

Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago

000221

CROSS REFERENCE ON . . . JEWISH WELFARE FUND OF CHICAGO

FOR:

- Amendment to this License
- Extension of this License
- Renewal of this License
- Correspondence concerning this application . . .
- Other (Specify)

LETTER TO MR. MORGENTHAU FROM JEWISH WELFARE FUND, TAKEN
FROM FILE FOR MR. MORGENTHAU

SEE:

000822

File

1945 MAY 18 PM 3 18

WU20 26 4 EXTRA DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED TELEGRAM

CHICAGO ILL MAY 18 1945 1142A

FLORENCE HOTEL WAR REFUGE BOARD

RM 2410 MAIN TREASURY BLDG

RE LETTER MAY 16. ~~WXWXKKK~~ WILL BE IN WASHINGTON MAY 21 UNTIL LATE
AFTERNOON 22. WILL TELEPHONE ON 21 FOR APPOINTMENT MANY

THANKS

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH

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MAY 16 1945

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 11, 1945, advising us of the necessity for postponing your trip to Washington.

We shall be glad to have you come in at some later date. Please let us know when you find it convenient to come.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith,
Secretary,
Jewish Welfare Fund,
128 North Wells Street,
Chicago 6, Illinois.

EBT:inp 5/15/45

000224

Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

128 NORTH WELLS STREET

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8030

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GEORGE W. RABINOFF, *Associate Executive Director* · HERZL FRIEDLAENDER, *Assistant Secretary* · ALBERT D. LASKER, *Honorary Director*
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May 11, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

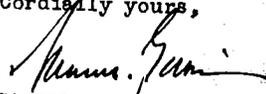
Dear Miss Hodel:

I have just received your letter of May 9th in which you graciously indicate that I might come to your office for consultation on Monday, May 14th.

Unfortunately, illness at home and pre-occupation with certain emergency problems here in Chicago does not permit my leaving Chicago at this time.

I do hope that you will permit me to communicate again with you and to seek a convenient time for consultation later in the month.

Cordially yours,

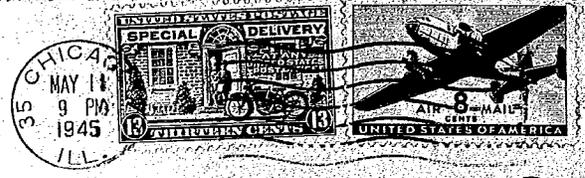

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH
Secretary

Member Agency



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THE JEWISH WELFARE FUND
128 North Wells Street CHICAGO 8



AIR MAIL

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Miss Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

AK

Jewish Wel

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*James
of Chicago*

MAY 9 - 1945

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

In General O'Dwyer's absence from the city, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 1, 1945, concerning the plans of the Provisional Inter-City Committee of the Jewish Welfare Funds.

I shall be glad to have you come to my office in Room 2410 of the Main Treasury Building on Monday, May 14, for consultation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel.

Florence Hodel
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith,
Secretary,
Jewish Welfare Fund,
128 North Wells Street,
Chicago 6, Illinois.

*Sent by air mail
R.H.*

EBT EBT:inp 5/9/45

000227

Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

128 NORTH WELLS STREET
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8030

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MRS. WALTER E. HELLER SAMUEL H. HOLLAND SOL KLINE HERBERT M. LAUTMANN HARRIS PERLSTEIN JUDGE ULYSSES S. SCHWARTZ A. K. SELZ

Air Mail

May 1, 1945.

Brig. General William O'Dwyer
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

As you know, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal have, for many years, engaged in various works of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction on behalf of Jews in Europe and Palestine. For some six years and until this year, the matter of raising funds and the distribution of funds was, to a large extent, in the hands of an organization created by these two, and known as the United Jewish Appeal. The local communities throughout the country, however, established fund raising machinery through their Jewish Welfare Funds.

With the decision not to reconstitute the United Jewish Appeal, it has become necessary for the local Jewish community organizations (the Jewish Welfare Funds) not only to raise funds, but to decide on a valid distribution of funds. To be of mutual assistance in these respects, twelve of the largest Jewish Welfare Funds have come together in a Provisional Inter-City Committee and are attempting to gather facts which would be of some assistance to the individual cities in helping them meet these obligations.

In view of the part which the writer has played in helping establish this collaboration among the cities in question, he has been asked to assist in making the necessary studies.

Because of the large influence which your organization has on the actual and potential programs of the national Jewish agencies mentioned above, it would be very much appreciated if an opportunity were offered to consult with you or someone designated by you in your organization.

Would such consultation be possible, in your office, between the 10th and the 14th of May?

Very sincerely yours,

Samuel A. Goldsmith
SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH
Secretary

P.S. In a discussion of the proposed study with the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, it was indicated that information from your organization would be sought.

Member Agency



000228

October 20, 1944

Mr. Joseph C. Hyman
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York City, 16, New York

Dear Joe:

Now that the Jewish Welfare Fund's statement on the "Emergency Committee" has been issued, we have been waited upon by Professor Johan J. Smertenko who insists that we have done great harm to a necessary program. He agrees that our statement is correct insofar as it refers to "direct relief activities overseas". On the other hand, he insists that the Emergency Committee has been responsible for creating the public opinion which alone has made it possible for Jews to be rescued from Hungary and the other Balkan states as well as from the rest of Europe.

He tells a most convincing story, well documented with correspondence from various governmental officials to prove that the militancy of the Emergency Committee has made it possible for President Roosevelt to issue the executive order creating the War Refugee Board. Furthermore, the program at Oswego, the work with South American passports, the influence of the Pope on the Hungarian situation and other such measures are all, according to Smertenko directly traceable to the propaganda campaign carried by the Emergency Committee during these 15 months. You have heard the story, so that I need not detail it further.

Smertenko insists that we should retract our statement, to tell the world that their propaganda work has been effective and has justified their claims to support.

Judge Schwartz and I, with whom Smertenko has talked, realize fully that the Emergency Committee is tinged with political and ideological concepts of which neither he nor I approve. We recognize, too, that the Emergency Committee is one of a series of organizations which have been set up by a small group of men for purposes which seem far removed from the objective of the Emergency Committee. We know furthermore that the J.D.C. and other organizations supported by the Jewish Welfare Fund for overseas work constitute the forces work-

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ing on behalf of American Jewry thru whatever channels and with whatever resources are necessary to do the job.

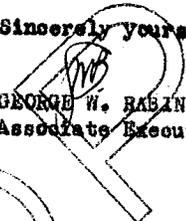
Nevertheless, we are disturbed and we would like your further re-assurance. We are in no position to enter into a controversy with the Emergency Committee on the "facts" which they are presenting to us. We know that J.D.G. and the other established agencies have been working with the government on these various programs and have had considerable responsibility for their initiation and certainly for their continued support.

