CORRESP. RELATING TO ADMISSION OF REFUGEES INTO THE U.S.

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

General – O-R

Folder 1: O-PL

In reply please
refer to: 1413

JUN 24 1944

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Thank you for your communication of June 13, 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

Mr. Arthur O'Brien,
1115 Broadway,
New York, New York.

Free Parts

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-22-44

1413

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/24/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
DATE

June 13, 1944

Sir:

I am in favor of Free Ports for Refugees and ask that you please extend your good offices and see that this great project is speedily acccomplished.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur O'Brien

Arthur O'Brien
1115 Broadway
N.Y.C.

In reply please
refer to: 3069

JUL 29 1944

Dear Miss O'Brien:

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Mary A. O'Brien,
858 St. John's Place,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
Hutchison:inp 7/28/44

c. [illegible]

858 St Johns Pl 3063
Brooklyn

Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. Wilt
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date 7-19-49

Hon. Franklin D Roosevelt
President of United States
My dear Mr. President:-

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

May I appeal to you on behalf of Europe's suffering Jews?

I am a Christian woman who is greatly distressed by their plight.

I am so glad that U.S. is the first nation to establish "Free Ports." May there be more of them.

I understand a Senate Resolution has been introduced. I hope it will pass and that you will approve.

Respectfully Yours
Mary A. O'Brien R.N.

AUG 2 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3116

Dear Mrs. O'Hara:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 23, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Europe.

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

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

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for those who are enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, you will be interested to know that the President has recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which is equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands, at the end of the war.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Josephine O'Hara,
985 Lincoln Avenue,
Palo Alto, California.

EBT RBHutchisonPagr 7-31-44

3116

War Refugee Bd.

985. Lincoln Ave.

Palo Alto, Calif.

July 23. '44.

Filing Authority
To Files
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

WILLIAMS H. MCNEIR
AND CONSIDERATION

William H. McNeir
Secretary to the President

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dear Mr. President.

This brief note is to ask that this government do all it can to come to the rescue of the Jews in Europe. Immigration laws could be amended to meet a wartime emergency so that these persecuted peoples may have a refuge during the war.

It would seem that this great

WASHINGTON
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1944 JUL 27 PM 2 29

Filing Authority
To: Files
Re: Ans. Req.
Initials
Date

nation, with its food reserves & peaceful areas, could find a way to prevent the further slaughterings that are a disgrace to all of us.

Yours very truly,

Josephine O'Hare (Mrs.)

3116

JUN 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 925

Dear Mr. Sachs:

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 6, 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. Bertram Sachs,
Acting Rabbi,
Oheb Zedeck Congregation,
Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

Edit ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

TO:

____Secretary Morgenthau

____Mr. Gaston

____Mr. Paul

____Mr. White

____Mr. E.M. Bernstein

____Mr. DuBois

____Mr. Friedman

____Miss Hodel - 190

____Mr. Lesser

____Mr. Luxford

____Mr. Stewart

____Mrs. Taylor

____Files

_____

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J. W. Pehle

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

925

W. R. B. 7/8
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

Ohev Zedeck Congregation

Pottsville, Pa.

Jacob Hochman, Rabbi
M. Bertram Sachs, Acting Rabbi

Mr. John Pelle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

May I also urge in the name of the Pottsville Jewish Community the immediate establishment of free ports for refugees — in America as well as in countries close to the emigration area.

Sincerely yours,
Bertram Sachs

June 3, 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3089

JUL 29 1944

Dear Miss Ohrenstein:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 19, 1944, concerning the establishment of refugee shelters for as many as can escape from Nazi-occupied Europe.

I am sure you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his 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.

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, 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

Miss Rovene R. Ohrenstein,

Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

RBHutchison:agr 7-28-44

3089

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

War Refugees

Greenfield, Mass.
July 19, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to act through whatever agencies are at your command, in cooperation with our allies, to give asylum to as many Jewish people as can escape from Nazi-occupied Europe.

Sincerely yours,
Rovene R. Ehrenstein

SINCERELY YOURS
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

In reply please
refer to: 1412

JUN 24 1944

Dear Mrs. Oppenheimer:

Thank you for your communication 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. Lena Oppenheimer,
3521 North 16th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Copy to: Miss Sophie Oppenheimer
3521 N. 16th St.
Phila 40, Pa.

Enclosures.

Free Parts

RSH

REHutchison:agr 6-22-44

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/24/1944
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

Phila. Pa. 3521 N. 16th St
June 17, 1944.

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely,
Lena Oppenheimer

also (Miss) Sophie Oppenheimer
3521 N. 16th St., Phila. 40, Pa.

1412

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/24/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

Phila. Pa. 3521 N. 16th St
June 12, 1944.

