

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

General- W-Z

Folder 2: W-Z

In reply please
refer to: 959

JUN 14 1944

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.

EST ✓ EBTowler:inp 6/13/44

959

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

May 6, 1944

My dear Mr. Fehle:

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 Wogor

Pally Wogor

4815-15 Ave. Bklyn 19, N.Y.

X 1067

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

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
Paley Wolf
4815-15 Ave. Bklyn, 19, N.Y.

JUN 14 1944

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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

Edw. R. B. RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

*was
Spiegel
Hand*

SUPREME COURT
STATE OF UTAH
SALT LAKE CITY

JAMES H. WOLFE
CHIEF JUSTICE

May 29, 1944

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

*ackd
6/3/44
Hans*

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR CONSIDERATION
William D. Harell
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

In reply please
refer to: 2620

JUL 26 1944

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.

R3K
RHutchison:inp J&L/25/44

2620

W. R. B. _____

Filing Authority _____

To: Files _____

Ans. _____

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

ADMISSION OF ONLY

1000 REFUGEES

(TEMPORARY — TO "FREE
PORT") SEEMS WHOLLY
INADEQUATE.

HUMANITARIAN IDEALS

AMERICA PROFESSES

SHOULD DICTATE

EXPANSION TO EMBRACE

GREATER RESCUE PLANS.

SHEILA WOLFE

JUN 14 1944

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 Presi-
dent'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.

EST ✓ RBH
RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

978

5256 S. Sydenham St.

Philadelphia 41 W. R. B.

June 6, 1944

Filing Authority

To: Files

Ans. _____

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

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

3143

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Maryland Branch

328 North Charles Street, Baltimore

Telephone: Plaza 6614

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

July 27, 1944

J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.
Re - 617

Dear Mr. Pehle,

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

EPS:gm

3351

3
Way
Refuge
Bd.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM. R. B. _____

MASSACHUSETTS BRANCH

14 BEACON STREET, ROOM 607 BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS
TELEPHONE CAPITOL 2319



Filing Authority _____

To: Files _____

Ans. _____

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

MRS. DOROTHY MEDDERS ROBINSON
National President

RECEIVED September 20, 1944

FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Haskell

Secretary to the President

HONORARY PRESIDENT
MRS. MARTHA HELEN ELLIOTT

STATE PRESIDENT
MRS. HENRY J. CADBURY

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MISS ZARA DUPONT
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MRS. KUND FRANCKE
DR. ALICE HAMILTON
MRS. RALPH S. HARLOW
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MISS ALICE MARION HOLMES
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MRS. J. B. JAMIESON, JR.
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MRS. JOHN H. KIMBALL
MRS. GRACE T. LOPALUS
MRS. JAMES MACKAYE
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MRS. SAMUEL MARKELL
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MRS. ALEXANDER RAMER
MRS. GEORGE E. ROEWER
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MISS JOSEPHINE SANBORN
MRS. CALEB SMITH
MRS. SHERMAN R. THAYER
MRS. HENRY TOLMAN, JR.
MISS MARIAN DE C. WARD
MRS. HENRY A. WHITMARSH
MRS. ANDREW N. WINSLOW
MISS MARY E. WOOLLEY

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 C. Cadbury
Lydia Cadbury
President

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

89b

JUN 13 1944

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.

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

DRAFT

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. Hassett
WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

RECORDED
MAY 30 1944
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

JUN 2 53

896

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

May 28, 1944

COPY

MARY WOOLLEY
"TELETYPE LISA"
WESTPORT, ESSEX COUNTY
NEW YORK

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.

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
MAY 29 1944

MAY 29 1944

JUN 19 1944

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

Ebt ✓

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.

EBT RBHutchison:agr 4-18-44

JWA

526



FOUNDED IN 1915
Jane Addams First International President

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

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

CALIFORNIA STATE BRANCH
Los Angeles Branch of the W. I. L., 201 N. Rampart Blvd, Zone 26
April 12, 1944

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Miss Gertrude Baer

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REFUGEES
Miss Mary Halliday
NOMINATING
Dr. Bertha Monroe
JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL
Mrs. Mabel Wing C.

