Admission of Refugees to U.S. (Free Ports and Emergency Shelter)
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wolf:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wolf,
4815 - 15th Avenue,
Brooklyn 19, New York.

Enclosures.
May 6, 1944

My dear Mrs. Peter:

May God grant you the powers necessary to achieve the establishment of free ports for refugees in the U.S.A. Good luck to you in this great work.

Samuel Woz

Polly H. Woz
4815-15 Ave. Bkly, 19, N.Y.
May 6, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

We are in favor of free ports for refugees and ask you to do all in your power to facilitate the accomplishment of this project.

Samuel Wolf
4815-15 Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y.
In reply please refer to: 927

My dear Justice Wolfe:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

Honorable James H. Wolfe,
Chief Justice,
Supreme Court of the State of Utah,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have been asked by the National Refugee Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom with headquarters at 15 Claremont Avenue, New York 27, New York, to write you regarding the establishment of "free ports" for Jewish and other refugees in this country. It is urged that we cannot ask other nations to give asylum unless we offer temporary asylum ourselves.

I have some hesitancy in writing you because not only of the tremendous burdens which already lie on your shoulders but I recognize that this problem of offering temporary asylum in America for Jews and other refugees has its complications in the field of our immigration laws as well as in the emotions of a certain group of people in America. I have been very much concerned about the plight of the Jewish in Europe. I want to do everything in my power to help and yet I want to be practicable and not ask that things that are not feasible be done.

In view of what has been said above, all that I request is that if it is at all practicable to bring about the establishment of temporary camps in this country for Jewish and other refugees and if it lies within the power of the Chief Executive to do anything that will start the machinery rolling for the establishment of such "free ports", I hope you will do it.

Always with regards and best wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Wolfe
Dear Miss Wolfe:

Thank you for your recent communication 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

Miss Sheila Wolfe,
4112 - 41st Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.
Admission of only 1,000 refugees (temporary—to "Free Port") seems wholly inadequate.

Humanitarian ideals America professes should dictate expansion to embrace greater rescue plans.

Sheikh Wolfe
In reply please refer to: 978

Dear Mr. Wollman:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. George C. Wollman,
5256 N. Sydenham Street
Philadelphia 41, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
June 6, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to assure you of my whole-hearted support of the system of "free ports" for war refugees. I have just written to my Congressman (Hugh D. Scott, Jr.), urging the adoption of such a proposal.

Yours sincerely,

George C. Wollman
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Maryland Branch
328 North Charles Street, Baltimore
Telephone: Plaza 6614

July 27, 1944

J. W. Fehle
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.
Re: 617

Dear Mr. Fehle,

Thank you very much for your letter and enclosures telling of the action taken by the President for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. It is gratifying to learn of definite steps taken to rescue these people from their tragic fate.

You perhaps have seen the pamphlet "The Voice of Thy Brother's Blood" written by Mrs. Randall and distributed by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The response has been very gratifying.

We will appreciate being informed of developments in your efforts on behalf of these refugees. We will also welcome any suggestions you may have of ways in which we may help in this work.

Let me express for myself and the Women's International League appreciation for your work.

Sincerely yours,

Emily Parker Simon

Emily Parker Simon
Dear Mr. President,

I am instructed by vote of the Massachusetts Board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (United States Section) at a meeting on September 14th, to express to you their deep satisfaction that arrangements have been made and carried out to receive some thousand refugees at Oswego, New York.

They realize, however, that this action is by no means enough and beg that similar provision may be extended to additional refugees in need of such assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Lydia Cadbury
President

The Honorable Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington - D. C.
MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. William D. Hassett,
Secretary to the President.

Pursuant to your request, there is attached a draft of a reply to Miss Mary E. Woolley's letter of May 25, 1944, to the President. Miss Woolley's letter is returned herewith.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Enclosures.
Dear Miss Woolley:

The President has asked me to acknowledge
and thank you for your letter of May twenty-fifth,
concerning the matter of providing temporary asylum
in the United States for Jewish and other war refugees.

The President was very glad to receive your
views on this problem and he has requested me to send
you the enclosed copies of his cablegram of June eighth
to Ambassador Robert Murphy, in Algiers, regarding the
establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort
Ontario, Oswego, New York, his memorandum of the same
date to the heads of agencies concerned with the
execution of the plan, and a message sent to the
Congress on June 12, 1944.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Miss Mary Woolley,
"Fleur de Lys",
Westport, Essex County,
New York.

Enclosures
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1944

Respectfully referred to the
Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board for preparation of
reply for my signature.

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President
May 26, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

The proposal made by the War Refugee Board to establish "temporary refugee camps or 'free ports' for Jewish and other refugees able to escape" I am confident appeals to you. May I add my plea to the many that this recommendation may be put into effect before further escape becomes difficult.

With appreciation of your interest in this desperate human need,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary E. Woolley

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.
In reply please
refer to: 526

Dear Miss Benedict:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ruth Benedict,
Legislative Chairman,
Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom,
201 N. Rampart Boulevard,
Los Angeles 26, California.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44
In reply please refer to: 526

APR 20 1944

Dear Miss Benedict:

I have your letter of April 13, 1944, and its enclosures, concerning the War Refugee Board and urging immediate action on behalf of the persecuted minorities of Europe.

