

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

General-T-V

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1064

Dear Miss Tabakow:

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 Bessie Tabakow,
1687 Park Place,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

EBH - Ash RBHutchison agr 6-15-44

1064

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

Dear Mr President June 619
I urge you
to open all ports in
the United States
now
Sincerely
Bessie Talakow
1681 Park ple Brooklyn
now yours

SEP 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3326

Dear Mr. Tallor:

The President has referred to me your letter of August 31 concerning the plight of the Jews in Hungary.

I am sure you will be interested in the enclosed copy of a joint statement recently issued by the United States and British governments concerning this matter. All practicable measures have been and are being taken by this Government in cooperation with other governments and with private refugee organizations to protect the Jews in Hungary.

Please be assured that we will continue to do everything in our power to save as many of these people as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Alex Tallor,
40 West 77th Street,
New York, New York.

*Emergency Refugee Shelter
Approval*

Enclosure.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 9/12/44 *PA* -

PLEASE RETURN
IN ENVELOPE

104
Encl.

3326

ALEX TALLER

40 WEST 77TH STREET

NEW YORK

W. R. B. _____
 Filing Authority _____
 To: Files _____
 Ans. 9/14/44
 No. Ans. Req. 9/14/44
 Initial _____
 Date _____

Aug 31

Dear Mr. President,

I have just read the masterful
 summary of the crowd killings at
 Dublin in the New York Times of
 Aug 30 - I would like to add
 my appeal to the millions of
 others for direct action on the
 question of removing the
 500 000 Jews from Hungary

Respectfully yours

Alex Taller

PLEASE RETURN
THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT
TO THE PRESIDENT

William D. Harrel
Secretary to the President

In reply please
refer to: 932

JUN 17 1944

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Tannenbaum:

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. & Mrs. A. Tannenbaum,
1255 - 54th Street,
Brooklyn, 19, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH
RBHutchison: 6/16/44

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

Dear Sir:

We wish to thank you for
 your efforts towards creating
 free ports for homeless refugees.
 We are all behind you and
 urge you to do your utmost
 in behalf of this vital matter.
 Please see the President and
 plead our cause. He are de-
 pending upon you.
 Mr & Mrs W. J. Jannetbaum

1255 - 54th St.
 Brooklyn 19, N. Y.

In reply please
refer to: 2960

JUL 25 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mrs. Raymond F. Tartiere, requesting information as to how she can help in the task of caring for the refugees to be brought to the Emergency Refugee Shelter.

I have advised Mrs. Tartiere that, as the actual administration of the shelter will be in your hands, I have referred a copy of her letter to you. I shall appreciate it if you will advise her what forms of assistance from private individuals can best be utilized.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Dillon Myer,
Director,
War Relocation Authority,
Barr Building,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

*Emergency Refugee Shelter
approval*

RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-24-44 *OK*

In reply please
refer to: 2960

JUL 25 1944

Dear Mrs. Tartiere:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of July 7, 1944, inquiring as to how you can help in the task of caring for the refugees to be brought to the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

Since the actual administration of the shelter will be in the hands of the War Relocation Authority, I am referring a copy of your letter to Mr. Dillon Myer, Director of that agency, with the request that he advise you what forms of assistance from private individuals can best be utilized.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Raymond F. Tartiere,
Middleburg, Virginia.

RBH RBHutchison:gr 7-24-44
92.

2960

MRS. RAYMOND F. TARTIERE
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

W. R. July 7th 44

Filing Authority

To: Files

Ans. _____

No Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director War Refugee Board

No. 2638

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your prompt answer to my letter to the President re the admittance of refugees to this country.

I should like to ask you in what way I could be of service in helping these unfortunate human beings. Could I send clothing besides cash.

One thousand is but a drop in the bucket and I trust that more will be permitted to enter.

Very truly,

Gladys R. Tartiere

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

037

288 1/2



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

In reply please
refer to: 2638

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mrs. Tartiere:

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

Mrs. Raymond F. Tartiere,
Middleburg, Virginia.

Free Post

Enclosures.

EDT v

RH
BBHutchison:agr 7-1-44
P.

T
WRB
✓
Mr. President

2638
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

MRS. RAYMOND F. TARTIERE
MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

W. H. B. [unclear]
Filing [unclear]
To: Files
Ans. [unclear]
No. Ans. [unclear]
Initial [unclear]
Date [unclear]

to you in behalf of
persecuted, for the establishment
of rescue centers or free
ports, so they may have
the shelter and protection
to which all human
beings are entitled.

Very truly
Yours
Gladys R. Tartier
Senate
Resolution
297

Enclosures.

In reply please
refer to: 2903

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mr. Hassenbusch:

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.

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. Samuel Hassenbusch,
President,
Temple Adath Joseph,
St. Joseph, Missouri.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓

RBH

RBHutchison:agr 7-3-44

2903

*War
Refugee
Board*



Temple Adath Joseph

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

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

June 20, 1944

The President of the United States
 His Honor, Franklin D. Roosevelt
 White House
 Washington, District of Columbia

Honorable Sir:

The Temple Adath Joseph of Saint Joseph, Missouri, joins many other organizations in commending you for your active participation in enterprises of freedom and liberty.

We are grateful to you for your efforts on behalf of the persecuted and oppressed and we pray that God may continue to give you strength so that you may pursue your traditional policy of justice for those who need it.

We are particularly pleased in your efforts to create "free ports" as advocated by the War Refugee Board through your efforts and we hope that America will join the other freedom-loving nations of the world in a consecrated effort to save the lives of thousands who otherwise are decreed for mass extermination.

We hope that you will lend every effort toward the establishment of these "free ports" to the end that relief and succor will come to those who plead with us for help.

Respectfully yours,

Samuel Hassenbusch
President

Temple Adath Joseph
 Saint Joseph, Missouri
 Samuel Hassenbusch, President

SH:AD

Federated Jewish Charities
Samuel Hassenbusch
 President

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2032

Dear Mr. Pittluck:

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

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Charles H. Pittluck,
President,
Temple Ahavath Sholem,
of Flatbush,
Avenue R at E. 16th Street,
Brooklyn, 29, New York.

Enclosures.

EDT ✓

EBTowler: 7/20/44



Temple Ahavath Sholom of Flatbush

AVENUE R AT E. 16TH STREET
BROOKLYN 29, N. Y. ✓

TELEPHONE: ESPLANADE 5-4500



RABBI ALEXANDER ALAN STEINBACH
MINISTER

S. RAPOEL REESE
CANTOR

RABBI AVERY J. GROSSFIELD
DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION AND YOUTH

OFFICERS

LEON LEVIN
HONORARY PRESIDENT

CHARLES H. PITTLUCK
PRESIDENT

MORRIS ABRAMS
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

PHILIP LEVIN
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

ALVIN B. ROSENBLATT
TREASURER

CHARLES E. KAPLAN
SECRETARY

TRUSTEES

DAVID AIBEL
IRVING AIBEL
FRANCES R. BISGYER
FRANK BROMBERG
ANNIE ENTMACHER
CATRICE FREISER
SAMUEL GREENBERG
MILTON GRUNAUER
JOSEPH H. GUTTENBERG
IRVING HANDLER
SAMUEL KANARICK
PAUL KAUFMAN
MAURICE C. LEVIN
MOLLIE LEVY
CHARLES L. MECKENBERG
GRACE MOSS
DR. ROBERT POLLOCK
MINNIE ROTH
MAX SCHAPPER
HYMAN SCHRIER
DAVID WEINBERGER
EMANUEL WEINSTEIN

June 20, 1944

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

Sir:

By direction of the membership at the annual meeting of the Congregation of Temple Ahavath Sholom of Flatbush comprising 1260 Congregants, I enclose herewith a Resolution with respect to your commendable action in the creation and furtherance of free ports or refuge for the victims of Nazism.

