Combined Jewish Appeal: Associated Jewish Philanthropies
Dear Mr. Kaplan:

I wish to thank you for your letter of October 17, 1944, and to tell you that it was a real pleasure for me to be present at your dinner last Sunday night. I appreciate all the courtesies extended to me and I wish you great success in your present campaign.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Peake
Executive Director

Mr. Jacob J. Kaplan,
President,
Associated Jewish Philanthropies,
24 Province Street,
Boston 9, Mass.
Mr. John W. Pehle,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I want to take this opportunity of expressing to you our appreciation of your fine speech at the opening dinner of the Combined Appeal last Sunday night.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Jacob J. Kaplan
President
October 18, 1944.

Dear Mr. Selakman:

Thank you for your most kind letter of October 16, and the clippings and photographs which you forwarded.

I sincerely enjoyed my too brief visit and was delighted to make your acquaintance. I hope that your campaign will have the real success which it deserves and I am happy if my contribution is of some assistance to that end.

I won't comment on the praise which the War Refugee Board has received except to say that what little we are accomplishing -- and it is very little in comparison to the problem -- has been due to the devotion of our small but highly effective staff, both here and abroad, of which I am very proud.

With sincere regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Fehl)

J. W. Fehl
Executive Director

B. N. Selakman, Executive Vice-Chairman,
Combined Jewish Appeal,
24 Province Street,
Boston 8, Massachusetts.
Mr. John W. Fehle
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fehle:

Our people were certainly impressed with your story last night. And no wonder! I sometimes think that you and your associates are too close to what you are doing to be able to appreciate what a dramatic page in history you are writing.

Again thanks ever so much for taking time off from your work and your family to be with us yesterday. For me, personally, it was a real joy to get to know you.

I thought you might like to see some of the clippings from today's newspapers and have copies of some of the photographs taken yesterday. I am also enclosing a copy of Mr. Selvage's remarks in introducing you. These words are a sincere evaluation of you and your work by some fellow citizens here in Boston.

And, incidentally, we shall be glad to reimburse you for the expenses you incurred in the trip.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

R. H. Selvage
Executive Vice-Chairman

enclosures

ASSOCIATED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES
UNITED JEWISH CAMPAIGN
It is with great humility that I now introduce the next speaker.

How can anyone adequately speak of the man who guides for this great country the rescue of innocent men, women and children from the clutches of Hitler?

He has already written one of the most hopeful pages in the history of a period pervaded by darkness and tragedy. He will be remembered for generations with eternal gratitude. A career man in the federal government,—how fortunate we are, as citizens, to have such a man devoted to the service of our national community. Immediately after graduating from Yale Law School in 1934 he
entered the office of the General Counsel of the Treasury Department. Six years later he was named Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury and Director of Foreign Funds Control. A year ago when the President constituted the War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War, this gentleman was chosen as its Executive Director. And already, through his leadership, literally thousands of ravaged human beings have found a haven of refuge and a new hope in Palestine and elsewhere.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with a grateful heart that I now introduce our distinguished guest, Mr. John W. Pehle.
American Relief Agencies Giving Help
And Comfort to Jews All Over Europe


So much attention has been focused lately upon the inability of the War Refugee Board—or of any other agency, for that matter—to rescue the Nazi-persecuted Jews of Hungary that a great deal of work the board has been doing elsewhere, with the help of other agencies, has gone almost unnoticed.

John W. Pehle, executive director of the board, speaking in Boston a couple of nights ago, cited a number of examples of such activities and we think they're worth passing along, in Pehle's own words:

"In Gothenburg, Sweden, 15,000 food parcels from America were recently unloaded—destined for helpless inmates of internment camps...285,000 more parcels are now on their way.

"In a Balkan country, a humanitarian volunteer arrives equipped with sufficient status, prestige and funds to aid the victims of enemy persecution...His first act is to furnish a shelter for Jewish refugees...He is currently using private funds...

"Over the Pyrenees, groups of children fortunately made their escape from France, prior to its liberation, to Spain, with the blessings of the Maquis...with the aid of guides paid for by funds from America...A few weeks later, some are on their way to Palestine.

