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

The President has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of September 11, 1944, concerning the Emergency Refuge Shelter recently established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Your support of this program is indeed appreciated.

Copies of the President's message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed as a matter of interest to you. I am sure you will also be interested to know that arrangements have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Lee Siegel,
505 East 144th Street,
Bronx 54, New York.

Enclosures.
Refugee Bld.

Sept 11th, 1944

To His Excellency,
The President of the U.S.,
Washington, D.C.

Most Honored Sir:
The opening of Fort Ontario at Oswego,
New York, is like an oasis in a desert. After reading the tortures experienced by these soul-searing refugees, and their thankfulness in being guests of our wonderful USA, one feels impelled in moving Heaven and earth to let other
tormented souls from beastly and decadent Europe get a taste of this oasis.

Dear, dear President, won't you continue your great humanitarian work.

Gratefully yours,

Miss Lee Siegel
505 E 144 St.
Bronx NY 54 NY

P.S. Please overlook pencilling. Thank you.
Miss Betty Silver,
Labor Lyceum College,
1800 Olson Memorial Highway,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Dear Miss Silver:

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

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Betty Silver,
Labor Lyceum College,
1800 Olson Memorial Highway,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Dear Miss Silver:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 19, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss Betty Silver,
Labor Lyceum College,
1800 Olson Memorial Highway,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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

Dear Mr. President:

The writer, deeply appreciative of the splendid efforts made by the administration in alleviating the suffering of refugees trapped in Fascist Europe, hopes that you will take further steps in aiding these unfortunate people.

I refer, Mr. President, to the establishment of the War Refugee Board and the hope that free ports will be maintained so that these innocent victims of the Axis can be afforded some measure of hope. The establishment of such free ports cannot but help but have a staying influence upon the brutal Nazi.

I sincerely hope that further efforts will be directed in this regard.

Sincerely,

Betty Silvers
In reply please refer to: 3059

Dear Miss Simon:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 18, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you were glad to see the accounts of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the plan 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 Deborah L. Simon,
5315 15th Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

My urgent plea to you is that the merciful plan, to give asylum in some of our ports to refugees who can escape with their lives from certain doom in Europe, be furrowed with all your power and with all your might.

May your hand be strengthened so that you may save countless human lives!

Respectfully yours,

Deborah L. Simon
In reply please refer to: 2613

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Simon:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 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 in the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Simon,
21 East 87th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.
Respectfully referred for action by the President.

W. A. B.
Filing Authority
To: File

President Roosevelt

February 19, 1944

W. A. B.
Dear Mrs. Simon:

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

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. Rae Simon,
55 Central Park West,

Enclosures.
August 1, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

As you are the only one who can bring pressure to bear upon the Allied Countries to permit the millions of Jews to enter and seek a haven of refuge from being annihilated by Hitler, I therefore appeal to you to open our own gates wider and create more Ports in order to permit more Jews to enter these United States as can be brought over to this blessed land of ours.

May your response be commensurate with the tragic need surrounding the tortured Jews in Europe.

Sincerely,

Rae Simon

[Signature]

[Esteemed holder of the document's signature]

[Date]

[Address]
In reply please refer to: 1687

Dear Dr. Levy:

The President has referred to me your recent communication quoting a resolution adopted by your organization concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Ellis Levy, Sec'y,
Sinai Temple,
Mt. Vernon, New York.

Enclosures.
I, Ellis Levy, secretary of Sinai Temple, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., do hereby certify that, at a stated meeting of the Board of Trustees of the above organization held June 5, 1944, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States:

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 dowered 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 Nazism 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 Nazism, 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."

Dated June 5, 1944
Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

Sinai Temple

Dr. Ellis Levy, Sec'y.
TO:

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Gaston
Mr. Paul
Mr. White

Mr. E.M. Bernstein
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Friedman
Miss Hodel

Mr. Lesser 164
Mr. Luxford
Mr. Stewart
Mrs. Taylor

Files

Copies sent to Messrs. DuBois and Friedman and original retained by Mr. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
COPY

DIOCESE of WASHINGTON
Ogle Ridout Singleton
Secretary of the Convention
Rives Church House
1702 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

May 11, 1944.