Mr. John W. Pehle
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 longtime 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. Those present at this meeting, whose name appear on the second sheet herewith all urge you to initiate this action.

Yours very truly,

Ruth Benedict
(Miss) 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 transshipment to other countries, or for temporary storage. Such goods may even be processed while they are in the "free port"; manufacturing operations can, and are, carried out on them. Or the goods may just sit there for a while, giving their owner time to brood.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Of course, I am a little ashamed to find myself pandering to anti-refugee prejudices even to the extent of saying 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 acres in which, without creating legal or political problems, a baby can drink a glass of that strange white stuff which an older European generation knew as milk.

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

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

BOARD
D.C.
M D 50



FOUNDED IN 1915

Jane Addams First International President

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

CALIFORNIA STATE BRANCH

INTERNATIONAL:

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Miss Emily Greene Balch
CO-CHAIRMAN
Miss Gertrude Baer

Alice Gilbert 619 N. Palm St - Berkeley Calif

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Mrs. Dorothy Madders Robinson
ORGANIZING SECRETARY
Mrs. Mildred Scott Olmsted
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Miss Dorothy Detzer

Helen L Fleming 443 N Lafayette

Helen M. Beardsley 1907 Escarp Drive

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Marie Pautz 242 S. Commonwealth - Los Angeles

Sara T Macgregor 10790 Weyburn Ave.

Eli W. Wolfe 810 1/2 W 4th St - Los Angeles 36

Jack Levin 3335 Bounty Club Dr. L.A. 6.

Gladys Greene 8917 Burton Way L.A. 36-

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Esther Gerber 5230 Rampart Blvd L.A. 5

Ruth Benedict 201 N. Rampart Blvd L.A. 26

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Miss Myrtle Mills
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Mrs. Helen Marston Beardsley
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Mrs. Marie Pautz
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Mrs. J. C. McGiffert
REFUGEES
Miss Mary Halliday
NOMINATING
Dr. Bertha Monroe
JANE ADDAMS MEMORIAL FUND
Mrs. Mabel Wing Castle

MEMO
MAY 1944

AFTER 5 DAYS, RETURN TO

Benedict
201 N. Rampart Blvd
Los Angeles 26

Mr. John W. Pehle, Director

War Refugee Board

~~State Department~~

Washington, D. C.

Treasury Dept.



JUN 19 1944

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 "P" Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44

EBT

In reply please
refer to: 639

MAY 10 1944

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.

O.K. Free Parts

EBB Hutchison:agr 5-8-44

JW

x 639

W. R. O.
 Working Authority

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

U. S. Section, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1734 F Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
Metropolitan 3807

May 4, 1944

798 Files
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

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 Detzer
National Secretary

DD gp
Encl.

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C.



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 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.

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 10 1944

To The President

War Refugee 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.

RECEIVED
MAY 2 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

JUN 19 1944

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,

(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.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44

EAT

In reply please
refer to: 617

MAY 6 1944

Dear Mesdames:

I have your recent resolution concerning
the work of the War Refugee 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.

O.K. Free Ports

EDT

RBHutchison:agr 5-2-44

JA ✓

617

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Maryland Branch

328 North Charles Street, Baltimore -1

Telephone Plaza 6614

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files _____
Ans. 5/6/44 _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Mr. William Fehle, 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 Romenia 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 esylum for the Jews and use its influence to have similar action taken by the governments of the Latin American countries.

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1944
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

SECRET
NO FORN DISSEM

JUN 19 1944

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

Enclosures:

ESTowler:db 6/16/44

EST ✓

In reply please
refer to: 672

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.

EST
RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44 JSD -

672

~~CONTROL COPY~~

207 W. 98 Street
New York, N. Y.,
May 10, 1944

To: Files
Ans. May 19 44
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

Mr. John W. Penle
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

RECEIVED
MAY 11 1944
D. C.