"Along the Black Sea coast of Romania, small ships gather groups of refugees for a hazardous trip to Turkey...In Turkey, two Americans persuade local authorities to cut red tape and permit refugees arriving on foot and in small boats to cross the country on their way from the Balkans to Palestine...

"All over Europe, listeners to secret radios hear statements of protest and warning against persecution of Jews issued by President Roosevelt, Secretary Hull and two Congressional committees of the U. S. Pamphlets drop over Hungary warning of retribution for her inhuman conduct."
New York Post

OCT 27 1944

"In southern Italy, an American helps arrange for the escape in four ships of the down trodden from Yugoslavia across the Adriatic to Italy... Some of those escaping later appear in African refugee camps and in an American refugee shelter."

"In a camp at Casablanca, several hundred wandering Sephardics at last find a temporary haven... In upper New York State an American soldier visits his parents, who, with almost 1,000 others, have been brought to Oswego."

"In Lisbon, a committee meets to facilitate the departure of refugees who have come from France... Some arrive in Palestine... some in Canada..."

"In London, high government officials, American and British, join officers of an international organization to expedite the rescue of refugees."

"In Poland, as in other occupied countries in Europe, underground groups protect exposed refugees by hiding them, by disguising them, by moving them, from place to place..."

Incidentally, in the same speech, Peile pointed out that, among the many non-Jewish groups and individuals cooperating with the board, the record of the Catholic Church had been particularly inspiring.

"All over Europe," he said, "Catholic priests have furnished hiding places and protection to the persecuted. His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, has interceded on many occasions in behalf of refugees in danger.

"In this country, too, we have received help from Catholic leaders. At a most critical point in the Hungarian situation, Archbishop Spellman wrote a truly impressive statement to the Catholics of that country to protect and help the Jews. This moving appeal was broadcast in Hungarian and reprints of it were dropped over Hungary.""

Also of great assistance, Peile added, was a statement of protest against Hungarian atrocities, drafted by the late Alfred E. Smith in conjunction with more than 100 other non-Jewish leaders.

PRAISE AGENCY ACTS IN SAVING REFUGEES

BOSTON, Oct. 16—Coordinated efforts by the United States Government and private philanthropic agencies were credited here tonight by John W. Rall, executive director of the War Refugee Board, with saving hundreds of thousands of persons.

Speaking at a meeting of the Combined Jewish Appeal, he cited in particular the work of the governments and private philanthropic agencies and the importance of the United Jewish Appeal—Hungarian National Appeal, the National Jewish Relief and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He praised the non-Jewish groups "who have shown a true Christian spirit," mentioning Presbyterian and Catholic organizations, the American Friends Committee, and the United Service Committee.

"The record of the Catholic Church in this regard has been inspiring," he said. "All over Europe, Catholic priests have faithfully given their lives and devotion to the persecuted. Pope Pius XII has listened to appeals coming in behalf of refugee children."

Alphonso Speisman, and Charles Alfred B. Smith had also contributed effectively in the pursuit of these efforts, he added.
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
Executive Office of the President
Washington

RELEASE NO. 15

(The following address by John W. Peake, Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, before a dinner meeting of the Combined Jewish Appeal at the Statler Hotel, Boston, is scheduled for delivery at 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Sunday, October 15, 1944, and is for release at that time.)

Tonight I want to tell you something about the rescue program which the War Refugee Board has been carrying on for the past eight months with the help of the voluntary philanthropic agencies of America, the governments of the neutral countries, the underground of Europe, and the good will everywhere. I cannot blueprint all the details of that program, but I can give you some examples taken from the files of the War Refugee Board of the work that has gone ahead, and these illustrate bear witness to the good faith and ingenuity of the American people during the grimiest war in all History.

In Gothenburg, Sweden, 15,000 food parcels from America were recently unloaded — destined for helpless inmates of internment camps, as 285,000 more parcels are on their way.

In a Balkan country a humanitarian volunteer arrived equipped with sufficient status, prestige and funds to aid the victims of mass persecution. His first act is to furnish a shelter for Jewish refugees. He is currently using private funds that originated in America to provide food especially for children.