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely,
Lena Oppenheimer

also (Miss) Sophie Oppenheimer
3521 N. 16th St., Phila. 40, Pa.

1139

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
CLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To Be Kept Indefinitely
Ans.
No. Ans. Req. ✓
Initial EBR
Date 7/1/44

MOLD250 RR NL

LOSANGELES CALIF JUNE 9 1944

PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES

JUN 9 PM 9 53

WASHDC

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

M OSTROFSKY

No address.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUN 12 PM 4 00

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

In reply please
refer to: 2643

JUL 3 1944

Dear Mr. O'Sullivan:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 26, 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

Mr. Eugene Joseph O'Sullivan,
1812 Harrison Avenue,
Bronx, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-1-44

10
War Refugee Bd

2643

June 26, 1944

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

TO THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Sir:

As an American born citizen of the United States, I am fully in agreement with the following precepts and request as the elected guardian of the humanitarian traditions of our land to take speedy and effective action in connection with the subject of my petition:

1. To establish, without delay, temporary Rescue Camps within the United States, as a compelling example to all mankind; to open these "free ports" of hope and encouragement to those Jewish people who can flee Nazi murder squads, and to give them sanctuary therein until the coming peace shall decide their destinies.

2. To entreat all other friendly and allied powers to take like action.

3. To convey to the British Government, entrusted with the Mandate over Palestine, that all liberty-loving Americans desire the gates of Palestine be opened and kept open for the unrestricted admission of all Hebrews rescued from German charnel-houses in Europe; and that we as Americans consider it unrighteous to deny to Jewish People along, of all peoples, free entry into Palestine in this period of their deepest distress and disaster.

Very truly yours
Eugene Joseph O'Sullivan

EJO'Sullivan
1812 Harrison Ave.
Bronx, New York

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 913

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pachtman:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. H. Pachtman,
1255 - 54th Street,
Brooklyn 19, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ BH RBHutchison: 6-16-44

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

Dear Mr Pehle;

I wish to commend you for your work towards providing a free port for the homeless refugees and urge you to do yourutmost. We are all behind you and ask you perhaps to call to see the President about this matter of vital importance

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 934

Dear Mrs. Packer:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. B. Packer,
1323 Pratt Blvd.,
Chicago, 26, Illinois.

Enclosures.

Edit ✓ RBH
RBHutchison: 6/16/44

June 3 - 1944

934

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

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

Dear Sir:

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

Very truly yours

Mrs. B. Packer
1323 Grand Blvd
Chicago, 26, Ill.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1944 JUN 7 PM 2 58

Mrs. B. Parker
1323 Pratt Blvd
Chicago, Ill.

CHICAGO, ILL.
JAN 5
10 30 AM
1944
ROGERS PARK STA.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

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

JUL 15 [redacted]

In reply please
refer to: 2965

Dear Miss Paine:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 7, 1944, urging speedy action by the Board to save the Jewish people of Europe.

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

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for those who are enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, you will be interested to know that the President has recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which will be equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees for the duration of the war or until they can be returned to their homelands.

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

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Theodora L. Paine,
265 Elmira Street,
Troy, Pennsylvania.

EOT RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-13-44

War Refugee Board.

2965

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

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1944 JUL 11 3

SECRETARY'S NOTE:
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Mr. President,

In view of the awful emergency with regard to the extermination of the Jewish people, the purpose for which the War Refugee Board was set up should be carried out with all possible speed, and the administration of our immigration laws should be immediately corrected so as to provide a refuge in this country before it is too late to save even a few of those Jews who still survive.

Yours very urgently,

(Mrs.) Theodora L. Paine

265 Elmira St.
Troy, Penn.
July 7, 1944

JUN 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 855

Dear Mr. Smith:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Dewey Smith,
Acting Secretary-Treasurer,
Pannonia Beneficial Association,
709 N. Franklin Street,
Philadelphia 23, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/13/44

EBT ✓

In reply please
refer to: 855

JUN 3 1944

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of May 25, 1944, quoting a resolution adopted by your organization concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

The interest of your organization in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Dewey Smith,
Acting Secretary-Treasurer,
Pannonia Beneficial Association,
709 N. Franklin Street,
Philadelphia 23, Pennsylvania.

RBHutchison:agr 6-1-44

COPY

CONTROL COPY
Filing Authority
To: Files JUN 3 1944
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

PANNONIA BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

MARKET 3170-71 - - PARK 5214

DEWEY SMITH, Acting SECRETARY-TREASURER

709 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET
Philadelphia, 23, PENNSYLVANIA

May 25, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

At the regular meeting of the Pannonia Beneficial Association held on May 22, 1944 the following resolution was passed.

"Be it resolved at the regular meeting held on May 22, 1944 by the Pannonia Beneficial Association, 709 N. Franklin Street representing 2500 American citizens of Jewish faith, to appeal to the Congressmen of our city to urge the establishment of Free Ports by the United States and to urge them to initiate efforts to this end."