What do you suggest?

We are having a meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund Board on Wednesday, October 25th, to tell them what has been happening and presumably to reaffirm our present position. Would you want to phone Judge Schwartz, Franklin 3000 after you have given the matter further thought?

Thanks and kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE W. HABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

C.C. ✓ Mr. Jim Abrahamson
Mr. Solomon Kusnets
Judge U. S. Schwartz

COPY

A Statement from The Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago

OUR ATTENTION has been called to the current fund raising activities being conducted by the "Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe."

We have consulted with the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, the Joint Distribution Committee, The United Palestine Appeal, and the other well established and responsible organizations which have been doing relief, rescue and rehabilitation work in the Jewish communities overseas. From this information we are convinced that the "Emergency Committee" is not engaging in any direct relief or rescue activities overseas.

Accordingly we do not endorse the fund raising activities of the "Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe."

The Jewish community of Chicago is making its contribution to war relief and rescue work through the Jewish Welfare Fund. The Jewish Welfare Fund is a member of The Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

THE JEWISH WELFARE FUND OF CHICAGO

ULYSSES S. SCHWARTZ, *President*

October 11, 1944



100231

Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

128 NORTH WELLS STREET
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8030

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUDGE U. S. SCHWARTZ, *President* · JAMES H. BECKER, *Vice-President* · HERBERT M. LAUTMANN, *Treasurer* · SAMUEL H. HOLLAND, *Secretary*
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October 10, 1944

Mr. Albert Abrahamsen
1530 16th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

Acknowledging yours of October 9th, which did arrive this morning.

We had a phone call from Joe Hyman the day you phoned me, reporting that the name of the War Refugee Board was not to be used but that he was willing to let us use the J.D.C.'s name, if the U.P.A. agreed. U.P.A. did agree, so the statement is in print and will be mailed to a 35,000 list this week.

We made several changes in the original draft in the course of discussion and copy of the revision is enclosed. Actually it was approved by our Board, by mail, with even the conservatives accepting the idea and only two objections, one of which was resolved in the revisions.

Now for the battle.

Cordially,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

CC: Mr. Joseph C. Hyman
Mr. Henry Montor

Member Agency



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overseas

Our attention has been called to the current fund raising activities being conducted by the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe:

We have consulted with the ~~President's War Refugee Board~~, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the other well established and responsible organizations which have been doing relief, rescue and rehabilitation work in the Jewish communities overseas. *From this information* We are convinced that the Emergency Committee is not engaging in *any* relief or rescue activities. ~~Its financial statement shows that practically all of its money is being spent for advertising and publicity.~~

Accordingly we do not endorse the fund raising activities of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe.

The Jewish community of Chicago is making its contribution to war relief and rescue work through the Jewish Welfare Fund. The Jewish Welfare Fund, which supports the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine, is a member of The Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

THE JEWISH WELFARE FUND OF CHICAGO

U. S. Schwartz,
President

October 3, 1944

000233

Chicago

September 30, 1944

Dear Judge Schwartz:

I am happy to have your letter of September 28th. Although I am not yet an old-timer, I agree with the verdict that it was an excellent meeting. In fact, it was the best arranged and best presented program that I have ever heard at gatherings of this nature. You and your collaborators are certainly entitled to a citation of merit.

I appreciate your suggestion that I look you up the next time I am in Chicago. I shall certainly do so. I hope that the next time you will not have to adjourn court to receive me.

Please give my best wishes to Mrs. Schwartz and to George Rabinoff.

Sincerely yours,

A. Abrahamson

Judge Ulysses S. Schwartz
Superior Court of Cook County
Chicago, Illinois

John Abrahamson files

000234

Superior Court of Cook County

Alyssa S. Schwartz, Judge

In Chambers

Chicago

September 28, 1944.

Mr. Albert Abrahamson,
War Refugee Board,
Executive Office of the President,
Washington, D. C.

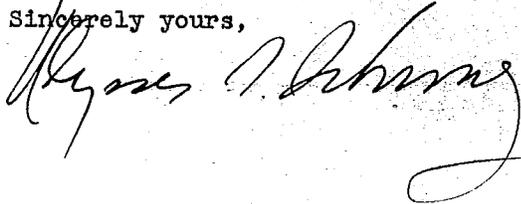
My dear Abrahamson:

I have written the Secretary telling him about the results of our meeting. The old-timers say that it was the best meeting of its kind ever held in Chicago. Both letters and checks have already come in to us as a direct result of the meeting. Many people have commented on the manifest sincerity and devotion of the Secretary to this kind of work. He made a fine impression.

Also our little party at the Standard Club will be productive of the results we expected for it.

Let me thank you for the great help you were to us, and I hope that our paths will cross frequently in the future. When you come to Chicago be sure to look me up again.

Sincerely yours,



from Abrahamson's file

100235

Chicago

September 30, 1944

Dear George:

I have somewhat lost track of our correspondence and telephone calls of the past few weeks. I know that at least I owe you a personal note of thanks for your courtesy and hospitality during my stay in Chicago. This is it.

The Secretary has received nice letters from Loeb, Judge Schwartz, Jimmy Becker, and Elmer Stevens. They are all appreciated.

The recording of the Secretary's speech is now here and we plan to play it to some of the people in the building early next week. If Bilow has not yet received thanks from Shaeffer, will you please tell him that we appreciate his going to the bother of obtaining the transcription.

I called Gerson Friday morning and he told me they thought it "inadvisable" for the Secretary to appear on the eleventh. He is writing me a letter which will probably explain in detail. In a way, I am not unhappy at the outcome. Any meeting after the Chicago one would be an anti-climax.

Please give my best wishes and thanks to your good wife.

Cordially,

A. Abrahamson

Mr. George W. Rabinoff
Associate Executive Director
Jewish Welfare Fund
128 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois

2000236

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE September 28, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM Mr. Abrahamson

You will recall that on Monday of this week, September 25, the Secretary expressed interest in the possibility of addressing a meeting in St. Louis similar to the one he addressed in Chicago on September 21. After our conversation, I telephoned George Rabinoff in Chicago and he sent a letter to Samuel Gerson in St. Louis. A copy of the letter is attached.

This morning I telephoned Gerson and he told me that although they were extremely appreciative of the possibility of having the Secretary speak, both the War Fund people and the Jewish Federation people at separate meetings decided that it would be "inadvisable" to have a meeting of this nature on October 11.

Gerson is writing me a letter in which he may explain the reasoning behind the decision. My own guess is that they already have a well-developed plan of meetings in advance and that at this date it is impossible to insert another meeting without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the entire campaign.

