N

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

General- W-Z

Folder 1: Wa-Wi

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1107

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wagner:

The President has referred to me your communication of June 4, 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

Mr. and Mrs. S. Wagner,
1010 - 45th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

Copy sent to: Mr. Goldberg.

Eb ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

1107

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

June 4, 1948

Dear Mr. President,

Please give all your support to to the Resolution 297 in the Senate for opening free ports in the United States. Millions of Jews are dying for no other reason than that they are Jews.

God Bless you and give you strength.

Mr. & Mrs. S. Wagner
Mr. S. Goldberg

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1147

Dear Miss Waldbaum:

Thank you for your communication of June 9, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his 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 Shirley Waldbaum,
2710 Avenue K,
Brooklyn, New York.

RBHutchison: 6/16/44

1147

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

2710 Ave K
Bklyn 10 N Y
June 9 1944.

Dear Sir:

As humanitarians, we think it only fitting and proper that all efforts should be made to establish FREE PORTS FOR REFUGEES so that as many survivors as possible of war-torn Europe be saved.

We urge you to act promptly.

Very truly yours,

Shirley Waldbaum

In reply please
refer to: 2900

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mrs. Lieberman:

The President has referred to me your resolution of June 27, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. A. A. Lieberman,
President,
Washington Boulevard
Temple Sisterhood,
23 North Karlov Avenue,
Chicago 24, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBHutchison:agr 7-4-44

War Refugee Bd.

Washington Boulevard Temple Sisterhood

Encl attached

2900

Mrs. A. A. Lieberman, *President*
Mrs. Edward Koretz, *1st Vice-Pres.*
Mrs. David Hillman, *2nd Vice-Pres.*
Miss Rose A. Deutch, *3rd Vice-Pres.*
Mrs. Philip Bierman, *Rec. Sec'y.*
Mrs. Albert Goss, *Corr. Sec'y.*
Mrs. Sidney Simon, *Corr. Sec'y.*
Mrs. Edwin Sabath, *Fin. Sec'y.*
Mrs. Harry Wishnick, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Henry Lurie, *Philanthropic Treas.*

23 North Karlov Avenue
Telephone [illegible]
CHICAGO 24

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

June 27, 1944

WHEREAS: European Jewry has been humiliated, has been subjected to the most ignoble violence and has lost millions of its men, women and children to the theory of racism promulgated by a madman;

WHEREAS: The remnant of our people still alive are seeking a haven from religious persecution and political oppression; and

WHEREAS: The refugee problem is truly a world problem which transcends all borders and frontiers; and

WHEREAS: President Roosevelt has created the War Refugee Board which at the present time has under consideration the establishment of Refugee Rescue Camps or Free Ports, same to be designated as temporary havens for those Jews who can be transported to this country; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Washington Boulevard Temple Sisterhood urge this War Refugee Board to vote favorably and with the utmost speed on the matter of these "Free Ports", and be it further

RESOLVED: That by so doing, this government will prove that it has the vision of a new future for humanity, and thinks of human beings in terms of world-citizens.

(Signed) Mrs. I. W. Inlander
Mrs. A. A. Lieberman, President.

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

Mrs Sidney Simon.
Mrs. A. Lichtenstein
Mrs. Morris Goldman
Mrs. Leo Alexander.
Mrs. Fred A. Gilford.
Mrs. Jos. M. Greenhut
Mrs. Samuel Richmond
Mrs. L. Siegel
Mrs A. Iltis
Mrs. Ida Alion

Mrs. B. Lamp
142 S. Winchester

D. Hellman
3937 Adams St
M. Michelson
3937 W. Adams St.
F. Kirschner
4156 Wilcox Str.
Mrs. H. Zimmerman
5426 Jackson
Mrs. M. L. Fimmelburgh
4000 Washington Blvd.
Mrs. H. Allen
7 S. Central Pk.
Ray Jaffe — 3900 Madison Av
Mrs Edward Tillis — 1642-W. Division St

Mrs. B. Lotarski
1435 S. Springfield Ave
Chicago Ill

Mary Slavik
3323 W. Grenshaw
Chicago Ill.

Mrs. Bert Lotarski
201 N. Central Ave.
Chicago

Jennie Degiro
646 N. Vineland Ave
Chicago, Ill.

Rose A. Deutsch
1929 Humboldt Blvd

Mrs. S. Stuller
Mrs Rosenberg
Mrs. P. Bierman
Mrs J. Bierman
Mrs M. Richter
Mrs. Leonard V. Solomon
Mrs M Goldberg
Mrs Emanuel M. Solomon
Mrs. H. M. Rauen
Mrs H Goldberg

Mrs S. J. Steinberg
2842 Sheridan Rd.

Mrs. Wm Fink
6321 N. Talman Ave

Mrs. Anna Mandelblat
2308 N. Kedzie Bl.

Mrs. Harry Heiman
6827 N. Lakewood Av

Mrs Harry J. Washnick
2300 Lincoln Pk. W.

Mrs. D. Gelbart.
Mrs. S. Field
Mrs M. Sutton
Mrs A. Simon
Mrs. B. Loeb
Mrs. M. Ossey
Mrs. H. Brazen
Mrs. S. Helfer

Mrs. D. Schmerow
Mrs H. Kohn
Mrs. S. Gordon
Mrs Hornblith
Mrs R. Kohn
Mrs. Arthur Ehrman
Mrs. Maurice L. Sibley.
Mrs H. B. Hyman
Mrs E. B. [illegible]

Mrs. S. W. Sulander
Mrs. Arthur Buchbaud
Mrs. Charles G. Kramer
Mrs. G. H. Miltenberg
Mrs Milton S. Cohn
Mrs. George S. Gartner
Mrs. Sam Cohn

Mrs. Richard A. Leavitt
Mrs Carrie Herman
Mrs Tillie Kahn
Mrs. Geo. Gisseman
Mrs M. Fisher
Mrs. J. Nook
Mrs. A. Fabian

Mrs. W. B. Schrieber
Miss S. Treffman
Miss S. Hetzberg
Mrs M. Alpert

J. Barrett
Mrs. S. Rosenberg

E. Gerchenson.
L. Glasser

Mrs. Elmer E. Benesch
Mrs. Mamie Aschermann
Mrs Henry Sabath
Mrs Chas. Benesch
Mrs. Martin Wolf
Mrs Sarah Solomon
Mrs. Ed. White.
Mrs Celia Piser
Mrs. Chas. Kaye

Mrs. Geo Castle
Mrs. M. Eisenberger
Edna Fessman
Mrs J. Victor
Mrs. E. C. Schwartz
Mrs Wm Held
Mrs H. Aronson

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1105

Dear Miss Wasserman:

The President has referred to me your communication of June 6, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Minnie Wasserman,
26 East 58th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

EDT ✓ RBH RBH:tchison:agr 6-15-44

x 1105

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

Dear Mr President June 6, 1944
We urge you
to open Free ports in the
United States now.
Sincerely
minnie Wasserman
26 East 58 St
Brooklyn NY

In reply please
refer to: 2946

JUL 13 [redacted]

Dear Mrs. Watermaker:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 29, 1944, with respect to Senate Resolution No. 297, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Gladys Watermaker,
2923½ S. Bronson Avenue,
Los Angeles 16, California.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-11-44

10
War Refugee Bd.

2923½ S. Bronson Ave.
Los Angeles 16, Calif. 2946
June 29, 1944

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. Required
Ans. Not Req.
Initial
Date

RESPECTFULLY RETURNED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

Sir:

Even at this late date some attempt should be made by us to save as many European Jews as possible from the savagery they are suffering.

The resolution (S.R. 297) introduced by Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa urging the establishment of Rescue Centers temporarily for these unfortunate and innocent people should be acted upon favorably without further delay. It is the least we can do.

Respectfully yours
Mrs. Gladys Watermaker

JUN 15 1944

In reply please
refer to: 842

Dear Mr. Kessler:

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. Joe Kessler,
Manager,
Waterproof Garment
Workers' Union,
1811 Broadway,
New York 1, New York.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/14/44

EBT ✓

In reply please
refer to: 842

JUN 5 1944

Dear Mr. Kessler:

I have your letter of May 23, 1944, to the President, 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. Joe Kessler,
Manager,
Waterproof Garment
Workers' Union
1811 Broadway,
New York 1, New York.