Of many couriers who have entered the Baltic countries to rescue refugees, some have been reported going immediately after their arrival, and others have even lost their lives in the effort.

Over the Pyrenees groups of children tortuously made their escape from France, under the shelter of the Spanish government, and with the aid of funds paid by funds from America. Two weeks later some are on their way to Palestine.

Along the Black Sea coast of Turkey some 5,000 refugees by foot and in small boats were rescued from the coast.
In a neutral country a prominent personage writes a personal letter in longhand for delivery to London, asking that there be a stop to the deportation and extermination of Jews from Hungary. As a result of this and other protests, the British and American governments accepted the offer of the Hungarian government to release Jews and agreed to care for those reaching United Nations or neutral territories.

All over Europe listeners to secret radio hear statements of protest and warning against persecution of Jews issued by President Roosevelt, Secretary of State Hull, and two congressional committees of the United States. Pamphlets drop over Hungary warning of retribution for her inhuman conduct.

In Southern Italy an American helps arrange for the escape in fragile ships of the downtrodden from Yugoslavia across the Adriatic to Italy. Some of those escaping later appear in African refugee camps and in an American Refugees Shelter.

In a camp at Casablanca several hundred wondering Sephardics at last find a temporary haven.

In upper New York State an American soldier visits his parents who, with almost 1,000 others have been brought to Oswego.

In Lisbon a committee meets to facilitate the departure of refugees who have come from France. Some arrive in Palestine. Some in Canada.

In London high government officials, American and British, join officers of an international organization to expedite the rescue of refugees.

In Poland, as in other occupied countries in Europe, underground groups protect exposed refugees by hiding them, by disguising them, by moving them from place to place.

These items constitute part of the story of the current war effort. America has been using every imaginable device to counter the enemy’s barbaric determination to wipe out complete sections of the world’s non-combatant population.

This is not idle rhetoric. There can be no doubt that Hitler and his partners in barbarism have a deliberate plan to exterminate entire segments of the population of Europe, including particularly the Jews.

This effort, as we know from the evidence at Nuremberg and from much unpublished material, has not been confined to the Jews. In obvious preparation for another war, the Germans have killed large numbers of non-Jewish intellectuals and cultural leaders of Poland. Large segments of the Russian civilian population have been slaughtered. Entire groups in all the other occupied countries have fallen under the crushing heel of Hitler and his followers.
And there have been tens of thousands of individuals who have been selected for death simply because they were or being themselves—men serving as anti-Nazi preachers, a true Democrat, a courageous priest, an honest journalist, or a humane citizen.

We have been subjected to the treatment by this act of extermination. The barbarity of the enemy has struck the conscience of America. It has mobilized our sympathies, and it has inspired the Government of the United States to do all that can be done to rescue the intended victims of enemy slaughter.

Specifically, this invasion in America has expressed itself in the creation of the War Refugee Board by President Roosevelt. It has been my privilege to serve as Executive Director of this Board, the members of which are Secretary Hull, Secretary Morgenthau, and Secretary Stimson.

In creating the War Refugee Board the President declared: "It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

The creation of the Board and the statement of this goal in the humanitarian history of nations. The Government of the United States issued a clean statement of policy in behalf of refugees, and it asked three members of the Cabinet to take all feasible steps to implement that policy.

As a result of my service with the Board, I have come to appreciate more than ever some typically American qualities in this true Magnificence. I have learned that Americans are capable of heartfelt indignation when atrocities are committed during the course of a war, and I have learned that our American sympathy can be translated into action in times of war no less than in times of peace.

Without the widespread and intense public interest in the perishing condition of Europe's refugees, it would have been more difficult to establish the Board and to carry on its operations. Many of those who have been driven from Europe's hearth born have been given sympathy and American efforts.

