

AMERICAN POLISH RELIEF COUNCIL



AMERICAN POLISH RELIEF COUNCIL
THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Lisbon, July 18, 1944

Mr. James H. Mann
Assistant Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing a letter just received from Mr. Piskorski together with memorandum which he enclosed. This is the memo which he promised to give you before you left but which came too late. I feel sure it will be useful to you.

Nothing very new since you left. I am having a conference today with Dr. Baruel and Mr. Pilpel. Pilpel is still hopeful that he may bring the Comunidade into line.

I spent yesterday in Caldas da Rainha and am hoping to get a number of people there off to Fedhala in due course. This will be of great help in every way here, as you know.

We miss your smiling face around the office.

With kindest regards to everyone, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Dexter
Attache

Enclosures:

Letter and memorandum from Mr. Piskorski.

RCD:ew

AMERICAN POLISH RELIEF COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AID FOR
PRISONERS OF WAR, INTERNEES, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN DELEGATE

64, AVENIDA PEDRO ALVARES CABRAL, 3.º AND.
LISBON, PORTUGAL. TEL. 61706

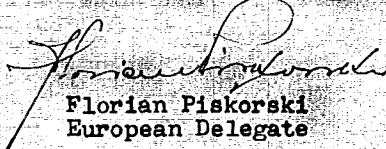
July 15, 1944.

Dr. Robert C. Dexter
Attaché, American Embassy
Lisbon.

Dear Dr. Dexter,

Enclosed please find copy of the memoran-
dum requested by Mr. Mann, from Washington, whom I met
through your courtesy, and to whom you will kindly deli-
ver it.

Very respectfully yours,


Florian Piskorski
European Delegate

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To the attention
of Mr. Mann.

POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL

(Polish War Relief)

Operating under License No 26

Headquarters: 1200 North Ashland Avenue, Chicago, Ill.
National President: Dr. Francis X. Swietlik, Dean of
School of Law, Marquett University,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Representing over 5,000,000 Americans of Polish ancestry
in carrying out relief for Poland and for Poles wherever they
are:

In Europe

through the European Delegation of this Council, which runs
under the name of

American Polish Relief Council

with Headquarters in

LISBON - Portugal

Office: 54 Avenida Pedro Alvares Cabral,
Warehouse: 84B Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca

where it was established June 21, 1942, under the supervision
of a Citizen of the U. S. A., Mr. Florian Piskorski.

I - Accomplishments in the past

Since the outbreak of the war, in September 1, 1939, until
1942, Mr. Piskorski had the privilege of being helpful to thou-
sands and thousands of Poles in distress, not only in Poland,
but also in Rumania, Ungary, Yugoslavia, Italy, Switzerland and
France, which kept him always busy with the many varied problems
which confronted those poor people.

After the downfall of France, Mr. Piskorski made several
journeys both to that country and to Switzerland, where he
visited Internment Camps, Civilian Refugees and Military In-
ternees, and also Labor Camps, with a view to helping Poles in
every possible way to solve their difficulties.

The first time Mr. Piskorski visited Spain, in February
1942, he made a thorough acquaintance with the situation at
the Internment Camp in Miranda del Ebro (Burgos), and as a re-
sult of the persistent steps he took with the adequate authori-
ties the release of the Polish prisoners there came to a final
conclusion in January 1943.

Through the many contacts Mr. Piskorski made in practically every European country with Polish Organizations and others, he gave strength to his conviction that these institutions are quite willing to cooperate in any good cause on behalf of the Polish people. He also had to deal constantly with the Polish Government and the Polish Legations in different countries, and he feels quite pleased to assure that never a visa was refused to a man or woman on behalf of whom he had to intervene.

Mr. Piskorski also visited England twice during the war.

II - Present activities

The following services have been carried out for over two years in Portugal:

- a) Regular assistance with food parcels forwarded from Portugal to Poland. (In 1944 alone 145,560 parcels were sent).
- b) Individual contacts with over 50,000 Poles in Poland, assisting them also with information about the lost members of their families, etc.
- c) Exchanging of Moral Mail of Polish Prisoners of War and Camp Leaders.
- d) Contacts with Polish refugees and internees in various countries.
- e) Recording and indexing up to the present of over 80,000 Polish families which have been contacted.

III - Future prospects

Spain - What this Council has in mind for the near future is the assistance to be given by this Delegation to every Pole coming from France to Spain, by eventually establishing a sub-Delegation in Spain, so as to be a position to assist each individual directly over there.

Europe in General - Still within this very trend of thought, the following points are worth considering:

- 1) The most important thing to do as soon as the hostilities come to an end is to repatriate to their homes in Poland the thousands of refugees scattered throughout Europe.

- 2) Also assistance has to be given to Polish prisoners of war who remain in Camps.
- 3) Re-uniting families and help re-organize their homes.
- 4) Finding out of the location of families whose whereabouts have been unknown.
- 5) Contacting European families or individuals with their next-of-kin in the U.S.A., and vice-versa.
- 6) Welfare service for individual problem cases.
- 7) Distribution of American relief contributed by this Council.

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One cannot over-emphasize the absolute necessity for the maintenance of this most important work which has proved to be far more beneficial to the Poles than if it had been undertaken by some official entity, because one striking feature sets the big difference between a Movement like ours and the bureaucratic routine work of an official institution as a rule. That difference which means a good deal to people in distress is that we contact the people, not as a whole, but by individuals. We go deep into their own lives; we share their sorrows and their joys as well. We share their own lives!

We are certain that this Council will take this vital matter into full consideration, and will decide to either directly or through any other agency resume the assistance to Poles during the post-war period.

It is impossible at present to determine exactly the real facts, but we certainly all agree that the biggest problem now is a Polish problem, and Poles need assistance regardless of their religious creeds and denominations.

By so doing, this Council will have the great joy of consciously and steadfastly promoting to a large extent Peace among Poles right at the very end of the present hostilities.

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SFG-835

PLAIN

Lisben

Dated May 17, 1944

Rec'd. 10 p.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

1494, Seventeenth, 6 p.m.

WRB 39 Representative American Polish Relief Council here has applied his committee for increased remittances packages Poland and also for administrative expenses. WRB representative Portugal informed of needs and approves increases. Hopes WRB will support increase of license if committee applies.

NORWEB

LET
EDA

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y), Abrahamson, Akzin, Bernstein, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Gaston, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Luxford, Mann, Mannon, Marks, McCormack, Pehle, Rains, Sargoy, Smith, Standish, Stewart, Weinstein, H. D. White, Files