Letter for
to be kept in
file

JUN 19 1944

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:

ESTowler:db 6/16/44

EST ✓

In reply please
refer to: 834

JUN 3 1944

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.

REFER TO: 834
BY: 1207A bresser

834

W. R. D. _____
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To: Files _____
Ans. JUN 8 1944
No. Ans. Req. _____
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Date _____

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

Moreover, we believe that the adoption and the execution 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. Rothman



RECEIVED
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
JUN 11 1944
U.S. WAR DEPT.

JUN 19 1944

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 Workmens Circle Branches,
166 Fairfield Street,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Enclosures:

EBTowler:db 6/16/44

EBT ✓

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Morris Rice,
Chairman,
City Committee,
New Haven Workmens Circle Branches,
166 Fairfield Street,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Free Post

EBT RBH RBH tchison:agr 5-16-44 J&J ✓

WU50 NL

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, 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 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)

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To: Files
Ans. May 19 1944
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The White House
Washington

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Ans. *May 19-44*
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

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MAY 11 6 10 PM 1944

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NEWHAVEN CONN MAY 11 1944

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ✓ D

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, 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 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 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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE DOCUMENT IS
SEEKING TO ACCORDING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
THE DIFFERENCE WHO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IN RECENT
OF DISCUSS THE GERMAN POLICE ARE IN RECENT

WE CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "FREE PORTS" A
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 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.

MORE OVER, BELIEVE THAT THE ADOPTION AND THE EFFECT
OF THE PLAN WILL HELP STAY THE BRUTAL NAZI HAND AND WILL FURTHER

REVUELE ONE
BRITISH WE WON ACCORD WITH
WE CONSIDER THE EQUIPMENT CA AREA

ENCOURAGE THE EVER GROWING RESISTANCE OF GERMAN BARBARISM.

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

NEW HAVEN WORKMENS CIRCLE BRANCHES CITY COMMITTEE MORIS
RICE CHAIRMAN 116 FAIRFIELD ST.

1942 MAR 12 1 53
RECEIVED

JUN 19 1944

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,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
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

EBT ✓

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.

Free Post

EST RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-15-44 JH -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 9, 1944

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

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

1944 MAY 11 10 32

WASHINGTON D.C.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
RECEIVED

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The White House
Washington

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To: Files _____
Ans. *Bond* _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

War Ref

WB44 NL 6 EXTRA

WUIU NEWYORK 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 NAZIISM, 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

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RECEIVED
MAY 8 1944
D.C.

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.

JUN 11 11 AM '32

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1932

In reply please
refer to: 1017

JUN 15 1944

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Leon Levenson,
Secretary,
The Workmen's Circle,
415 South 19th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

ESTV RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-14-44

1017

Telephone, PENNYPACKER 2967

*Wanted
Refugee Board*

The WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

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Arbeiter



Replied

W. R. B. _____

Filing Authority _____

To: Files _____

Ans. _____

No. Ans. Req. _____

Initial _____

Date _____

Philadelphia City and District Committee

Office: 415 South 19th Street

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

May 29, 1944

William J. Kurell

Secretary to the President

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

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

The plan has 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

Leon Levenson
Leon Levenson, Sec'y

BT

1942 8 11 43
RECEIVED
AUG 11 1943

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.
415 South 19th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

ECT RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-3-44 Jcf -

THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

CONTROL COPY

Office: 415 South 19th Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

W. R. G. Filing Authority
To: File JUN 5 1944
Ans. Street
No. Ans. Req.
Initial
Date

May 29, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Penle:

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.

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

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

CONTROL COPY

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.

