Admission of Refugees to U.S. (Free Ports and Emergency Shelter)
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.
Dear Mr. President June 619

To open free ports in the United States

Sincerely,

Bessie Taborow

1681 Park Pk Brooklyn

Your
In reply please refer to: 3326

SEP 1 1944

Dear Mr. Taller:

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 Taller,
40 West 77th Street,
New York, New York.

Emergency Refugee Council

Enclosure.
Dear Mr. President,

I have just read the masterful
Recipe of the Creed Speeches at
Sublimity 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 jeers from Harlem.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to the President
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.
Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for your efforts toward creating free posts for homeless refugees. We are all behind you and urge you to do your utmost on behalf of the indigents. Please seek the President and plead our cause. We are depending upon you.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. W. Farmerwoman

1255 - 54 72 St.

Brooklyn, 1921
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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosure.
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.
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,

[Signature]

Gladys R. Tartiere
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. Fohle

J. W. Fohle
Executive Director

Mrs. Raymond F. Tartiere,

Middleburg, Virginia.

Free Press
Enclosures.
Mr. President,

To you in behalf of persecuted, for the establishment of a sect, to which all human beings are entitled.

Very truly,

design resolution. Gladys R. Tarter

297
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.
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 Hasenbusch, President
Temple Adath Joseph
Saint Joseph, Missouri

SH:AD
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 Sholom,  
of Flatbush,  
Avenue R at N. 16th Street,  
Brooklyn, 29, New York.

Enclosures.

EBTowler: 7/20/44
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 satis-
factory conclusion, we have the honor to
remain

Most Respectfully yours;

TEMPLE AHAVATH SHOLOM

[Signature]

Charles N. Piltluck
President
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.
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 6, 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. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
Temple Beth El
Sisterhood
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
June 26, 1944

To: President

June 26, 1944

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

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,

K/v

Corresponding Secy.
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.
Temple Beth El  
COR. LIBERTY AND SECOND STREETS  
FLINT 3, MICHIGAN  
Rabbi  
MORTON M. APPLEBAUM  
M. H. L.  

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.

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.
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,

(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.
July 7, 1944

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

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

Dear Mr. President:

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 Halei  
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 telegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

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.
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,

[Signature]

President, Kahl Montgomery
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.
LADIES AID & SISTERHOOD
TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL
Oklahoma City, June 13, 1944

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 J. Israel
(Mrs. Jack Israel)
President,
Ladies Aid & Sisterhood
Temple B'Nai Israel,
Oklahoma City, Okla.
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,

[Signature]
President

[Signature]
Secretary
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.
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
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.
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF MIAMI, FLORIDA
137 N. E. 19TH STREET
RABBI JACOB TARSHISH

June 14, 1944

Respectfully referred for acknowledgment and consideration

WILLIAM J. KEECH
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
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 endowed 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 excommend 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 those, our allies and fellow-victims 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.
Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.
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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

MB Towler: 7/30/44
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
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. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
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 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.

Yours very truly,

TEMPLE ISRAEL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
N. J. Love, Secy.
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.
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.
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,

HAT: W

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

June 13, 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. Pfeil

J. W. Pfeil
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
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,

[Signature]

[Name]
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 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 assist 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,
The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House, Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

If the people in places of authority took a more active stand concerning the terrible Jewish massacres in Europe, would it alliterate 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.

Respectfully yours,

(Vis) Margaret Thorne.

July 18, 1944.
In reply please refer to: 2021

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.

EBTowler:inp 6/26/44
Dear President Roosevelt,

Knowing your 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.

Sincerely yours,

John Barrow Toomer
Minister of the Congregational Church of Bloomington, Calif.
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,
3662 Bedford Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
June 6, 1947

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

Dear Sir:

We are in favor of the PRT for Refugees & ask you to utilize your good offices so that the great project is speedily accomplished.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. C. Metcalf
& family.