We urgently appeal to you to do everything in your power to see that Free Ports are established.

Very truly yours,

PANNONIA BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

By /s/ Dewey Smith
DEWEY SMITH,
Acting Secy.-Treas.

DS:gs

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 898

Dear Mr. Pearl:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Frank Pearl,
Chairman,
Paoli Zion Zeire Zion Party,
Lynn, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

In reply please
refer to: 898

JUN 8 1944

Dear Mr. Pearl:

The President has referred to me your telegram of June 1, 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

Mr. Frank Pearl,
Chairman,
Paoli Zion Zeire Zion Party,
Lynn, Massachusetts.

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-6-44 JCA

The White House
Washington

JUN 1 7 49 AM 1944

War Refugees

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/8/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

WB7 NL

LYNN MASS MAY 31 1944

PRESIDENT OF THE US

WHITE HOUSE

DEAR MR PRESIDENT WE THE MEMBERS OF THE PAOLI ZION ZEIRE ZION PARTY IN LYNN MASS APPEAL TO YOU AS PRESIDENT OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY AND GREAT HUMANITARIAN TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE AND GOOD OFFICERS IN PROMPTING THE ESTABLISHMENT IN OUR COUNTRY OF FREE PORTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMMEDIATE RESCUING AS MANY VICTIMS OF NAZI EUROPE AS WILL BE POSSIBLE WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

FRANK PEARL CHAIRMAN.

WASHINGTON D.C.
MAR 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
RECEIVED

2954

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. None
No. Ans. Req. ✓
Initial
Date

555 Park Avenue
New York
July 8/44.

Dear Mr. Pehle:- Your file 912.

Thank you very much for your letter of June 17th regarding the establishment in the United States of havens for refugees.

I rejoice in the President's order establishing temporary havens. I hope other nations will follow this example, and more be established here if found necessary.

Very truly yours,
Alice T. L. Parsons
(Mrs. Edgerton Parsons).

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUL 11 AM 9 31

BROOKLYN, N.Y.
JUL 5
11 30 PM
1944

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

10
War Refugee Bd

2625

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req. ✓
Initial EBT
Date 8/10/44

555 Park Avenue
New York City, N. Y.
June 20, 1944.

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

RECEIVED WAR REFUGEE BOARD
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett Jr.
Secretary to the President

My dear Mr. President:-

This letter is written with the purpose of commending heartily your establishment of refuge center here for the victims of Nazi cruelty in Europe. I hope that as many as possible children will be among the rescued.

Respectfully yours,
Alice T. L. Parsons
(Mrs. Edgerton Parsons).

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 912

Dear Mrs. Parsons:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 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.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Edgerton Parsons,
555 Park Avenue,
New York 21, New York.

Enclosures.

Eat — RBH
RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

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

3
War Refugee Board.

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

555 Park Avenue
New York 21, N.Y.,

May 24, 1944.

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

My dear Mr. President, -

If it will not interfere with the progress of the war effort, will you give your early and favorable consideration to the proposal for the establishment of temporary free ports and camps for the Jewish refugees who are yet able to escape.

With the hope that this may be possible, I am

Very respectfully yours,
Alice T. L. Parsons
(Mrs. Edgerton Parsons).

In reply please
refer to: 825

MAY 31 1944

Dear Mrs. Passman:

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

Mrs. Harold L. Passman,
814 Sunnyside,
Chicago 40, Illinois.

Free Ports

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-30-44 RBH

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

May 22, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

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

(Mrs. H. L.) Miriam A. Passman

Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Treasury J. D. H.

825

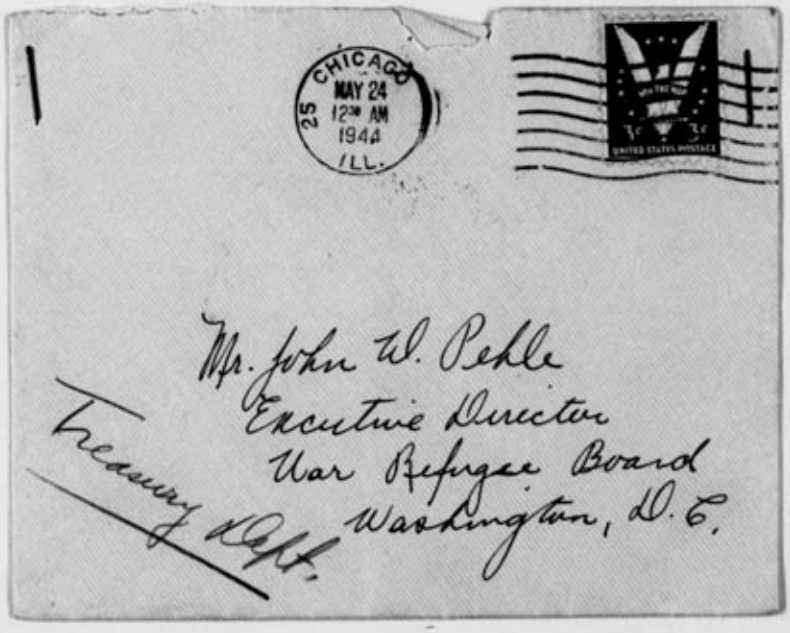
. R. B.
ling Authority
: Files
e. 5/21/44
. Ans. Rbq.
dial
ate