BTL

AUG 12 1944

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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

EBT ✓
Hutchison:agr 8-2-44

War
Refugee
Board

July 19, 1944

3137

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William J. Farrell
Secretary to the President

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

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

Free Post

WRITERS' WAR BOARD

122 EAST 42ND STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Telephone, Murray Hill 3-6800

REX STOUT, *Chairman*
FRANKLIN P. ADAMS
CARL CARMER
RUSSEL CROUSE
CLIFTON FADIMAN
PAUL GALLICO
JACK GOODMAN
SAMUEL GRAFTON
ALAN GREEN
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN, 2nd
RITA HALL KLEEMAN
CHRISTOPHER LA FARGE
ROBERT J. LANDRY
MARGARET LEECH
JOHN P. MARQUAND
HOBE MORRISON
JEAN ELLIS POLETTI
KATHARINE SEYMOUR
WILLIAM L. SHIRER
LUISE SILCOX
FREDERICA BARACH,
Executive Secretary

Advisory Council

LOUIS ADAMIC
FREDERICK LEWIS ALLEN
FAITH BALDWIN
MARGARET CULKIN BANNING
WILLIAM ROSS BENÉT
ROARK BRADFORD
LOUIS BROMFIELD
VAN WYCK BROOKS
Cecil BROWN
KATHARINE BRUSH
SIDNEY BUCHMAN
PEARL S. BUCK
HENRY SEIDEL CANBY
MARY ELLEN CHASE
MARC CONNELLY
NORMAN CORWIN
GEORGE CREEL
RUSSELL DAVENPORT
WALTER DAVENPORT
BERNARD DeVOTO
WALTER D. EDMONDS
EDNA FERBER
DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
COREY FORD
ROSE FRANKEN
LEWIS GANNETT
JOHN GUNTHER
LANGSTON HUGHES
FANNIE HURST
MARQUIS JAMES
OWEN JOHNSON
MACKINLAY KANTOR
GEORGE S. KAUFMAN
JOHN KERRAN
MANUEL KOMROFF
JOSEPH WOOD KAUTCH
HOWARD LINDSAY
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY
EDWARD R. MURROW
ROBERT NATHAN
ALLAN NEVINS
CLIFFORD OBETS
EUGENE O'NEILL
ROE OTTLEY
DONALD CULROSS PRATTIE
FLETCHER PRATT
HENRY PRINGLE
MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS
QUENTIN REYNOLDS
ELMER RICE
MARY ROBERTS RINHART
KENNETH ROBERTS
ROBERT ST. JOHN
JOHN STEINBECK
DONALD OGDEN STEWART
FRANK SULLIVAN
DOROTHY THOMPSON
SOPHIE KEER UNDERWOOD
CARL VAN DOREN
MARK VAN DOREN
WALTER WHITE
WILLIAM L. WHITE
MARGARET WIDEMER
THORNTON WILDER

June 27, 1944

Mr. I. 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
Frederica Barach
Liaison Officer
Office of War Information.

FB:hr.

Enc: Editorials by Fannie Cook,
Editorial by Nathan Goodman

St. Louis Star-Times June 6, 1944

D Day



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 . . . without committing themselves to keep the goods . . . until the importer has sold them and is ready to send 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 resourcefulness to a humanitarian problem. From such experience the best 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 for refugees. The pilgrims fled here from Spanish persecution and Weymouth was their first port. The Quakers followed William Penn to Philadelphia and the Quakers followed him to the Quaker meeting in 1681.

LETTERS

Ports For Refugees Would Mean Deliverance To Them To Us Experience In Solving Humanitarian Problem

EDITOR STAR-TIMER: 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 . . . without committing themselves to keep the goods . . . until the importer has sold them and is ready to send 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

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FANNIE COOK.

Other Editors' OPINIONS

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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 for refugees. The Pilgrims fled here from 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.

Germans, 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 at about the same time, fleeing from the starvation that gripped their island. Poles and Spaniards, Czechs and French Huguenots 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 that President Roosevelt has promised, are set aside, they will be a kind of monument to show Americans how this country grew and to show the world that we have not forgotten our tradition. They will stand as our soul to remind us of our heritage, almost like the last buffalo. True, the residence of the free port area will not be permanent, or legal residence. But we shall have saved their lives, and that is something.