Your interest in the work of the Board is deeply appreciated, and I assure you that everything in our power will be done to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Ruth Benedict,
Legislative Chairman,
Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom,
201 N. Rampart Boulevard,
Los Angeles 26, California.
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

CALIFORNIA STATE BRANCH
Los Angeles Branch of the I. L. L., 201 W. Rampart Blvd, Zone 26

April 12, 1944

Mr. John W. Fehle
War Refugee Board
In care State Dept
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At the meeting of our executive board your fine work for the rescue of the persecuted minorities of Europe was mentioned with gratitude. We know that you feel this grave responsibility and are considering its ultimate solution. While long time programs are being worked out, would some temporary such as Samuel Grafton suggests in the clipping attached be practical. The situation is of the utmost gravity and this might cut through time-consuming red tape.

These present at this meeting, whose name appear on the second sheet herewith, all urge you to initiate this action.

Yours very truly,
(Ruth Benedict, Legislative Chairman)

Samuel Grafton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Of course, I am a little ashamed to find myself pandering to anti-refugee prejudices even to the extent of saying yes, pile the legal disabilities on them, give them no rights, store them like corn, herd them like cattle—but the need is so sharp, the time is so short, our current example to the world is so bad, that it is necessary to settle for whatever can be done.

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

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

The refugees, Jewish and other, ask only for a few hallowed acres of pleasant land in acres of pleasant land in America. They don't want to keep it. They just want to sit on it until they can go home again. They are letting us off more easily than does conscience. But if they're not even ask that we do our best for them. They plead for our worst.
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
CALIFORNIA STATE BRANCH

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Miss Emily Greene Balch
CO-CHAIRMAN
Miss Gertrude Baer

NATIONAL OFFICERS:
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Mrs. Dorothy Meaders Robinson
ORGANIZING SECRETARY
Mrs. Mildred Scott Olmsted
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Alice C. Gillett 619 N. Palm Dr - Beverly Hills
Helen L. Fleming 443 Lafayette
Helene M. Beardsley 1907 Escalpa Drive
Cornelia Underwood 1429 N. Beverly Blvd Hollywood
Marie Pautz 2428 S. Commonwealth
Sara T. Magog 10790 Western Ave.
Edith W. Wayle 810 W. 4th St. Los Angeles
Maxine Swan 3335 Bounty Club Rd. L.A.
Bradley Greene 8917 Burton Ave. L.A.
Ludmila M. Scharpe 11562 W. 27th St. L.A.
Margaret M. Banks 17940 Normandie Ave
Esther Serber 5235 Riptide Blvd, L.A.
Buell Benedict 201 W. Rampart Blvd L.A. 26
Mr. John W. Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.
In reply please
refer to: 639

Dear Miss Detzer:

Since my reply to your letter of May 4, 1944, the President has taken action for the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. I am sure you will be interested in reading the attached copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of the same date to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the plan.

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Dorothy Detzer,
National Secretary,
Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom,
1734 "F" Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44
Dear Miss Detzer:

Thank you for your letter of May 4, 1944, enclosing two resolutions adopted by your organization at its annual meeting on April 28, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Dorothy Detzer,
National Secretary,
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
1734 F Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.
Mr. John Phaley
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Phaley:

The attached resolution was passed by the Annual Meeting of the Women's International League on April 28th and I was instructed to send it to you. A copy is also being dispatched to the President.

I am also sending to you a second resolution on statelessness which was also passed by our Annual Meeting.

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy Detter
National Secretary
To - President Roosevelt

Resolution on Stateless Refugees

Millions of anti-Fascists and Jews are at present being driven from country to country - without a home, without nationality, without the right of permanent residence, without work, without identity papers.

Deprived of their former citizenship and become stateless they have found only temporary refuge.

The United States Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, assembled in Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C., April 27th-30th, 1944

URGES President Roosevelt to invite the collaboration of the Governments of all the United Nations to put an end to this intolerable situation and bring about a satisfactory solution based on the following principles:

1. Individuals and groups must be protected from being forced by decree or law to return to their former home countries or to re-accept their former citizenship against their will.

2. They ought to have the right to decide for themselves in what country they want to establish their permanent residence. All countries ought to facilitate opportunities of immigration for stateless refugees.

3. They ought to be permitted to remain where they at present are until a permanent residence has been secured either in the present country or in the one they choose to adopt.

4. Stateless refugees, awaiting the opportunity to become citizens where they are residing or elsewhere, should meanwhile have all the protection and rights ordinarily enjoyed by inhabitants of the country (apart from purely political rights such as suffrage). They and their children ought to be entitled to work and accept employment, attend educational institutions, be admitted to hospitals, receive public assistance and in general enjoy the possibility of normal living.