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Mr. Abrahamson file

000237

SEP 27 1944

Dear Mr. Rabinoff:

It was good of you to send me your friendly letter of September 23 and to write such nice things about the War Refugee Board and about myself. For our part, we want to thank you for all the courtesies you extended to our people when they were in Chicago. According to Jim Abrahamson, you and your staff did a beautiful job in making all the arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. George W. Rabinoff
Associate Executive Director
Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago
128 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois

aa Abrahamson:ess 9/26/44

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A.A.

Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

1 2 8 N O R T H W E L L S S T R E E T
T E L E P H O N E C E N T R A L 8 0 3 0

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September 23, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You ought to hear directly from the Executive Office about what happened at the Jewish Welfare Fund Meeting the other night.

Although you weren't there, you and the War Refugee Board were very much in the eyes of the more than 2,300 people who made up the audience.

Jim Abrahamson played the modest role and did no public appearance, but the fact remains that not only The Secretary but everybody else on the speakers platform made frequent reference to the War Refugee Board and periodically the reference was reinforced by calling your name directly.

All in all, it was a grand meeting and we are all very much encouraged by the program of your Board and the opportunity we had to bring it before our Chicago people. Thanks for the role you are playing in the process.

Sincerely yours

George W. Rabinoff
GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

Member Agency



000239

September 25, 1944

Mr. Samuel Gerson
Jewish Federation
1220 Chemical Building
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Sam:

You may have heard that Secretary Morgenthau was in Chicago last week for a meeting of our Jewish Welfare Fund, in connection with the War Fund Campaign. It was a very dramatic performance all the way around, with Joe Hyman and Rabbi Heller speaking for their respective organizations and the War Fund movie "Memo to Joe" with the War Fund President to round out the picture. We had a dinner attended by 140 people in the early evening and followed immediately with a mass meeting attended by 2,300.

This was Secretary Morgenthau's first appearance on a Jewish platform in many years and both he and we were thrilled at the reaction to his performance.

Jim Abrahamson, who you will remember as an Executive of the N.R.S., is now with the War Refugee Board and in that connection worked with The Secretary on this assignment and spent two days with us here last week. He just phoned me from Washington to tell me that The Secretary might be available for a speaking engagement in St. Louis on October 11th, if it can be of the same general character as the Chicago occasion. The Secretary has meetings in connection with the War Bond drive in Chicago on October 10th and in New Orleans on October 12th, so that a stopover in St. Louis on October 11th would be feasible.

If you can work up a meeting with or for The Secretary on October 11th, Jim suggests that you wire The Secretary as quickly as you can and the chances of a favorable response are good.

Cordially yours,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

CC: Mr. Albert Abrahamson

000240

September 23, 1944

Mr. Charles P. Shaeffer
Office of the Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Shaeffer:

When the credits are passed out for the meeting with The Secretary the other night, you are one of the guys that would be overlooked. So, I am sending you this personal note to tell you that I appreciated the help you gave us in keeping in touch with The Secretary and expediting the several phases of the program in which you were concerned.

Thanks.

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

CC: Mr. Albert Abrahamson

000241

Chicago

September 23, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You ought to hear directly from the Executive Office about what happened at the Jewish Welfare Fund Meeting the other night.

Although you weren't there, you and the War Refugee Board were very much in the eyes of the more than 2,300 people who made up the audience.

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All in all, it was a grand meeting and we are all very much encouraged by the program of your Board and the opportunity we had to bring it before our Chicago people. Thanks for the role you are playing in the process.

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

CC: Mr. Albert Abrahamson

000242

Morgenthau Backs Fund Drive Of Voluntary Refugee Units

CHICAGO, Sept. 23 (AP) — The War Refugee Board, in its eight months of existence, has participated in the rescue of thousands of persecuted persons from enemy countries, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, said yesterday.

In a talk prepared for delivery to the Jewish Welfare Fund to begin the Community and War Fund Campaign, Mr. Morgenthau, a W. R. B. member, said the W. R. B. had participated in the evacuation of refugees from the Balkans across the Black Sea to Palestine, or over the Pyrenees to Spain and Portugal, and in the relief of many who had taken sanctuary in Sweden and Switzerland.

The board has cooperated in establishing refugee camps in Africa, he said, and in emergency refugee shelter at Oswego, N. Y. The board's work has been car-

ried on and financed jointly by the Government and private agencies, he added.

"With the liberation of Europe," Mr. Morgenthau declared, "there will be an even more compelling need for these services. The activities of the War Refugee Board are war-related and are confined primarily to the rescue of refugees from enemy countries. When the oppressors have been overthrown, the liberated peoples will be in desperate need of sustenance and encouragement.

"Beyond the help which will be given to them by the military authorities, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, there will be a great need for the kind of care which only voluntary agencies can provide."

files

Superior Court of Cook County
Myron S. Schwartz, Judge
In Chambers

Chicago

September 22, 1944.

Mr. J. W. Pehle,
Executive Office of the President,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Following your letter I got in touch with Mr. Shaeffer and Mr. Abrahamson of the Secretary's staff, and we arranged a small cocktail party at the Standard Club. The Secretary met a few people that would be of importance to us in many respects.

The dinner meeting and the big meeting were both full to capacity. At the big meeting we had twenty-three hundred in attendance. The Secretary and his speech were both enthusiastically received. His simple, unspoiled, thoroughly Democratic manner wins everybody. I hope if he comes to Chicago again I may have the opportunity of arranging, with a little more care, a meeting with the key men of the community. During the course of our meeting here many fine compliments were paid to you and your work.

Sincerely,

Myron S. Schwartz

P.S. If you come to Chgo., on any occasion, let me know, by all means.

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Executive Office of the President
Washington

RELEASE NO. 14

(The following address by SECRETARY MORGENTHAU, a member of the War Refugee Board, before a mass meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund to inaugurate the campaign of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, at the Stevens Hotel, is scheduled for delivery at 9:00 P.M., Central War Time, Thursday, September 21, 1944, and is for release at that time.)

A readiness to help one's fellow-men has always been a hallmark of the kind of civilization which we are now waging war to preserve. Never has there been more urgent need for it than now when the end of the war is approaching. For we shall be able to make our victory real only if we succeed in binding up the world's wounds, only if we can relieve and heal the terrible suffering which the war has caused.

This special meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund is designed to encourage the Jewish community of Chicago to give its generous support to the Community and War Fund of the Metropolitan area. The Jews of Europe, who have suffered so terribly from Nazi savagery have special need of your help. It will be heartening to them to know that in this community, far away from the turmoil and destruction of the war, Jews and non-Jews together are striving to assist them.