With our sincere prayers for your continued strength, thereby enabling you to further those humanitarian goals to a satisfactory conclusion, we have the honor to remain

Most Respectfully yours;

TEMPLE AHAVATH SHOLOM

Charles H. Pittluck
President



Temple Ahavath Shalom of Flatbush

AVENUE R AT E. 16TH STREET
BROOKLYN 29, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: ESPLANADE 5-4500



RABBI ALEXANDER ALAN STEINBACH
MINISTER

S. RAFOEL REESE
CANTOR

RABBI AVERY J. GROSEFIELD
DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION AND YOUTH
OFFICERS

LEON LEVIN
HONORARY PRESIDENT

CHARLES H. PITTLUCK
PRESIDENT

MORRIS ABRAMS
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

PHILIP LEVIN
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

ALVIN B. ROSENBLATT
TREASURER

CHARLES E. KAPLAN
SECRETARY

TRUSTEES

DAVID AISEL

IRVING AISEL

FRANCES R. BIGGYER

FRANK BROMBERG

ANNIE ENTMACHER

KATRICE FREISER

SAMUEL GREENBERG

MILTON GRUNAUER

JOSEPH H. GUTTENBERG

IRVING HANDLER

SAMUEL KANARICK

PAUL KAUFMAN

MAURICE C. LEVIN

MOLLIE LEVY

CHARLES L. MECKENBERG

GRACE MOSS

DR. ROBERT POLLOCK

MINNIE ROTH

MAX SCHAEFFER

HYMAN SCHRIER

DAVID WEINBERGER

EMANUEL WEINSTEIN

Resolution on Free Ports

Adopted by the Board of Trustees and members at the annual Congregational Meeting held on Tuesday, June 13th, 1944.

Whereas, it is our firm belief that 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 endowed land is calling upon us to "bring forth the prisoner from the prison house and those that dwell in darkness from the dungeon"; and

Whereas, the President of the United States has, by deeds, risen to the aid of the afflicted and created a haven of refuge for the rescue of victims of Nazism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that 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; for 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, that since 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, be and the same hereby is heartily endorsed, especially since America can do no less for these, our Allies and fellow-foes of Nazism, then we do for our enemies who, as prisoners of war, are provided with at least such temporary sojourn and security; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we should and hereby do 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, a sufficiency of such free ports, and such islands of temporary rescue, upon the free and cherished soil of America.

In reply please
refer to: 2891

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mrs. Kasler:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 26, 1944, submitting a resolution recently 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.

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. Harold Kasler,
Corresponding Secretary,
Temple Beth El Sisterhood,
1730 Harlem Boulevard,
Rockford, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-3-44

Wanted Ref. Board

2891

Temple Beth El
Sisterhood

ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

June 26, 1944

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

1730

MRS. JAMES KLEIN
President
MRS. HAROLD KASLER
Corresponding Secretary ✓

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

The President of the United States *William D. Howett*
Washington, D. C.
Secretary to the President

Sir:

Inasmuch as you have created the War Refugee Board, we know you will be personally interested in the Resolution which this Temple Sisterhood has just passed:

"Resolved that the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods call upon the United States Government to establish Refugee Rescue Camps or Free Ports to be designated as places of temporary asylum for those Jews who can escape or be transported to this country; and that appeal be made to the President in the name of humanity, asking him to take the speediest action possible to rescue those Jews who may yet be saved."

We urge your active interest in this humanitarian cause and are confident that you will help us.

Respectfully,
Pearl Kasler
Corresponding Secy.

K/v

In reply please
refer to: 3055

JUL 29 1944

Dear Mr. Krause:

The President has referred to me the 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.

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. Jack Krause,
Secretary,
Temple Beth El,
Cor. Liberty and Second Streets,
Flint 3, Michigan.

Enclosures.

RBA RBHutchison:agr 7-26-44 Jcf -

President
DR. MAX S. HART
201 N. BAGINAW ST.
FLINT 3

Vice President
GEORGE OLDS
501 N. BAGINAW ST.
FLINT 3

Treasurer
HAROLD FIENBERG
205 N. BAGINAW ST.
FLINT 3

Secretary
JACK KRAUSE
121 W. MCCLELLAN ST.
FLINT 5

3055

C
War Refugee Bd
RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
JUL 21 1944

RECEIVED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Karet
Secretary to the President

Temple Beth El

COR. LIBERTY AND SECOND STREETS
FLINT 3, MICHIGAN

Rabbi

MORTON M. APPLEBAUM
M. H. L.

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

see attached

RESOLUTION ON FREE PORTS

Adopted by the Administrative Committee
of the Union of American Hebrew Congre-
gations at its meeting held Sunday, May 21, 1944,
at Cincinnati, Ohio.

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 brother's 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 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.

Jack Krause



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

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2992

Dear Mr. Weiss:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 7, 1944, quoting a resolution concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

Your organization's concern 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 A. Weiss,
Executive Director,
Temple Beth Emeth of Flatbush,
Church Avenue at Marlborough Road,
Brooklyn 26, New York.

Enclosures.

EdB ✓

RBHutchison:agr 7-17-44

- RABBI**
 Samuel J. Levinson, M. A.
- OFFICERS**
 Samuel L. Greenberg
 President
 Reuben R. Robinson
 Vice-President
 Jesse Cohen
 Treasurer
 Abraham L. Doris
 Secretary
 Jacob A. Weiss
 Executive Director
- Past Presidents**
 Daniel Fraad
 D. H. M. Weynberg
 Barnet Finkelbrand

Temple Beth Emeth of Flatbush

CHURCH AVENUE AT MARLBOROUGH ROAD :: BROOKLYN 26, N. Y.
 Telephone, BUckminster 2-8803

War Refugee Board

July 7, 1944

W. R. B.	JUSTICES
Filing Authority	Baldinger
Tor Pites	Jesse Cohen
Ans.	Joseph J. Cohen
No. Ans.	Reub. Doris
Initial	L. Morrit Federman
Date	Daniel Fraad
	West A. Friedlander

- Morris Goldberg
 Samuel L. Greenberg
 Julius Katzen
 Murray Lesser
 Harry Marcus
 Joseph G. Myerson
 Irving Roaman
 Reuben R. Robinson
 Mrs. Joseph Sonfield
 Abraham Wedeen
 David H. M. Weynberg
- Honorary Trustee**
 Barnet Finkelbrand

To His Excellency
 Franklin D. Roosevelt,
 President of the United States of America.

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
 FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 AND CONSIDERATION
William D. Hare
 Secretary to the President

Sir:

The following resolution is very respectfully submitted with every confidence that it will have the consideration it merits.

Resolution on Free Ports

Adopted by Temple Beth Emeth of Flatbush at its meeting held June 29th, 1944, at 83 Marlborough Road:

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.

The hour has come when America should once again rise to 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 appeal to the conscience of America and respond immediately to the suggestion of the War Refugee Board, by setting up at once such free ports, such islands of temporary rescue, upon the cherished soil of America."

With genuine regret that we should find it desirable in this manner to add to the many heavy burdens already being borne by Your Excellency, we beg to remain,

Your humble servants,
 TEMPLE BETH EMETH OF FLATBUSH

Jacob A. Weiss
 Jacob A. Weiss
 Executive Director

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1190

Dear Rabbi Kaber:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 7, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

Rabbi Nathan Kaber,
Temple Beth Israel,
Jackson, Michigan.

Enclosures.

EAT - BH Hutchison Page 6-17-44

1190

4 ✓
War Refugee
Bill

Temple Beth Israel
Jackson, Michigan ✓

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

RECEIVED FOR AGING AND CONSIDERATION

William D. ...
Secretary to the Pres...

June 7, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

RECEIVED WAR REFUGEE BOARD

In behalf of the Congregation of Temple Beth Israel we strongly urge the consideration and approval of the "Free Ports" Plan advocated by the War Refugee Board. We raise our voices in prayer that this great and blessed land of America will provide these temporary havens for the rescue of countless numbers of our stricken and persecuted European brethren daily facing extermination at the hand of the cruel and brutal tyrant. We call upon you Mr. President, you who know full well of the stark tragedy which has befallen our people to exert every effort to the end that the "Free Ports" Plan become a reality. In this darkest of hours for Israel may America once again assume its noble and historic role of welcoming to its shores the oppressed, the enslaved, the homeless—that here under the War Refugee Board Plan they may find at least temporary asylum and thus be spared the ravages of further torture and death. Mr. President, we pray that America take immediate steps to implement this Plan thus speeding the day for thousands of our people of rescue, liberation and new life.

Faithfully yours,

Nathan Kalber
Rabbi

Wm. J. Levy
President

In reply please
refer to: 1431

JUN 24 1944

Dear Mr. Weil:

The President has referred to me your letter 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.

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. Henry A. Weil,
President,
Temple Beth-Or,
102 Clayton Street,
P.O. Box 1150,
Montgomery 2, Alabama.

Enclosures.

