

ELIAS, JOSEPH

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The American Jewish Committee

386 FOURTH AVE., NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 5-0181
Cable Address: "Wishcom, New York"

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November 13, 1944

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Mr. John W. Pehle probably called your attention to the offer of Mr. Joseph Elias to undertake some rescue work in Holland on his early return to that country.

In a letter addressed on November 3, 1944 to Dr. Max Gottschalk, Mr. Pehle invited Mr. Elias to arrange to see you before leaving for Holland. We have conveyed this message to Mr. Elias who will ask for an appointment with you as soon as preparations for his departure will be made.

Very truly yours,

Eugene Hevesi
Eugene Hevesi

Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
c/o Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

386 FOURTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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Dear Mr. Gottschalk:

Thank you for your letter of October 30, 1944, concerning Mr. Joseph Elias.

If Mr. Elias could arrange to see Mr. L. S. Lesser, Assistant Executive Director, before leaving for Holland it would be very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

Mr. Max Gottschalk,
Director, Overseas Department,
The American Jewish Committee,
386 Fourth Avenue,
New York 16, New York.

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**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

386 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

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San Francisco, Calif.
HORACE STERN
Philadelphia, Pa.
HENRY WINEMAN
Detroit, Mich.

October 30, 1944

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Mr. Joseph Elias is a Dutch citizen and the owner of an important concern of textile mills in liberated Eindhoven and other Dutch localities. At present he lives in New York (929 Park Avenue, tel.: BU 8-2768).

A short while ago, the Royal Dutch Government notified Mr. Elias of the fact that his plants in Eindhoven have been found in fair order, and members of his immediate family in good health in Holland. The Government at the same time invited him to return home and take over the conduct of his industries as soon as possible.

While preparing his trip home, Mr. Elias concluded that together with the resumption of his immediate duties of industrial rehabilitation, he could not escape the responsibility of undertaking a definite rescue action in favor of those victims of Nazis oppression, Gentiles and Jews, who are still in danger at the hands of the Nazis in Dutch territory still under German domination. He feels to be in a position to operate successfully from Eindhoven, and is willing to carry all the expenses involved.

Mr. Elias approached me with the request to put this idea before you, and to clarify with you the question whether there would be a possibility for him to engage in the suggested task of rescue in the capacity of a representative of the War Refugee Board in Holland.

We have the highest regard for Mr. Elias, for his personal accomplishments and position, and we know that his willingness to serve is dictated by the most unselfish humanitarian zeal, and by the

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Mr. John W. Pehle

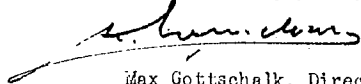
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October 30, 1944

sincerest devotion to the cause of democracy. We also believe that he would be in a truly strategic position to help the victims of Nazism.

With these facts in mind, I would be glad if you would be in a position to give Mr. Elias' offer your favorable consideration.

Very sincerely yours,



Max Gottschalk, Director
Overseas Department

Mr. John W. Pehle, Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

mg:lh

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