This does not mean that President Roosevelt has come out flatly for the plan. His objection to the phrase "free ports" to describe these havens is of no great consequence. But what is important is that again his statement was conditional, indefinite. The check is still undated and we don't even know what the amount is.

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 ever since we have had refugees. Most of them have not been fulfilled and the rest have only been carried out in the meagrest and barest 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 Sicily, 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 house 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 at our doors, we demand 18 different kinds of visas, documents, passports.

It's to stop this kind of nonsense that we need the free port idea and a system of international law to regularize it.

From the New York Post.

RE-TIN

Need for Free Port
 To the Editor: *St. L. Post-Dispatch*
 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 spying is taken.
 FANNIE COOK
 400 Purdue. *St. Louis*
June 6, 1944

A Free Port for Refugees
 To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:
 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 temporary character of the port would keep our immigration laws and quota system intact, and the very establishment of the port would once more announce our country as humanitarian in intent, resourceful in deed. It would seem a symbol of the better future we hope to build. The project is worthy of letters to Congressmen.
 FANNIE COOK
St. L. Post-Dispatch June 6, 1944

Evening Bulletin
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.
6-10-44

In reply please
refer to: 743

MAY 29 1944

Dear Mrs. Wursel:

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. Wursel,
420 South 47th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Free Post

EDP

RBHutchison:agr 5-24-44

JW -

743

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

Phila 5/16/44
Hon John Pehle 7H
Would like you to
support the President of the
United States on the free
port for refugees here in
United States to save the
victims from Nazistors.
Thanking you
Very truly yours
Mrs M L Hargel
420 S 47

sample shows of
file 104 74327

MAY 20 1944

In reply please
refer to: 757

Dear Mrs. Wursel:

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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph Wursel,
Garden Court Apts.,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Free Post

737

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. 5/30/44 _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Phila 5/16/44
Hon John Pehle

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

Thanking you
Very truly yours
Garden Court 44 W 30 St New York

JUN 24 1944

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 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Louis Levin,
Chairman,
Yanowitz Aid Society, Inc.,
531 Hopkinson Avenue,
Brooklyn 77, New York.

Enclosures.

EST ✓ RBH
RBHutchison:agr 6-20-44

10 ↓
War Refugee Bd.

1396

YANOWITZ AID SOCIETY, INC.
521 Hopkinson Avenue
Brooklyn 77, N.Y.

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

REPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William E. ...
Secretary to the President

June 7, 1944

Hon. 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

JUN 17 1944

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Hyman Yanus,
2915 Aramingo Avenue,
Philadelphia, 34, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EDT RBH RBHutchison: 6/16/44

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

2915 Aramingo
 Phila. Pa.
 June 7, 1944

John W. Pehle Esquire
 Executive Director
 War Refugee Board
 Washington, DC

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 striving on behalf of War
 Refugees. I wish you and yours good wishes.

Respectfully yours,
 Hyman Janis

Hyman Yanus,
2915 Aramingo Ave.,
Phila., 34, Pa.



John W. Pehle, Esquire,

Executive Director,

War Refugee Board,

Washington,

D.C.

In reply please
refer to: 3040

JUL 25 1944

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 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Avrahn Yarmolinsky,
300 West 108th Street,
New York 25, New York.

Enclosures.

RBB Hutchison:agr 7-24-44

3040

AVRAHM YARMOLINSKY
300 WEST 108 STREET
NEW YORK 25, N. Y.

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Barrett
Secretary to the President

July 16, 1944

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

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
keep open for the unrestricted entry of the Jews
fleeing from Nazi persecution.

Faithfully yours,

Avrahm Yarmolinsky

*1-
won
Refugee Board*

AUG 23 1944

In reply please
refer to: 3251

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 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 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. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Free Parts

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

EWST *RBH*
RBHutchison:agr 8-18-44 *RBH*

Refugee Board.