All of you who share in this great effort have cause for gratification. There is something lost, I think, if men are deprived of the privilege of lending, voluntarily, a helping hand to their fellow-men and to the causes in which they believe. In a democracy there must always be room for the voluntary participation of individuals banding together to meet the problems of society. Charity, like mercy, is twice blessed. "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

Fund raising efforts such as the one which you are now undertaking do more than anything else to give us a sense of human solidarity. Their benefits, when they are directed to needs at home, do much to improve the morale and physical well-being of our people and thus make our country stronger - in peace as well as in war. When these benefits are directed overseas, they help to preserve the concepts for which we are fighting - human decency and dignity. They keep alive the values of our civilization.

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Private agencies, such as those that make up the United Jewish Appeal, administering funds voluntarily contributed, have for many years been carrying on important programs overseas, furnishing rescue, relief and encouragement to millions of persecuted and impoverished people in Europe. We know that these activities have done much to bolster their will to live and to carry on. Refugees coming out of Nazi-dominated territory have testified that it has been a source of great strength to them to know that America cares about what happens to them - and cares enough to do something constructive in their behalf.

My conviction in this regard has been strengthened by the whole of my experience with the War Refugee Board, established eight months ago through the vision and humanitarianism of President Roosevelt. It is my privilege to share membership on the Board with Secretary Hull and Secretary Stimson, and to serve with its Executive Director, John W. Pehle.

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."

With a small staff in Washington, with a handful of able representatives in strategic neutral countries, the Board has carried on a host of activities in relief, in rescue, and in psychological warfare - all designed to save the lives of persecuted peoples.

Life-saving in an occupied country during a war is not a simple matter. All over Europe the Board has carried on its work with the great care necessary in such complex operations. It has participated in the rescue of thousands from the Balkans across the Black Sea to Palestine - in the rescue of many over the Pyrenees to and through Spain and Portugal - in the relief of many weary victims of Hitler's persecution who had found sanctuary in Sweden and Switzerland. It has cooperated in establishing many refugee camps in Africa and, through the President's leadership, an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego, in the United States. It has taken the lead in sending food packages from this country to helpless internees in European camps. In the Hungarian crisis it took many steps which undoubtedly helped stay the deportation of Jews and relieve their condition. It has used all the old techniques and invented some new ones. It has applied them all to the saving of human life.

In all its operations, the Board has worked in the closest cooperation with private agencies. Many of its programs in relief and rescue work have utilized the personnel, the funds and the experience of those private agencies in which you are particularly interested and which you are supporting. In addition, it has had the warmest sort of support and assistance from numerous non-Jewish organizations - the American Friends' Service Committee, the Unitarian Service Committee, the International Committee of the Red Cross and many others.

100046

The rescue operations from the Balkans were actually carried on by the Jewish Agency of Palestine and the Joint Distribution Committee. Part of the expense of feeding persons in Hungary and other occupied countries has been met by JDC. Without the help of such agencies these activities might have been "too little and too late."

Some of you may wonder why the work of the War Refugee Board has not been carried on and financed exclusively by the Government. Let me explain why I think it better that it was done jointly by both private agencies and the Government.

When the Board was first established, it was obvious that speed was essential. Millions of unfortunate people were in danger of sudden violent death or deportation. The pace of the war indicated that sudden military and diplomatic moves were impending. There was the terrible prospect that in the last days of his control, Hitler would suddenly undertake new measures of persecution and extermination. It was imperative that speedy machinery be employed.

In the light of this situation, the Board decided to rule out, wherever possible, all plans and devices that involved undue delay. It was quickly apparent that there were honorable, seasoned private organizations in this field who were equipped with everything except the kind of support which could come only from the Government of the United States. The main ingredient that was lacking was a vigorous statement of policy by this Government, and its application in all possible ways.

It seemed perfectly logical that a relationship should be established between the private agencies and the Government in order that the maximum number of lives should be saved in the minimum time. For its part the Government could contribute the weight of its prestige, its diplomacy, its communication channels, its licensing and transportation facilities - wherever these did not interfere with the winning of the war. For their part the private agencies could give detailed knowledge, seasoned personnel, long experience, and quickly available funds.

A partnership was speedily arranged. War Refugee Board originated, expedited, negotiated and enabled; private agencies did most of the financing and operating, and attended to those practical matters in which they were experienced.

It is impossible, in my judgment, to pay too high a tribute to the work done by the organizations represented here this evening. There has been no call made upon them by the War Refugee Board which they did not answer with ardor and generosity. There has been no

appeal from the beleaguered humans in Hitler's European dungeon to which they did not respond with zeal and vigor and compassion. They operated under terrible handicaps and against terrible odds. Yet they managed to pluck condemned men from the hands of executioners. They managed to bring children - youngsters whose whole lives had been spent in the shadow of persecution - into the light of freedom and opportunity and hope. They did more than save lives. They upheld the faith of mankind in the essential values upon which our civilization is founded.

With the liberation of Europe, there will be an even more compelling need for these services. The activities of the War Refugee Board are war-related and are confined primarily to the rescue of refugees from enemy countries. When the oppressors have been overthrown, the liberated peoples will be in desperate need of sustenance and encouragement. Beyond the help which will be given to them by the military authorities, UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees there will be a great need for the kind of care which only voluntary agencies can provide.

In Rome today, for example, the JDC is ministering to the needs of desperate and broken remnants of the Jewish population. There is special need of food and medical care for these persecuted people. And the situation there will unquestionably be duplicated in France, in Belgium, in Holland, in Poland, in Hungary, in all the lands where the oppressor's heel has trod. Liberation will simply multiply your opportunities to be of service. It would be tragic to desert the great cause now. For the task which you are called upon to support is indispensable to the creation of the kind of world in which we hope to live.

All of you, I know, have read with shame and anger and heartbreak the tales of Nazi savagery which have been unfolded as the liberation of Europe has progressed. No human being, least of all an American who has been brought up to respect freedom and the sanctity of the individual, could learn of these acts without a shuddering anguish. They are, to most of us, in a real sense incredible; and it is incredible that they should have been perpetrated by creatures shaped like men. Yet the record of what took place at Warsaw and Lublin and Kharkov, the bestial cruelty of the Gestapo in Germany and in all the lands which Germans overran, is real past all denying. I shall not try to tell you any of these tales. I know that your minds and hearts already have been seared by them.

We who have been spared these horrors have a solemn obligation to those who experienced them - an obligation imposed upon us by our common humanity. We have an obligation to those millions whom the war will have left homeless and hungry, uprooted and driven to distant places, bereft of any means to start their lives anew. We cannot turn our heads aside and look the other way. The basic tenet of the civilization we cherish is that a kinship exists among all men.