5. Since the process of solving postwar problems of repatriation and rehabilitation may take a long time, a uniform identity paper or passport not merely of an emergency nature but agreed on, guaranteed by valid in and signed in the name of all the United Nations should be supplied to all stateless victims of fascism and war in order that they may have at least this security.
To  The President

War Refugees Board

The Women's International League, meeting in Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C., on April 27-30, 1944, desires to express again to the President its deep and profound gratification over the establishment of the War Refugee Board, for the purpose of rescuing from occupied Europe political and religious victims of the Hitler terror marked for extermination. The splendid record of the Board in a few short months, especially in Turkey, has demonstrated what initiative, energy and creative imagination can accomplish for positive ends, even in the midst of world wide war. The League, however, sees that rescue is only the first step and that America is obliged to do her part in furnishing havens for those who are saved. We are convinced that the American people would wish to extend to the victims of Hitlerism at least the same minimum of safety and shelter which now obtains for the 184,000 Axis prisoners of war in the United States. We, therefore, would respectfully urge that the United States government initiate a quid pro quo arrangement with Great Britain whereby the United States would provide, for the duration, an equivalent number of free ports in America for an equivalent number set up by the British government.
In reply please refer to: 617

Dear Mesdames:

Since my letter of May 6, 1944, to you, 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,

[Signature]
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
Maryland Branch,
328 North Charles Street,
Baltimore 1, Maryland.

Enclosures:

ESTowler:db 6/16/44
Dear Mesdames:

I have your recent resolution concerning the work of the War Refugees Board.

The interest of your organization in the fate of these persecuted people is appreciated, and I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve the great humanitarian objectives for which it was created.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Women's International League
For Peace and Freedom,
Maryland Branch,
328 North Charles Street,
Baltimore 1, Maryland.
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Maryland Branch
328 North Charles Street, Baltimore -1
Telephone Phone 6644

Mr. William Pohle, Secretary
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Resolved that the Maryland Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, meeting in Westminster, Maryland, April 21-22, 1944, express their appreciation of the efforts that you are making to save the Jews caught in Romania and in other parts of Europe. We urge that the United States use its influence with Great Britain to set aside the White Paper and allow the immigration of Jews into Palestine. We further recommend that our government establish in this country a temporary asylum for the Jews and use its influence to have similar action taken by the governments of the Latin American countries.
In reply please
refer to: 672

Dear Miss Howard:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Belle C. Howard,
Chairman of Legislative Committee,
Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom,
207 West 98th Street,
New York, New York

Enclomares:

BBTowler;db 6/16/44
In reply please refer to: 572

MAY 19 1944

Dear Miss Howard:

Thank you for your letter of May 10, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Belle C. Howard,
Chairman of Legislative Committee,
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
207 West 98th Street,
New York, New York.
Mr. John W. Peitle
Director of War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,

The following resolution was adopted by the Manhattan Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, May 9, 1944,

Whereas, We understand there are plans for the establishment of temporary "free ports" in the United States for refugees who are barred from entrance by immigration laws,

Be It Resolved That the Manhattan Branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom urge the establishment of "free ports" immediately as a means of saving from destruction the victims of Hitlerism.

(signed) (Miss) Belle C. Howard

Chairman of Legislative Committee
In reply please refer to: 834

Dear Mrs. Rothman:

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

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

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. L. Rothman, Secretary,
Women's Club of Workmen's Circle
Branch 822,
2030 Eighth Avenue,
Oakland, California.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44
In reply please 
refer to: 834

Dear Mrs. Rothman:

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. L. Rothman,
Secretary,
Women's Club of Workman's
Circle Branch 822,
2030 Eighth Avenue,
Oakland, California.
As early as last September, a delegation of American labor, headed by President William Green, of the A. F. of L., and President Phillip Murray, of the C. I. O., submitted a memorandum to the State Department, appealing "to our Government and to the governments of the United Nations, to admit to all territories, under their control, Jewish refugees who may succeed in escaping from the Nazi hell."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. L. Rottman.
In reply please refer to: 696

Dear Mr. Rice:

Since my reply to your recent telegrams 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. Morris Rice, Chairman,
City Committee,
New Haven Workmen’s Circle Branches,
166 Fairfield Street,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44
In reply please refer to: 696

MAY 19 1944

Dear Mr. Rice:

Thank you for your telegram of May 11, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the possibility of establishing temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Morris Rice,
Chairman,
City Committee,
New Haven Women's Circle Branches,
168 Fairfield Street,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Free Ports
NEW HAVEN CONN MAY 11 1944

JOHN W PEHLE, DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

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,
APPELING "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
PERSECUTIONS OF THE FASCIST VICTIMS HAVE NOT BEEN HALTED, ACCORDING
TO RECENT REPORTS THE NAZYS 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.

(END PAGE ONE)
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" THE PRIVILEGE WE NOW ACCORD AXIS PRISONERS, A MOST PRACTICAL AND FEASIBLE ONE.

THE PLAN WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE TEMPORARY HUMAN "FREE PORTS" 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 IRRAMATICALLY TO THE WHOLE WORLD THE DOGGED DETERMINATION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN SAVING AS MANY OF THE SUFFERERS AS POSSIBLE.

MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE ADOPTION AND THE EFFECTUATION OF THE PLAN WILL HELP STAY THE BRUTAL NAZI HAND AND WILL FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE EVER GROWING RESISTANCE OF GERMAN BARBARISM.