Lawrence S. Lesser, Esq.,
War Refugee Board,
Room 152,
Main U. S. Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:—

I enclose herewith a copy of the resolution
regarding action for war refugees, which was adopted at
the Forty-Ninth Session of The Convention of the Diocese
of Washington, on May 10th 1944.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ogle Ridout Singleton

Encl. 1.

OR3: ZOF
WHEREAS: On March 24, 1944, The President of the United States in speaking of the victims of enemy oppression in all lands declared that "we shall find havens of refuge for them, and we shall find the means of maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homelands and they may return."

BE IT RESOLVED: That The Convention of The Diocese of Washington, of The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America respectfully urges the Executive and Legislative Authorities of the United States to take without delay such action as may be expedient to implement this expression of the moral obligation now resting upon us as a free people.
In reply please refer to: 1205

Dear Mrs. Sharp:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 1944, quoting a resolution adopted by your organization 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. Harry Pl Sharp,
President,
Sisterhood of B'nai Aaron,
53rd and Euclid Avenue,
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
Be it resolved that we, the Sisterhood of B'nai Aaron, consisting of ninety-two (92) members, at a meeting held on May 27, 1944, urge the President of the United States and his War Refugee Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration. The establishment of such Free Ports would translate into action the humanitarian desire of the American people to save as many victims of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.
John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the
War Refugee Board
Washington #25, D. C.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
White House,  
Washington, D. C.  

Dear President:

Be it resolved that we, the Sisterhood of B'nai Aaron, consisting of ninety-two (92) members, at a meeting held on May 27, 1944, urge the President of the United States and his War Refugee Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration. The establishment of such Free Ports would translate into action the humanitarian desire of the American people to save as many victims of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

May Y. Sharp, President  
Mrs. I. Rubin, Secretary
Dear Miss Friedberg:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

Executive Director

Miss Margaret Friedberg,
c/o Sisterhood of the
Progressive Synagogue,
1515 Forty-sixth Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
To the President of the United States:

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the one hundred fifty members of the Sisterhood of the Progressive Synagogue:

"We, the members of the Sisterhood of the Progressive Synagogue, respectfully urge you, as Chief Executive of the United States, to establish free ports for refugees. In the name of humanity, speed the rescue of those Jews who may be saved."

Margaret Friedberg,
Representing the members of the Progressive Synagogue Sisterhood.
Dear Miss Kraft:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 23, 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 telegram 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 Bella Kraft,
President,
Sisterhood of Temple Beth El,
12 Breed Street,
Lynn, Massachusetts.

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

Dear Mr. President:

At a meeting of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El  
of Lynn, Massachusetts, held on June 8, 1944, the following resolution was unanimously voted by the membership:

"Be it hereby resolved by the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El of Lynn, Massachusetts, that Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, and Cordell Hull, Secretary of State of the United States, be urged to give immediate and favorable attention to the proposal to create "Safe Ports", where the helpless and unfortunate victims of Nazi oppression may find temporary haven, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State of the United States".

Respectfully yours,

SISTERHOOD OF TEMPLE BETH EL

Belle Kraft, President

Ada B. Khovansky, Secretary

Affiliated with THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
Dear Mrs. Polisner:

The President has referred to me your recent resolution concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. J. Polisner,
Secretary,
Sisterhood of Temple
B'nai Moshe of Brighton,
43 Strathmore Road,
Brookline 46, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

We, the officers and membership of the Sisterhood of Charity of Brighton,
realizing the desperate situation of refugees from European countries, and the necessity for finding a haven or refuge for these people,
desire to record ourselves in favor of legislation for the establishment of "free ports" in the United States of America.

By: Miss J. Sadie Polisner
Secretary of President
49 Strathmore Rd.
Address: Brookline 46, Mass.
In reply please
refer to: 1398

Dear Mrs. Leffler:

The President has referred to me your
communication of June 9, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. William J. Leffler,
President,
Sisterhood of Temple Israel,
New Rochelle, New York.