Mrs. Harold L. Paseman
814 Sunnyside
Chicago 40, Ill.

Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Treasury Dept.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.



In reply please
refer to: 2947

JUL 24 1944

Dear Mr. Paster:

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,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. I. J. Paster,
3205 Tyler Avenue,
Detroit 6, Michigan.

Enclosures.

EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

3 War Refugees Pal.

2947

Monday
July 3, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
Secretary to the President

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

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

Honored President:

I beseech you, dear President, to establish more free political of entry for the Jews. In view of today"s news story of the Germans' massacre of the Jews the establishment of these ports should not be delayed one second.

I. J. Paster

I. J. Paster

3205 Tyler Avenue

Detroit 6, Michigan

In reply please
refer to: 2932

JUL 24 1944

Dear Miss Perelman:

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Miriam Perelman,
Burlington, Vermont.

Enclosures.

RSH
EBTowler:inp 7/21/44

2932

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
Ack.
Initial
Date
Wm. D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Mr. President:

Your recent move to give a temporary haven to 1000 refugees in a camp set up for the purpose has been very encouraging to me. It is symbolic of your warm hearted approach to the human aspect of the war. I take this opportunity of expressing my approval of your action.

But 1000 is such a small number considering how many are given their lifes and innocent people are being murdered unnecessarily surely you can not see such tragedy and not do ~~good~~ the right thing.

I therefore ask, Mr. President, that you do all you can to bring as many as possible into this country. You have given us such hope until now I am sure you will do more if possible to help bring more in. Thanking you kindly for all you have done

Respectfully yours.
Miriam Perelman

ENVELOPE ATTACHED

PERELMAN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

BURLINGTON
JUL. 3
12 M
2 1944
VT.

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

AUG 23 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3254

Dear Mrs. Persell:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of August 13, 1944, concerning the plight of Jews and other persecuted people in Europe.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Free Ports

Mrs. Charles B. Persell, Jr.,
323 Jefferson Avenue,
Rochester 11, New York.

EBT

RBHutchison:agr 8-17-44

3254

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 8/23/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date 8/15

V
Year Refugee
Bd

Mrs. Charles B. Persell, Jr.
323 Jefferson Avenue
Rochester 11, New York

August 13, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Dear President Roosevelt,

I am very much concerned about the plight of Jews and other homeless and hungry people in Europe. It is my earnest hope that our country will open her doors to them and help them in every way possible. I know that you will do all you can for them. I want you to know that many of us care and want to see them given every aid.

Respectfully yours,
Emily A. Persell

1171

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

June 11, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle,

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

S. Peterfreund

No address

In reply please
refer to: 1174

JUN 17 1944

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Peyser:

Thank you for your communication of recent date, 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. & Mrs. Samuel Peyser,
1121 Duncannon Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT-RBH RBHutchison: 6/16/44

1174

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

Phila 41, Pa

Dear Sir:

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

Samuel Peyser
Mathilda Peyser
1121 Duncannon Ave Phila Pa

In reply please
refer to: 1980

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Welsh:

Thank you for your letters of June 19, 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 5, 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. William H. Welsh, Chairman,
Philadelphia Fellowship Commission,
1431 Brown Street,
Philadelphia 30, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/26/44

1980

PHILADELPHIA FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION

1431 Brown Street - Poplar 5448
Philadelphia 32, Pa.

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

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Clarence E. Pickett
Jerome J. Rothschild, Esq.
Theodore O. Spaulding, Esq.
Mrs. Bernard G. Waring

EDUCATION
Tanner G. Duckrey
Roger Wells
William Henry Welsh

GOVERNMENT
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LABOR
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Rev. Ross D. Murphy
Bishop David H. Sims
Rev. George A. Trowbridge

VETERANS
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WOMEN
Mrs. Daniel A. Poling

YOUTH
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Nat'l Conference of Christians and Jews
Rev. John Dillingham, *Chairman*
Race Relations Committee
Phila. Federation of Churches
Maurice B. Fagan, *Executive Director*
Phila. Anti-Defamation Council
Florence L. Kite, *Executive Secretary*
Committee on Race Relations
Society of Friends
Marian Lantz, *Executive Director*
International Institute
Carolyn D. Moore, *Executive Secretary*
Nat'l Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People
Marjorie Penney, *Director*
Fellowship House
Roy J. McCorkel
Alberta Morris
Lloyd Randolph