THE PLAN HAS OUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT AND WE RESPECTFULLY URGE ITS IMMEDIATE ADOPTION.

NEW HAVEN WORKMEN'S CIRCLE BRANCHES CITY COMMITTEE MORRIS RICE CHAIRMAN 166 FAIRFIELD STREET.

601 PM
NEWHAVEN, CONN MAY 11 1944

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

WHITE HOUSE

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, SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO
THE STATE DEPARTMENT, APPELING "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 PERSECUTIONS OF THE FASCIST VICTIMS HAVE NOT
BEEN HELD. ACCORDING TO RECENT REPORTS THE NAZIS HAVE, IN
DESPERATION, INTENSIFIED THEIR BESTIAL TERROR. GRAVE DANGER
THREATENS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN TORTURED EUROPE. ONLY SWIFT
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THE POWER TO RESTORE OR SAVE THEIR LIVES.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD HAS UNDER
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HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY LEADING NEWSPAPERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
WE CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "FREE PORTS" A PRIVILEGE WE NOW ACCORD AXIS PRISONERS, A MOST PRACTICAL AND FEASIBLE ONE.

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THE PLAN HAS OUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT AND WE
RESPECTFULLY URGE ITS IMMEDIATE ADOPTION

NEW HAVEN WORKMEN'S CIRCLE BRANCHES CITY COMMITTEE MORIS
RICE, CHAIRMAN 116 FAIRFIELD ST.
In reply please
refer to: 660

Dear Sirs:

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,

[Signature]
J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Reuben Guskin, President,
Mr. Joseph Baskin, Secretary,
National Executive Committee,
Workmen's Circle,
175 East Broadway,
New York, New York.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44
In reply please refer to: 660

MAY 19 1944

Dear Sirs:

Your telegram of May 8, 1944, to the President concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees, has been referred to me.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Reuben Guskin,
President,
Joseph Baskin,
Secretary,
National Executive Committee,
Workmen's Circle,
175 East Broadway,
New York, New York.
Respectfully referred to the
War Refugee Board for consideration
and acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington
MAY 8 8 43 PM 1944

WB44 NL 6 EXTRA
WUIU NEW YORK NY MAY 8 1944

THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

SIR: IN BEHALF OF THE 72,000 MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION
AND THEIR FAMILIES WE APPEAL TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO
LEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSED PLAN THAT OUR COUNTRY
ESTABLISH FREE PORTS FOR THE VICTIMS OF NAZISM, FOR MEN
AND WOMEN WHO WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO ESPouse THE CAUSE
FOR WHICH WE ARE NOW FIGHTING AND WHO ARE AT THE PRESENT
TIME WANDERING, HOMELESS AND FRIENDLESS, IN THEIR FLIGHT
FROM THE NAZI MURDERERS. THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF
SUCH TEMPORARY PORTS WOULD MARK THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH FOR THOUSANDS OF THESE REFUGEES AND WOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO EMULATE. WITH FULL AWARENESS OF YOUR DEEP HUMANITARIANISM AND WITH THE REALIZATION THAT YOU STAND AS THE SYMBOL OF AMERICA'S TRADITION OF LIBERTY AND TOLERANCE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL PAY HEED TO AMERICAN LABOR'S APPEAL FOR FREE PORTS FOR THE HELPLESS VICTIMS OF NAZI RUTHLESSNESS.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WORKMEN'S CIRCLE
REUBEN GUSKIN, PRESIDENT, JOSEPH BASKIN, SECRETARY.
In reply please refer to: 1017

Dear Mr. Levenson:

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

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

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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Leen Levenson,
Secretary,
The Workmen's Circle,
415 South 19th Street,

Enclosures.
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President
United States of America
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

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

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

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

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

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

The plan has been viewed at the special conference of Women's Circle Branches of the Philadelphia area and was met with the most enthusiastic approval of all delegates present. The officers of the conference and the officers of the Philadelphia office of the Women's Circle District and City Organization Committee have been authorized to respectfully urge the adoption of said plan.

Respectfully yours
E. Fruchtman, Chairman

Leon Levinson
Sec'y
In reply please refer to: 883

JUN 5 1944

Dear Mr. Levenson:

Thank you for your letter of May 29, 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. Leon Levenson,
Secretary,
The Workmen's Circle,
416 South 19th Street,
Honorable John W. Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

May 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

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."

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

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

The plan has been viewed at the special conference of Workmen's Circle Branches of the Philadelphia area and was met with the most enthusiastic approval of all delegates present. The officers of the conference and the officers of the Philadelphia office of the Workmen's Circle District and City Organization Committee have been authorized to respectfully urge the adoption of said plan.

Respectfully yours,
S. Trachtman; Chairman

(signed) Leon Levenson

Leon Levenson, Sec'y.
In reply please refer to: 3137

Dear Mrs. Wright:

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. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mrs. Farnsworth Wright,
519 East 58th Street,
Seattle 5, Washington.

