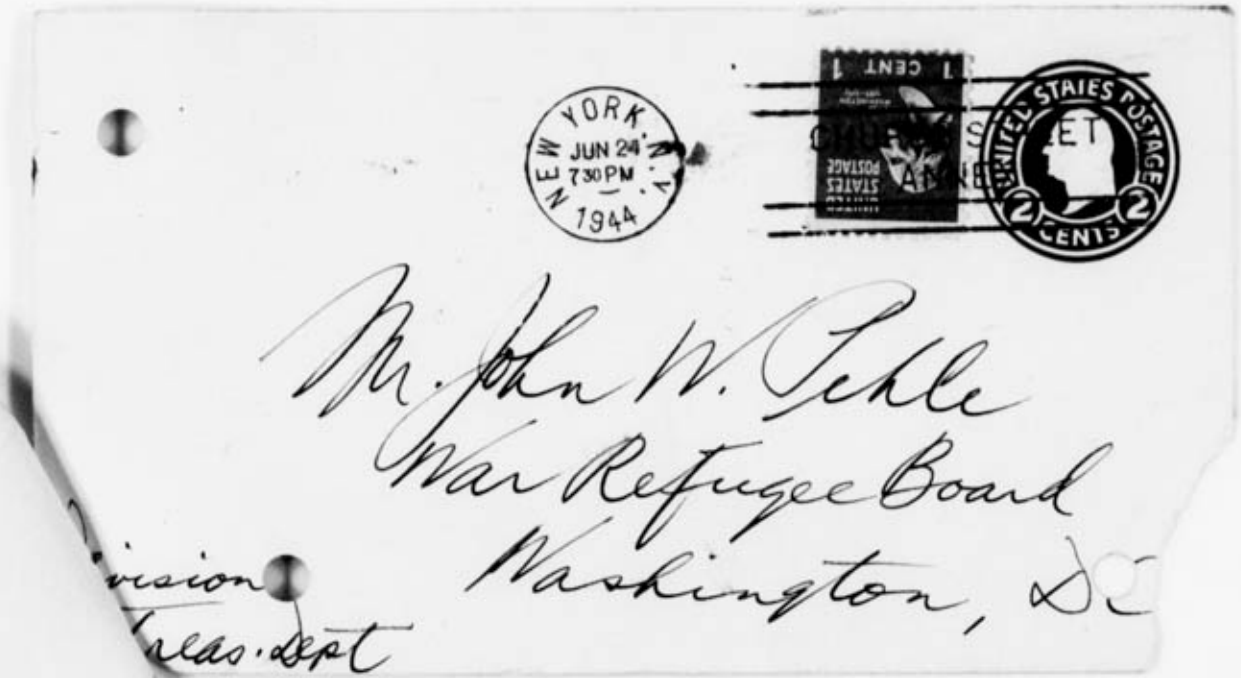
Date

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Here's hoping your influence will yield good results on Rep. Sam'l Dickstein efforts thru his resolution 576 to do greater work aiding refugees than heretofore. Pres. Roosevelt should be encouraged to open more camps than the one announced.

Signed: S. Norman
H. Murphy
Harry Luria
O. Waterman
M. Wolf
N. MANFREDI
E GRIPPO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Mr. John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, DC
Division
Treas. Dept

JUN 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1696

Dear Miss Steif:

The President has referred to me 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ruth W. Steif, Secretary,
North Shore Congregation Israel,
Glencoe, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/23/44

1696

1/ WRB

NORTH SHORE CONGREGATION ISRAEL
Glencoe, Illinois
Charles E. Shulman, *Rabbi* • Richard C. Hertz, *Asst. Rabbi*
(IN ACTIVE SERVICE)
James A. Wax, *Acting Rabbi*

6/19

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

June 14, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the North Shore Congregation Israel, the following resolution on "free ports" was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION ON FREE PORTS

"America was founded by refugees; by refugees fleeing from religious persecution and racial bigotry. This great nation "conceived in liberty" has been peculiarly sensitive to the cry of its brothers' blood wherever and whenever they have been enslaved and persecuted. Particularly because of its deep religious heritage and character, believing that men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these being liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and above all, life, America has been the traditional haven of those who have been robbed of these precious possessions.

The hour has come when America must once again rise to this, her manifest destiny, when the God who led our early Founding Fathers to this richly endowered land is calling upon us to "bring forth"the prisoner from the prison house and those that dwell in darkness from the dungeon."

We commend the President of the United States for his leadership and vision manifested in championing the cause of the afflicted, not only by words but by forthright deeds. Especially timely has been his recent creation of the War Refugee Board, which has already evidenced its sincere determination to rescue as many as possible of those victims of Naziism otherwise marked out for wholesale slaughter in the extermination chambers of Europe. We heartily endorse the plan of "free ports" advocated by the War Refugee Board, whereby temporary haven may be provided for those who would otherwise be murdered to the last man. We agree that America can do no less for these, our allies and fellow-foes of Naziism, than we do for our enemies who, as prisoners of war, are provided with at least such temporary sojourn and security. We

appeal to the conscience of America to respond immediately to this suggestion of the War Refugee Board, and we call upon all of our congregations and their members, as well as upon all our fellow-citizens, to save the lives of thousands and even hundreds of thousands, otherwise destined for mass extermination, by setting up at once such free ports, such islands of temporary rescue, upon the free and cherished soil of America."

Sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Steif

Ruth W. Steif, Secretary

RWS:E