Enclosures.
June 9, 1944

Mindful of the Victims of hunger, of torture, of the most brutal persecution in history, of the millions of European Jews who have fallen before the onslaught of the Nazi program of Jewish extermination, we the undersigned, members of the Board of the Sisterhood of Temple Israel of New Rochelle, New York—representing almost 600 women—hereby appeal to the United States government to establish "Free Ports" for refugees which shall be designated as places of temporary asylum for those Jews who can escape or be transported to this country.

Mrs. Samuel Marks
Mrs. William J. Leffler
Mrs. Edward H. Friedman
Mrs. Victor Pollstein
Mrs. Julius Perlman
Mrs. Dolf H. Weitfeld
Mrs. Jack Sternenglanz
Mrs. Norman H. Israel
Mrs. Menger H. Lavenstein
Mrs. Marcie Hoffstutter
Mrs. Berthold Weiss
Mrs. Juliette F. Potter
Mrs. Edward A. Sper

Mrs. Sidney Goldstein
Mrs. H. J. Michelman
Mrs. E. G. Goodman
Mrs. Fred Rock
Mrs. Lee Perry
Mrs. Joseph Antero
Mrs. Alice Schloesinger
Mrs. M. Eppinger
Mrs. H. H. Weisblad

Mrs. H. H. Hendel
Mrs. Ann Chajes
Mrs. Otto Kleeper
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Pres. of the U.S.
White House
Washington, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 684

Dear Mr. Reiss:

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. Louis Reiss,
Manager,
Skirt Makers Union,
131 West 33rd Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures:

ESTowler:db 6/14/44
MAY 19 1944

In reply please refer to: 684

Dear Mr. Reiss:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 1944, concerning the possibility of establishing temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Reiss,
Manager,
Skirt Makers Union,
131 West 33rd Street,
New York, New York.
May 11th, 1944.

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

Honorable Sir:

As early as last September, a delegation of American labor, headed by President William Green, of the A. F. of L., and President Philip Murray, of the C. I. O., submitted a memorandum to the State Department, appealing "to our Government and to the governments of the United Nations, to admit to all territories, under their control, Jewish refugees who may succeed in escaping from the Nazi hell."

Today, seven months later, Hitler stands on the brink of disaster. The German legions are in retreat everywhere. But the sufferings and the persecutions of the Fascist victims have not been halted. According to recent reports, the Nazis have, in desperation, intensified their bestial terror. Grave danger threatens millions of people in tortured Europe. Only swift action can save them now. Not words, or even tears, will have the power to restore or save their lives.

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 holocaust, 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.

Respectfully yours,

Executive Board.

Louis Reiss; Manager.
In reply please  
refer to: 3155

Dear Miss Skoy:

I have your telegram of July 31, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jews in Hungary.

On January 23, 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. 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, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Frances Skoy,
58 East 3rd Street,
New York, New York.
PLEASE EXERT ALL PRESSURE TO SAVE THE 400,000 JEWS IN HUNGARY WHO ARE DESPERATE FOR THEIR SALVATION PALESTINE WILL GIVE THEM A NEW LIFE IF ONLY WE HELP THEM SURVIVE NOW ALL EYES ARE FOCUSED ON YOU FOR A MAJOR MOVE TOWARD RESCUING THESE PEOPLE:

FRANCES SKOVY 58 EAST 3RD STREET.

SKOVY 58 3 400,000.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE
In reply please refer to: 3267

SEP 2 1944

Dear Mr. Smelo:

The President has referred to me your letter of August 14, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you and those who signed with you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1000 refugees who fled from their homelands to Southern Italy are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Enclosures.

Mr. William W. Smelo, President,
Smelo Construction Company,
1711 North Street,
Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
President of The United States of America  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As citizens of the United States we, the undersigned, take the liberty to urge you to take immediate action together with the other Allied Powers to establish Free Ports in the United States and in the Allied Countries in order to save the lives of the thousands of peoples in Europe that are sure to be exterminated if help will not come to them at once.