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

I am with you heart and soul in your new move to save the victims of Hitler’s terror in Europe. And I know that you would have not only my support, but the support of most Americans, if you could see your way clear to open additional camps in which Hitler’s victims could find temporary asylum in this country.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Farnsworth Wright
519 E. 58th Street
Seattle 5, Washington
Writers' War Board
122 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N.Y.
Telephone, Murray Hill 3-6800

June 27, 1944

Mr. J. M. Weinstein
253 Broadway, Room 801
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Here are one or two additional items which may interest you, sent in to us as follow-up on the paragraph in the Writers' War Board Report for June.

Sincerely,

Frederica Barach
Liaison Officer
Office of War Information.

Enc: Editorials by Fannie Cook
Editorial by Nathan Goodman
LETTERS

EDITOR STAR-TIMES: Many victims of Nazi persecution could be saved by the establishment of a free port for human beings. There are numerous free ports for merchandise, some in the United States. A free port has been described as "a warehouse area near a harbor where importers can bring goods and where they can store goods... until the importer has sold them and is ready to ship them into the country; and only at that time does he pay duty."

The analogy is clear. Let us establish areas where those anti-fascists the Nazis hunt can be harbored until the marked men may again return to their freed homelands. Thus without violating our immigration laws or quota system, the United States could save the lives of persecuted men and women and children.

For them it would mean salvation; for the United States it would mean valuable experience in the application of American resources to a humanitarian problem. From such experience the fate of the future probably will be shaped. We should write our congressmen that we approve the prompt establishment of a free port for the rescue of Nazi-hunted civilians.

FANNIE COOK

Other Editors' OPINIONS

Free Ports, Here And Now

The President's latest statement on refugees has cleared up much confusion about free ports. The President made it clear that he is in favor of establishing free ports for refugees in the United States as well as in other countries.

Once this whole land was a free port. Pinellas had here from the persecution and Fiume was their...
Port for Refugees Would Mean Deliverance To Them. To Us Experience in Solving Humanitarian Problem

FANNIE COOK.

Free Ports, Here And Now

The President's latest statement on refugees has cleared up much confusion about free ports. The President made it clear that he is in favor of establishing free ports for refugees in the United States as well as in other countries.

On the whole, it was a free port for refugees. The Pilgrims had no fear of English persecution and Plymouth was their free port. The Quakers followed William Penn to Pennsylvania and Philadelphia became another free port. Persecuted English Catholics poured into Maryland.

German, yes. Germans, came here in 1848 (Wendell Willkie's grandparents among them) after making an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow their tyrannical rulers. The Irish poured in all about the same time, fleeing from the starvation that gripped their island. Poles and Spaniards, Greeks and Jewish Hungarians came as refugees and made their little free ports in towns and cities all over the land.

We think that when this free port, those few acres where President Roosevelt has promised, are set aside, they will be a kind of breathing space where the world can begin to breathe and find some measure of relief. They will stand as an act of supplication to all of us who have lost something in the world of today.

The President made a kind of half promise. We are sorry to say that we have had such promises before. We have had conferences and statements about refugees over whom we have had refugees. Most of them have not been fulfilled and the rest have only been carried out in the most meager and best way.

We would like to see the President's statement translated into immediate action. Let's take a specific army camp and proclaim it to be a free port or whatever the President wants to call it.

Of course, free ports should not be established in the United States alone. There are places in India, North Africa and elsewhere that are also feasible.

The free port idea must become universal. It must constitute the beginning of an international convention for freedom of refugees. So long as there are going to be refugees, let them be taken care of under international law.

The refugees should at least enjoy the benefits of as much protection and protocol as the criminal Nazi soldiers who drove them out. As things stand, the Nazi soldier can burn the houses of a Polish farmer and if this soldier is captured and comes under our control, we feed him, clothe him and house him in good barracks and pay him 80 cents a day.

But if his victim, a Polish Jew, shows up on our doors, we demand in different kinds of visas, documents, passports. It's in this kind of nonsense that we need the free port idea and a system of international law to regulate it.

From the New York Post.
To the Editor: There is a growing demand for a free port for human beings. To many men, women, and children hunted by the Nazis, such a port would grant survival until the moment they can return in safety to their freed homelands. Doubtless such citizens would then contribute wholeheartedly to the anti-fascist character of the future and thus indirectly to the safety of the principles on which our own country is founded. The need for haven now is recognized.

The free port plan meets that need without endangering the United States since the refugees would be here only temporarily and would be kept within a limited area until their return to their own countries. No United States immigration laws or quotas would be violated. No risk of appeals taken.

FANNIE COOK.

A Free Port for Refugees

To the Editor: The Writers' War Board calls attention to the necessity for the prompt establishment of a free port for human beings if we are to rescue many men, women, and children marked by Hitler for destruction. Just as a free port for merchandise is a warehouse area where goods can be stored temporarily until arrangements for permanent transport have been completed, so a free port for human beings would be a temporary warehouse where people would be stored until the day they can return in safety to their homelands.

The free port plan meets that need without endangering the United States since the refugees would be here only temporarily and would be kept within a limited area until their return to their own countries. No United States immigration laws or quotas would be violated. No risk of appeals taken.