CHAIRMAN
Dr. William Henry Welsh
311 S. Juniper Street

SECRETARY
Address Communications to:
Marjorie Penney, *Secretary*
1431 Brown Street, Philadelphia 32
Pop. 5448

June 19, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The War Refugee Board disclosed on April 18, that it is considering the establishment in this country of rescue refugee camps or "Free Ports" in which refugees would find temporary asylum until it became possible for them later to return to their homes or to settle elsewhere.

The Free Ports movement is visualized by its supporters as applying to all democratic countries, with the United States taking the lead.

The Philadelphia Fellowship Commission endorses this humanitarian project, and recommends that you undertake such action as will further the realization of the Free Ports program, and ensure its much to be desired success.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Welsh

William Henry Welsh
Chairman

WHW:hk

A permanent Commission seeking to unite the entire community in promoting racial and religious understanding and in adjusting inter-group tensions.

Philadelphia Fellowship Commission
1431 BROWN STREET
Philadelphia 30, Pa.

288 1/2

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19
JUN 20
7-PM
1944

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

C War Refugee Bd

2024

PHILADELPHIA FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION

1431 Brown Street - Poplar 5448
Philadelphia 30, Pa.

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. RESPECTFULLY RETURNED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OR CONSIDERATION
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date
Secretary to the President

COMMISSIONERS

BUSINESS
Dale Purves

CIVIC
Dr. Robert L. Johnson
Clarence E. Pickett
Jerome J. Rothschild, Esq.
Theodore O. Spaulding, Esq.
Mrs. Bernard G. Waring

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Tanner G. Duckrey
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William I. Stauffer

WOMEN
Mrs. Daniel A. Poling

YOUTH
Dr. Fred D. Wentzel

EXECUTIVE STAFF
Rev. Luther E. Cunningham
St. Paul Baptist Church
Rev. Lewis H. Cutler, Phila. Director
Nat'l Conference of Christians and Jews
Rev. John Dellingham, Chairman
Race Relations Committee
Phila. Federation of Churches
Maurice B. Fagan, Executive Director
Phila. Anti-Defamation Council
Florence L. Kite, Executive Secretary
Committee on Race Relations
Society of Friends
Marian Lantz, Executive Director
International Institute
Carolyn D. Moore, Executive Secretary
Nat'l Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People
Marjorie Penney, Director
Fellowship House
Roy J. McCorkel
Alberta Morris
Lloyd Randolph

CHAIRMAN
Dr. William Henry Welsh
311 S. Juniper Street

SECRETARY
Address Communications to:
Marjorie Penney, Secretary
1431 Brown Street, Philadelphia 32
Pop. 5448

June 19, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

The War Refugee Board disclosed on April 18, that it is considering the establishment in this country of rescue refugee camps, or "Free Ports" in which refugees would find temporary asylum until it became possible for them later to return to their homes or to settle elsewhere.

The Free Ports movement is visualized by its supporters as applying to all democratic countries, with the United States taking the lead.

The Philadelphia Fellowship Commission endorses this humanitarian project, and recommends that you undertake such action as will further the realization of the Free Ports program, and ensure its much to be desired success.

Sincerely yours,

William H Welsh

William Henry Welsh
Chairman

WHW:hk

A permanent Commission seeking to unite the entire community in promoting racial and religious understanding and in adjusting inter-group tensions.

In reply please
refer to: 2892

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mrs. Schellinger:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 25, 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 appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. L. L. Schellinger,
President,
The Philathea Class,
McGraw, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-3-44

3

War Refugee Bd.

2892

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

Mc Graw, June 2 1944

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

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

Our honored President -

We write to you as the leader of our great nation asking you to alleviate in all ways possiable the terriole sufferings of the Jews in Europe.

As Christians and voters we wish to express our great desire that our country act immediately, as the good Samaritan, to save the Jews who are now near death by starvation and slaughter.

We feel a good step has been taken by appointing a War Refugee Board.

We earnestly recommend that sustained and prompt action be taken to provide food and temporary asylum for these helpless victims of hate.

Entreating your active interest, we are
Very respctfully yours -

The Philathea class and friends -

President - Mrs. L K. Schellinger

Secretary - - Mrs Charles McCoy

Teacher - Mrs. Frank Wadsworth.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1944 JUN 30 PM 2 08

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

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1944 JUN 30 PM 2 08

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1198

Dear Mr. Philipp:

Thank you for your letter of June 8, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Perry Philipp,
2235½ Haste Street,
Berkeley 4, California.