RBHutchison:agr 6-2-44

842

WATERPROOF GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To File
JUN 5 1944
No Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

JOE KESSLER
MANAGER
SOL IMMERMAN
SECRETARY-TREASURER
DAVID MASSIN
CHAIRMAN

LOCAL #20, I.L.G.W.U.
1811 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.
LEXINGTON 2-9605

War Refugee Bd

May 23rd, 1944

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

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

Dear President Roosevelt:-

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

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

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

We consider the establishment of "free ports", which would give innocent victims of the raging halocaust, the privilege we now accord Axis prisoners, a most practical and feasible one. The plan would not only provide temporary human "free port" zones, and safe refuge, and thereby save the lives of innocent people fortunate to escape the claws of the Gestapo, but would also demonstrate most dramatically to the whole world the dogged determination of the American people and the American government 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 whole-hearted support and we respectfully urge its immediate adoption.

Sincerely yours,
WATERPROOF GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Joe Kessler
JOE KESSLER, MANAGER

NP af/oe 23076

cc: JW Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board

COPY

CONTROL COPY

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

WATERPROOF
GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Affiliated with AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

JOE KESSLER
Manager
SOL IMMERMAN
Secretary-Treasurer
DAVID MASSIN
Chairman

LOCAL #20, I.L.G.W.U.
1811 Broadway
NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

LExington 2-9605

May 23rd, 1944

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

Dear President Roosevelt:-

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support and we respectfully urge its immediate adoption.

Sincerely yours,

WATERPROOF GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

/s/ Joe Kessler

JOE KESSLER, MANAGER

EP af/oe 23076

cc: JW Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 909

Dear Mrs. Watkins:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Adele Watkins,
824 Richmond Avenue,
Silver Spring, Maryland.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

In reply please
refer to: 909

JUN 9 1944

Dear Mrs. Watkins:

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

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Adele Watkins,
824 Richmond Avenue,
Silver Spring, Maryland.

RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-7-44

EBT

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/9/44
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Gentlemen:-

824 Richmond Ave
Silver Spring, Maryland

I heartily endorse the temporary rescue camps — so-called "Free Ports" where the persecuted Jews of Europe can rest a brief interval until these unfortunate people can resume their journey to an ultimate destination. We are our brother's keepers and it is our humanitarian duty to rescue the helpless

Very truly yours,
Mrs. Adele Watkins

Inreply please
refer to: 2925

JUL 21 1944

Dear Mrs. Watson:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Charles H. Watson,
2316 Thayer Street,
Evanston, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

10
War Refugee Bd

2925

MRS. CHARLES H. WATSON
2316 THAYER STREET
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. July 29 1944
No Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As one of the countless Americans who are distressed over the barbarous treatment and wholesale murder of innocent people in Europe, particularly of the Jews (and we are not Jewish), I am writing to urge you to allow, not one thousand, but many times that number of refugees to find temporary shelter (or even permanent) in the United States. The ancestors of most of us Americans were refugees. Why close our doors now in the face of those who need our help so desperately? In fact, it is only common decency to do what little we can for these tragic victims of Hitler's brutality. Let us hurry before it is too late.

Respectfully yours,
Estelle C. Watson

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 947

Dear Mr. Wechsler:

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. Henry Wechsler,
145 West 40th Street,
New York, 18, New York.

Encl - RBH
RBHutchison: 6/16/44

947

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am heartily in favor of the plan for the creation of socalled "Free Ports for Refugees" and trust that you will give this plan your full consideration.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours

Henry Wechsler

Henry Wechsler
145 West 40th St
New York 18, N.Y.

AUG 12 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3153

Dear Mr. Weidenbaum:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 28, 1944, appealing for immediate action to save the persecuted people of Europe.

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

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

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Nathan Weidenbaum,
250 West 57th Street,
New York, New York.

EBT RBH RBHutchison:agr 8-8-44

3153

War Refugee Board

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

NATHAN WEIDENBAUM
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
250 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

CIRCLE 6-6946
6947

RECEIVED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION
William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

July 28, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

I voted for you three times and intend to do so again. I am doing my best among my friends and acquaintances to have them do the same--not because I am a Democrat, but because I feel that your re-election is the best thing for our country.

I am appealing to you to take immediate action, as strong as is necessary, to try to put a stop to the slaughter of the Jews and other persecuted people of Europe. I think that you can accomplish it and I think that you ought to take prompt steps to do so and do everything possible to alleviate their hardship and furnish them with refuge.

I hope that you will do your utmost, and I know that all decent people in this country and elsewhere will admire you for it.