EDP- RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-20-44

HENRY A. WEIL, PRESIDENT
ADOLPH LOEB, VICE-PRESIDENT

9

EUGENE BLACHSCHLEGER
RABBI

Temple Beth-Or

102 CLAYTON STREET
P. O. Box 1150
MONTGOMERY 2, ALABAMA

June 13, 1944

MAX EISENBERG, TREASURER
SELMA MARCUS, SECRETARY

1431

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

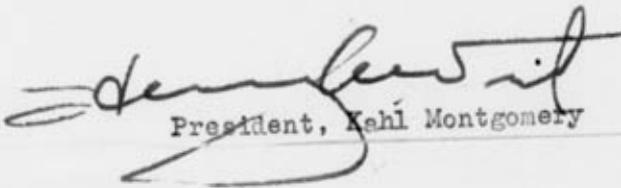
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

At a meeting of the Board of Administration of Kahl Montgomery a motion was unanimously adopted expressing our appreciation to you for your leadership and vision in championing the cause of the afflicted through the creation of the War Refugee Board which has endorsed the plan of "Free Ports." The establishment of these "Free Ports" is in keeping with the spirit of America and we trust that all Americans of every race, creed and color will support this humanitarian project.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


President, Kahl Montgomery

HW:sm

JUN 13 1944
RECEIVED

In reply please
refer to: 1686

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mrs. Israel:

The President has referred to me your recent letter 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 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. Jack Israel, President,
Ladies Aid and Sisterhood,
Temple B'Nai Israel,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓
EBTowler:inp 6/26/44

Refugees from

LADIES AID & SISTERHOOD

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION **1686**

W. R. B. *Israel*

Filing Authority *resident*

To: Files

Oklahoma City, ~~Okla.~~, June 13, 1944

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

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

Dear Mr. President:-

I am enclosing herewith a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of our organization in the hope that you will give same your earnest consideration.

We know that you have expressed to the Congress your interest in the matter of setting up Free Ports, or temporary havens for the pitiful refugees of the invaded countries until victory is won and these people can be repatriated. We urge upon you a continued interest and insistence that as many as possible of these refugees may find such havens in the United States and other available countries.

Respectfully yours,

Alice P. Israel

(Mrs. Jack Israel)

President,

Ladies Aid and Sisterhood ✓

Temple B'Nai Israel,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

AFFILIATED WITH



812

JEWISH LADIES AID AND SISTERHOOD
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Resolution Adopted by Jewish Ladies Aid and Sisterhood
June 6, 1944 Meeting

Whereas, there is evidence that Nazi cruelty is on the increase now that the Allies have taken the initiative in the offense and have shown that they mean to defeat Germany,

And whereas, the government of the United States of America has shown deep sympathy with the victims of German persecution,

And whereas, the idea of Free Ports in the United Nations for the temporary residence of refugees has been suggested to the United Nations,

Therefore be it resolved that we plead with the President of the United States as one of the leaders of the United Nations, to set an example for the other Nations, by setting up Free Ports in these United States for the temporary residence of refugees until victory is won, and the refugees, thus escaping Nazi terror, can return to their home country or to any other land which may open its doors to them.

Respectfully submitted,

Mie A. Israel, Mrs. Jack
President

(Mrs. J.) Vergie Urbansky
Secretary

AFFILIATED WITH



JUN 20 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1210

Dear Rabbi Silverman:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 7, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

Rabbi William B. Silverman,
Temple Emanuel,
Gastonia, North Carolina.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-19-44

14
War
Refugee
Board

TEMPLE EMANUEL
GASTONIA, N. C.

WILLIAM B. SILVERMAN, RABBI

June 7, 1944.

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

To the President:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees
of Temple Emanuel, Gastonia, N.C., I was
requested to forward these sentiments to you.

"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 exterminated. We commend the President
of the United States for his leadership and vision
manifested in championing the cause of the afflicted.
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 the victims of Naziism marked out for
slaughter. We appeal to the conscience of America
to respond to the suggestions of the War Refugee
Board."

May God bless you and keep you - and grant
unto you the strength and vision which are the
requisites of consecrated leadership in these
troubled times.

Yours respectfully,


Rabbi William B. Silverman

1210

RECEIVED
W.B.S. FULLY RECEIVED
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. *William B. Silverman*
No. Am. Reg. *President*
Initial _____
Date _____

JUN 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1693

Dear Mr. Feibelman:

The President has referred to me your recent letter 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 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. Herbert U. Feibelman, Acting Secretary,
Temple Israel,
137 N. E. 19th Street,
Miami, Florida.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓

EBTowler:inp 6/23/44

3
Max Orovitz

~~HEBMAN WALKER~~
PRESIDENT

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

MONTEFIORE SELIG
VICE PRESIDENT

HAROLD B. SPAET
SECRETARY

RABBI COLMAN A. ZWITMAN
CHAPLAIN, U. S. ARMY



1693

BENJ. W. SLOTE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

W. R. BRY NEWMAN

Filing Authority

To: Files TELEPHONE 2-7748

Ans.

No. Ans. Req.

JACOB H. KAPLAN, PH. D.

Initial HEBMAN WALKER

Date

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

137 N. E. 19TH STREET

RABBI JACOB TARSHISH

June 14, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Knecht

Secretary to the President

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to submit herewith copy of resolution on free ports, adopted by the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel of Miami, Florida, reform Jewish congregation.

We are profoundly grateful for your humanitarian act, and trust that you are able to lend further aid to the unfortunate victims of Hitlerism.

With high esteem, we beg to remain

Faithfully yours,

Herbert U. Feibelman

Acting Secretary.

HUF:WE

HERBERT U. FEIBELMAN

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Whereas--

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, and

Whereas--

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."

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel of Miami, Florida,--

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 a 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.

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

TEMPLE ISRAEL
137 N. E. 19TH STREET
MIAMI, FLA.

Herbert U. Feibelman



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

In reply please
refer to: 2035

JUL 21 1944

Dear Miss Oxenhandler:

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

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Anna Oxenhandler,
Administrative Secretary,
Temple Israel,
610 Boulevard Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

Enclosures.

EST ✓ EB Fowler: 7/20/44

RABBI LEON FRAM

TEMPLE ISRAEL

OFFICES • 610 BOULEVARD BUILDING
PHONE TRINITY 1-3110
DETROIT

June 20, 1944

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BY THE COMMISSIONER

W. R. D.

Filing Authority

To: Files

Ans.

No. Ans. Req.

Initial

Date

Williams

quid

The President,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In meeting assembled on Wednesday evening, June 14, 1944, in Detroit, Temple Israel of Detroit unanimously adopted the following resolution, and instructed its secretary to forward it to you for your urgent consideration:

"WHEREAS it has become a matter of public knowledge that the Jews of Nazi-occupied countries are marked for extermination, and

WHEREAS it has also been established that it is still possible, through the activities of the underground movements in Europe, through the activities of the War Refugee Board appointed by the President of the United States, and by other means, for many Jewish people to escape from Nazi-occupied Europe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of Temple Israel at an annual meeting assembled on June 14, 1944, petition the President of the United States to establish in America and to advocate the establishment in all other available parts of the world Free Ports in which refugees may find temporary shelter and care while they await the day of victory when they can be transferred to their old homes, or to new homes.

We hail the action of the President of the United States in establishing Fort Ontario, New York, as one such refuge for one thousand refugees, and we petition him to establish more Ports in America, as the need and the opportunity indicate."

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA OXENHANDLER
Administrative Secretary

AO:lh

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In reply please
refer to: 2602

JUL 3 1944

Dear Mr. Love:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 24, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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. N. J. Love,
Secretary,
Temple Israel,
Highland and Moody Avenues,
New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBTV RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-30-44

WRB

LEO E. TURITZ
RABBI

TEMPLE ISRAEL
HIGHLAND AND MOODY AVENUES
NEW CASTLE, PA.

June 24th, 1944.

J. F. Perelman.

XXXXXXXXXXXX
PRESIDENT

2602

W. R. B.
Filing Authority

To: Files

Ans.

No. Ans. Req.

Initial

Date

William J. Love

Secretary to the President

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

Honorable President;-

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

Yours very truly,

TEMPLE ISRAEL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

N. J. Love
N. J. Love, Secy.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
HIGHLAND AND MOODY AVENUES
NEW CASTLE, PA.



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

JUN 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1682

Dear Mr. Templeton:

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

Details of the plan were outlined by the President in his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project. Copies of these documents are enclosed as a matter of interest to you.

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

Very truly yours,

{Signed} J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Herbert A. Templeton,
Herbert A. Templeton Lumber Company,
Terminal Sales Building,
Portland, 5, Oregon.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler: 7/20/44

1682

H.
War Refugee Board

HERBERT A. TEMPLETON LUMBER COMPANY
LUMBER AND SHINGLES
TERMINAL SALES BUILDING
PORTLAND 5, OREGON

June 13, 1944

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

REPLY
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Howell
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Sir:

May I express my gratification at the progress being made by your War Refugee Board towards meeting that overwhelming problem. May I further express the wish that more and still more may be done until our nation will have led the world in a complete solution of the problem.