FANNIE COOK.

Free Ports for Refugees

In a nation which is fighting Nazi terror, cannot human life be given the same consideration that we give to things? Can we not do this in our free ports? There are many of them around the world and some right here in America. A free port is a warehouse area near a harbor where importers can bring goods and store them in bond without paying duty and without committing themselves to keep the goods. The goods remain in these free ports until the importer has sold them and is ready to send them into the country; and only at that time does he pay duty.

Why not free ports for refugees? Let it be understood that these people are here temporarily until such time as they can be returned to their freed homelands. It doesn't seem much for us to do. It's merely giving a place where an exhausted enemy of Germany can rest, can eat again, can give birth to a child. As we say, it isn't much for us, but it can mean the difference between heaven and hell to thousands upon thousands of the most desperately endangered human beings in all the world. Does not such a scheme deserve the support of democratic peoples?

Nathan G. Goodman

Philadelphia.
In reply please refer to: 743

MAY 29 1944

Dear Mrs. Wurzel:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 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

Mrs. M. L. Wurzel,
420 South 47th Street,

Free Ports
Phila 7/12/44

Mr. John Steele

I would like you to support the President of the United States on your free post for refugees here in the United States to save the victims from Naziism.

Thanking you

Very truly yours,

Mrs. M. L. Bingle

4/20 & 47
Dear Mrs. Nurnel:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph Nurnel,
Garden Court Apts.,

Free Ports
How John Beale

Would appreciate very much if you would support the President or W. S. on the establishment of a free port for refugees here in United States to save the victims from Nazi terror.

Sincerely,
Your truly,
John Beale
In reply please
refer to: 1396

Dear Mr. Levin:

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

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 9, 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. Louis Levin,
Chairman,
Yanowitz Aid Society, Inc.,
521 Hopkinson Avenue,
Brooklyn 77, New York.

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

Dear Mr. President:

We, the members of the Yanowitz Aid Society, patriotic American citizens whose good fortune it is to live under the Stars and Stripes, appeal to you to use your good offices to establish free ports in our land and wherever possible for the tortured, innocent victims of Nazi brutality.

Our land was based and prospered as a haven for the oppressed and persecuted. At the foundation of our Statue of Liberty is inscribed the words of the great American poetess, Emma Lazarus:

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

We end this resolution wishing you a long and happy life for the welfare of mankind.

Respectfully yours,

Louis Levin
Louis Levin
Chairman

Elias Barmasel
Secretary
In reply please refer to: 973

Dear Mr. Yanus:

Thank you for your letter of June 7, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Hyman Yanus,
2915 Aramingo Avenue,

Enclosures.
2915 Aramingo
Phila. 34 Pa.

June 7, 1918

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

My dear Mr. Pehle,

I am vitally interested in the establishment of "free ports" in the United States for refugees from the stricken lands of Europe. I understand that proposals regarding these ports are now being discussed in Congress.

Permit me, Mr. Pehle, to respectfully request you to urge the initiators of these proposals and their co-workers to act favorably upon them.

Permit me to thank you for all your work and efforts on behalf of war refugees. I wish you all good wishes.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

[Handwritten address]
Hyoan Yanus,
2915 Aramingo Ave.,
Phila., 34, Pa.

John W. Pahl, Esquire,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington,
D.C.
Dear Mr. Yarmolinsky:

The President has referred to me your letter of July 16, 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 3, 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. Avraham Yarmolinsky,
300 West 108th Street,

Enclosures.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt
Washington
Dear President Roosevelt:

I write to petition you to establish temporary Rescue Camps in these States for the Jewish victims of Nazi terror; also to urge our Allies to take similar action; finally to convey to the British Government the desire of the American people that the gates of Palestine be kept open for the unrestricted entry of the Jews fleeing from Nazi persecution.

Faithfully yours,

Avraham Yarmolinsky
In reply please refer to: 3261

Dear Mr. Yeager:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your recent letter concerning the plight of the European Jews.

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 taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees are being cared for until they can be returned to their homelands at the end of the war. Arrangements also have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Free Port

Mr. D. Richard Yeager,
c/o First Presbyterian Church,
115 East Fifth Street,
Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

AUG 23 1944

[Handwritten note: "RB Hutchison: agr 8-18-44"]
The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Mr. President,

I have been deeply disturbed by the condition of the European Jews. Is there any way that their physical suffering could be alleviated by supervised food and clothing shipments? Also, what of the possibility of altering immigration laws so that temporary asylum could be granted to numbers of them.

With sincere personal regards, I am

Most cordially yours,

G. Richard Yoder
Dear Mrs. Yellin:

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

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Samuel Yellin,
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania.

Free Ports
Wynnewood, Pa.

Hon. John W. Peake:

Dear Sir,

The idea of a Free Port for Refugees that have escaped Nazi tyranny is an excellent one. I hope that the Government will approve this most noteworthy plan.

Truly yours,

Mrs. Samuel Peake.
In reply please refer to: 2908

Dear Mr. Kramer:

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,

[Signature] J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. Harold Kramer,
President,
Young Israel Synagogue of Boro Park,
1363 Fiftieth Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

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

Honored Sir,

We are an organization of 600 orthodox Jews, of whom 105 are in the Armed Forces.