Respectfully yours,

Nathan Weidenbaum

NW:bh

NATHAN WEIDENBAUM

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 874

Dear Mr. Weinhaus:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. S. Weinhaus,
5940 McPherson Street,
St. Louis, Missouri.

Enclosures.

EBT EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

JUN 5 1944

In reply please
refer to: 874

Dear Mr. Weinhaus:

The President has referred to me your telegram of May 30, 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. S. Weinhaus,
5940 McPherson Street,
St. Louis, Missouri.

RBHutchison:agr 6-3-44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 31, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUN 1 1944
CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED
Washington
MAY 30 1 40 PM 1944

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. JUN 5 194
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

WB14 DL

STLOUIS MO 1215P MAY 30 1944

THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE WASHN DC

CRITICAL STATUS OF MILLIONS OF EUROPEAN LIVES NECESSITATE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF TEMPORARY HOMES IN AMERICA AND OTHER FREE COUNTRIES TO SHELTER THOSE WHO ARE RESCUED. WE URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR SUCH FREE PORTS AS RECOMMENDED BY MESSRS. IRA HIRSHMAN AND J. W. PEHLE

S WEINHAUS 5940 MCPHERSON.

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 824

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Weinstock:

Since my replies 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. and Mrs. Albert Weinstock,
524 N. Muhlenberg Street,
Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT EBTowler:inp 6/16/44

In reply please
refer to: 870

JUN 7 1944

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Weinstock:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of May 24, 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. and Mrs. Albert Weinstock,
524 N. Muhlenberg Street,
Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Encl RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-5-44

870

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

War Refugee Board

Mr. Albert Weinstock
524 No. Muhlenberg Street - Allentown, Pennsylvania

May 24, 1944

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

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

Dear Mr. President,

We urge you to effect speedy action in the support of a "free port" in the United States in which refugees would be given a haven for the duration.

Yours truely,
Mr. & Mrs. A. Weinstock

In reply please
refer to: 824

JUN 1 1944

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Weinstock:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 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. and Mrs. Albert Weinstock,
524 N. Muhlenberg Street,
Allentown, Pennsylvania.

EAT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-~~31~~ 30-44

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans. 6/1/44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

Mrs. Albert Weinstock
524 No. Muhlenberg Street - Allentown, Pennsylvania

May 24, 1944

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

Dear Sir;

We urge you to effect speedy action in the support of a "free port" in the United States in which refugees would be given a haven for the duration.

Yours truly,
Mr. & Mrs. A. Weinstock

OARD
.C.

3 48

ALLENTOWN
MAY 25
1944
12 30 PM
PA.

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
3 CENTS 3

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

In reply please
refer to: 3093

JUL 29 1944

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 21, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. P. Weintraub,
1590 Broadway,
Brooklyn 7, New York.

Enclosures.

RBH
RBHutchison:agr 7-28-44

11- War Refugee Board

3093

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: File 944
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date his _____

July

Dear Mr. President,

Hitler and his gangsters have murdered Millions of Men, Women, and Children of the Jewish faith.

Thousands more are being sent to the slaughter camps of Poland, every day.

The remainder of the Hungarian Jews could be saved if they would be admitted to free ports, To our, and to our Allies Countries.

Therefore we are appealing solemnly, to your kind and humanitarian heart to give this matter your immediate attention.

so that many of lives can be saved before it will be to late.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Ph. Weintraub

1590 B'way - B'klyn, 7 - N.Y.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1165

Dear Miss Weisberg:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 4, 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 Estelle Weisberg,
1938 East 18th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.

Eds ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

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

1938 E. 18 St.
B'klyn. NY
June 4, 1944

Hon. F. D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington D. C.

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

Dear Sir:
I'm writing to urge that the United States lead in opening Free Ports for Refugees. Let us show the other nations the way and perhaps

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

they will follow our good and humane path. I hope you will come out strongly in favor of this plan, and that you will favor too, the speedy opening of Palestine for all refugees. Let us make haste to give lives.

Respectfully Yours,

Estelle Weinberg

JUN 27 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1989

Dear Miss Weiss:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 15, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Europe.

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 these persecuted people is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Sylvia Weiss,
5048 Benning Road, S.E.,
Washington 19, D. C.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-26-44

1989

War Refugee Board

RESPECTFULLY TRANSMITTED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

5048 Benning
Washington 19, D. C.
June 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

I wish to add one more humble word to the multitude commending the plan of the Emergency Committee to Help the Jewish People of Europe. I read in the papers that you have endorsed their plan; so all I ask is that you lend all your influence to speed legislation to save the unfortunate people who are under the merciless rule of Nazism.