Yours very truly,

H. Templeton

HAT:W

JUN 27 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2041

My dear Rev. Thompson:

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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rev. A. Brownlow Thompson,
3 School Street,
Bristol, New Hampshire.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓

EBTowler:inp 6/26/44

2041

3 SCHOOL STREET

*War Refugee
330*

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
BRISTOL, NEW HAMPSHIRE
A. BROWNLOW THOMPSON, MINISTER



W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files PHONE 84
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date 2-1-1944

RESPECTFULLY REQUEST
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Barrett
Secretary to the President

Jan

Dear Mr. President -

In the name of common decency
do what you can to establish a refuge
for the persecuted Jews of Europe.

Respectfully yours,

G. B. Thompson.

RECEIVED

AUG 2 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3114

Dear Miss Thorne:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 18, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Europe.

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.

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

Miss Margaret Thorne,
345 West 88th Street,
New York 24, New York.

EBH RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-31-44

Del

MARGARET THORNE

3114

345 WEST 88TH STREET - NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

7
Wm. B. Bennett

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

W. B. Bennett
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
No. Ans. Req.
Initial *W. B. Bennett*
Out Secretary to the President

My dear Mr. President

If the people in places of authority took a more active stand concerning the horrible Jewish massacres in Europe, would it alleviate some of the suffering?

Could living conditions be made for as many as could be rescued by available shipping space, in the less thickly settled parts of our own large country?

Trusting that you are doing all possible, in these crowded days, on this inhuman situation
Sincerely,
Respectfully yours,

(Miss) Margaret Thorne.

July 18, 1944.

In reply please
refer to: 2021

JUN 27 1944

My dear Rev. Toomay:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 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 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

Rev. John Barron Toomay,
467 Baughman Avenue
Claremont, California.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓
EBTowler:inp 6/26/44

2/467 Baughman Ave. Claremont Calif. 2021

WRB

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

Dear President Roosevelt:

Knowing

sympathy for needy peoples everywhere,
for the sake of our common
humanity, I am moved to appeal
to you in your executive capacity
to do all that is possible to help
in affording rescue and asylum
for the refugee Jews.

Yours very truly
John Barron Toomey
Minister of the Congregational
Church of Bloomington, Calif.

JUN 15 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1058

Dear Mrs. Trachtenberg:

Thank you for your communications of June 6, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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. C. Trachtenberg,
3862 Bedford Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT-RAH RBHutchison:agr 6-14-44

952

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

June 6, 1947.

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

Dear Sir:

We are in
favor of Free Ports for
Refugees & ask you to
extend your good offices &
see that this great project
is speedily accomplished.

Very truly yours.

Mrs. C. Mackintosh
& family.

3862
Bedford Ave
Brooklyn

X 1058

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

June 6, 1944.

President Roosevelt,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are in favor of Three Ports for Refugees + ask you to extend your good offices + see that this great project is speedily accomplished.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. C. Trachtenberg +
family

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1061

Dear Miss Trainer:

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 Hilda Trainer,
1156 - 53rd Street,
Brooklyn 19, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH Hutchison:agr 6-15-44

x 1061

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

June 6, 1944
Honorable Pres. Roosevelt,

We urge you to put all your support behind the bill for free ports for refugees. This is the only remedy at present to save humanity all over the world.

Respectfully yours,
Miss Hilda Trainer
1156 — 53 St.
Bklyn, N.Y.

1084

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

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

"We are in favor
of Free Ports for
Refugees and ask you
to extend your good
office and see that
this great project
is speedily accomplished."

Yours truly,
W. R. D.
Mrs. O. Flannery

No address

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3008

Dear Mr. Traum:

Thank you for your letter of July 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

Mr. Samuel B. Traum,
16 Brokaw Lane,
Great Neck, New York.

Enclosures.

EST ✓ RBHutchison:agr 7-19-44

3008

16 Prokaw Lane

W. R. B. _____

Filing Authority _____

To: Files _____

Ans. # _____

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

Great Neck

July

War Refugee Board
Washington: D.C.

Gentlemen:

Urge you to establish free ports
for the temporary safety of the
victims of Nazism.

We must save these people and
return them safe & sound to their
native land so that they may resist
any new upsurge of fascism.

Such a move would repay us
dividends in the future - the
dividends of peace for the U.S.

Refusal to set up these free ports
permits us to follow a Hitler
technique - namely, weakening the
forces opposed to fascism.

Yours truly,

Samuel B. Trauer

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

J. Traum

16 Prokaw Lane

Great Neck, N.Y.



7-223 War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Must owler

2014

UNION OF AMERICAN
HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

RABBI MAURICE N. EISENBERG

W. R. B. _____

Filing Authority _____

To: Files _____

Ans. No. _____

No. Ans. Req. _____ ✓

Initial EBJ

Date 8/11/44

THIRTY-FOUR WEST SIXTH STREET · CINCINNATI

FILE NO. AS NEEDED

June 19, 1944

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

Refer to: 821

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I want to thank you so very much for your recent communication dealing with the "free port" proposal. I have read with the deepest interest and appreciation the various enclosures contained in your letter, and I am delighted to note the progress that is being made.

Once again thanking you for keeping me informed of the development of this most worthy activity in which I am so vitally interested, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

Maurice N. Eisenberg

MNE:SG

5014

Miss Hodel
Room 190



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

JUN 15 1944

In reply please
refer to: 821

Dear Mr. Eisendrath:

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

Mr. Maurice N. Eisendrath,
Director,
The Union of American Hebrew
Congregations,
34 West Sixth Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Enclosures:

6/
EHRowler: db 14 44

ERT ✓

In reply please
refer to: 821

JUN 1 1944

Dear Mr. Eisendrath:

The President has referred to me your
letter of May 23, 1944, and its enclosure, concern-
ing 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

Mr. Maurice N. Eisendrath,
Director,
The Union of American Hebrew
Congregations.
34 West Sixth Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

EAT

RBH

RBHutchison:agr 5-30-44

Pat

RESOLUTION ON FREE PORTS

Adopted by the Administrative Committee of
the Union of American Hebrew Congregations
at Its Meeting Held Sunday, May 21, 1944,
at Cincinnati, Ohio

Maurice N. Eisendrath
Director

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 Naziism, than we do for our enemies who, as prisoners of war, are provided with at least such temporary sojourn and security.

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

MAR 22 1945
WASHINGTON, D. C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

JUN 5 1944

In reply please
refer to: 857

Dear Dr. Nirenstein:

I have your letter of May 26, 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

Dr. Samuel Nirenstein,
President,
The Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America,
305 Broadway,
New York 7, New York.

Free Post

EWB

RBH

RBHutchison:agr 6-2-44

JW -

857

COPY

CONTROL COPY

THE UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: BEEKman 3-4034

Filing Authority

To: Files

Ans. JUN 5 1944

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

May 26, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

On behalf of our organization may I urge you to make every effort to establish rescue zones in the United States for the purpose of enabling homeless refugees to find temporary havens of refuge in this country until such time as provisions could be made to settle them permanently elsewhere. This humanitarian gesture on your part would be a tangible manifestation to the world that we not only speak of and fight for human rights, but that we also implement these ideals by appropriate action.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN

Dr. Samuel Nirenstein
President

SN:mb

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 622

Dear Miss Benedict:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ruth Benedict
Unitarian Fellowship for
Social Justice,
2936 West Eighth Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44

EBT ✓

In reply please
refer to: 622

MAY 10 1944

Dear Miss Benedict:

Thank you for your letter of April 17,
1944, and its enclosure.

I assure you that everything in our
power is being done to see that effective action
is taken to carry out the policy of this Govern-
ment 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

Miss Ruth Benedict,
Unitarian Fellowship for
Social Justice,
2936 West Eighth Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Free Post

EBW RBW RBHutchison:agr 5-5-44 JWP

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

"To sustain one another in united action against social injustice and in the realization of religious ideals in present-day society."

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

2722 WEST EIGHTH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

April 17, 1944

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

War Refugee Board
Attention Mr. John W. Pehle, Director
The Department of State
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

May the Unitarian Fellowship for Social, Los Angeles Branch, bring to your attention the attached proposal for a free port for refugees as outlined by Samuel Grafton?