3251

First Presbyterian Church

OFFICE 115 EAST FIFTH STREET
PHONE 1871
BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA

G. RAYMOND CAMPBELL
MINISTER

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority
To: Files 8/28/44
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

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

RECEIVED BY REGISTER
FOR A _____
AND COUNTERSIGNATURE
Walter D. White
Secretary to the President

Honorable Mr. President,
I have been deeply disturbed by the conditions 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,
D. Richard Yager

In reply please
refer to: 757

MAY 23 1944

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 Post

757

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. 9/29/44 _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Wynnewood, Pa.

Hon. John W. Pehle:-

Dear Sir:-

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

Sincerely yours,
Mrs Samuel Miller

In reply please
refer to: 2908

JUL 24 1944

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,

(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.

REB
EBTowler:inp 7/21/44 JdJ ✓

5
Mr
Refugee
Board



- HAROLD KRAMER
PRESIDENT
- ARTHUR H. MATLIN
VICE-PRESIDENT
- BERNARD BERMAN
TREASURER
- SIDNEY DRESSLER
RECORDING SECRETARY
- CHARLOTTE ROSCH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

YOUNG ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE OF BORO PARK

1363 FIFTIETH STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
▲ ▲ WINDSOR 8-1411 ▲ ▲

June 28, 1944

W.P. PARK
Filing Authority

To: Files _____
 Ans. _____
 No. Ans. Req. _____
 Initial _____
 Date _____

PLEASE ONLY RETURN
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William J. ...
Secretary to the President

7" 2

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 re-
main many, many thousands of people seeking re-
lief 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
HAROLD KRAMER
PRESIDENT

HK:BM

JUN 14 1944

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 Amba-
sador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8,
1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the
execution of the project are enclosed.

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.

EST[✓] RBH
RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

11-
Mr. Nathan
Borah



HAROLD KRAMER
PRESIDENT
ARTHUR H. MATLIN
VICE-PRESIDENT
BERNARD BERMAN
TREASURER
SIDNEY DRESSLER
RECORDING SECRETARY
CHARLOTTE ROSCH
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

YOUNG ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE OF BORO PARK

x 1111

1363 FIFTIETH STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

▲ ▲ WINDSOR 8-1411 ▲ ▲

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William T. Borah
Secretary to the President

June 1st, 1944

ב"ה

~~Filing Authority~~
To: Files _____
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

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,

YOUNG ISRAEL OF BORO PARK

Harold Kramer
HAROLD KRAMER
PRESIDENT

HK:CR

COPY

CONTROL COPY 921

YOUNG ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE OF BORO PARK

1363 FIFTIETH STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Windsor 8 - 1411

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

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

HK:CR

JUN 14 1944

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.

EPT RBHutchison:agr 6-13-44

1021

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

C
War Refugee Bd.

Philadelphia
June 7, 1944

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
W. R. B.
Secretary to the President

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

In reply please
refer to: 3046

AUG 8 1944

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 23, 1944, the President created the War Refugee Board for the purpose of taking all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and to afford them all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

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

In 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

- 2 -

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 Refugee 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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

War Refugee Board

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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RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Coxhead
Secretary to the President July 14, 1944

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HAROLD L. MCKEE, PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
WALTER J. MILLER, OFFICE SECRETARY

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
W. G. Coxhead
Executive Secretary

In reply please
refer to: 2943

JUL 21 1944

Dear Mr. Zabronsky:

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. Zabronsky,
1501 Broadway,
New York 18, New York.

Enclosures.

EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

2943

3
War Refugee
Bd.

JACOB O. ZABRONSKY
1501 BROADWAY
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

JUL 6 PM 4 30

W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION _____
No Ans. Req. _____
Initial W. R. B. _____
Date _____
Secretary to the President

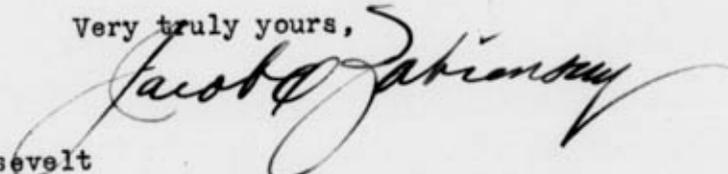
June 30, 1944

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,



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

JUN 17 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1082

Dear Miss Zatllyn:

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. Zatllyn,
4730 Pine Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

Edw - RBH RBHutchison:agr 6-15-44

X1082

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

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. Zatllyn
4730 Pine St. Phila, Pa.