Enclosures.

EBT ~ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-17-44

2235½ Haste St.
Berkeley 4, California
June 8. 1944.

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

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

Dear Sir,

I just read a news item on "Free Ports" in the United States which would provide a temporary haven for war refugees who cannot at present enter the country under existing immigration law.

I feel that this is a highly constructive suggestion and may I therefore ask you to use your influence in bringing about the establishment of these "Free Ports."

Sincerely yours
Perry Philipp

Perry F. Philipp
2235½ Haste Str.
Berkeley 4, Calif.

BERKELEY
JUN 9
1230 PM
1944

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

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

In reply please
refer to: 3061

JUL 29 1944

Dear Mr. Phillips:

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Nathaniel Phillips,
Counselor at Law,
295 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

RAH Hutchison:inp 7/28/44

3061

NATHANIEL PHILLIPS
COUNSELOR AT LAW

S. HOFFMAN MILLER

295 MADISON AVENUE
TELEPHONE LEXINGTON 2-144
NEW YORK

Now
Referred to State
FOR ACTION
INFORMATION
William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

July 18th, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

It seems almost unfair to write to you, who have been in the forefront of the efforts to provide a haven for the tortured Jews, on behalf of the victims of the terror now striking in Hungary and the Balkan countries.

However, I do hope you may find it possible to broaden the program of temporary rescue camps within the United States and in other friendly and Allied powers, for the victims of the unspeakable Nazi horror.

With esteem, I am, indeed,

Most sincerely,

Nathaniel Phillips

NATHANIEL PHILLIPS

NP:cw

In reply please
refer to: 1394

JUL 24 1944

Dear Mrs. Fink:

The President has referred to me your recent telegram 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. Julius Fink, Chairman,
War Service Committee,
Physicians Wives League of Greater New York,
1201 Elder Avenue,
New York 59, New York.

RH EBTowler:inp 7/21/44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

1394

The White House
Washington

JUN 14 7 23 AM 1944

War Refugees

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

WB2 NL

NEWYORK NY JUN 13 1944

THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE

WE ARE WITH YOU HEART AND SOUL IN YOUR NEW MOVE TO SAVE THE VICTIMS OF HITLER TERROR IN EUROPE. WE URGE YOU TO OPEN CAMPS IN WHICH HITLER VICTIMS COULD FIND TEMPORARY ASYLUM IN THIS COUNTRY

PHYSICIANS WIVES LEAGUE OF GREATER NEW YORK WAR SERVICE COMMITTEE [MRS JULIUS FINK CHAIRMAN 1201 ELDER AVE NEW YORK 59 NY.

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. JUN 17 5-PM 1944

Miss Helene Pick,
1563 Pitken Avenue,
Brooklyn, NewYork.

RETURNED TO SENDER
By Brooklyn, N. Y. O.
ADDRESSEE UNKNOWN
JUN 22 1944
DO NOT REMOVE THIS ENVELOPE OR WRAPPER

RETURN TO WRITER

REASON CHECKED
Undelivered ___ Refused ___
Unknown ✓
For better address ___
Moved, Left no address ___
No such office in state ___

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In reply please
refer to: 1073

JUN 17 1944

Dear Miss Pick:

The President has referred to me your communication 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

Miss Helene Pick,
1563 Pitken Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1073

Dear Miss Pick:

The President has referred to me your communication 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

Miss Helene Pick,
1563 Pitken Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

Edt ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

x1073

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

June 6. 1944

Dear Mr. President

I urge you to open the Ports in Palestine now.

Sincerely
Helen Beck
1563 Fulton Ave.
Brooklyn

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1066

Dear Miss Pick:

The President has referred to me your communication 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

Miss Johanna Pick,
220 Highland Boulevard,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT - RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

1066

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

June, 6. 1944

Mr. President

I urge you
Free Ports in the
States now.

Sincerely
Johanna Pick
220 Highland Blvd B'klyn N.Y.

In reply please
refer to: 1999

JUL 21 1944

Dear Mrs. Pickar:

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. Shirley Pickar,
10 Schuyler Avenue,
Newark 8, New Jersey.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

1999

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

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

3 War Refugee Bd

10 Schuyler
Newark 8 N. J.
June 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

I am with you wholeheartedly in your new move to save the victims of Hitler's terror in Europe. I know that you would have the support of every person who has humane feelings, if you could possibly open additional camps for those unfortunate victims of Hitler's insanity.

On the home front

Please do everything possible to prevent Congress from

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
Marvin H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President

1999

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Ans.

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WAR RELOCATION BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

wrecking the O.P.A. The O.P.A. are doing a wonderful job - thanks to you.

In closing may I add that, in my opinion, you are the wisest man living today and the most wonderful. May God watch over you and bless you.

