

Joy, CHARLES R.

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JUN 5 1944

Mr. Charles R. Joy
Committee on Special Refugee Problems
144 Bleecker Street
New York 12, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Joy:

Thank you for your letter of May 26, 1944. I am happy to learn that as a result of the conversations which you mention you have been able to clear up to your satisfaction any question concerning your own record or the record of your Committee.

As you know, we are extremely anxious to cooperate with all private organizations engaged in refugee rescue and relief activities, including, of course, the Unitarian Service Committee. If your Committee desires to send you or some other representative to the Near East to organize rescue and relief activities, we will be glad to support your request.

I am very grateful to you for all of the assistance that you have been able to give us in refugee matters, and hope that you will be able to continue your good work either here or abroad.

Yours sincerely,

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

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle
Copy to: Mrs. Friedman*

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COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS

144 Bleecker Street, New York 12, N. Y.

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May 26, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I talked with several people in the State Department after my conference with you last Monday including Mr. Watson of Stettinius's office and Mr. Berle.

The thing that concerned me, namely the fear that there was something sour in my record or in the record of my Committee, apparently was not based upon fact, for Mr. Berle assured me that nothing of this sort was in the record. From his statement to me I would judge that the reason for his disapproval is that the Unitarian Service Committee and I had been so active in the rescue of refugees of various and sometimes mutually hostile political convictions as to arouse certain opposition and criticism and that they feel it would be much better in as delicate a situation as that in Cairo to send someone as your diplomatic representative who had not been so directly involved in so many activities for refugees as I.

While of course I do not find myself in complete sympathy with this point of view it is not for me to question the wisdom of the State Department nor to make an effort to force myself into the picture. I only hope that you may be able to find someone who will do an energetic piece of work. It looks to me a little as if the State Department wanted someone who would play a very cautious game in the midst of the conflicting currents in Cairo politics and who might not cause them any embarrassment. This, of course, does not alter in the least my desire to cooperate to the full with you and I shall continue to do so either in this special Committee or in my old job as Director of the Unitarian Service Committee.

I hope, moreover, that nothing that has happened will make it difficult for the Unitarian Service Committee to proceed with its plans for the relief and rescue of refugees. It is possible that the Service Committee may wish to send me or some other representative to the Near East in the near future to organize our work there. We have been talking about that possibility for quite many months now and I think I have mentioned it to you or your associates several

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Mr. John W. Pehle

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May 26, 1944

times. What would your attitude be towards such a proposal by our Service Committee? Would you be in a position to support such a project if the Service Committee asks for passport validation to the Near East?

Sincerely yours,



Charles R. Joy

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MR. JOHN W PEHLE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREAS DEPT

WILL SEE YOU MONDAY AFTERNOON AT 230 OR LATER AT YOUR
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COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS

144 Bleecker Street, New York 12, N. Y.

ALgonquin 4 0722

May 10, 1944

Mr. J. B. Friedman
War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Friedman:

I have just learned that my close friend and former associate in the Unitarian Service Committee, Rev. Waitstill H. Sharp of Wellesley Hills, has been appointed head of UNRRA in Cairo. Mr. Howard Wiggins, who is Secretary of some kind of coordinating council of the private agencies in Cairo is also a close friend and former associate in relief work in Lisbon.

I thought you might be interested to know these valuable contacts which ought to facilitate my work in various ways.

I am getting my inoculations at the present moment for Typh^{oid} and Yellow Fever and have already my Smallpox inoculation.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Joy

Charles R. Joy
Executive Director

crj:ea

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144 Bleecker Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Pehle,

Let me amplify the hurried scribble I sent you last Tuesday as I was waiting for my train in Washington.

You know as well as I that time is not on our side. After the surrender ~~of~~ of Germany the W.R.B. will have little if anything to do. The increasing desperation of the Nazis and their realization that victory can not possibly crown their efforts is making them diabolically determined to achieve their ideological ends, even though their military objectives are no longer attainable. This for them is to snatch a significant victory out of the very jaws of defeat. So they intend in spite of the Allies to cleanse Europe of the Jews and of their political opponents. Time presses.

I hope that the work I have been doing for you recently with the Committee on Special Refugee Problems has been worth while. Your assistants have been good enough to speak appreciatively of it. But it is doubtful whether you will need such a consultative group// very much longer, and if necessary someone else can be found to take my place here.

On the other hand the number of those with intensive experience abroad in all aspects of the refugee problem is very limited. I feel that I could be much more useful to you over there than I am here, and that is why I offered you my services. You will understand, I trust, that I am not looking for a job. My present job is safe enough. I am not even suggesting that you take me on your payroll, as I am convinced that my own Committee would continue my salary if that is desirable, and would even pay my travelling expenses, if you wish to conserve your own resources. I am simply suggesting the possibility of my going immediately to the Near East, or elsewhere, as your representative, or as the representative of the Unitarian Service Committee, to assist Mr. Hirshmann, if he returns, or to replace him, if he is unable to. In the Balkans the great opportunity lies at present. It may not last long.

If there is nothing in this suggestion from your point of view, it is still possible that my Committee may want me to go to the Near East for their purposes.

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The Unitarian Service Committee has established interests in that area, supporting^{in part} as it does a chain of hostals for allied soldiers there. Two workers are leaving now to serve in that area. We have offered from five to seven more workers to UNRRA to administer relief in the Balkans, and they will be leaving shortly. But all this is dwarfed by the magnitude of the refugee problem in that part of the world which will continue undiminished long after the war is over. Therefore, my Committee has been considering for ~~some~~ some time the possibility of establishing new offices in that area. There are various ways of cooperating, ~~therefore~~, and whatever the W.R.B. might consider best would have our warm support.

You will remember, perhaps, that during the first World War I had charge of all Y.M.C.A. work in France north of ~~Belg~~ Paris, and that from 1940 until the fall of 1942 I was the European Director for my Committee, since when I have been in complete charge of our Committee activities everywhere.

Cordially yours,

Charles R. Joy

April 21, 1944

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