

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLISH JEWS

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MAR 24 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 317

Dear Mr. Tygel:

Thank you for your letter of March 10, 1944, in response to my recent request for advice and suggestions to aid the War Refugee Board in planning its rescue programs. The proposals which you have submitted are appreciated and will be carefully considered.

The Board is, of course, working with all interested agencies, and while a committee such as is suggested in Item 4 of your letter might serve a useful purpose, the Board is not prepared to prompt its formation.

As indicated in my letter of February 8, 1944, the Board is always available for discussions with representatives of your organization. I shall be pleased to receive your views and such further suggestions as you may wish to present at any time.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Z. Tygel,  
Executive Vice-President,  
American Friends of Polish Jews,  
22 East 17th Street,  
New York 9, New York.

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# American Friends of Polish Jews

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March 10, 1944

Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Mr. J.W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In answer to your letter of recent date, we are glad to make the following suggestions:

1. Believing as we do in the importance of the creation of the War Refugee Board under the leadership of three Cabinet members and responsible to the President, we nevertheless believe that the Jews in Europe -- those who yet remain alive under Hitler's tyrannical yoke -- can only be saved if, in addition to your daily rescue work, some political pressure is exerted on the German people, such as the constant throwing of leaflets over Germany from airplanes telling them of the Nazi extermination of the Jews, and that they, the entire people, will be held responsible for this crime which has no equal in the annals of human history.

2. By political pressure to save the Jews in Europe, we also mean the issuance of a special public statement by the leaders of the United Nations, in which it should be clearly and specifically stated that those guilty of the extermination of the Jews will be severely punished, and if they do not stop exterminating them now, the same poison gas and other media of torture which they have used and are still using in the annihilation of the Jews will be used against their own civil population.

May we take the liberty to say that with all due respect to your world-important War Refugee Board which has the official seal of the Government of the United States of America, that without this kind of pressure you will only be able to save a small group of individuals who have already escaped the barbaric clutch. As it looks now, Hitler will kill all the Jews in Europe before the war is over, if extreme measures will not be taken to stop him.

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Mr. J.W. Pehle

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March 10, 1944

3. In order to save the Jews in Europe, constant propaganda is necessary to make the Germans at home understand that they will pay for this crime. This propaganda should consist of:

- (a). Radio talks by prominent Americans of German extraction, by public officials, and prominent radio commentators from here to Germany.
- (b). Public exhibitions of the mass of documents proving the guilt of the Nazis.

4. American Jews can give your department substantial help towards financing your rescue work. In our opinion, a standing committee of all the organizations with which you have so far been in contact should be formed. This committee should meet with your Department at least fortnightly. At these meetings all your plans should be discussed and new plans should be introduced by the organizations and considered.

5. We have, in the United States, about 4,000 individual Jewish societies bearing the names of their home towns in Europe. Every one of these societies would be willing to help your Refugee Board in rescuing the Jews of Europe. Thousands of these societies are not affiliated with any national organizations. A way should be found so that they, too, should be represented on the proposed committee.

We know that the above-mentioned suggestions are radical ones and require a great deal of preparation to carry out. However, our firm belief is that without these or other radical steps, it will be very difficult to achieve success, except that you will be able to save a scattered few here and there.

As you know so well, Jews are being slaughtered cold-bloodedly en-masse daily by the Nazi barbarians. You can only stop this through firm and powerful steps which the Nazi monsters would be forced to heed.

If you would like to discuss these suggestions personally with our committee, we will be glad to come to Washington at any time convenient to you.

Very truly yours,

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF POLISH JEWS

*Z. Tygel*  
Z. Tygel,  
Executive Vice-President

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