We appreciate the efforts which you have made and are making for the relief of these cruelly suffering peoples and recognize the fact that a "free port" may not be a simple matter to obtain; but we feel sure you will not wish to disregard any suggestion which may speed the machinery of refugee relief and save as many people as possible. As Grafton points out, the United States ought to do as much as possible itself to be able to ask others more persuasively.

Yours very truly,

(Miss) Ruth Benedict for the Executive Committee

UFSJ

★ Samuel Grafton

FREE PORTS FOR REFUGEES: A "free port" is a small bit of land, a kind of reservation, into which foreign goods may be brought without paying customs duties. There is one in the New York city area. Goods brought into it from overseas are destined either for transshipment to other countries, or for temporary storage. Such goods may even be processed while they are in the "free port"; manufacturing operations can, and are, carried out on them. Or the goods may just sit there for a while, giving their owner time to brood.

If, eventually, he decides to bring the goods into the country proper, he merely pays the normal customs duties, and the stuff may enter.

A free port is a place where you can put things down for a while, without having to make a final decision about them. The few acres which constitute a free port are well guarded, so that nobody will smuggle a pair of alien garters or a foreign fry pan over the boundaries, in defiance of the tariff laws.

Why couldn't we have a system of free ports for refugees fleeing the Hitler terror?

Obviously, we need a place where we can put refugees down, without making final de-

isions about them, a place where they can be stored and processed, so to speak, without creating legal and political problems. Of course, it shouldn't be against the law, exactly, to bind up a wound in such a free port, or to give somebody a drink of water.

The need is for reservations of a few acres here and there, where a man who has been running for 10 years can sit down and catch his breath, and where somebody can tell a story to a frightened child; a few reservations where it would be possible for those who cannot satisfy the requirements of law to rest a bit, without violating the law.

Let us look upon these refugee free ports as if they were moored ships, ships of land. Anyone who would step over the boundary of the free port into the country proper should be made to satisfy all requirements of immigration law. But surely it should not baffle our ingenuity to find some legal way in which to grant a stateless woman the comparatively small bit of room which she needs in order to deliver a baby.

Of course, I am a little ashamed to find myself pandering to anti-refugee prejudices even to the extent of saying you

pile the legal disabilities on them, give them no rights, store them in a corn, herd them like cattle. The need is so sharp, so short, our current attitude to the world is so bad, necessary to settle for whatever can be done.

And something can be done. It should not be really necessary to beg, storm and plead for a few reserved acres in which, without creating legal or political problems, a baby can drink a glass of that strange white stuff which an older European generation knew as milk.

If we set up a system of refugee free ports, our fine new war refugee board can then properly appeal to other countries to do the same. If we do not go at least that far, the board will be answered with a snicker should it make such requests of other lands.

The refugees, Jewish and other, ask only for a few fenced-in acres of poor land in America. They don't want to keep it. They just want to sit on it until they can go home again. They are letting us off more easily than does conscience itself, for they don't even ask that we do our best for them. They plead for our worst.

MAY 29 1944

In reply please
refer to: 735

Dear Mr. Brundage:

Thank you for your telegram 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

Mr. Percival Brundage,
Chairman,
Unitarian Service Committee,
40 East 35th Street,
New York, New York.

Free Parts

EBHutchison:agr 5-24-44

EBH

JW

182-241 for: AUG
in return please

288 11/✓

CONTROL COPY

735
W. R. B.
Routing Authority
No. Files
Ans. 5/29/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial

WU26 38 5 EXTRA

NEWYORK NY MAY 17 1944 313P

1944 MAY 17 PM 5:36

JOHN W PEHLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAR REFUGEE BOARD MAIN TREASURY BLDG

NEWYORK UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE EXPRESSES HEARTY APPROVAL
OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND OF ITS
PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES
OF FREE PORTS FOR REFUGEES

PERCIVAL BRUNDAGE CHAIRMAN UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

40 EAST 35 ST

336P

MAY 18 1944

RECEIVED
AUGUST 1944

R
E
G
E
G
R
A
P
H
T
T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y
T
E
L
E
G
R
A
P
H
T

In reply please
refer to: 732

MAY 20 1944

Dear Mr. Zaritsky:

Thank you for your letter of May 15, 1944,
concerning the establishment of temporary havens for
refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

~~Respectfully~~ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Max Zaritsky,
President,
United Hatters, Cap and
Millinery Workers International
Union,
245 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

O.K.

True Parts

EBT RBH RBHutchison: 5/20/44

JWS -

732

COPY

UNITED HATTERS, CAP AND MILLINERY WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
 245 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
 Telephone, MURRAY Hill 3 - 1881

W. R. B. _____

ing Authority

To: Files

Ans. 5/21/44

No. Ans. Req. _____

Label Secretary

Date _____

MAX ZARITSKY,
 President

MICHAEL F. GREENE,
 General Secretary

MARTIN LAWLOR,
 Label Secretary

May 15, 1944

CONTROL COPY

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

On behalf of our organization, I am writing to endorse the proposal which I understand is receiving the consideration of your Board to establish "free ports" in the United States for refugees who may still be able to escape from the Nazi inferno.

It seems to us that the very least humane nations of the world might do to save the hundreds of thousands of people who have been singled out for slaughter is to give them a temporary haven of refuge until the storm blows over. Without departing from our established policies with respect to immigration and without incurring any risks, our nation can not only help save thousands of people who would otherwise be doomed, but it can also preserve inviolate one of the traditions of our country of which we are most proud: that we have provided an asylum for victims of political, religious and racial persecution.

The time is extremely short. As we plan and discuss more and more, these victims go to their death.

We hope that the idea of "free ports" will not only be adopted but that it will be adopted soon and put into effect with the least possible delay.

I am sure that I need not argue with you the humaneness of the proposal. I do hope that the plan can be approved and put into effect without delay.

Thanking you for whatever consideration you may be able to give this plea, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Max Zaritsky

President

In reply please
refer to: 1699

JUN 27 1944

Dear Sirs:

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

Mr. I. E. Goldstein, President,
Mr. Michael M. Mathes, Secretary,
United Hebrew Congregation,
225 S. Skinker,
St. Louis 5, Missouri.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓

EBTowler:inp 6/26/44

SOLUTION ON FREE PORTS

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the
United Hebrew Congregation, St. Louis, Mo.
at a meeting held on Sunday, June 11, 1944

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

See attached

In the spirit of America, our beloved country, founded on the principles of religious liberty and established on the truth that "all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these being life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", we, the members of the Executive Committee of the United Hebrew Congregation beg to submit to the President of the United States the following resolution:

The hour has come for America to rise to her fullest and richest responsibility. Indeed, she must realize her manifest destiny, as the "land of the free and the home of the brave." She must stretch out her hand to the oppressed and rejected by the hand of tyranny across the seas. She must do this because of the high leadership which is hers, even in the President of the United States who is the outstanding champion of the cause of the afflicted; who, by his leadership and vision, has recently created the War Refugee Board, an agency which is to serve in the rescue of as many as possible of the victims of Naziism who are surely marked for extermination in the horror chambers of Europe.

We heartily endorse the plan of "Free Ports" advocated by the War Refugee Board, so that temporary haven at least may be provided for those who are otherwise doomed to die.

Surely the conscience of America must respond immediately to this suggestion of the War Refugee Board, and we sincerely hope and pray that the President's hands may be strengthened to lead and to guide our fellow citizens towards the salvation of thousands, yea, hundreds of thousands of lives, otherwise destined for mass extermination, by setting up such free ports immediately upon the free and precious soil of America.

I. E. Goldstein
I. E. Goldstein, President

Michael M. Mathes
Attested to: Michael M. Mathes, Secy.



ADDRESS
YOUR MAIL
TO
STREET AND
NUMBER



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

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 689

Gentlemen:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Reuben Guskin,
President,
Mr. William Wolpert,
Executive Secretary,
United Hebrew Trades of the
State of New York,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44

EBT ✓

In reply please
refer to: 689

MAY 13 1944

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letters of May 8, 1944,
to the President and to me, concerning the establish-
ment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Reuben Guskin,
President,
Mr. William Wolpert,
Executive Secretary,
United Hebrew Trades of the
State of New York,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

EAT RBH RBH tchisom:agr 5-15-44 JH



WILLIAM WOLPERT
Executive Secretary

UNITED HEBREW TRADES OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

War Refugee Board

May 8, 1944

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: _____
Ans. 5/19/44
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial: 175 EAST BROADWAY
Date: NEW YORK 2, N. Y.
ORCHARD 4-2753-4-5

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

Honorable Sir:

As early as last September, a delegation of American Labor, headed by President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, and President Philip Murray, of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, 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 halocaust, the privilege we now accord Axis prisoners, a most practical and feasible one.