P R O G R A M

THE JEWISH WELFARE FUND OF CHICAGO

Special Fall Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1944 • 8:00 P. M.
GRAND BALLROOM OF THE STEVENS HOTEL

Presiding Chairman JUDGE ULYSSES S. SCHWARTZ
President, The Jewish Welfare Fund

"The Star-Spangled Banner" BENJAMIN LANDSMAN

Invocation RABBI FELIX LEVY

The J. D. C. in a World at War JOSEPH C. HYMAN
*Executive Vice Chairman
Joint Distribution Committee*

America's Historic Task—To Help Save the
Lives of Persecuted Peoples Everywhere HON. HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.
*Secretary of the Treasury
Member of the War Refugee Board*

How Chicago Is Writing *Its* Memo to G. I. Joe ELMER T. STEVENS
*President, The Community and War
Fund of Metropolitan Chicago*

Palestine—Its Record of Achievement RABBI JAMES G. HELLER
Chairman, United Palestine Appeal

THE JEWISH WELFARE FUND

is a Member Agency of

THE COMMUNITY & WAR FUND OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO



000249

Sept. 19,
1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

NOTES ON CHICAGO SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT, September 21.

1. Mr. Shaeffer has been in Chicago since the 14th. He is staying at the Sherman.
2. Mr. Abrahamson will arrive in Chicago on the 20th and stay at the Palmer House.
3. The occasion of your visit is a meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund to inaugurate the campaign of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. The campaign goal is \$12,980,000, of which the Jewish Welfare Fund allocation is \$1,500,000, with special provision for a further grant up to \$350,000 additional if the campaign is oversubscribed. The bulk of the JWF allocation will go to the United Jewish Appeal, which in turn finances the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal, and the National Refugee Service.
4. There is a dinner meeting at 6:00 P.M. at the Stevens Hotel. The attendance will be about 150 people. There will be a short informal discussion after the dinner. Judge Schwartz will introduce the three guests of honor and Elmer Stevens, President of the Community and War Fund, and Ben Harris will act as moderator. There will be carefully selected questions from the floor. Mr. Abrahamson will be at the dinner to help in the answering of questions dealing with the War Refugee Board.

From Abrahamson file

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5. There will be a mass meeting at eight o'clock in the Grand Ballroom of the Stevens Hotel. Between 1500 and 2000 people are expected. Admission is by ticket only. The program is as follows:

- A. Judge Schwartz to preside and to make all introductions.
- B. Singing of Star Spangled Banner
- F C. Short talk by Elmer Stevens, President of the Community and War Fund
- C D. Short talk by Joseph G. Hyman, Exec. Vice Chairman, JDC
- E. Twelve-minute War Fund Movie, "Memo to Joe," Quentin Reynolds
- ~~D~~ F. Principal address by Secretary Morgenthau
- G. Short talk by Rabbi James G. Heller, Chairman of United Palestine Appeal

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE September 18, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM Mr. Abrahamson

As you will see from the attached letter from George Rabinoff of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago, he is somewhat disturbed about the opening sentence of the second paragraph of the draft of speech which Mr. Shaeffer has given to him. The sentence now reads: "Tonight you inaugurate the campaign of the Jewish Welfare Fund in behalf of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago". I gather from Rabinoff's objections that the sentence might more properly read: "This special meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund is designed to encourage the Jewish Community of Chicago to give its generous support to the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago".

There is one other minor point that has occurred to me. On Page 6 of the draft, the second sentence of the last paragraph now reads as follows: "It was quickly apparent that there were many honorable, seasoned private organizations in the field, etc." I believe that it would be more accurate to omit the word "many".

If these two suggested corrections meet with your approval, I shall be glad, if you wish, to convey them to Mr. Smith.

aa

100852

CHICAGO TIMES-September 17, 1944

**Work of refugee
board to be told
by Morgenthau**

Work of the War Refugee board, organized eight months ago to rescue thousands of victims of Nazi tyranny, will be outlined by Treasury Sec. Henry Morgenthau Jr., a member of the board, at a special meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund Thursday evening in the Stevens hotel.

Also to speak are Joseph C. Hyman, executive vice chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Rabbi James G. Heller, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal. Both these refugee aid units are assisted by the Jewish Welfare fund, which in turn is a beneficiary agency of the Community and War Fund here.

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Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

1 2 8 N O R T H W E L L S S T R E E T
T E L E P H O N E C E N T R A L 8 0 3 0

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September 15, 1944

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Jim:

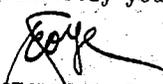
Your Charles Schaeffer met with Bilow and myself yesterday and they are working on the various publicity and related plans. Schaeffer undertook to clear such questions as whether the Secretary would welcome a delegation meeting him on arrival, whether he will be willing to make a radio address Thursday morning, the only time open, whether there is anything else he wants in the way of special arrangements.

Mr. Schaeffer gave us a copy of the draft of the Secretary's speech and there is one point in it which needs to be corrected, both in the statement and in the Secretary's impression. The opening sentence of the second paragraph reads: "Tonight you inaugurate the campaign of the Jewish Welfare Fund in behalf of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago".

That might be a correct statement talking spiritually, but in strict fact, it might be misinterpreted. The Jewish Welfare Fund is not conducting a campaign at all. Its campaign strength and resources have been **integrated** into the War Fund Campaign, so that our group is indistinguishable, in its workers, in its contributors and in its promotional activities.

However, this meeting on September 21st is a special Jewish Welfare Fund Meeting, directed to the Jewish community of Chicago, because of their special interest in the agencies being supported by the Jewish Welfare Fund, to encourage their generous support of the War Fund Campaign. Incidentally, we know that the Jewish Welfare Fund will have to be resumed as soon as the War Fund is liquidated and, therefore, want to retain some organizational identity, but that point need not be made.

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

Member Agency



000254

September 15, 1944

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of September 14. I am leaving on the five-thirty train on Tuesday and shall proceed to the Palmer House upon my arrival Wednesday. I shall call you during the morning.

As concerns Wednesday, the 20th, I have no commitments at the present. I imagine that I shall have to spend some time with Shaeffer. It will be quite agreeable to me to meet for an hour during the afternoon with the group interested in Hungary. I am leaving the selection of the precise time to you and will check with you Wednesday.

I shall be very happy to have dinner with you at your home on Wednesday evening. Thank you very much for the invitation.

As you have probably noticed from the press, Secretary Morgenthau is now in Quebec. His speech is awaiting final clearance, which should be forthcoming in a couple of days. As far as I can now tell, he will leave on Wednesday by train, although if the pressure of high government matters makes it necessary, he may have to fly on Thursday.

I am looking forward to seeing you.

Cordially yours,

Albert Abrahamson

Mr. George W. Rabinoff
Associate Executive Director
Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago
128 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois

000255

September 14, 1944.