Respectfully yours,

William Smelko

Anna Smelko

Mr. Green

Mrs. Bey. Smelko

Leon S. Smelko

Mary Smelko
SMELLO CONSTRUCTION CO.,
1236 MEDARY AVE., PHILA., PA.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
President of the United States
Washington, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 992

Dear Mr. Zwerman:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of June 1, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know that since my letter of June 9, to you, the President has taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Zwerman,
President,
Smiller Beneficial Association,
300 South 4th Street,

Enclosures.
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully submit to you the following RESOLUTION.

"Be it resolved, that we, SMILLER BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION, consisting of 1500 Members, at a meeting held May 31st, 1944, appeal to the PRESIDENT of the United State and his WAR REFUGEE BOARD to give urgent consideration to the project of establishing FREE PORTS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DURATION.

Such establishment would materialize the sincere desire of the American People to save as many VICTIMS of NAZI TYRANNY as can still be saved."

Yours very truly,

SMILLER BENEFICIAL ASS.

JACOB BERGMAN
PRESIDENT

NATHAN LEVIN
SECRETARY
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C.
In reply please refer to: 893

Dear Mr. Zwerman:

Thank you for your letter of June 1, 1944, submitting a resolution concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

The interest of your organization is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Peale

J. W. Peale
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Zwerman,
President,
Smoller Beneficial Association,
300 South 4th Street,
WAR REFUGE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Gentlemen;

We respectfully submit to you the following, RESOLUTION;

"Be it resolved? that we SMILLER BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION, consisting of 1500 Members, at a meeting held May 31st, 1944, appeal to the WAR REFUGE BOARD TO GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION to the project of establishing FREE PORTS FOR REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE DURATION.

Such establishment would materialize the sincere desire of the American People to save as many VICTIMS of NAZI TYRANNY as can still be saved."

Yours very truly

SMILLER BENEFICIAL ASS.

President

Secretary
In reply please refer to: 2046

Dear Mr. Smilowitz:

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

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort 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. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Mr. Leon Smilowitz,
505 Tasker Street,

cc: Mr. Mayer Edelson,
1622 S. 5th Street,

Enclosures.
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,

[Signature]

Name: [Signature]
Address: 505 Farnsworth St.

Name: Meyer Edelson
Address: 1622 A. 5th St.
In reply please refer to: 2045

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smilowitz:

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

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort 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. Nathan Smilowitz,
505 Tasker Street,

Enclosures.
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.

Name  
M. Smilowitz

Address  
505 Friendship st.

Name  
Rose C. Smilowitz

Address  
505-12224th st. Pkwy.
In reply please refer to: 3015

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Your letters of July 11 and 13, 1944, to the President and to Secretary Morgenthau, respectively, concerning the establishment of the War Refugee Board and urging all possible action to rescue the persecuted minorities of Europe, have been referred to me.

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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Emily Judd Smith,
415 N. Clara Avenue,
De Land, Florida.
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt:
The White House, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

You are to be congratulated that in January 1944, you created a "War Refugee Board" to take action as promptly as possible to rescue to date active and promptly as possible to rescue civilians in Europe who are the victims of Hitler's fury, especially those of Jewish blood. Surely this freedom-loving nation of ours should offer at least temporary haven to these refugees and do all in its power to alleviate their misery.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Emily Judd Smith
May I respectfully urge that you and the other members of the War Refugee Board as speedily as possible date whatever ships are necessary to rescue as many of the Jews now being persecuted and killed in Europe and offer them at least temporary haven in our country. Can this land of liberty do less to demonstrate its principles?

Yours truly,

Mrs. Emily Judd Smith
After 5 days, return to
Mrs. Emily Judd Smith
15 N. Clara Ave
De Land, Fla.