All thinking Americans will agree that the plan offered by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe is a practical one and that it can in no way interfere with any persons or interests in the United States, save perhaps, such subversive elements as would like to undermine our principles of democracy.

It is up to us, the people of the United States of America, and to you, as our Commander-in-Chief, to set the democratic example for the world. We must put the machinery in motion, at once, to save the European minority which suffers the most at the hands of our enemies. Thus shall we affirm the living principles of democracy. So, also, do we set the example for our Allies,

Most sincerely,

Sylvia Weiss

SEP 2 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3255

Dear Mrs. Whitcomb:

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

I am sure you were glad to learn of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees, who had fled from their homelands to Southern Italy, are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. Copies of his message to Congress on June 12, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Very truly yours,
[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Ruth Whitcomb,
360 North 21st Street,
Corvallis, Oregon.

Enclosures.

EBT-RH
RBHutchison:agr 8-18-44

Refugee Boat

3255

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

August 9, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

This is to ask your favorable attention to Senator Gillette's bill (S.R. 297) for "free ports" and asylum for Jewish refugees.

As a people we are inclined to laugh a little about "the young lady down the Harbor", holding her light aloft. The inscription on that monument to freedom says in effect, "Give me your refugees". Shall America allow herself to grow hard, tight, undemocratic? Recent events on every hand impress the fact that it behooves us to live up to what we say in matters of race, color, and creed. The cause of democracy should make us willing to do this even should it entail some inconvenience to ourselves.

Yours respectfully,

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Whitcomb

360 North 21 St.
Corvallis, Oregon

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2034

Dear Mr. Whiteside:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Douglas Whiteside,
RFD#1, Box 109,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

EBT ✓ EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

2034

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

7
WRB
War Refugee Bd.

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

June 17, 1944
RFD#1, Box 109
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

This is just to tell you that I, and most of the people to whom I have spoken concerning it, are wholeheartedly behind your new move to save some of the victims of Hitler's Europe. You will have my support, as well as that of most Americans, if you find it possible to open not one, but many camps, where refugees from Hitler can find at least temporary asylum.

Sincerely,

Douglas Whiteside

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1944 JUN 22 AM 10 30

In reply please
refer to: 3020

JUL 25 1944

Dear Mrs. Whittemore:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 15, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. C. E. Whittemore,
7 West 65th Street,
New York 23, New York.

Enclosures.

RBHutchison:agr 7-24-44

3020

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

To Franklin Delano Roosevelt -
President of United States of America -
Dear Mr. Roosevelt -
"War Refugee Board"
to procure Lorenzo refugee to Europe
oppressed, who can escape the Nazi
Reign of Terror -
To show my appreciation and to urge
action now
We do petition immediate action to
establish without delay Temporary
camps within the United States as a
compelling example to all mankind
to open "Free Porto" of Hope and as
consequent to Jewish people -
Respectfully submitted
Mrs C. E. Catherine L. J. Whittemore
75-65 st -
New York 23. N.Y.
July 15-1944

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

June 9, 1944.

Dear Mr. Pehle,

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

Respectfully yours,
Dorothy Wider

No address.

In reply please
refer to: 2996

JUL 17 1944

Dear Miss Wiederhold:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 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

Miss Margaret S. Wiederhold,
503 South 46th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBT ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-17-44

2986

503 South 46 Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
July 7, 1944

Filing Authority
Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Dual
Date

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

Dear President Roosevelt:

On behalf of the oppressed Jews of Europe, our country should administer our present immigration laws so as to admit more refugees under existing quotas.

Temporary admission of further numbers of refugees would also help demonstrate our sincerity in fighting for "democracy."

Very truly yours,

Margaret S. Wiederhold

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

JUL 13 [redacted]

In reply please
refer to: 2962

Dear Mr. Wiener:

Thank you for your communication of July 10, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Charles Wiener,
804 Lenox Road,
Brooklyn 3, New York.

Enclosures.

Ent ✓ RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-13-44

2962

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

July 10, 1944

Dear Sir,

I am entirely in favor of the Freeport plan. It should be carried out immediately. It seems highly ironical that we ship over from Europe large stores of whiskey but not human beings. It's also ironical that we give our captured enemies such fine treatment but refuse to help people who are with us and helpless.

Sincerely yours,
Charles W. Ivey

AUG 12 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3141

Dear Mr. Wigder:

President Roosevelt has referred to me a copy of your telegram of July 27, 1944, urging action to save the Jewish people of Europe.

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

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

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

Mr. Samuel Wigder,

Bradley Beach, New Jersey.

EBT

RSHutchison:agr 8-10-44

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 28, 1944

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

The original telegrams are being forwarded to the Department of State.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1944 JUL 29 PM 3

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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

COPY
eth

TELEGRAM

WB4 NL

TDAP BRADLEY BEACH NJ JULY 27 1944

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

WHITEHOUSE

URGE YOU PLEASE DO ALL IN YOUR POWER TO SAVE THE JEWS OF EUROPE STOP OPEN THE DOORS OF PALESTINE TO THESE PERSECUTED MILLIONS OF JEWS STOP ESTABLISH FREE PORTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND PREVAIL ON OTHER UNITED NATIONS POWERS TO DO LIKEWISE

SAMUEL WIGDER

1944 JUL 29 PM 3 03
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
RECEIVED

In reply please
refer to: 946

JUN 13 1944

My dear Mr. Wigglesworth:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 1944, with which you enclosed a copy of a letter which Mr. Peter M. Leavitt, President, New England Division, American Jewish Congress, addressed to you on June 1, 1944, concerning temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I know you will be interested in reading the enclosed copies of the President's cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy, in Algiers, regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, and his memorandum of the same date to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the plan.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Original signed by Mr. Pehle

Honorable Richard B. Wigglesworth,

House of Representatives.

Enclosures.

EBTowler:agr 6-12-44

Letter for WRB
in Library Bronze

RICHARD B. WIGGLESWORTH
12TH DIST. MASSACHUSETTS

946

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

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

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June 6, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I enclose herewith copy of a letter received from Mr. Peter M. Leavitt, President, New England Division, American Jewish Congress, Boston, Massachusetts, in reference to the establishment of a refugee rescue camp or free port in the United States for the duration. The letter, I think, speaks for itself.

Sincerely yours,

R. B. Wigglesworth

COPY

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

BOSTON, MASS.

June 1, 1944.

Congressman Richard B. Wigglesworth
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Wigglesworth:

The War Refugee Board has been considering the establishment of a refugee rescue camp or "free port" in the United States for the purpose of affording a haven to refugees for the duration.

Under the proposed plan it would be unnecessary to undertake any change in the general immigration regulations, inasmuch, as this is only a temporary project, and would not affect visitors to this country; nor would it have any effect upon this quota system for permanent immigrants.

Practically speaking, the part to be played by the United States in providing refuge for fugitives of Europe cannot be too large, as we are too far away from the European centers from which these refugees will come. However, if the United States is going to demand that other countries, nearer to European centers open their doors, it is essential that the United States demonstrate its own willingness to provide asylum.

The immediate adoption of a proposal to establish free ports in this country will set the pattern in other parts of the world, more accessible to the slowly diminishing number of refugees, for the immediate opening of "free ports" in this countries.

We respectfully urge you to consider the plight of these unfortunate people in the light of the present emergency and ask that you issue a statement approving such a proposal. We ask also, that you forward an expression of support to President Roosevelt and to John W. Pehle, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

Peter M. Leavitt, President
New England Division
American Jewish Congress.

AUG 2 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3110

Dear Miss Wilder:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 23, 1944, concerning the work of the War Refugee Board and urging more action by the Board to save the Jewish people of Europe.

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

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for those who are enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, you will be interested to know that the President has recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which 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 Helen A. Wilder,
921 Foss Avenue,
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

EBT

RBHutchison|agr 7-31-44

Dat -

3110

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

Refugee Board

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

921 Foss Avenue
Drexel Hill, Pa.
July 23, 1944.

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

Dear Sir:

I am one of millions of Americans, specifically of American Christians, whose consciences are troubled and hearts burdened by the suffering of the persecuted Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe. We feel that our great country should be able to do something more than it has yet done to save the remnant of that gifted and un-

311

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

fortunate people.

We are grateful for your appointment of a War Refugee Board, "to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe --- all civilian victims of enemy savagery."