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

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

-2-

May 8, 1944

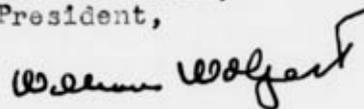
Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi hand and will further encourage the ever-growing resistance to German barbarism.

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

Respectfully yours,



Reuben Guskin,
President,



William Wolpert,
Executive Secretary,
United Hebrew Trades.

afce
23076

RECEIVED
MAY 12 1944

CONTROL COPY

UNITED HEBREW TRADES OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
175 East Broadway
New York 2, N. Y.
Orchard 4-2753-4-5

Authority
To: Files
Ans. 5/19/44
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

May 8, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

As early as last September, a delegation of American labor, headed by President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor and President Philip Murray, of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, 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 halocaust, the privilege we now accord Axis prisoners, a most practical and feasible one.

The plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones, and safe refuge, and thereby save the lives of innocent people fortunate to escape the claws of the Gestapo,

but would also demonstrate most dramatically to the whole world the dogged determination of the American Government and the American people to spare no effort in saving as many of the sufferers as possible.

Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi 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,

(signed) Reuben Guskin
Reuben Guskin,
President.

(signed) William Wolpert
William Wolpert,
Executive Secretary,
United Hebrew Trades.

afoe
23076

RECEIVED
JAN 11 11 11 AM '41
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

20 OF MAY 10 02
RECEIVED
MAY 10 1944
D.C.

915

The White House
Washington

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

JUN 2 11 20 PM 1944

20 on

WB44 NL

NEWYORK NY JUN 2 1944

HON FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE FOR YOUR APPROVAL OF THE FREE PORT FOR
REFUGEES AND FOR YOUR NOBLE EFFORTS TO AID THE UNFORTUNATE
JEWS FROM THE NAZI SCOURGE, WE PLEAD THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
BE DONE TO SAVE THE 800,000 JEWS IN HUNGARY

THE UNITED HUNGARIAN JEWS OF AMERICA 1834 BROADWAY
NEWYORK NY.

RECEIVED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 10 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2627

JUL 21 1944

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

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. Ned Goldberg,
Executive Director,
United Jewish Community of Harrisburg,
1110 North Third Street,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBowler:inp 7/20/44

אל תפריד בין העמור.



"DO NOT SEPARATE YOURSELF FROM THE COMMUNITY"

UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF HARRISBURG
 1110 NORTH THIRD STREET • HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Filing Authority _____
 Ans. PHONE 7119 _____
 No. Ans. Req. _____
 Executive Director _____
 Date _____

- OFFICERS**
- MORRIS JACOBSON
HONORARY PRESIDENT
 - MARY SACHS
HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT
 - GUS KAPLAN
PRESIDENT EMERITUS
 - HENRY H. BRENNER
PRESIDENT
 - EDWARD W. SCHLEISNER
VICE PRESIDENT
 - JACOB MILLER
VICE PRESIDENT
 - SAMUEL FINKELSTEIN
VICE PRESIDENT
 - SIG MILLER
TREASURER

- CONSTITUENT AGENCIES**
- JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
 - HARRISBURG HEBREW SCHOOL
 - HEBREW LADIES' AID SOCIETY
 - TRANSIENT HOME
 - MEMORIAL LOAN FUND

- AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**
- BETH EL CONGREGATION
 - BETH EL BROTHERHOOD
 - BETH EL SISTERHOOD
 - B'NAI B'RITH
 - CHISUK EMUNAH CONGREGATION
 - CHISUK EMUNAH BROTHERHOOD
 - CHISUK EMUNAH SISTERHOOD
 - CLUB COUNCIL
 - HADASSAH
 - HEBREW SCHOOL AUXILIARY
 - JEWISH WAR VETERANS
 - KESHER ISRAEL CONGREGATION
 - KESHER ISRAEL BROTHERHOOD
 - KESHER ISRAEL SISTERHOOD
 - MACHSIKEY HADAS CONGREGATION
 - MACHSIKEY HADAS SISTERHOOD
 - MIZRACHI
 - MIZRACHI LADIES' AUXILIARY
 - OHEV SHOLOM TEMPLE
 - OHEV SHOLOM BROTHERHOOD
 - OHEV SHOLOM SISTERHOOD
 - WORKMEN'S CIRCLE
 - ZIONIST DISTRICT

*Wan
Refugee Board ✓*

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
 FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Bennett
 Secretary to the President

June 21
 1944

His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt
 President of the United States of America
 White House
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

May we respectfully present herewith,
 a copy of a resolution in support of establishment of
 camps for refugees from Europe, approved by the Annual
 Meeting of the United Jewish Community of Harrisburg, a
 community organization representing 5000 Jewish residents
 in this area.

Respectfully yours,

Ned Goldberg
 Ned Goldberg
 Executive Director

NG:bb



1933 * TENTH ANNIVERSARY * 1943 *

of the United Jewish Community of Harrisburg

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF CAMPS FOR REFUGEES FROM EUROPE
JUN 28 PM 12 50

WHEREAS, by order of President Roosevelt, facilities for the care of refugees from Nazi persecution, numbering approximately 1,000 have been established on the Atlantic Coast of the United States, and

WHEREAS, it is of important concern to all peoples to save as many lives as possible from Nazi destruction and savagery and their attempt to exterminate minority groups, and

WHEREAS, in the interests of humanity, of saving lives and of setting an example to the other Allied Nations, it is vital to protect as many of Hitler's victims as possible,

T H E R E F O R E ,

BE IT RESOLVED, at the Annual Meeting of the United Jewish Community of Harrisburg, held at the Jewish Community Center on June 14, 1944, that we unanimously extend to our President, congratulations on the establishment of this place of refuge in a land which has long been known as a haven for the oppressed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge our President, and the agencies involved in this effort, to extend their efforts in order to protect and give refuge to as many of Hitler's victims as possible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Roosevelt and to Senators Davis and Guffey.

JUN 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1401

Dear Mr. Wolkoff:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 7, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

Your organization's concern 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. Harry K. Wolkoff,
President,
United Jewish Fund and Council,
641 Endicott Building,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Enclosures.

EAT - RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-20-44

1401

United Jewish Fund and Council

641 Endicott Building
SAINT PAUL 1, MINNESOTA
Garfield 1741

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

OFFICERS

Harry K. Wolkoff,
President
Albert H. Heller, Jr.
K. S. Goldenberg
Raymond E. Lee,
Vice-Presidents
Abraham Fineberg,
Treasurer
Mrs. S. Stameshkin,
Executive Secretary
George Rosenberg,
President Jr. Division

June 7th, 1944.

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

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William J. Bennett
Secretary to the President

My dear Mr. President:

The United Jewish Fund and Council, comprising more than thirty communal organizations, and more than 2500 constituent members, urges your cooperation and your approval of the plan to establish in this country "free ports" for European refugees.

We respectfully call to your attention the enclosed editorial and column which appeared in our local press and which, we believe, reflects the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of the local populace.

With the situation affecting menaced Jews becoming increasingly alarming, speed of action is of the utmost importance. Jews in Hungary and German-occupied Italy appear to be hopelessly trapped and destined for the same fate as their Polish brethren unless some plan for their rescue is devised immediately.

As the leader of our great country, you have been loud in your denunciation of the brutal, ruthless persecution and mass murder of our people abroad, and we feel confident you will do your utmost to prevent additional innocent thousands from becoming martyred victims of Nazism.

Very respectfully yours,

UNITED JEWISH FUND AND COUNCIL

BY A. K. Wolkoff
President

HKW:njr
Enc.

2
W. R. B.
Bennett

6/12/44
W. R. B. Bennett

For Refugees Cross

RECEIVED
JUL 11 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

I'd Rather Be Right - American Havens For Refugees Urged

By SAMUEL GRAFTON

NEW YORK—It ought not to be necessary for anyone to take off his hat while advocating free ports for refugees, or to scrape, flush, be embarrassed or even to say pretty please.

This is the least we can do for refugees, and if we don't do this much, we will suck eggs.

Let me explain once again that a "free port" is a bit of land, say an old Army camp, fenced and guarded, to which refugees would be admitted without papers, visas, birth certificates or documents of any kind. The astounding theory on which a "free port" would operate is that if a man is alive, he is entitled to a place to sit down. We would accept men, women and children, fleeing from the Nazis, and we would prepare a table for them in the presence of their enemies.