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.
Dear Miss Sobel:

Thank you for your communication of June 28, 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 Ann F. Sobel,
2420 Wharton Street,
Philadelphia 46, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
June 28, 1944

Dear Sir:

I understand there is a pending bill to open "Free Ports" for Jewish refugees in the United States. As Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, will you kindly use your influence to bring about the passage of this bill. In the interest of humanitarian principles, for which our Country stands, this bill should be passed.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Ann F. Sobel
In reply please refer to: 2607

Dear Miss Sobel:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 20, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Marion Sobel,
53 Carlecon Avenue,
Larchmont, New York

Enclosures.
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
White House  
Wash. D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As part of our acknowledged purpose to aid the refugees of those countries victimized by Axis aggression and in line with our policy of collaboration with other United Nations for the relief of such refugees, we should establish a Free Port to enable the rescue and assistance of those people to proceed to their own countries with the greatest efficiency.

I therefore respectfully urge that you do everything possible to effect the passage of the Free Port Bill.

Yours truly,

Marion Sobel

53 Carleos Ave  
Larchmont, N.Y.
My dear Judge Soffel:

Thank you for your telegram of June 16, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the matter of giving war refugees temporary asylum in this country.

I am sure that you were heartened by the President's 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 recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the plan.

Your interest in measures for saving the lives of the victims of enemy persecution and finding havens of refuge for them is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Honorable Sara M. Soffel,
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBTowler agr 6-27-44
MULD250 RR NL

LOS ANGELES CALIF JUNE 9 1944

PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES

WASHDC

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

MRS B SOLOMON

No address
In reply please refer to 1009

JUN 14 1944

Dear Mr. Sommerman:

Thank you for your recent cards to the President and to me concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. R. Sommerman,
1554 - 46th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
1554 - 46th Street  
Brooklyn, N. Y.  
June 7, 1944

Dear Sir:

I am very much in favor of free ports for refugees. My purpose in writing you is to ask if you won't use your good offices to help create these ports so that the ones who have survived can be helped.

Thank you for your help.  

Sommersman

[Signature]

Peter Sommersman
Brooklyn, N.Y.
June 7, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

I know what a humanitarian you are so I am writing to ask your help in getting free ports for the poor refugees of Europe. You have done so much and we'd like your help now.

Thank you and God bless you.

Re: Sommerman
In reply please refer to: 3029

Dear Mr. Fox:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 11, 1944, and its enclosure, 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.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob Logan Fox,
Secretary,
South Shore Temple,
7215 Jeffery Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Enclosures.
July 11, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

The board of trustees of South Shore Temple, a religious organization, has directed me to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a resolution solemnly adopted by the board at its last meeting.

May this appeal bear fruit promptly by the establishment of free ports of rescue before the opportunity for such rescue has passed.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Secretary
South Shore Temple
WHEREAS the history of our country manifests that:

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 dowered land is calling upon us to "bring forth the prisoner from the prison house and those that dwell in darkness from the dungeon.

RESOLVED that this congregation join with other congregations in the following resolution:

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 Nazism 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 Nazism, 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.
Dear Miss Soybel:

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 Rose M. Soybel,
867 East 8th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
His Excellency
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
Washington D.C.

My dear Mr. President,

I have always been a great admirer of yours for your liberal attitude toward all minorities and all suffering mankind.

I, therefore, appeal to you on behalf of the millions of unfortunate...
Jews in Europe to exert your influence and power to open immediately rescue camps for them.

The atrocities and untold horror which these unfortunate Jews are suffering make it imperative that action be taken immediately.

Of your sincere admirers,

[Signature]
In reply please refer to: 3319

Dear Mr. Speight:

The President has asked me to acknowledge with thanks your letter of August 29, 1944, concerning the Emergency Refugee Shelter recently established at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

Your sympathetic interest and understanding of the plight of these unfortunate people is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed J. W. Pehle)
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Harold E. B. Speight,
Acting President,
The St. Lawrence University,
Canton, New York.

Emergency Refugee Shelters. Original signed by Mr. Pehle

[Signature]

SEP 15
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 1944

Respectfully referred to the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board for attention and appropriate acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President
August 23, 1944

Mr. President:

If the enclosed dispatch to the WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES represents the facts, please allow one who has welcomed your action in giving a temporary home to the 384 refugees now housed in Oswego, N. Y., to express his approval and to voice deep regret that protests are reaching you.