386 2nd Ave.
Brooklyn
June 6, 1944

President Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

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

Very truly yours,

Mrs. C. Frickinger
Family
In reply please refer to: 1061

Dear Miss Trainer:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
June 6, 1944

Honorable Mr. Roosevelt,

I 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,

Alice H. Tramis
1151 53 St.
Brooklyn, 19, N.Y.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

"We are in favor of Free Pets for Refugees and ask you to extend your good efforts here that this great project is quickly accomplished."

Yours truly,

Mrs. O. Franklin

No address
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. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I urge you to establish safe forts for the temporary safety of the victims of Nazism. We must save these people and return them safely 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.
Refuse to set up trade free ports permits us to follow the Hithe technique - namely, weakening the forces opposed to fascism.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Samuel D. Rauman
After 5 days return to
I. Traum
16 Brookaw Lane
Great Neck, N.Y.

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Oliver
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. Eisenstadt

MNE: SG
Miss Hodel
Room 190

Mr. J. W. Peale, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 22, D. C.
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:

ERVowler: db 14 44
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, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Maurice N. Eisendrath,
Director,
The Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
34 West Sixth Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio.
THE UNION OF
AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

34 WEST SIXTH STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO • PHONE Parkway 7345

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
...

May 23, 1944

William J. Harriman

Visiting to the President

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

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I am pleased to send you herewith copy of a resolution adopted by the Administrative Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at its meeting in Cincinnati on May 21, 1944.

Respectfully yours,

Maurice H. Eisinger
Director

MNH:RM Encl.
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.
Dear Dr. Mirenstein:

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. Fohle

J. W. Fohle
Executive Director

Dr. Samuel Mirenstein,
President,
The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America,
305 Broadway,

Free Ports
THE UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: BEEKman 3-4034

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
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:

BNToqler:db 6/16/44
In reply please refer to: 623  

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 Government to save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss Ruth Benedict,
Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice,
2336 West Eighth Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Free Ports
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
5226 WEST EIGHTH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
April 17, 1944

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

Dear Sirs:

May the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, 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 those 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 our 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,

(Rass) Ruth Benedict for the Executive Committee

(St.)

Samuel Grafton

A FREE PORT 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 there from overseas are destined either for temporary storage or for permanent storage. Such goods may even be processed while they are in the "free port"; manufacturing operations can be carried out on them. Or the goods may be sold there for a white, giving their owner time to broaden.

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 paunch of alien garters or a foreign try 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? Why couldn't we have a place where we can put refugees down, without making final decisions 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 band a wound in such a free port, or to give somebody a drink of water.

The need is for reservations in a few acres here and there, where a man who has been running for 10 years can sit down and catch his breath, and anybody 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 something we would build, not as something we would simply acquire. Anyone who would step over the boundary of the free port into the country proper should be made to satisfy the requirements of immigration law. But surely we should not battle our ingenuity to find some legal way in which to grant a stainless woman an comparatively small bit of room which she needs in order to deliver a baby.

Of course, I am a little ashamed to find myself pondering anti-refugee prejudices even to the extent of wishing you, the legal disabilities on us, to give us no rights, to cast us off, to send us away, to make us over, to throw us overboard. To do so is to admit that the world is so bad that to the world is necessary to settle for whatever can be done.

If we set up a system of refugee free ports, our 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 should 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 poorest land in America. They don't want to keep it. They just want to sit on it until they can go home again. They want to be left alone to face their fate on their own. They plead for our worst.
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.
NEW YORK 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
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,

J. W. Pohls
Executive Director

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

To: Files
Ans.

W. R. B.

Filing Authority

No. Ans. Req.

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, President

Attested to: Michael M. Mathes, Secy.
His Excellency, Franklin D. Roosevelt,
White House,
Washington, D. C.
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 Gaskin,
President,
Mr. William Wolpert,
Executive Secretary,
United Hebrew Trades of the
State of New York,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, New York.

Enclosures:

ERawler:db 6/16/44
Gentlemen:

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

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Peble

J. W. Peble
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.
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 holocaust the privilege we now
accord Axis prisoners, a most practical and feasible one.

The plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones,
and safe refuge, and thereby save the lives of innocent people
fortunate to escape the claws of the Gestapo, but would also
demonstrate most dramatically to the whole world the dogged
determination of the American Government and the American people
to spare no effort in saving as many of the sufferers as possible.
Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi hand and will further encourage the ever-growing resistance to German barbarism.

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

Respectfully yours,

Reuben Guskin,
President,

William Wolpert;
Executive Secretary,
United Hebrew Trades.
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."

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

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

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

Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the effectuation of the plan will help stay the brutal Nazi 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.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 5, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President
NEW YORK 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

NEW YORK NY.
In reply please refer to: 2627

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.
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 8000 Jewish residents in this area.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Moe Goldberg
Executive Director
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 at-
tempt 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,

THEREFORE,

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.
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 1, Minnesota.

Enclosures.
United Jewish Fund and Council
641 Endicott Building
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA
GARFIELD 1741

June 7th, 1944.

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

My dear Mr. President:

The United Jewish Fund and Council, comprising more than
thirty communal organizations, and more than 2,500 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

Harry K. Wolkoff
President
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 refu-
gees 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 pre-
pare 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 one.
"See here, this would be an
evasion of the immigration
laws!" Sorry, but it wouldn't be.
We have free ports for for-

eign merchandise. There is one
on Staten Island. Goods may
be brought into this free port
and stored for reshipment
abroad without payment of cus-

toms duties. That has never
been considered an evasion of
the tariff laws. If we were to
permit refugees to live any-
where in the country that would
be an evasion of the law. But
permission to live on a restric-
ted 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 fulfill 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

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
cut off the hand and pull it in
after us.
"Why should the United
States carry this load?" The
answer is that the free port sys-
tem might actually reduce the
ultimate burden of refugee care
on this country. For if we es-

establish one or more free ports,
we place ourselves in a power-

ful position to ask allies and
neutral 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 any-
things of which you may repent.
—Syrus.

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

The countenance is the por-
trait of the soul, and the eyes
mark its intentions.—Cicero.
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 and 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 relationships with other nations. They can make wise decisions only if they are in possession of all facts and they can be steered into wise 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 any longer will take charge of things in Germany, as representatives of the German people.

It is this group which is aimed at. 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 "strength 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 Soldiers

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 "regulatory proposal, which he offers only because nothing better is feasible."

Yet, the plan is gaining votes 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 Peora, 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 transshipped 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.
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.
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 & Naturaliza-
tion Committee with reference to our support of his bill H. Res.
576, for your information.

Very truly yours,

Henry Heller
President
June 20, 1944

Honorable Samuel Blockstein, Chairman
House Immigration and Naturalization Committee
House Office Bldgs.
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 Keller
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.
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 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 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.

Hopefully,

The Unity Club of Nassau County
By Jesse Henshaw, President.

Membership 273 men.
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 Ports
To: File
Ans. S.

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 safe port for war refugees. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Elliot Handler
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 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

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

Enclosures.
Mr. J. W. Peble, Esq.,
War Refugee Board
Washington 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,

F. H. Masters, Sec. Radio
A.P. Turner, "Union" Auxiliary
Mr. J. W. Nelle, Esq.,
War Refugee Board
Treasury Bldg.
Wash., D.C.
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,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
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.
In reply please refer to: 656

MAY 19 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmannovitz:

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,

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

Rabbi Abraham Kalmannovitz,
Vand Nolan Religious Committee,
188 Nassau Street,
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 HAHATZALÄ EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

(s) A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r
In reply please refer to: 942

JUN 14 1944

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. Pohls

J. W. Pohls
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
The White House
Washington

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.
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 OF AMERICA
HENRY KATLER/SECY 125 HOWLAND ST ROXBURY MASS
940A JUN 6
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 assist from cooperating with the Nazi policy of persecution and extermination of minority peoples. The Board has stationed representatives in strategic countries in order to expedite these measures.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss Ilene Vuolle,
615 Lincoln,
Topeka, Kansas.
July 28, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Since the murderous 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 inhuman acts to which they are continuously subjected.

Very truly Yours,

Irene Druelle
515 Lincoln
Topeka, Kansas