In exchange for this burst of generosity, we would wrap ourselves up to the ears in legal safeguards. By an easy legal fiction, we would declare that free port zones are not to be considered territory of the United States, within the purview of the immigration laws. Entrance into a "free port" would not constitute legal entrance into the United States, and stay in a "free port" would not constitute residence in the United States.

I have tried to put myself in the position of an anti-refugee demagogue, thinking up reasons why we should not take this step. There isn't a one.

"See here, this would be an evasion of the immigration laws!" Sorry, but it wouldn't be. We have free ports for foreign merchandise. There is one on Staten Island. Goods may be brought into this free port and stored for reshipment abroad without payment of customs duties. That has never been considered an evasion of the tariff laws. If we were to permit refugees to live anywhere in the country that would be an evasion of the law. But permission to live on a restricted reservation is not permission to live in the country.

IF A REFUGEE WANTED to leave the "free port" and live in the country proper he would have to fulfil all requirements of law exactly as if he were stepping off a ship. At that point, the immigration laws would apply, but up to that point the immigration laws are not even remotely involved any more than they are involved in the case of the 130,000 Nazi prisoners of war who are now in the United States, not one of whom has come in under a quota number.

"THE REFUGEES WOULD stay here forever." Not true. Each of the United Nations has



GRAFTON

signed an agreement to take its own nationals back after the war. If we can't trust them to fulfill that agreement then we can't trust them to fulfill any agreement, and we ought to creep into a hole and pull it in after us.

"Why should the United States carry this load?" The answer is that the free port system might actually reduce the ultimate burden of refugee care on this country. For if we establish one or more free ports, we place ourselves in a powerful position to ask allies and neutrals to do so too. If we don't, they won't.

THOUGHTS

Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.
—Ezekiel 18:30.

Take care not to begin anything of which you may repent.
—Syrus.

A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.—Proverbs 18:7.

The countenance is the portrait of the soul, and the eyes mark its intentions.—Cicero.

treating
entitled
freedom
which m
ve of t
cal mo
of C
ment a
authori
1,200,0
ncil for
n all-o
Congr
putes
ng the
s an is
sit on b
ind of e
the ha
ong ste

Editorials—

News Censorship

Edward Kennedy, chief of the Associated Press staff in the Mediterranean area, charges that Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, supreme Allied commander in Italy, is exercising political censorship in refusing to clear an Associated Press interview with Marshal Tito, Yugoslav Partisan leader.

Mr. Kennedy is a sound, reliable correspondent. When he contends that this affair constitutes a "censorship scandal ten times more important than the suppression of the Patton incident and if accepted, can only lead to permanent political censorship in Europe and end all freedom in reporting political news from here," the question merits attention from the highest sources.

There have been repeated clashes between the military and reliable correspondents in the Mediterranean theater over censorship. The correspondents have contended that military censorship was used to achieve political censorship, even though Allied leaders announced that political censorship would not be imposed.

The merits of this particular dispute cannot be known until the story eventually is released but the question at issue should be carried above the theater commander. Unfortunately in many questions of this kind censors can hide behind the mystery of military secrecy and it usually is impossible to prove they are wrong and they need not prove they are right.

The matter must not be permitted to drop merely with the refusal of Gen. Wilson to give any reasons for withholding the story. The people of the United States and England are being called upon to make important decisions on post-war relationship with other nations. They can make wise decisions only if they are in possession of all facts and they can be steered into unwise decisions if facts are withheld through political censorship under the guise of military necessity.

War Punishment

Dr. Norman R. F. Maier, University of Michigan psychologist, has forecast that the German people will liquidate Hitler on the heels of a successful Allied invasion. He suggests that Allied generals permit the German people to do away with their leaders before setting up "dangerous war guilt trials". He warns that the Allies must regard punishment as "dynamite" and that extreme punishment will strengthen the German people's habit of warfare rather than remove it.

Dr. Maier is both in agreement and at odds with the opinion of Allied leaders who are perhaps less schooled in psychology than he, but who are in a position to have much more accurate information than the Michigan professor.

They, also, believe that Hitler and some of his window dressing leaders will be taken care of in Germany after a successful Allied invasion. They suspect, however, that it will be the German mili-

tary machine, rather than the people who will serve as executioners. They believe, somewhat at variance with Dr. Maier, that with the fall of the Hitler front the German Junkers, the Prussian generals and others without whom the war could not have been waged again will try to take charge of things in Germany, as representatives of the German people.

It is this group at which punishment is aimed. It is this group which is as much responsible for the war as Hitler and it is this group which must be properly dealt with so as not to "strengthen the German people's habit of warfare".

Dr. Maier's viewpoint is interesting. That it carries weight in some circles must be recognized for he received the 1938 award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his research in psychology.

Hitler and his satellites doubtless will be taken care of automatically but when this is done the Allies must levy full penalties on the German machine of war which outlasted the defeat of 1918 and which is a much greater long term menace than Hitlers, Goerings or Himmlers.

Free Ports For People

Columnist Samuel Grafton is not particularly proud of his plan to set up "free ports" where war refugees may find safe harbor until the war is over, instead of being deported to former homelands whose present governments in many cases have placed a price on their heads. Grafton calls it a "repulsive" proposal, which he offers only because nothing better is feasible.

Yet the plan is gaining votaries almost daily. Perhaps they all agree with its author that it is but a dubious half-measure, to be considered only as a last resort. Anyhow, it has now been endorsed by the War Refugee board and by a number of influential Jewish organizations, and this week Ferdinand Pecora, the famed New York jurist, gave the plan his blessing.

Technically, a free port is an area into which goods of foreign origin may be received and stored without payment of duty, until they can be either transhipped abroad or admitted here after processing, under the usual customs regulations. A free port for refugees would function in much the same fashion. In a sense, it would be little more than a prison, but at least it would be preferable to deportation in the case, for example, of an anti-Nazi refugee who otherwise could only return to almost certain death in Germany.

As Grafton said the other day in his Dispatch column, "I'd Rather Be Right", the free port is just a way "to store (refugees) like corn, or herd them like cattle". But there is no time for passage of controversial legislation, and the free port at least would be an instrumentality for the saving of many lives.

In reply please
refer to: 1981

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mr. Heller:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 1944, enclosing a copy of your letter to the Honorable Samuel Dickstein, 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

Mr. Henry Heller,
President,
United Optical Workers Union,
112 East 19th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EBH ✓

RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-26-44

L. I. NO. 208



166

UNITED OPTICAL WORKERS UNION

1981

A.B. 70
 Filing Authority
 To: Files
 Ans.
 No. Ans. Req.
 Initial
 Date

AFFILIATED WITH THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

112 EAST 19TH STREET · NEW YORK CITY · ALGONQUIN 4-5647

June 20, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing herewith a copy of our letter to Hon. Samuel Dickstein, Chairman of the House Immigration & Naturalization Committee with reference to our support of his bill H. Res. 576, for your information.

Very truly yours,

Henry Heller
 Henry Heller
 PRESIDENT

UCP WA
16-36

enc.

TO:

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Gaston

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Paul

Mr. Luxford

Mr. White

Mr. Stewart

Mrs. Taylor

Mr. E.M. Bernstein

Files

Mr. DuBois

Mr. Friedman

Miss Hodel

190

J. W. Pehle

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

C
O
P
Y

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUN 20 10 2 AM '44

June 20, 1944

Honorable Samuel Dickstein, Chairman
House Immigration and Naturalization Committee
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We fully support your bill H. Res. 576, in which you request that President Roosevelt issue a proclamation or Executive Order authorizing the temporary admission of a number of refugees who would find havens in so-called Free Ports until the end of the war, after which they would be returned to their own countries.

We feel that to admit these refugees would be not only a great civilized and humanitarian act, but a tremendous moral defeat to our and mankind's enemies whom the whole world of free and freedom-loving peoples sheds each day rivers of blood to destroy.

Wishing you success, we are,

Very truly yours,

Henry Heller
PRESIDENT

In reply please
refer to: 1463

JUN 27 1944

Dear Mr. Henshel:

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

Mr. Jesse Henshel, President,
Unity Club of Nassau County,
Rockville Centre, New York.

Envelope addressed to 345 DeMott Avenue.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 6/23/44

UNITY CLUB OF NASSAU COUNTY

War Refugee Board

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N. Y.
MEETING ROOMS at Temple B'nai B'rith 19 Windsor Avenue

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

June 15, 1944.