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2884

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,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Maurice Zelechower,
Hotel Herald,
San Francisco, California.

EAT ✓ EBTowler:inp 7/20/44

7
mail
Ref. see Bd

2884



HOTEL TIMES SQUARE

FORTY THIRD STREET, WEST of ^{INDUSTRY} ~~INDUSTRY~~
NEW YORK CITY

W. R. S. _____
Filing Authority _____
For Filing _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Date _____

LACKAWANNA 4-6900

New York, N.Y.
June 26, 1944.

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

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Harrell
Secretary to the President

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,

RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE HEART OF NEW YORK

1000 OUTSIDE ROOMS

RADIO IN EVERY ROOM



HOTEL TIMES SQUARE

FORTY THIRD STREET, WEST of B'WAY
NEW YORK CITY

LACKAWANNA 4-6900

-2-

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.

RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE HEART OF NEW YORK

1000 OUTSIDE ROOMS

RADIO IN EVERY ROOM

In reply please
refer to: 3113

AUG 12 1944

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 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned with the execution of the project are enclosed.

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Morris Zelenko,
17560 Wisconsin,
Detroit, Michigan.

Enclosures.

EST ✓ RBH Hutchison:agr 7-31-44

Phone: CHerry 1839

3113

From **ZELL'S DEP'T STORE**
1480 GRATIOT AVE. — Opposite MARKET
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

4 New Refuges
sd

To: President Roosevelt

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
FOR THE
AND
To: Files
Ann.
Secretary
Initial
Date

DATE	YOUR INVOICE #		SHIPPED VIA
7/23			

STYLE	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	DR.	CR.	BAL.
<p>Please take immediate action together with other allied Powers to save Jews in Europe by establishing rescue camps</p> <p><i>Yanus Zelenko</i> 17560 Wisconsin Detroit Mich ✓</p>					

JUL 21 1944

In reply please
refer to: 2861

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.

EBT ✓ EB Towler:inp 7/20/44

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

W. R. Bowd ✓ June 13, 1944 2861
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION
William C. Farrell
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 practicing. We can not 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.

JUN 17 1944

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,
Philadelphia, 41, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EAT
RBH RBHutchison: 6/16/44

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

 FANNY ZIEGLER - MARION COURT, 13TH & NEDRO STS. - PHILA. 41, PA.

June 6, 1944

Dear Sir:

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

Fanny Ziegler
 Israel Ziegler

MAY 29 1944

In reply please
refer to: 803

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,
Philadelphia 39, Pennsylvania.

Free Post

EAT RBH RBHutchison:agr 5-26-44

Jed -

803

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

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

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely yours,
Shelby J. Zimmerman
4634 Walnut St.
Phila. (39) Pa.

JUN 19 1944

In reply please
refer to: 1179

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.

Zionist Organization of America

Enclosures.

EBT
RBH

RBH tchison:agr 6-17-44

1179

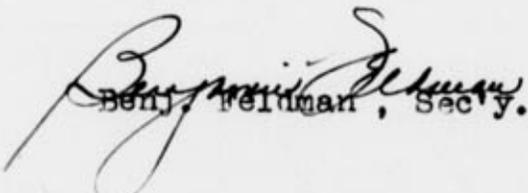
Philadelphia 41, Pa.
June 10th, 1944

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

War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

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 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.

1397

War Refugee Board

6100 - 10th
Philadelphia 41, Pa.
June 10th, 1944

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

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

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William J. Bennett
Secretary to the President

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
William Treiman, President

Benjamin Feldman
Benj. Feldman, Sec'y.