We appreciate the fact that a thousand refugees have been given shelter in this country, but this is only one step forward. There remain many, many thousands of people seeking relief from Nazi and Facist terror. Won't you please extend your efforts to open up more shelters for these harassed unfortunates?

Very Respectfully Yours,

Harold Kramer
PRESIDENT
In reply please refer to: 1111

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Thank you for your letters of June 1, 1944, to the President and to me, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Harold Kramer,
President,
Young Israel Synagogue of Boro Park,
1363 Fiftieth Street,
Brooklyn, New York.

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

Honored Sir:

We, an organization of 600 members (105 in the Armed Forces), feel that the establishment of Free Ports would do an immeasurably great service to those being pursued by the Nazi beast.

Won't you please exert your good offices to the end that these Free Ports may be opened.

We are grateful for your good work.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

HAROLD KRAMER  
PRESIDENT

HK:CR
June 1st, 1944

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

Honored Sir:

We, an organization of 600 members (105 in the Armed Forces), feel that the establishment of Free Ports would do an immeasurably great service to those being pursued by the Nazi beast.

Won't you please exert your good offices to the end that these Free Ports may be opened.

We are grateful for your good work.

Respectfully yours,

YOUNG ISRAEL OF BORO PARK

/s/ Harold Kramer

HAROLD KRAMER
PRESIDENT
In reply please refer to: 1021

Dear Miss Youngman:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss L. Youngman,
5909 Washington Avenue,
Philadelphia 43, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
Philadelphia
June 7, 1944

My dear Mr. President:

May I urge your earnest consideration of a free port for war refugees in America?

With my highest esteem, and with God's blessing upon you,

Very sincerely,

(Miss) L. Youngman

5909 Washington Ave., 43
Dear Mr. Coxhead:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 14, 1944, concerning the establishment of the War Refugee Board and 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 replying to your inquiry concerning the necessity for altering the immigration laws in order to admit Jewish refugees from Europe, it is necessary to distinguish between persons entering this country under the regular immigration procedure, and those given only temporary asylum in this country as refugees. The former include persons admitted on a permanent basis who acquire the rights and privileges of legal immigrants and persons admitted for limited periods under temporary visas; both of these groups are subject to applicable provisions of our immigration statutes.

In connection with the recently announced plan to give 1,000 refugees a temporary haven in this country, I am enclosing copies of the President's message to Congress on June 12, 1944, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the plan. You will note that these refugees will be brought to the United States outside the regular immigration procedure, under
arrangements similar to those by which civilian internees from Latin America and prisoners of war have been brought here. They will be placed in the Emergency Refugees Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, under appropriate security restrictions and will be returned to their homelands upon the termination 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,

(Wilson) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. W. O. Coxhead,
Executive Secretary,
Young Men's Christian Association,
St. Petersburg, Florida.

Enclosures.
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

"— a world-wide fellowship of men and boys united by common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of building Christian personality and a Christian Society."

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DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSIDERATION

WILLIAM D. BUCK
Secretary to the President
July 14, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

I am deeply stirred by the plight of the Jews in Europe who may still become victims of Nazi barbarity, and am vitally interested in the effective cooperation of our Government in facilitating the escape from starvation and death of as many of them as possible. The setting up of the War Refugee Board is heartening. It is to be hoped that it is fully implemented to deal with the situation, and functioning.

Do our immigration laws require altering, or can Jewish refugees from European countries be admitted on the regular quota basis for each country from which they come?

I feel sure that you must be interested in doing everything humanly possible to rescue these unfortunate people. I trust that you will not miss this great opportunity which finds you in such a strategic position to help.

Sincerely yours,

W. G. Coxhead
Executive Secretary

LET'S COMPLETE YMCA BUILDING FUND—APRIL 24 - MAY 4
(WORLD-WIDE YMCA MOVEMENT ENTERS ITS SECOND CENTURY OF WORK JUNE 6, 1944)
Dear Mr. Zabransky:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob O. Zabransky,
1501 Broadway,
New York 18, New York.

Enclosures.
June 30, 1944

Honored Sir,

We appreciate the fact that a thousand refugees have been given shelter in this country, but this is only one step forward. There remain many, many thousands of people seeking relief from Nazi and Fascist terror.

Won't you please extend your efforts to open up more shelters for these harassed unfortunates?

Very truly yours,

Jacob Zabronsky

Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D.C.
Dear Miss Zatlyn:

The President has referred to me your communication of recent date 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 Vera F. Zatlyn,
4730 Pine Street,

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

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to advocate the establishment of a Free Port in this country as a temporary haven for War Refugees.

Respectfully,

Vera F. Haflag
4730 Pine St., Phila., Pa.
Dear Mr. Zelechower:

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,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Maurice Zelechower,
Hotel Herald,
San Francisco, California.
Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
White House, Washington, D. C.

Honorable President:

I, as a citizen of this United States of America, wish to thank you for your humanitarian action in behalf of the persecuted minorities in Europe.