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

My dear Mr. President,

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 Naziism otherwise marked out for wholesale slaughter in the extermination chambers of Europe. We heartily endorse the plan of FREE PORTS advocated by the War Refugee Board, whereby temporary haven may be provided for those who would otherwise be murdered to the last man. We agree that America can do no less for these, our allies and fellow foes of Naziism, than we do for our enemies who, as prisoners of war, are provided with at least such temporary sojourn and security. We appeal to the conscience of America to respond immediately to this suggestion of the War Refugee Board, and we call upon all our fellow citizens to save the lives of thousands and even hundreds of thousands, otherwise destined for mass extermination, by setting up

- Officers 1944
- President
JESSE HENSHEL
345 DeMat Avenue
Rockville Centre
- Vice-President
NELSON R. BERNSTEIN
14 Hewitt Road
Rockville Centre
- Treasurer
FRANK P. SCAR
20 Strathmore Lane
Rockville Centre
- Recording Secretary
JEROME KESSLER
64 Knollwood Road
Rockville Centre
- Corresponding Secretary
SAMUEL BRAUN
7 Richmond Avenue
Rockville Centre

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

	Term expires
August Aaronson	1944
Harry Silverstein	1944
Fred Bieber	1944
Dr. Wm. Biederman	1945
Moe Blodnick	1945
Samuel Goldstein	1945
Ira N. Aaronson	1946
Daniel L. Stone	1946
Daniel G. Albert	1946
I. Cyrus Gordon	Past Pres.

**UNITY CLUB
OF NASSAU COUNTY**

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N. Y.
MEETING ROOMS at Temple East Shalom 19 Windsor Avenue

2.

at once such FREE PORTS, such islands of temporary
rescue, upon the free and cherished soil of America.

Hopefully,

The Unity Club of Nassau County
By Jesse Henshel, - President.
Jesse Henshel
Membership 273 men.

Officers 1944

President
JESSE HENSHEL
345 DeMott Avenue
Rockville Centre

Vice-President
NELSON R. BERNSTEIN
14 Hewitt Road
Rockville Centre

Treasurer
FRANK P. SCAR
20 Southmore Lane
Rockville Centre

Recording Secretary
JEROME KESSLER
64 Knollwood Road
Rockville Centre

Corresponding Secretary
SAMUEL BRAUN
7 Richmond Avenue
Rockville Centre

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Term expires
August Amerson1944
Harry Silverstein1944
Fred Sieber1944
Dr. Wm. Euderman.....1945
Moe Blodnick1945
Samuel Goldstein1945
Ira N. Amerson1945
Daniel L. Stone1945
Daniel G. Albert1945
I. Cyrus Gordon.....Past Pres.

In reply please
refer to: 791

MAY 29 1944

Dear Mr. Unterberger:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Elliot Unterberger,
2216 N. 52nd Street,
Philadelphia 31, Pennsylvania.

Free Post

2216 N 52nd Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

May 21, 1944

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

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

Honorable Sir:

Since you are the Executive Director
of the War Refugee Board, I am sure
you have the power to see that
there is a free port for war
refugees. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours
Elliot Katzberger

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1176

Dear Miss Gaches:

Thank you for your letter of June 11, 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 Amba-
sador 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

Miss Katherine Gaches,
Secretary,
Ladies Auxiliary of Upper
Bronx Furriers Union.
3033 Wallace Avenue,
Bronx 67, New York.

Enclosures.

EPT ✓ RBH
RBHutchison:agr 6-17-44

1176

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
For Files _____
Ans. _____
By Ans. Reg. _____
Initial _____
Date: June 1, 1954

3033
W. R. B.

Mr. J. W. Peble, Ex. Dir.
War Refugee Board
Wash., D.C.

Dear Mr. Peble:

At our last meeting, the membership voted unanimously to petition you to give favorable consideration to the proposal to establish "Free Ports" in the United Nations countries to which refugees could be brought and sheltered. We also support the proposal that such ports be established in this country. We feel sure that you agree with us in this vital task.

Sincerely yours,
Katherine Jackson, Secy Ladies
Upper Ex. Furness, Women's
Auxiliary

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1944 JUN 13 PM 4 47



0405
WILLIAMS BR
STATION
3c
UNITED STATES POSTAGE

M. J. W. Kelle, Esq. Rm.
War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Wash., D.C.

In reply please
refer to: 3338

SEP 22 1944

Dear Sirs:

I have your telegram of September 13, 1944, concerning the Emergency Refugee 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

UTC Victory Corps,
150 Varick Street,
New York 13, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler:agr 9220-44

28 -

3338

Miss Hardley

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

1944 SEP 13 PM 4 16

WU32 41 7 EXTRA

NVE NEWYORK NY SEP 13 1944 312P

JOHN W PEHLE

DIR WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY LLDG

THE VICTORY CORPS AN ORGANIZATION CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY
 FIFTY MEMBERS REPRESENTING OVER 1,000 EMPLOYEES URGE THAT
 MORE CAMPS SIMILAR TO THAT AT OSWEGO NEW YORK BE OPENED TO
 HOUSE AND CARE FOR EUROPEAN REFUGEES

UTC VICTORY CORPS 150 VARICK ST NEW YORK 13 NY.

415P

T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y

T
E
L
E
G
R
A
P
H

T
R
E

In reply please
refer to: 656

MAY 19 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 1944,
concerning the establishment of temporary havens
for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Typed) J. W. Fehle
J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
~~Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee,~~
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

O.K. Free Post

ERT RBHuthcison:agr 5-15-44

JA -

14-00000
100-100000

CONTROL COPY

VAAD HAHATZALA

132 Nassau Street
New York 7, N. Y.

Rector 2-4235

W. A. R. - 656
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. May 19-44
Date May 8, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

We heartily endorse and favor the proposed measure initiated by you, that the Government of the United States permit and arrange for the establishment of camps to serve as temporary "stop-overs" for refugees escaping the Nazi terror. In our discussions and submitted memoranda, this plan was also referred to by us as a medium to induce greater participation by other countries in the rescue program of the War Refugee Board.

In conjunction with this plan, which we feel certain will be approved and soon become a reality, we would respectfully suggest that due consideration be given to the possibilities for religious observance which always was, and always will be a part of the lives of these refugees.

Please be assured of our earnest cooperation in any measures you will take in this matter.

With expressions of deepest appreciation.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

(s) A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

JUN 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 942

Dear Mr. Katler:

Thank you for your telegrams of June 5, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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. Henry Katler,
Secretary,
The Victory Club of Roxbury,
125 Howland Street,
Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Enclosures.

EDV MBTowler:agr 6-13-44

942

The White House

Washington

JUN 6 8 07 AM 1944

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

War Refugees

WBS NL

TDB ROXBURY MASS JUN 5 1944

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE
 VICTORY CLUB OF ROXBURY MASSACHUSETTS 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 PORT IN THE UNITED STATES AMERICA

HENRY KATLER SECY 125 HOWLAND STREET ROXBURY MASS.

923^E
A 1

W. R. B.	_____	S
Filing Authority	_____	R
To: Files	_____	Y
Ans.	_____	_____
No. Ans. Req.	_____	T
Initial	_____	E
Date	1944 JUN 6 9 40 AM	L

WU20 NL

TDB ROXBURY MASS JUN 5 1944

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE
 VICTORY CLUB OF ROXBURY MASSACHUSETTS 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 PORT IN THE UNITED STATES AMERICA

HENRY KATLER SECY 125 HOWLAND ST ROXBURY MASS

940A JUN 6

WASHINGTON D.C.
 WAR REFUGEE BOARD
 RECEIVED

E
G
R
A
P
H
T
R
E
A
S
U
R
Y
T
E
L
E
G
R
A
P

AUG 12 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3178

Dear Miss Vuolle:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 28, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people 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 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 made 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.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ilene Vuolle,
515 Lincoln,
Topeka, Kansas.

EAT RBH Hutchison:agr 8-11-44

Pat ✓

61
War
Refugee
Board

U. S. E. _____
 Filing Authority _____
 To: File _____
 No. _____
 No. Ans. Dep. _____
 Initial _____
 Date _____

July 28, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.

RESPECTFULLY REQUEST
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
William T. Bennett
Secretary to the President

Dear Mr. President:

Since the numerous acts committed against the remaining Jews of Europe are ever increasing in frequency, it would seem that our great Democracy should grant them a temporary haven here.

The United States should also urge England to open Palestine for Jewish immigration. It is my hope that the United States and England will do what is in their power to rescue the remaining Jews from the unhuman acts to which they are continuously subjected.

Very truly Yours,

WASHINGTON D.C.
475 BELMONT BOYD
RECEIVED

Helen Duell
515 Lincoln
Topeka, Kansas