There is evidence that the oppressed and dispossessed people of Europe are fully aware of America's interest and sympathy and efforts. Dr. A. Hirschberg, the Board's representative in Anders, has told us of a recent incident that illustrates this awareness:

Following the recent break in relations between France and Germany, a number of individual Germans, Americans and Czechs, found themselves under a threat of violation from Turkey because they were technically German citizens. Some approached the War Refugee Board representative for aid. They
received it and I am happy to say that the Turkish government has dealt sympathetically with these cases. One of them was a woman who had lived in Turkey for 12 years and who was accompanied by a one-year old child. When asked, 'Where else should I go?' the United States officials, she replied, 'Here to the United States.' It seemed only natural to come here. Who else would want me?'

Another typical American institution whose importance has emerged clearer than ever is the voluntary philanthropic agency. A quick and effective program of the War Refuge Board was made possible by generous contributions of suggestions, personnel, and funds by private agencies that had already existed in the field of international rescue and relief work.

I want to pay my unqualified respect to these agencies for their generous support. As matters have developed, the War Refuge Board has served as a central enabling and co-coordinating body for all agencies — Jewish and non-Jewish, new and old; reform and orthodox; soft-spoken and outspoken.

To catalog these agencies would be impossible, but I want to mention a few. The constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal, the United Palestine Appeal, the National Refugee Service, and particularly the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee — have contributed most of the funds that have carried on rescue and relief programs. Funds, ideas, and untinted cooperation have also come in varying amounts from other agencies, such as the World Jewish Congress and Hadassah.

It is the purpose of the War Refugee Board to strengthen agencies like these by giving them the support of a clean-cut statement of sympathetic policy by this government and by using the diplomatic, licensing, and communication facilities of the government to help them achieve their welfare ends.

I also want to pay tribute to many non-Jewish groups and individuals who have shown a true Christian spirit in their quick and friendly reaction in support of the helpless of Europe. This help has come from both Protestant and Catholic organizations. The American Friends Service Committee and the Unitarian Service Committee have made important contributions, as have other Protestant groups.

The record of the Catholic Church in this regard has been inspiring. All over Europe, Catholic priests have furnished hiding places and protection to the persecuted. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, has interceded on many occasions on behalf of refugees in danger.

In this country, too, we have received help from Catholic leaders. It a most critical point in the Hungarian situation, Archbishop Spellman wrote a truly impressive supplication to the Catholics of this country to protect and help the Jews. This moving statement was broadcast in Hungarian, and reprints of it were dropped over Hungary.
Of great assistance, too, was a statement of protest against Hungarian atrocities prepared by the late Alfred E. Smith in conjunction with over 100 other non-Jewish leaders.

The net result of all the efforts I have mentioned has been a significant contribution in the rescue of helpless human beings. It is difficult to measure the results of the Board's efforts in figures. Actually thousands of persons were rescued from enemy territory. There is reason to believe that several hundreds of thousands escaped death in the occupied countries as the result of the psychological and diplomatic efforts of the Board.

Thus, in the American tradition, as the result of a partnership between private groups and a government agency, there has been affirmed — in word and in action — the principle of human fellowship.

In the matter of philanthropic effort, there is danger in confining ourselves to the recent past or to the present. The instruments of humanitarianism must be plastic. They must be fashioned for use in the challenging new days that lie ahead — days of liberation, days of peace, days of reconstruction.

We know from recent experience in Italy, in France, and in Belgium that there is a prodigious task ahead in the field of post-liberation relief and rehabilitation. We know, also, that UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committees on Refugees have staked out certain areas of activity, and are hard at work. But we also know that important functions are even today being performed by voluntary agencies. And we have reason to believe that private groups will continue to play an important role. It is most important that voluntary agencies be supported fully during the period that lies before us.

This war has brought untold suffering and sorrow to the people of the world. It has been particularly severe on the Jewish population, which has been reduced nearly one-third by the atrocities of Hitler, Jews and Christians alike have shed dry, bitter tears at the unutterable atrocities committed on the body and mind of man. The time for tears is almost over. The time for constructive action is near. Determined men and women must soon pick up the pieces of our civilization, reassemble them, and move forward into a world of peace, where human dignity and the brotherhood of man may once more prevail.
TELEGRAM
OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

David Geller, Publicity Director
24 Province Street
Boston, Massachusetts

CANNOT SEND PAMPHLET UNTIL CLEARANCE IS RECEIVED.
HOPE TO HAVE IT THURSDAY.