Dear Judge Schwartz:

Secretary Morgenthau is away from Washington, and I am therefore acknowledging your letter of September 9 for him.

It is good of you to ask if you may not arrange hotel reservations for him during his visit to Chicago. This will not be necessary, however, as Mr. Morgenthau has already secured accommodations, and so we will not put you to the trouble of getting them for him.

I know that the Secretary is looking forward to being with you and will appreciate what you said of his coming visit.

With personal regards,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Judge Ulysses S. Schwartz,
President, Jewish Welfare Fund
of Chicago,
123 North Wells Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

*Submitted copy to
Mr. Morgenthau*

GEF:JWPehle:lhh 9/14/44

000256

Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

128 NORTH WELLS STREET

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8030

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September 14, 1944

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Jim:

Acknowledging yours of September 12th, Mr. Shaeffer arrived in town this morning and we have a date to see him tomorrow and go over various matters with him, including the questions raised in your letter and others he may have on his own account.

By this time, you have probably received my letter indicating that your hotel reservation for the 20th is at the Palmer House.

Question has come up within the past few days on which you can be very helpful to us if your schedule on the 20th permits. We have a group of Hungarian Jews who are in the process of raising funds for their country men. They are quite innocent of any Jewish politics and at the same time are entirely free of information regarding the activities of the War Refugee Board and relationships on that issue to their own special interests. I have had correspondence with Mr. Kuznets of Harry Lurie's office on the subject and it occurred to me that it might be worth an hour's time next Wednesday for you and three or four of the officers of the local Hungarian body. Can you make it? I'd like to let them know as quickly as possible if you can anticipate your schedule.

Will you have Wednesday evening, the 20th, clear for dinner with me at home?

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

Member Agency



000257

September 12, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Mr. Abrahamson

I am leaving for Chicago on Tuesday, September 19,
on the 5:30 P.M. train and will be back in the office
Saturday morning, September 23.

from Abrahamson file

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Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

128 NORTH WELLS STREET
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8030

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September 12, 1944

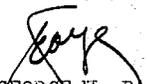
Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

In accordance with your telephone call yesterday, we have made a room reservation for you at the Palmer House for September 20th. That will be convenient for all of us and we look forward to your being here.

Mr. Bilow, our Public Relations Director, who has been handling the arrangements for our September 21st Meeting will be available for checking over details on publicity and further procedures with Mr. Schaeffer when he reaches here on the 14th.

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

Member Agency



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MEMORANDUM

September 11, 1944

To: Mr. Charles P. Shaeffer

From: Mr. Albert Abrahamson

I have talked with Mr. George W. Rabinoff, Associate Executive Director of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago, 128 North Wells Street (Telephone Central 8030). He has been informed of your probable arrival in Chicago on Thursday, the 14th. I have told him that you will be in touch with him.

Albert Abrahamson

100860

Jewish Welfare Fund OF CHICAGO

128 NORTH WELLS STREET
TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8030

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MRS. WALTER E. HELLER SAMUEL H. HOLLAND SOL KLINE HERBERT M. LAUTMANN HARRIS PERLSTEIN JUDGE ULYSSES S. SCHWARTZ A. K. SELZ

September 9, 1944

Hon. Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am happy to acknowledge your acceptance of our invitation for September 21st. Dinner that evening will be at six p. m. in order that we may start the big meeting promptly.

We talked to the major Chicago radio stations and networks about carrying a portion of the program that evening. Unfortunately we started too late for them to change their commercial programs. The stations regret their inability to carry the program. However, we feel that what we may lose in radio will be amply made up by newspaper coverage.

Shall we arrange hotel reservations for you either at the Stevens, the Palmer House, The Drake, or the Ambassador? Do you have a preference.

We are all looking forward to your visit.

Cordially yours,



Ulysses S. Schwartz
President

USS:a1



000261

COPY

THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.

September 8th, 1944.

Personal

Mr. Albert Abrahamson,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Jim:

In order to lose no time, I am sending you herewith copy of a letter which came addressed to Mr. Leavitt by George Rabinoff, Associate Executive Director of the Chicago Welfare Fund, with reference to the meeting which Secretary Morgenthau has agreed to address.

I think it would be of interest to you to note what the Chicago people have in mind and how they would like the meeting set up. Perhaps Mr. Leavitt will have had time to discuss this with you today.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

/s/ Joe

J. C. Hyman
Executive Vice-Chairman

JCH:mh

encl.

Mr. Abrahamson file

000262

COPY

September 7, 1944

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
270 Madison Avenue
New York City 16, New York

Dear Moe:

The following represents our plan for the September 21st Jewish Welfare Fund meeting, as worked out with our Committee. Some of it is already in process, while some of the steps can be modified, if you or your associates consider it necessary or desirable. I am enclosing two extra copies, in the event that you want to send them to Rabbi Heller and to Jim Abrahamson, to give them the setting of the entire affair.

PURPOSE

To maintain active interest within the Jewish community in the JEWISH WELFARE FUND, and to encourage generous support of the current campaign of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. The constituent beneficiaries of the War Fund, in addition to the JWF, are the Community Fund of Chicago and the National War Fund. The War Fund campaign starts early in October, although the Special Gifts phase is already under way. The campaign goal is \$12,980,000., of which the JWF allocation is \$1,500,000, with special provision for a further grant up to \$350,000. additional, if the campaign is oversubscribed.

TIME, PLACE AND INVITATION LISTS

Two meetings are scheduled, both at the Stevens Hotel (we have reserved rooms for Mr. Hyman and Rabbi Heller at the Palmer House):

1. Mass meeting, in the Grand Ballroom, seating about 2,000 people, at 8:00 P.M. Admission by ticket. Notice of meeting sent to all Jewish organizations (about 900) in Chicago, early in August, and to the Anglo-Jewish press, establishing the date. Invitations, with enclosed return card for ticket request, being mailed today to 13,000 contributors of \$10. and over to The Jewish Charities, the most effective and current mailing list of potential givers. Next week, similar letters will be sent to all Jewish organizations, announcing the program, with ticket requests. This will cover the Womens' organizations, landsmanschaften, synagogues, Temple Mens' groups, Community Council, B'nai B'rith lodges, etc. Press notices will continue weekly to the Anglo-Jewish

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and Yiddish papers, and on schedule to the metropolitan press.

2. Dinner meeting at 6:00 P.M., attendance about 150 people. Invitations being mailed this week to: the Boards of The Jewish Charities and the Jewish Welfare Fund; the Executive Committees of the Community Council, the Womens' Division and the Folks Division; Jewish workers on the Special Gifts Division of the War Fund Campaign and other key workers in the campaign; key officers and leaders of the Community and War Fund and the Campaign organization; special Jewish names not covered in the above. No press publicity for the dinner.