On June 12 you delivered a plea to Congress, excerpt from which I shall quote:

"To us, the unprovoked murder of innocent people simply because of race, religion or political creed is the blackest of all possible crimes. As the hour of the final defeat of the Hitlerite forces draws closer, the fury of their insane desire to wipe out the Jewish race in Europe continues undiminished. This is but one example: many Christian groups also are being murdered."

I am with you heart and soul in your new move to save the victims of Hitler's terror in Europe. And I know that you would have not only my support, but the support of most Americans, if you could see your way clear to open additional camps in which Hitler's victims could find temporary asylum in this country.

On May 21, 1940, I wrote you from San Francisco, California, and pleaded with you to accept a third term as President of this United States, and I again plead with you at this time that you accept a Fourth Term as President of this United States - we want you -- and we need you more than ever before!

While reading a newspaper this morning I was amused to read that Mrs. James A. Farley declared that she will vote Republican. To this I must say - that I am Republican but will vote Democratic, which will offset the loss of one vote.
May I add that my son, Richard Zelechower, entered the U. S. Navy as 3d Class Pharmacist's Mate and was stationed somewhere in the South Pacific, and after two years he came home on leave with a rating as 1st Class Pharmacist's Mate. He is now stationed at the U. S. Naval Air Station at Santa Ana, California.

I remain with kindest wishes for your success and with confidence that you will save the persecuted minorities of Europe from the scourge of Totalitarianism,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice Zelechower
Hotel Herald
San Francisco, California.
Dear Mr. Zelenko:

The President has referred to me your communication of July 23, 1944, concerning the establishment of temporary havens in the United States for refugees.

I am sure you will be glad to know of the President's action in establishing an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. Copies of his recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 9, 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. Morris Zelenko,
17560 Wisconsin,
Detroit, Michigan.

Enclosures.

AUG 12 1944
From ZELL'S DEPT STORE
1480 GRATIOT AVE. — Opposite MARKET
DETOIT, MICHIGAN

To: President Roosevelt

Please take immediate action together
with other Allied Powers to
save Jews in Europe by
establishing rescue Camps.

Sincerely,

Maria Zelesnik
17560 Waconia
Detroit, Mich.
In reply please refer to: 2861

JUL 21 1944

Dear Mr. Zibman:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Hirsch Zibman,
2629 West Girard Avenue,
Philadelphia 30, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
June 13, 1944  

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

W. R. Bond  
Secretary to the President  

Dear Mr. President:

I have read a partial text of your message to Congress on the plight of minorities in Europe. Many more and vigorous steps must be taken to assure temporary asylum for Hitler's victims. We are engaged in a democratic war. Surely there can be no better way of demonstrating that we mean what we say than by practice. We cannot ask other countries to take certain measures while we refrain from such action. If the Fascist Franco, who is under the thumb of Hitler, can give temporary refuge to some of those fortunate enough to escape, certainly a free and democratic America can, at least do likewise even in the face of some opposition from those low enough to make political capital of such a move.

I and many others whole-heartedly support you in such action.

Respectfully yours,

Hirsch Zibman

Hirsch Zibman  
2629 W. Girard Ave  
Phila., 30, Pa.
In reply please refer to: 949

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ziegler:

Thank you for 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

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Ziegler,
Marion Court,
13th & Nedro Streets,

Enclosures.
June 6, 1944

Dear Sir:

We are vitally interested in the establishment of “free ports” in the U.S. for refugees from stricken lands in Europe. We understand that proposals regarding these ports are now being discussed in Congress, and we sincerely urge you to speak favorably on them.

Sincerely,

Fanny Ziegler

Israel Ziegler
In reply please refer to: 803

MAY 29 1944

Dear Miss Zimmerman:

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

Your interest in this problem is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss Shirley S. Zimmerman,
4634 Walnut Street,

Free Vorts
Dear John W. Pbole
Executive Director
New Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing this to express my desire for a free spot in America. I am sure that you will do all in your power to accomplish this.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

784 Walnut St.
Phila. 39 Pa.
Dear Mr. Treiman:

Thank you for your resolution dated June 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.

The concern of your organization 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. William Treiman,
President,
6100 N. 10th Street,
Philadelphia 41, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

June 10th, 1944

Be it resolved that we, Brandeis Mens Group, of Zionists Organization of America, consisting of 56 members at a meeting held June 8th, 1944, urge the President and his War Refugee Board to give serious consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for Refugees in the United States for the duration. The establishment of such Free Ports would translate into action the humanitarian desire of the American People to save as many victims of Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

William Treiman, President
Benj. Feldman, Sec'y.
Philadelphia 41, Pa.
June 10th, 1944

Be it resolved that we, Brandeis Mens Group, of
Zionist Organization of America, consisting of 56 members,
at a meeting held June 8th, 1944, urge the President of the
United States and his War Refugee Board to give serious
consideration to the proposal to establish Free Ports for
Refugees in the United States for the duration. The establish-
ment of such Free Ports would translate into action the
humanitarian desire of the American people to save as many
victims of the Nazi brutality as can still be saved.

William Treiman, President
Benj. Feldman, Sec'y.