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

Executive Director

Enclosures.

Copy sent to: Mr. Goldberg.
June 41, 1945

Dear Mr. President,

Please give all your support 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.

Mrs. S. Wagner
Mr. S. Brandeis
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.
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 Waldman

2710 Ave K
Bklyn 18 N Y
June 9 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
Executive Director

Mrs. A. A. Lieberman,
President,
Temple Sisterhood,
23 North Kralov Avenue,
Chicago 24, Illinois.

Enclosures.
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: 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: What 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. J. W. Lander
Mrs. A. A. Lieberman, President.

RESPECTFULLY RECOMMEND
FOR ADOPTION
AND CONSIDERATION

[Signature]
Secretary to the President
Mrs. Sidney Simon
Mrs. A. Lifschitz
Mr. Morris Goldman
Mrs. Leo Alexander
Mrs. Fred A. Gilford
Mrs. J.B. M. Zeckendorf
Mrs. Samuel Richmond
Mrs. L. Siegel
Mrs. E. Alts
Mrs. Ida Alton
D. Kellman
3937 Adams St.

Mrs. Michelle
3937 W. Adams St.

S. Kirschner
4156 Wilcox St.

Mrs. H. Zimmerman
542 E. Jackson

Mrs. M. St. Zimmerman
4000 Washington Blvd.

Mrs. H. Allan
1706 Central Pk.

Max Jaffe — 3900 Gladys Ave

Mrs. Edward Jaffe — 1642 N. Division St.
Mrs. B. Langley
143 S. Springfield Ave
Chicago, Ill.

Mary Slavik
3323 W. Grand Ave,
Chicago, Ill.

Mrs. B. Langley
201 N. Central Ave.
Chicago.

Renee D'Angelo
616 W. Wilson Ave,
Chicago, Ill.

Roy A. Denton
1929 Humboldt Blvd
Mrs. S. Stoller
Mrs. P. Bierman
Mrs. J. Bierman
Mrs. M. Richter
Mrs. Leonard V. Solomon
Mrs. W. Goldberg
Mrs. Emmanuel M. Solomon
Mrs. H. M. Bower
Mrs. H. Goldberg
Mrs. J. F. Steinberg  
2843 Sheridan Rd.

Mrs. W. Tink  
6321 N. Jamison Ave.

Mrs. Anna Mandelblat  
2207 W.Redjic Bl.

Mrs. Harry Heiman  
6827 N. Lakewood Av.

Mrs. Harry J. Wachnick  
2300 Lincoln Pl. W.
Mrs. D. Belcher
Mrs. I. Field
Mrs. M. Sutton
Mrs. H. Simon
Mrs. B. Stock
Mrs. M. Casy
Mrs. H. Brozen
Mrs. V. Helfer
Mrs. O. Schmerow
Mrs. H. Koh
Mrs. S. Harden
Mrs. C. Nelson
Mrs. R. Koh
Mrs. A. Chamber
Mrs. M. K. Scher
Mrs. H. Hunsak
Mrs. J. B. Hunsak
Mrs. E. B. Peabody
Mrs. J. H. Inlander
Miss. Arthur Buehland
Mrs. Charles J. Kramer
Mrs. J. H. Miltenberg
Mrs. Milton D. Kahn
Mrs. George J. Gartner
Mrs. Sam Leibne

Mrs. Richard A. Leavitt
Mrs. Couric Herman
Mrs. Tillie Kahn
Mrs. Buechman
Mrs. M. Fischer
Mrs. J. Raisch
Mrs. A. Fabian
Mrs. W. Richter
Mrs. A. Treffman
Mrs. H. Peck
Mrs. M. Arpino
Mr. E. F. Benedict
Mrs. H. Ashermark
Mrs. Henry Baer
Mr. J. Barash
Mr. G. B. Solomon
Mrs. Ida White
Mrs. Celis Fisher
Mrs. Charles Kay

Mr. J. Barrett
Mrs. S. Rosenburg
Mrs. J. Fischman
Mrs. I. Vicker
Mrs. E. C. Schuster
Mrs. M. Feld
Mrs. H. Irons
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
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
Dear Mr. President,

June 6, 1941

We urge you to open free ports in the United States now.

Dincerely,

Minnie Wasserman
26 East 58th St
Brooklyn, NY
In reply please refer to: 2946

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
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
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 barbarism they are suffering.

the resolution (S. R. 297) introduced by Senator Henry M. Stille of Iowa urging the establishment of refugee 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 Waterman
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,
1611 Broadway,
New York 1, New York.

Enclosures:

Birdower:db 6/14/44
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. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Mr. Joe Kessler,
Manager,
Waterproof Garment Workers' Union,
1811 Broadway,
New York 1, New York.
May 23rd, 1944

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 admits 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 clutches 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, Manager

cc: JW Fehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Dear President Roosevelt:

As early as last September, a delegation of American labor, headed by President William Green, of the A.F.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.

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support and we respectfully urge its immediate adoption.

Sincerely yours,

WATERPROOF GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

/s/ Joe Kessler

JOE KESSLER, MANAGER

cc: JW Pehle, Director
    War Refugee Board
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

Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
In reply please refer to: 909

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,

[Signature] J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

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

EEHutchison agr 6-7-44
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 Nathins
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.