We hope and pray that through this board there may be brought about:

1. A more liberal administration of United States immigration laws so as to receive more Jewish refugees escaping through neutral and German satellite countries.

2. The creation in the United States of an immediate temporary asylum for politic-al and religious refugees.

3. An effort to get food to Jews in Nazi-held territory, on a plan similar to that being used in the case of the Greeks.

Difficult - yes - but not too difficult to try. "Nor can any democratic country," says Dorothy Thompson, "wash its hands of this problem if it wishes to retain its own soul."

Yours sincerely,
Helen A. Wilder

In reply please
refer to: 3111

AUG 12 1944

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 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 with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Joseph Wilhelm,
157 Division Avenue,
Brooklyn 11, New York.

Enclosures.

RBHutchison:agr 7-31-44

3 War Refugee Bd.

EVergreen 7-3489

3111

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

B. WILHELM & CO.

JOBBERS IN
HOUSE-FURNISHING SPECIALTIES
PAPER & WOODENWARE
157 DIVISION AVENUE
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

July 24, 1944

To President Franklin Delano Roosevelt
c/o The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Roosevelt:

Your Honor may consider this letter as a letter of advice, warning, criticism, or one pleading for something. It is really meant to cover all of these ideas. Please excuse the hard words, as I cannot seem to find the right expressions.

Nearly all the world is guilty of mass murder and cruelty. Our isolationist and appeasement policies have allowed Hitler (let his name and memory be wiped out), to slaughter millions of our fellow creatures. Who were we to say that for certain political reasons or for shortage of arms and money, dare not intercede in their behalf. Did we put ourselves in their place? What if it really would have caused a depression if we would have let in those who could have escaped, were we allowed to let them die?

What has happened is gone. The only thing we can do now is to beg G-d to forgive, but G-d forgives only if the sinner shows that he really is sorry for what he has done, and would want to rectify it if it would be but possible. The only way we can prove our repentance is by taking action at once by trying to save as many peoples as possibe.

We must establish, without delay, temporary Rescue Camps within the United States, as a compelling example to all mankind; to open these "free ports" of hope and encouragement to those Jewish people who can flee Nazi murder squads, and to give them sanctuary therein until the coming peace shall decide their destinies.
We must entreat all other friendly and allied powers to take action.
We must convey to the British Government, entrusted with the Mandate over Palestine, that all liberty-loving Americans desire the gates of Palestine be opened and kept open for the unrestricted admission of all Hebrews rescued from the German charnel-houses in Europe; and that we as Americans consider it unrighteous to deny to Jewish People alone, of all peoples, free entry into Palestine in this period of their deepest distress and disaster.

Hoping you will use your prestige and power which G-d has bestowed

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.

upon you to accomplish good, to carry out these resolutions.

I remain, praying for a speedy and uncostly victory,

Yours very truly

Joseph Wilhelm.

157 Division Ave

Brooklyn N.Y.

In reply please
refer to: 3076

AUG 12 1944

Dear Mrs. Williams:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Eva Williams,
1031 East 27th Street,
Brooklyn (1C) New York.

Enclosures.

RHutchison:inp 7/28/44

War Refugee Bd

3076

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

1031 East 27th St.
Brooklyn (10) N.Y.

July 17, 1944.

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

Dear Sir:

May I respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to help save the Hungarian and other European Jews whose lives are in jeopardy in the grip of the Nazis.

It is up to the United Nations to rescue these victims and help transport them to neutral countries. England should be urged to open the gates of Palestine where these people can be sheltered. Also, additional camps should be made available in America and other free countries, as a temporary asylum, similar to the one recently assigned by you to house a thousand refugees for the duration.

I trust that you will not fail in this humanitarian undertaking, and thus help stave off the death of many thousands of souls.

Respectfully,

(Mrs.) Eva Williams

(Petition enclosed)

JUN 14 1944

In reply please
refer to: 969

Dear Mrs. Willig:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. R. Willig,
1525 - 50th Street,
Brooklyn 19, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler:inp 6/13/44

969

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

Honorable Sir.

I urge you to establish "Free Cart For Refugees."

Mrs R Willig
1525 - 50 st
Brooklyn 19 N.Y.

WILLIG

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
RECEIVED
JUN 8 PM 12 20

1093

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

Mr President
I urge you to establish
"Free Port For Refugees"

Mrs R Willig
1525 – 50 St
Brooklyn 19 N.Y.