PROGRAM AND TIME SCHEDULE

1. Dinner, scheduled for 6:00 P.M., service to start promptly at 6:30 P.M. and concluded at 7:30, leaving a maximum of 30 minutes for the program. Meeting to adjourn at 8:00 P.M. promptly. Tone to be entirely informal, with no speeches. Program to be in the form of a Town Hall meeting, similar to that conducted at the JDC Regional meeting in Chicago last Spring, and off the record. Judge Schwartz will open the meeting, introducing the three guests of honor and Elmer Stevens, President of the Community and War Fund, and Ben Harris, who will act as moderator. Mr. Harris will invite questions from the floor, to be addressed to the guests. Questions will be selected carefully, because of time limitations and other considerations, the primary purpose being to give the guest speakers an opportunity to discuss certain problems which cannot be brought before the larger meeting.

2. Mass Meeting, scheduled for 8:00 P.M. to start promptly at 8:30. Suggested program:

- Judge Schwartz to preside, to make all introductions, total time 8 minutes
- Singing of Star Spangled Banner 4 minutes
- Talk by Elmer Stevens, Clarence Randall, Campaign Chairman, will not be in the city) 10 minutes
- Talk by Joseph C. Hyman 18 minutes
- War Fund Movie - Memo to Joe, with Quentin Reynolds 12 minutes
- Talk by Secretary Morgenthau 30 - 45 minutes
- Talk by Rabbi Heller 18 minutes

(It would be desirable to curtail the speeches of each of the guest speakers somewhat, if possible, to protect audience fatigue, but that will have to be left to the discretion of the individual speakers.)

PROGRAM NOTES

Each of the guest speakers will have a particular point of view and interest to present, Mr. Morgenthau in view of his connection with the federal government, Mr. Hyman and Rabbi Heller with the UJA and its constituent agencies, the JDC, UPA and NRS. The following points are suggested, to be covered between the three addresses, although several of them may be referred to in each of the addresses:

1. The Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago, under whose auspices the meeting is being held, was organized early in 1936, for the purpose of raising funds for rescue and rehabilitation of the victims of Nazism in Europe. Its principal beneficiaries are the JDC, the UPA and the NRS, and its other beneficiaries are also engaged in overseas relief work, except for the war service program of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Up to the year 1943, the Jewish Welfare Fund conducted an annual campaign for funds for this work among the Jews of Chicago, and in its early years, it was the leader among the larger cities of the country in the funds raised. In 1943, it discontinued its separate campaign and associated itself with the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. The greatly increased needs of the Jewish Welfare Fund were recognized by the War Fund in the increase in the 1944 allocation to \$1,500,000, as against the \$1,220,000 allocation for 1943.

2. The need for private and voluntary funds for overseas relief work, in view of the expenditures by the United States and the other United Nations for relief and rehabilitation work. The relations of the United Jewish Appeal and other privately financed agencies to the governmental programs of the UNRRA, the War Refugee Board, the Inter-Governmental Commission on Refugees, etc. and the extent to which the private and publicly supported programs supplement and complement each other, are planned together, and are directed to the common objective.

3. The American debt to the foreign countries, allied in the United Nations, who maintained the fighting fronts while the United States was mobilizing resources to help win the War. The relief funds being raised through the War Fund campaigns are a partial repayment of these debts to world civilization.

4. The program of the National War Fund, under license by the President's War Relief Control Board, and in close collaboration with the several departments and branches of the federal government involved in the social and economic rehabilitation and stabilization of the war-affected countries. The work is an integral part of post-war planning, related to the programs being worked out at Dumbarton Oaks, and Bretton Woods, etc.

5. The special needs of the Jewish populations in the war-stricken countries, relocation of the millions of displaced persons, questions of the use of Palestine in this program. Why there are such special Jewish needs, and what those needs are.

6. The current facts and programs of the UJA agencies, as colorfully presented as possible.

7. It has sometimes been intimated and argued that the raising of large funds for foreign relief operates to the detriment of local charities. Experience demonstrates that there is no basis for this conclusion. Under the impulse of the dramatic situation which arises when vast numbers of people are in distress, many otherwise unresponsive persons are awakened to the needs of local charities.

8. The association of all groups in the Community and War Fund has served greatly to increase mutual understanding, good will and to create a feeling of comradeship in a great, humane undertaking.

100265

Mr. Moses A. Leavitt

September 7, 1944

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Copies of the general invitation to the meeting are enclosed. We are acknowledging the acceptance of our invitations directly to Messrs. Morgenthau, Hyman and Heller, but will hold off writing them about any of the details of the meeting until we hear from you.

With keen appreciation of your help in organizing this great meeting, shared by all of us in the Welfare Fund and in the War Fund,

Cordially,

GEORGE W. RABINOFF
Associate Executive Director

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE Sept. 6, 1944

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM J. W. Pehle

Attached is the first draft of your
speech for September 21 in Chicago.

Abrahamson and I would like to discuss
it with you at your convenience.



Attachment

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COPY

~~There is nothing more vital to the needs of humanity than the purposes for which you have come together here this evening.~~ A readiness to help one's fellow-men has always been a hallmark of the kind of civilization which we are now waging war to preserve. Never has there been more urgent need for it than now when that war seems almost won. For we shall be able to make our victory real only if we succeed in binding up the world's wounds, only if we can relieve and heal the terrible suffering which the war has caused.

S. Brown [Tonight you inaugurate the campaign of the Jewish Welfare Fund in behalf of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.] I am happy to be here with you and grateful to you for giving me a share in these efforts. The Jews of Europe, who have suffered so terribly from Nazi savagery have special need of your help. It will be heartening to know that in this community, far away from the turmoil and destruction of the war, Jews and non-Jews together are striving to assist them.

~~Some people feel that this sort of assistance should be given through governments -- that governments should run all social and welfare programs. I don't happen to agree. We undoubtedly must have a gradual expansion of public efforts~~

in the field of social services both internationally and at home; even now we are feeling our way in an evolutionary program. But I shudder at the prospect of a government monopoly in these areas.

There is something lost, I think, if men are deprived of the privilege of lending, voluntarily, a helping hand to their fellow-men and to the causes in which they believe. Although in certain spheres, especially when we are at war, compulsion is necessary, it is equally true that in a democracy there must always be room for the voluntary participation of individuals banding together to meet the problems of society. As you know, I have always advocated the sale of Government war bonds on a strictly voluntary basis rather than by compulsory means. In part, this is because the purchase of these bonds by individuals gives to them, I think, a sense of partnership in the national cause which they would not get by any other means. Just so with charity. Like mercy, it is, I think, twice blessed. "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

Fund raising efforts such as the one which you are now undertaking do more than anything else to give us a sense of human solidarity. Their benefits, when they are directed to needs at home, do much to improve the morale and the physical

well-being of our people and thus make our country stronger -- both during and after the war. When these benefits are directed overseas, they help to preserve the concepts for which we are fighting -- human decency and dignity. They keep alive the values of our civilization.