EBTowler:inp 7/20/44
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 the Jews (and we are not Jews), I am writing to urge you to allow, not one, but many thousands, that number of refugees to find temporary shelter (or even permanence) 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,

Evelle C. Watson
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.
Dear Mr. Pehle:

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

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Henry Wechsler
145 West 40th St
New York 18, N.Y.
Dear Mr. Weidenbaum:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 26, 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 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.
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
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 Port 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
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
In reply please refer to: 674

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.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President
ST LOUIS MO 1215 P 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 HIRSCHMAN AND J. W. PEHLE S WEINHAUS 5940 MCPHERSON.
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 E. Muhlenberg Street,
Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
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 W. Macpages Street,
Allentown, Pennsylvania.
May 24, 1944

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

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 Truly,

Mrs. A. Weinstock
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.
May 24, 1944

John W. Behle
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,

Mrs. A. Weinstock
John W. Rehle
Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.
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.

RE: Hutchison: agr 7-28-44
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 too late.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. & Mrs. Ch. Weintraub

1590 W. 87th St. New York, N. Y.
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. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Miss Estelle Weisberg,
1938 East 18th Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosures.
1938 E. 18th St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
June 4, 1944

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

Respectfully referred
for action, consideration
and decision.

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...
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 the opening of Palestine for all refugees. Let us make haste to give lives. Respectfully yours,

Estelle Weinberg
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.
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
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,

[Signature] J. W. Fehle

Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

Hutchison:agr 8-18-44
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
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
Executive Director

Mr. Douglas Whiteside,
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 Whitman
In reply please refer to: 3020

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
Executive Director

Mrs. C. E. Whittemore,
7 West 65th Street,

Enclosures.
To Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America.

"War Refugee Board"

Please extend refugee status approval, as well as safe haven, to those
refugees who are relocate to the U.S.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

July 15, 1944

New York, N.Y.
June 9, 1944.

Dear Mr. Rehle,

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

Respectfully yours,

Dorothea Water

No address.
Jul 17 1944

In reply please refer to: 2996

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,

Enclosures.

Jul 17 1944
503 South 46 Street
July 7, 1944

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 J. Donovan
Secretary to the President
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,

[Signature] J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

Jul 13 1944
July 10, 1944

I am entirely in favor of the free port plan. It should be carried out immediately. It seems highly ironic that we ship over from Europe large stores of non-human things. It also seems that we give our captured enemies such fair treatment but refuse to help people who are with us and helpless.

Sincerely yours,
Charles Wrenn
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 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 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. Pohle
J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Samuel Wigder,

Bradley Beach, New Jersey.

AUG 12 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
Telegram

WB4 NL

TDAP BRADLEY BEACH NJ JULY 27 1944

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

WHIT HOUSE

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
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 W. 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 Refugees 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

Honorable Richard B. Wigglesworth,
House of Representatives.

Enclosures.
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,  

[Signature]
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.
Dear Miss Wilder:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 26, 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.
Respectfully referred for acknowledgment and consideration

William J. Donovan
Secretary to the President

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

Dear Sir:

I am one of millions of Americans, specifically 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 remnants of that gifted and un...
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. 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 political 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. "No can any democratic country," says Dorothy Thompson, "solve its halves of this problem if it wishes to retain its own soul."

Yours sincerely,

Helen A. Wilder
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
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

AUG 12 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  
people as possible.

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
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.
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. Fehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
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)
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
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
Honorable Sir,

Purge you to establish “A Court For Refugees.”

Mrs. P. Willis
1525-50 St
Brooklyn 19 N.Y.
Mr. President,

I urge you to establish "Free Port for Refugees."

Mrs. P. Kelley
1525 50th St.
Washington 19, D.C.
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. Pohl

J. W. Pohl
Executive Director

Mrs. Louis Cohen,
President,
Willing Workers Women’s Club,
3732 Windsor Avenue,
Chicago 25, Illinois.

Enclosures.
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 "freeports" 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,

[Name of President]

[Name of Organization]
Dear Mr. Attorney,

On 22, 1964, the public meeting was held, the mayor said, and the discussion in the meeting was:

1. The possibility of extending the area of the city.
2. The need for new schools.
3. The need for new parks.

The meeting was well attended and many people spoke. The mayor said that he would consider all the suggestions made.

August 25, 1964, the board of education passed the following resolution:

Resolved that the funds be allocated to the projects mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle
J. V. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Norman Wilner,
1818 Avenue "L",
Brooklyn 30, New York.
August 3, 1944
Brooklyn, N.Y.

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

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
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 N. Fifth Street,
Mount Vernon, New York.

Enclosures.
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 exterminated all the other millions of European Jews. I beg you to do everything possible to save these people immediately. Could they not be exchanged for German prisoners of war in this country? Don’t you think this is any better than extermination? We should not be satisfied with condemning the Nazis, but should make every possible effort to save them.

Lake George
July 7, 1940

William J. Murray
Secretary to the President
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 of ours can easily accommodate many more, so we should do so. There are many, many more who need this help. We are caring for thousands of German prisoners. Surely we can do something for those who are persecuted.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara R. Wilson
(Mrs. E. Y.)

Home address
379 6th St.
Mr. Herren
W. Y.
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
Executive Director

Mr. Philip L. Hershman,
President,
The Isaac M. Wise Temple,
Reading Road and North Crescent Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Enclosures.
To:
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 watered 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 of 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 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.
To the President of the United States

Page 2.

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, PRESIDENT
THE ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE