

COMMITTEE OF CATHOLICS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

000925

AUG 18 1944

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of August 7, 1944, quoting a cablegram sent to the Rt. Honorable Anthony Eden, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, concerning the plight of the Hungarian Jews.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Robert J. O'Donnell,
Executive Secretary,
Committee of Catholics
for Human Rights,
1775 Broadway,
New York 19, New York.

EBP RBH Hutchison:agr 8-15-44 JWS

000926

COMMITTEE OF CATHOLICS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

1775 BROADWAY
Room 802

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Circle 7-5457

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August 7th, 1944.

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

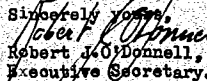
My dear Mr. Pehle:-

Dr. Emmanuel Chapman, Director, has requested me to inform you of the recent cablegram sent to the Rt. Honorable Anthony Eden, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to the plight of the Hungarian Jews.

The text of the message follows:

"Immediate action is required to rescue 400,000 Hungarian Jews. The moral foundations of the cause of the United Nations compel assistance. Pope Pius XII through his personal messenger pleaded with Regent Horthy to halt the bestial persecution of a helpless minority. Already 100,000 are known to be victims of Nazi lethal gas chambers. The U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull warns that the entire Jewish community of Hungary faces extermination and promises that punishment will be meted out for this "violation of most elementary human rights." If action is not taken at once to save the lives of these victims of Nazi barbarism, we stand condemned before the conscience of the world as moral accomplices sharing in the guilt of mass murder. Primarily constructive action rests in the authority of the British government. We urge that the doors of Palestine be opened to allow a place of temporary refuge to the Jews of Hungary for whom transportation can be secured."

With confidence we ask that the offices of the U.S. Government be employed in support of such a policy for the practical immediate mitigation of the number of deaths and degree of suffering laid upon this helpless minority. We believe that the attention of our allies in this global conflict should be drawn to the need of opening more "free ports" of temporary refuge as well as the United States in the Mediterranean basin. At a time when 1000 homeless refugees from political, racial, and religious persecution are finding a haven in the United States, we wish to express our keen support for such a Christian and humane action, done in the name of democracy, and we consider such deeds a token of the growing assistance which this government in the name of Christianity and democracy, should extend to the helpless of the earth, until the time when their homelands again shall be free to recognize the equality of all their citizens before the law.

Sincerely,

Robert J. O'Donnell,
Executive Secretary.

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