Sincerely
Mrs. Shirley Pickar

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 903

Dear Mrs. Pilot:

Since my reply to your recent card 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

Mrs. I. Pilot,
507 Briar Place,
Chicago, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

In reply please
refer to: 903

JUN 8 1944

Dear Mrs. Pilot:

Thank you for your communication 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. I. Pilot,
507 Briar Place,
Chicago, Illinois.

Eat RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-6-44 JWP

903

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/3/44
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

6/1/44

Dear Mr. Pehle,

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

Sincerely,
(Mrs. J.) Anna B. Pilat
507 Briar Pl.
Chicago

JUN 20 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1216

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pinkas:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. David Pinkas,
222 East 204th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-19-44

1

War Refugee Bd

222 East 204th Street
New York, N.Y.
June 8, 1944

1216

Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
Req.
Initial

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

FOR ACTION
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

Dear Mr. President:

May we petition your Excellency to use his good offices in creating reception centers for temporary detention of Jews and other special victims of Nazi hatred hereafter escaping from territory occupied by Nazi Germany and its allies so that they may find refuge until after this war, now entering its most critical stage, is brought to a successful conclusion by our United Nations' armed forces?

With deepest regard and affection, we are,

Very respectfully yours,
Mr. and Mrs. David Pinkus.

2885

TELEPHONE ALGONQUIN 4-2364

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

PIONEER WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

(Women's Organization for the Pioneer Women in Palestine)

פרויען אָרגאַניזאַציע פאַר די חלוצות אין ארץ ישראל

45 EAST 17TH STREET — SUITE 1611
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

June 28, 1944

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

Re: 733

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We acknowledge with thanks your two letters in response to our telegram urging the establishment of temporary havens for refugees in the United States. We are most grateful to you for keeping us informed on the latest developments and shall pass the news on the President's recent actions on to our clubs.

Please be assured of our sincere desire to be helpful in any way possible in making this most important project a success.

Thanking you again for your kind attention and assuring you of our cooperation, we are

Sincerely yours,

Dvorah Rothbard

Dvorah Rothbard
National Secretary

r/ha
afoe
23076

.oneer Women's Organization
45 EAST 17th STREET
Suite 1611-13
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

NEW YORK, N.Y.
JUN 28
7 30 PM
1944

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

Miss Hadel

330

JUN 15 1944

In reply please
refer to: 733

Dear Miss Rothbard:

Since my reply to your recent telegram to the President 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,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Dvorah Rothbard,
National Secretary,
Pioneer Women's Organization
for Palestine,
45 East 17th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/14/44

EBT

In reply please
refer to: 733

MAY 20 1944

Dear Miss Rothbard:

Your telegram of May 16, 1944, to President Roosevelt, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees, has been referred to me.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Dvorah Rothbard,
National Secretary,
Pioneer Women's Organization
for Palestine,
45 East 17th Street,
New York, New York.

EBT RBHutchison: 5/20/44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAY 18 1944
80 1 08

In reply please
refer to: 723

733

The White House
Washington

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 5/20/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

War Refugees

MAY 16 4 26 PM 1944

WU B26 DL

XQ NEWYORK NY MAY 16 220P

HON FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE EASTERN CONFERENCE OF THE PIONEER WOMENS ORGANIZATION FOR PALESTINE ASSEMBLED IN NEW YORK AND REPRESENTING THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS URGES YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE PORTS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE REFUGEES AND JEWS IN PARTICULAR WHO HAVE SUFFERED MOST GRIEVOUSLY AND ARE STILL IN IMMINENT PERIL OF EXTERMINATION MAY BE GIVEN A HAVEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JAN 18 PM 1 08

SUCH STEP WOULD ENCOURAGE MANY TO ESCAPE NAZI TERROR AND
STIMULATE UNITED NATIONS TO EMULATE OUR GOVERNMENTS EXAMPLE
WE URGE YOU TO DO ALL WITHIN YOUR POWERS TO EXPEDITE THE
EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

PIONEER WOMENS ORGANIZATION FOR PALESTINE
45 EAST 17TH ST DVORAH ROTHBARD NATIONAL SECRETARY.

In reply please
refer to: 548

APR 24 1944

Dear Mrs. Plesofsky:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 1944, and its enclosure, concerning the work of the War Refugee Board and my appointment as Executive Director.

The interest which you have expressed in the fate of the refugees in Europe is appreciated. I assure you that everything in our power will be done to see that effective action is taken to carry out the policy of this Government to save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Philip Plesofsky,
823 Waveland Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

EPT RBH RBHutchison:agr 4-21-44 JWP

548

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

823 Waveland Ave.
Chicago, Ill. April 16, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle -

The attached clipping of Samuel Grafton's column in the Chicago Sun expresses my feelings in the matter of War Refugees.

As the authorized agent for our Government you are the only one who can give meaning to such a program of temporary relief.