Among the most memorable utterances of the American spirit have been those pledging our aid to the oppressed, regardless of race or creed.

The enemy values every act or word which divides our people on such fundamental issues as this. Pray believe that the best instincts of many inarticulate citizens are really with you when you give a helping hand to victims of the most brutal and systematic oppression of the innocent that history records.

Respectfully and faithfully yours,

The President, The White House, Washington, D. C.  
Acting President
OSWEGO REFUGE DRAWS PROTEST

America's First Groups Complaining Over Experiment at Fort Ontario.

WASHINGTON D.C.

August 30.—Few congressmen are talking about it publicly but the mid-west America's First groups, apparently spurred on by unfavorable articles by Westbrook Pegler, are writing in protesting the humanitarian effort in behalf of the 90 refugees brought to Oswego.

Mid-west representatives from notoriously isolationist areas in particular have borne the brunt of the protests while strangely enough, Rep. Hadwen C. Fuller of Parish, whose district includes Oswego, has not received a single complaint.

One administration official concerned with handling the refugees told a congressman who called to inquire regarding them that so many protests have been filed that it now appears as if the Oswego refugee camp experiment will be the last.

Many of the protests coming from the mid-west are obviated by incitement by anti-American spirit, it can be proved, at least for a period while it stresses the racial and religious origin of the group.

Reports reaching here from Oswego are that the experiment so far is successful although it is still a little early to draw final conclusions. The group is still in quarantine. Thus far, however, Oswego has been accepting the experiment in good grace although there was some disappointment that the fort was not used as a base hospital which many believed was the original intent.

Despite the quarantine, some heart-rending stories are drifting into Oswego regarding the condition of some of those in the group. Some, remembering their days in Nazi concentration camps, still are inclined to slip food into their shirts, doubting believing that such good meals cannot last forever. Likewise ice cream and wholesome milk come as a revelation to the children, many of whom remember nothing but concentration camps.

The stories of the refugees who live in "plush" and special comforts have long since been dissipated by the factual reports from the camp. The refugees are fed in army cots and have no extraconveniences.

One factor that has aided in cementing relations between the town and the project is the fact that the government and the various aid groups assisting the refugees are purchasing as much of the supplies going into the camp in Oswego as possible. This has proved to the town that it is the desire of the government and the aid organizations to tie up the economic life of the group with Oswego as much as possible.

Thus far there is no indication here that the government is planning to bring in other groups particularly as those hostile to the present project seem to be making their voices heard here while sympathetic groups apparently have had little to say in behalf of the project.
In reply please refer to: 1081

Dear Miss Stainan:

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.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Estre Stainan,
1485 East 46th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
June 26, 1909

Dear Mr. President,

We urge you to open free ports in the U.S. now.

Sincerely,

Estee Staiman

Brooklyn, N.Y.
In reply please refer to: 971

Dear Mrs. Staub:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Sadie Staub,
1418 W. Conlyn Street,
Philadelphia 41, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

RE: Hutchison: 6/16/44
June 6, 1944

Hon. John W. Behle
Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, Washington, D.C.

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.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Sadie Stahl
Hon. John W. Peake
Executive Director of the
Moor Refugee Board.
Washington
25, D. C.
MAY 23 1944

In reply please refer to: 761

Dear Miss Steinig:

Thank you for your letter of May 17, 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 Ada Steinig,
6550 North 18th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Free Porte
Phila. May 17/44

My dear Mr. Rehbock,

The idea of a post of refuge for the war-stricken people of Hitler persecutions is an excellent one.

I do hope you use your good offices in favor of it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alois Steinig
65-60 West 19th St.
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.

Name

Addres


No address.
Dear Mr. Storch:

Thank you for your recent cards to the President and to me concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 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. Edward Storch,
915 - 46th Street,
Brooklyn 19, New York.

Enclosures.
Dear Mr. Pehle:

We are in favor of a Free Port for Refugees and ask you to use your good offices and see that this great project is speedily accomplished.

Edward Storch
Dear Mr. President:

We are in favor of free ports for Refugees and ask you to exert your good offices and see that this great project is speedily accomplished.

