In reply please refer to: 3038

Dear Mr. Brody:

I have your communication of July 17, 1944, requesting information about the War Refugee Board as to purpose, composition, methods employed, and results accomplished.

On January 22, 1944, the President created the War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, War and Treasury, 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 recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which is equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands, at the end of the war.

Other facilities to receive refugees include Camp Marechal Lyautey near Casablanca, a shelter being established in Tripolitania under the joint financial responsibility of the United States and Great Britain, and existing refugee camps in the Mediterranean area which are being expanded. These operations make use of structures originally erected for military or other purposes which are suitable for housing large groups of persons. I am sure you will appreciate
that the nature of this task is such that a detailed account of our work cannot be given.

You may be interested in the enclosed copies of Executive Order No. 9417 establishing the Board, the White House Press Release of January 22, War Refugees Board Press Releases Nos. 1 through 12, the President's Statement of March 24, 1944, as well as copies of the President's message to Congress on June 12, his telegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum to the agency heads concerned with the plan to establish the Emergency Refugees Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Irwin Brody,
c/o Jacobson's Resort,
North Shore Road,
South Haven, Michigan.

Enclosures.
Helen Brody
560 Prospect Ave
New York, N.Y.
1947

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.