Private agencies, such as those that make up the United Jewish Appeal, administering funds voluntarily contributed, have for many years been carrying on important programs overseas, furnishing rescue, relief and encouragement to millions of persecuted and impoverished people in Europe. We know that these activities have done much to bolster their will to live and to carry on. Refugees coming out of Nazi-dominated territory have testified that it has been a source of great strength to them to know that America cares about what happens to them -- and cares enough to do something constructive in their behalf.

My conviction in this regard is strengthened by the experience I have had with the War Refugee Board which was established eight months ago tomorrow, through the vision and humanitarianism of President Roosevelt. I am honored to share membership on the Board with Secretary Hull and Secretary Stimson, and to serve with its Executive Director, John W. Pehle.

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~~The Executive Order creating the Board declares that~~
"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."

With a small staff in Washington, with a handful of able representatives in strategic neutral countries, the Board has carried on a host of activities in relief, in rescue, and in psychological warfare -- all designed to save the lives of persecuted peoples.

Life-saving in an occupied country during a war is not a simple matter. It may mean actual, physical rescue -- sometimes by somewhat unorthodox methods. It may mean persuasion of a wavering government to discontinue persecution. It may mean providing relief or the money or credit to obtain relief. Or it may mean psychological warfare -- by pamphlet or by radio -- designed both to discourage oppressors and encourage their victims.

All over Europe the Board has carried on its work with the care and secrecy that are necessary in such delicate operations. It has participated in the rescue of thousands from the Balkans

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across the Black Sea to Palestine -- in the rescue of many over the Pyrenees to and through Spain and Portugal. It has cooperated in establishing many refugee camps in Africa and, through the President's leadership, an Emergency Refugee shelter at Oswego, in the United States. It has taken the lead in sending food packages from this country to helpless internees in European camps. In the Hungarian crisis it took many steps which undoubtedly helped stay the deportation of Jews and relieve their condition. It has used all the old techniques and invented some new ones. It has applied them all to the saving of human life.

Exemplar

The stirring story of achievement of the War Refugee Board will one day be told. Then you will understand why I feel that one of the most satisfying experiences in my public career derives from the honor that was bestowed on me by President Roosevelt in making me a member of this Board.

In all its operations, the Board has worked in closest cooperation with private agencies. Many of its programs in relief and rescue work have utilized the personnel, the funds and the experience of those private agencies in which you are particularly interested and which you are supporting.

The rescue operations from the Balkans were actually

*In addition
I want
to mention
Appreciation
to all
those
me*

carried on by the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee. Part of the expense of feeding persons in Hungary and other occupied countries has been met by JDC. Without the help of such agencies, ~~particularly the JDC~~, these activities might have been "too little and too late."

Some of you may wonder why the work of the War Refugee Board has not been carried on and financed exclusively by the Government. Let me explain why I think it better that it was done jointly by both private agencies and the government.

When the Board was first established, it was obvious that speed was essential. Millions of unfortunate people were in danger of sudden violent death or deportation. The pace of the war indicated that sudden military and diplomatic moves were impending. There was the terrible prospect that in the last days of his control, Hitler would suddenly undertake new measures of persecution and extermination. It was imperative that speedy machinery be employed.

In the light of this situation, the Board decided to rule out, wherever possible, all plans and devices that involved undue delay. It was quickly apparent that there were ~~many~~ honorable, seasoned private organizations in the field who were equipped with everything except the kind of support which

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could come only from the Government of the United States. The main ingredient that was lacking was a vigorous statement of policy of this Government and its application in all possible ways.

It seemed perfectly logical that a relationship should be established between the private agencies and the Government in order that the maximum number of lives should be saved in the minimum time. For its part the Government could contribute the weight of its prestige, its diplomacy, its communication channels, its licensing facilities, its transportation facilities -- wherever these did not interfere with the winning of the war. For their part the private agencies could give detailed knowledge, seasoned personnel, long experience, and quickly available funds.

A partnership was quickly arranged. War Refugee Board originated, expedited, negotiated and enabled; private agencies did most of the financing and operating, and attended to those practical matters in which they were experienced.

We realize that, with all our doing, we never met the problem in its full, horrible dimensions. ~~For it must always be remembered that we had to operate in such a way that the progress of the war would be expedited rather than retarded.~~

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Some of the most trying moments in the history of the Board occurred when a barbaric enemy conditioned the release of refugees upon proposals for us to give war materials in return.

I am going to tell you about one specific case of this kind. Your feeling about it, I know, will be the same as mine. Several months ago a suggestion came to us through the subterranean diplomatic channels which operate even in wartime, that the enemy would release a certain number of imprisoned victims -- provided we would deliver to them ten thousand trucks. And it was delicately hinted to us that the trucks would be used only against our Allies, the Russians. I need not tell you that we never yielded to such ransom proposals. And I may add that no private agency, regardless of the desperate situation involved, ever urged us to yield to them.

All of you, I know, have read with shame and anger and heartbreak the tales of Nazi savagery which have been unfolded as the liberation of Europe has progressed. No human being, least of all an American who has been brought up to respect freedom and the sanctity of the individual, could learn of these acts without a shuddering anguish. They are, to most of us, in a real sense incredible; and it is incredible that they should have been perpetrated by creatures shaped like men. Yet

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the record of what took place at Warsaw and Lublin and Kharkov, the bestial cruelty of the Gestapo in Germany and in all the lands which Germans overran are real past all denying. I shall not try to tell you any of these tales. I know that your minds and hearts already have been seared by them.

We who have been spared these horrors have a solemn obligation to those who experienced them -- an obligation imposed upon us by our common humanity. We have an obligation to those millions whom the war will have left homeless and hungry, uprooted and driven to distant places, bereft of any means to start their lives anew. We cannot turn our heads aside and look the other way. The basic tenet of the civilization which we cherish is that a kinship exists among all men.

Several public international organizations -- notably UNRRA and the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees -- have been established to meet aspects of these problems. But the problems are so great and the governmental techniques so imperfect that there will be much which only voluntary agencies can do. It would be tragic if any interested group were to desert the great cause now.

The work which your organizations contemplate is indispensable to the creation of the kind of world in which we hope

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to live. The sentiments which impel you to support this work are the sentiments upon which our civilization is founded. That civilization can endure only as we respect and promote its essential values. When the enemy has been beaten, this great challenge will remain. We must not falter before it.

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