VIRGINIA N. MANNON
MRS. VIRGINIA M. MANNON
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIV. TREASURY DEPT.
PLEASE RUSH VIA AIR MAIL SPECIAL ADVANCE COPY MISTER NEWLES.
ADDRESS IN BOSTON SUNDAY NIGHT. MANY THANKS

DAVID GELLER PUBLICITY DIRECTOR COMBINED JEWISH
PEOPLE'S APPEAL 24 PROVINCE ST. BOSTON MASS.

1223P
October 7, 1944

Mrs. Virginia M. Mannon  
Public Relations Division  
Treasury Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Mannon:

Many thanks for the advance publicity and glossy prints of Mr. Pehle.

If at all possible, we would appreciate the text or excerpts of his address by Wednesday, October 11.

Thank you,

Sincerely yours,

Helen Shapiro  
Publicity Secretary
October 3, 1944

Dear Mr. Sokolom

In response to your request for advance publicity material in connection with Mr. Phelps's trip to Boston, October 13, I am enclosing three glossy prints and a sheet with information about Mr. Phelps.

If Mr. Phelps speaks from a manuscript, we shall do our best to send you copies in advance. If he speaks impromptu, we hope to send you a statement for the press.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Virginia H. Leman
Public Relations Division

Mr. B. H. Sokolom, Executive Vice-Chairman
Combined Jewish Appeal
21 Province Street
Boston (8), Massachusetts

Firm name

Wrigg
Dear Mr. Selekman:

This is a reply to your telegram of September 6, 1944, in which you ask me to be guest speaker at your campaign opening dinner on October 15.

Since our previous exchange of letters, there have been significant developments and commitments, both in the War Refugees Board and in related matters, which make it impossible for me to accept.

My declination is made with the utmost reluctance in view of the worthiness of the causes involved in the occasion. I refer particularly to the United Jewish Appeal agencies, which have made direct and substantial contributions to the work of the War Refugees Board.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director.

Mr. B. M. Selekman,
Executive Director,
Associated Jewish Philanthropies,
24 Province Street,
Boston 8, Massachusetts.


REFERRING LETTER JUNE FIRST WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ACCEPT 
NOW AS GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR CAMPAIGN OPENING DINNER OCTOBER 15 
THIS WILL BE THE MAJOR JEWISH FALL CAMPAIGN AND THEREFORE HAS 
NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR REFUGEE PROGRAM ALSO WE IN BOSTON ARE 
ALL ANXIOUS TO SEE AND HEAR YOU WE FEEL DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU 
FOR MOBILIZING SENTIMENT AND INITIATING EFFECTIVE REFUGE PROGRAM 
UNDER SUCH GREAT DIFFICULTIES 

M. B. BELEKMAN 
1242P
June 12, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you very much for your gracious note and for your willingness to give us even a tentative place on what I know is a busy and uncertain calendar. I shall get in touch with you around September first.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

By N. Selakman
Executive Director

Member of Greater Boston Community Fund
Dear Mr. Selekman:

This is a reply to your letter of June 1 in which you invited me to be the guest speaker at the dinner opening your annual campaign on Sunday, October fifteenth.

In an agency like the War Refugee Board, and in times like these, the date of October 15 looks remote indeed. I wonder whether you will be good enough to repeat your kind invitation approximately September 1, if you are so minded at that time.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Mr. B. M. Selekman,
Executive Director,
Associated Jewish Philanthropies,
24 Province Street,
Boston 8, Mass.
June 1, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We have asked Dr. Lubin to use his good offices to try to persuade you to be our guest speaker at the dinner opening our annual campaign on Sunday, October fifteenth.

During this campaign we raise funds not only for local needs but also for overseas needs, including the major agencies such as the American Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal. It is the only major fund raising effort of the Jewish community of Boston. We think that your presence and the authority of your own interests and firsthand experience with the rescue program, would be most effective in helping us achieve maximum results in the way of support for these important causes.

We realize how busy you must be and how difficult it is to plan so far ahead, but nevertheless we fervently hope that you will feel the occasion important enough to make a commitment even at this early date.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Executive Director