That man or woman who deliberately or impulsively saves a human life wears an aura that makes him different somehow

548

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

from his fellow men.

Almost every young man I know has been selected to kill, but for you is the Savior's role.

You are indeed blessed, Mr Pehle, to have been the one selected for the saving of many, many, lives.

I wish you every success.

Sincerely yours,
Winifred Plesofsky.
(Mrs. Philip Plesofsky)

548

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

Above all things TRUTH beareth away the victory.

—Apocrypha, I Esdras.

Entered at Post Office at Chicago 6, Ill., as Second Class Matter.

Samuel Grafton:

Our Friends Rate Rights We Grant Our Enemies

WE NEED a system of "free ports" for refugees. These would be reservations, fenced and guarded, which any person could enter without formality, no matter how homeless or stateless he might be. Until we set up free ports for refugees, we shall be asking the refugee to stand on one foot while we solve his problem, a position in which a man can wait just so long, and a child less.

No rights would be acquired by anyone who entered such a reserved area, except the right to sit down, which is a rare right at the present moment in civilization's majestic march. By an easy legal fiction, entrance into a "free port" would not constitute legal entrance into the country, and stay in the "free port" would not constitute residence in the country.

***

Legal Fiction.

WE HAVE used this same legal fiction to establish free ports for goods. For reasons much too dull to tell you about here, these are of great advantage to our foreign trade in time of peace. There is a functioning free port in the New York City area, into which foreign merchandise and alien corn can be brought without payment of customs duties, parked for a while, then transshipped elsewhere. The stuff can stay here for a year without ever being considered to be in the country, and if we can use a legal fiction to make a dollar, we ought to be able to use a similar legal fiction to save a life.

There are practical difficulties in the way of such a scheme, because storage facilities for living women and children have to be a bit more complex than storage facilities for wine and corsets.

Yet these difficulties are hardly great enough to stun the human imagination. Any Army camp scheduled for early abandonment might do, or a fence could be put around some of the excess housing facilities we have built in Easterr industrial areas. As to what agency would run the "free port" for refugees, the answer is, of course, the new War Refugee Board. With such a "free port" in its pocket, the War Refugee Board would be in a position to go to other members of the United Nations and ask them to establish similar facilities, and it could not be turned down. The burden would thus be distributed around the world.

***

What Is Wrong?

BUT if we ask other nations to set up facilities while we do not, the answer is going to be a low, leering laugh, accompanied by remarks about the pot and the kettle, etc.

There are legal difficulties, too. But we are entertaining

No rights would be acquired by anyone who entered such a reserved area, except the right to sit down, which is a rare right at the present moment in civilization's majestic march. By an easy legal fiction, entrance into a "free port" would not constitute legal entrance into the country, and stay in the "free port" would not constitute residence in the country.

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There are practical difficulties in the way of such a scheme, because storage facilities for living women and children have to be a bit more complex than storage facilities for wine and corsets.

Yet these difficulties are hardly great enough to stun the human imagination. Any Army camp scheduled for early abandonment might do, or a fence could be put around some of the excess housing facilities we have built in Eastern industrial areas. As to what agency would run the "free port" for refugees, the answer is, of course, the new War Refugee Board. With such a "free port" in its pocket, the War Refugee Board would be in a position to go to other members of the United Nations and ask them to establish similar facilities, and it could not be turned down. The burden would thus be distributed around the world.

***

What Is Wrong?

BUT if we ask other nations to set up facilities while we do not, the answer is going to be a low, leering laugh, accompanied by remarks about the pot and the kettle, etc.

There are legal difficulties, too. But we are entertaining 130,000 Nazi prisoners of war at the moment in this country, and not one has entered under the quota. It is true that prisoners of war have certain established rights, including the right to a safe haven, where nobody shall make funny with them. But can we really argue, with shabby earnestness, that the innocent victims of these Nazis are not entitled to equal rights with their deadly and malicious enemies?

If we cannot give our friends at least the same rights we give our enemies, then a host of questions is raised, including whither are we drifting and what is wrong with our heads?

***

Democratic Solution.

THE refugees could be visited by consular and other officials of their own nations in these "free ports," they could be investigated, picked over, and perhaps, in time, outfitted with papers, and thus gradually raised to the lofty level of legal existence, as distinguished from the inconsequential level of mere physical existence.

Meanwhile, those Americans who do not want refugees here could have the assurance that they were not legally here at all; while Americans of a more humanitarian turn of mind and heart could have the assurance that refugees were being cared for, and this is, therefore, a democratic solution, in harmony with the traditional ingenuity and resourcefulness of Anglo-Saxon law-making.

As one looks it over it seems, also, to be a fairly repulsive solution. But that is all the refugees ask for; a repulsive solution. Can we give them less?