Edward Storch
Dear Dr. Strauss:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 17, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Hyman Strauss,
758 Ocean Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

[Handwritten note: Hutchison:agr 7-24-44]
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

I feel the fate of the few remaining Jews of Europe of Hungary in particular, escape your attention in these days. I urge you as a Great Humanitarian that you are to establish "Free Ports" before it is too late. History and posterity rather than your contemporaries will appreciate your efforts.

Very sincerely yours,

Hyman Strauss
MAY 20 1944

In reply please refer to: 739

Dear Mrs. Strudler:

Thank you for your letters of May 16, 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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Bertha Strudler,
165 West 97th Street,
New York, New York.
Hon John W. Fehle  
Executive Director  
of the War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

May 16, 1944.

Dear Sir:

America was given to the world as a haven for refugees suffering under the yoke of European intolerance of freedom of religion, speech and the press.

For as long as our great country lends a helping hand to those that suffer such oppression and for as long as we practice and preach what we know to be right, for that time will we exist in peace, prosperity and happiness.

We must not forget our mission on this earth and thus I pray that you will see the wisdom of using every force and power within you to cause a system of "free ports" to be established in the United States to provide at least a temporary haven for war refugees.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs) BERTHA STRULLER.
165 West 97th Street  
New York, N.Y.  
May 16, 1944.

His Excellency Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

America was given to the world as a haven for the oppressed and for as long as our great country lends a helping hand to those suffering under the yoke of intolerance of freedom of religion, speech and the press, and for as long as we practice freedom of these principles, for that time will we exist as a great nation.

I therefore trust that you will do everything within your power to cause a system of "free ports" to be established in the United States to provide at least a temporary haven for war refugees.

Most Respectfully Yours,

(Mrs.) Bertha Strudler.

(Mrs.) Bertha Strudler.
Dear Miss Stryker:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of August 6, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jews in occupied 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.
With respect to the problem of Hungarian Jews, I enclose a copy of a joint statement recently issued by the United States and British Governments which I am sure will be of interest to you.

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

Sincerely yours,

[signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ann M. Stryker,
Loudville, Maine.

cc: Miss Helen L. Poland,
Loudville, Maine.

Miss Marcia S. Cranse,
Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Enclosure.
Londinville, Maine

Aug 6th, 1944

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

Dear President Roosevelt:

Mr. the undersigned, moved
by the cruel policy of our fellow
men the Jews, do therefore
petition you to use your great
office to aid them with
food, clothing and protection
and to offer them asylum here in
our own America. We know
that your generous heart does not
need prompting. Our object in
writing is to assure you that
we, plain citizens, where some
are even now fighting - as are
you - to freedom, stand
solidly behind you in every
effort you make to help.
To: Files
Ans.

The Society of Afflicted People, The Field.

Very truly yours

 cordially,

Helen J. Poland, Londerville, Maine

Maricia J. Crane, Bloomfield, New Jersey
Dear Mrs. Stumpp:

The President has referred to me your recent letter in support of Senate Resolution No. 297 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

Mrs. G. Stumpp,
210 Sadgwick Avenue,
Yonkers 5, New York.

Enclosures.
To The President

Mr. E. O. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

It is with growing anxiety that we read of the rape and slaying of Jews and the sickening savagery against the Jews of East Europe and we fervently urge that you, Mr. President, together with the other Allied Powers take the necessary immediate action to secure the enactment and enforcement of the Resolution introduced into the Senate by Senator G. M. Feltelle of Iowa.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. G. Stringfellow
210 Sedarich and Younger 5 AY
In reply please refer to: 2037

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sukol:

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

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort 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. Harry Sukol,
5806 N. 12th Street,

Enclosures.

EBTowler inp 6/26/44
Dear Sir:

Phila. Pa

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. We sincerely urge you to speak favorably on them.

Ruth Sukol - 5805 W. 12th St.
Harry Sukol - 5805 W. 12th St.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sukol - N. 17th St.
In reply please refer to: 2043

Dear Mrs. Sweedler:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 20, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Benjamin Sweedler,
68 Vine Road,
Larchmont, New York.