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1162

Dear Mrs. Cohen:

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.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Louis Cohen,
President,
Willing Workers Womens Club,
3732 Windsor Avenue,
Chicago 25, Illinois.

Enclosures.

Encl ✓ RH REHutchison:agr 6-17-44

War Refugee

1162

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

June, 1944

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

Dear Mr. President:

The tragic plight of refugees from Nazi oppression has caused the War Refugee Board to consider the establishment of refugee rescue camps or "free" ports in the United States, in which refugees can find temporary asylum until it becomes possible for them either to return to their homes or to settle elsewhere.

This proposal is in keeping with the most sacred right of temporary asylum for the surviving Jewish men, women and children, who can escape from Nazi terror.

In the name of the many members of my organization, I am urging your full support of this proposal so that the most miserable victims of Nazi oppression may find a place of shelter for the duration of this war.

With the expression of our everlasting admiration for your unparalleled achievements on behalf of our country and mankind, I am

Respectfully yours,

Mrs Louis Cohen
(Name of President)

Willing Worker Women Club.
(Name of Organization)

AUG 30 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3207

Dear Mr. Wilner:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of August 3, 1944, urging action to save the Jewish people of Hungary.

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

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

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

With respect to the problem of Hungarian Jews, I enclose a copy of a joint statement recently issued by the United States and British Governments which I am sure will be of interest to you.

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Norman Wilner,
1818 Avenue "L",
Brooklyn 30, New York.

EOT RHutchison: 8/21/44

3207

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

1818 Ave. L
Brooklyn 30, N.Y.
August 3, 1944

F.D. Roosevelt
the White House
Wash., D.C.

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

Dear Mr. President:

Horthy has announced that 400,000 Hungarian Jews will be spared from deportation and certain death if the United Nations will accept them and if they are allowed visas for Palestine. May I urge you, as strongly as I can, to do what you can to save these innocent people. Pressure must be brought to bear on England — more free ports must be opened. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Norman Wilner

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2989

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

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

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. E. G. Wilson,
379 E. Fifth Street,
Mount Vernon, New York.

Enclosures.

EBT

EBTowler: 7/20/44

2989

W. R. B.
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RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

Sabbath Day Point
Lake George
N.Y.
July 7, '44.

Dear Mr. President:

I have just read in the newspaper that the Nazis are exterminating the Hungarian Jews by the same brutal means by which they have exterminated all the other millions of European Jews. I beg you to do everything possible to rescue these people immediately. Could they not be exchanged for German prisoners now in this country? Won't you try this or anything other means you can think of before it is too late? We should not be satisfied with condemning the Nazis, but should make every possible effort to save their

victims.

I was very glad to read of your admission of 1,000 German refugees to this country, but think the number far too small. A country the size & wealth of ours can easily accommodate many more, & we should do so. There are many, many more who need this help. We are caring for thousands of German prisoners. Surely we can & ought to do the same for those they are persecuting.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara A. Wilson
(Mrs. C. Y.)

Home address
379 S. Fifth St.
Mt. Vernon,
N. Y.

W. R. B.
Filing Authority
To: Files
Ans.
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date
2989

In reply please
refer to: 2918

JUL 6 1944

Dear Mr. Hershman:

The President has referred to me your letter of June 27, 1944, quoting a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Isaac M. Wise Temple 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. Philip L. Hershman,
President,
The Isaac M. Wise Temple,
Reading Road and North Crescent Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Enclosures.

EOT RBH RBHutchison:agr 7-5-44

* 2918

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War Refugee Bd

June 27, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett
Secretary to the President

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

My dear Mr. President:

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Isaac M. Wise Temple held on June 15th, 1944, the following Resolution on Free Ports was adopted:

> 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 the 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 possble of those victims of Naziism otherwise marked out for wholesale slaughter in the extermination chambers of Europe. We heartily endorse the plan of "free ports" advocated by the War Refugee Board, whereby temporary haven may be provided for those who would otherwise be murdered to the last man. We agree that America can do no less for these, our allies and fellow-foes of Naziism, than we do for our enemies who, as prisoners of war, are provided with at least such temporary sojourn and security.

We appeal to the conscience of America to respond immediately to this suggestion of the War Refugee Board, and we call upon all our 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.

Respectfully yours,

Philip L. Hershman

PHILIP L. HERSHMAN, PRESIDENT
THE ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE

PLH:R