Enclosures.
The President
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Our fight for the four Freedoms includes the right of refugees of all lands to be restored to the status of full citizenship in their pre-war countries.

The ports will be necessary for the purpose of facilitating their passage.

I urge you to support the Free Port Bill.

I have the honor to remain,

Most respectfully yours,

Mrs. Benjamin Freedler
68 Vide Rd.
Larchmont, N. Y.
Dear Miss Sweeney:

Thank you for your letter of April 5, 1944, requesting information as to how you may help in the task of rescuing the persecuted peoples of Europe.

There are enclosed copies of Executive Order No. 9417, issued by the President on January 22, 1944, and the President's Statement of March 24, 1944. The duties and authority of the War Refugee Board for the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death are set forth in the Order, and the President in his statement has called upon all freedom-loving people to rally to this righteous undertaking in the name of justice and humanity.

Your interest in this undertaking and your desire to be of assistance are greatly appreciated. Expressions of the concern of the people of the United States for the fate of persecuted peoples and evidence of public support for the task of the Board will facilitate our efforts to attain the humanitarian objectives for which the Board was created.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Miss Lois S. Sweeney,
68 Quinlan Avenue,
Staten Island 2, New York.

Enclosures.
88 Garden Ave.
Station Island, N.Y.

April 5, 1946

Dear Members of War Refugee Board,

A suggestion has been made to set up a system of refugee free ports. Let's do it and fast! How can citizens like myself help in getting at least a breathing space for the persecuted people of Europe?

If the decision rests with you alone then may your quickly accomplish this great task and lead the way for the rest of the world to follow.

May God help you and strengthen you.

Sincerely,

John J. Sweeney
88 Greenland Ave.
Staten Island 2, N.Y.

War Refugee Board
Washington
D. C.
Dear Mrs. Swenson:

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

Mrs. Marjorie L. Swenson,
2629 Fremont Avenue, South,
Minneapolis 8, Minnesota.

Enclosures.
Dear Mr. President,

I commend you for many of your actions, but at this particular time my praise is devoted to your adoption of the idea of free ports for refugees in our country. Now that we have opened Port Ontario in New York state, we have a better right in asking other countries, especially Turkey, to do so and we have set an example for these other countries of whom we ask similar action.

If you have opened one port to one thousand European refugees as a trial balloon to test public reaction, I hope that millions of others see fit to write of their whole-hearted approval and I hope that all of them add a determined plea for more ports of the same kind. Why must
our humanitarianism be so limited? These are many more than one thousand refugees in Europe. Let us help before it is too late!

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Marjorie L. Swenson
In reply please refer to: 706

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Since my reply to your recent letter 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

Dr. Israel Goldstein,
President,
Synagogue Council of America,
270 West 89th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures:

SBTowler: db 6/14/44
In reply please refer to: 708

MAY 20 1944

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Your letter of May 12, 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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Dr. Israel Goldstein,
President,
Synagogue Council of America,
570 West 86th Street,
New York, New York.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

Conscious of the basic moral issues of this war and cognizant of your repeated emphasis upon these issues, we the Synagogue Council representing all religious branches of American Jewry appeal to you in behalf of the surviving remnant of Israel in Europe.

We are confident that all Americans who believe in justice and humanity will support your historic declaration of March 24th in which you called upon the free people of Europe and Asia temporarily to open their frontiers to victims of oppression and in which you declared that havens of refuge would be found for them.

The zero hour now approaches for the Jews trapped in the Balkans. Heroic measures must be taken to save the small remnant that can still be rescued.

We urgently plea for the establishment of "freeports" that is, temporary emergency refugee camps, in the United States in which refugees may find a sanctuary for the duration of the war. This will not only assure life for those who can escape from the Nazi hangmen and can be brought here, but it will prove an effective instrument for the implementation of your March 24th statement. It will encourage the people of Europe and Asia to resist Nazi savagery and it will in addition serve as an example to other nations who may be influenced to follow America's leadership and establish similar havens.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Israel Goldstein

May 12, 1944