

ΚΟΤΙΚΟΥ, Ν.

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Dear Mr. Kotikov:

Secretary Morgenthau has referred to me your letter of October 23 in which you make various suggestions on the refugee problem, and particularly on the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego, New York.

There is general agreement with your suggestion that the Shelter at Oswego should be discontinued at the first possible moment. You may be assured that in the process, all of your suggestions will be given careful and sympathetic consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. N. Kotikov  
2110 W. Venango St.  
Philadelphia 40, Pa.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*Conformed copy to  
Mr. Abrahamson*

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2110 W. Venango St.,  
Philadelphia 40, Pa.

October 23, 1944

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

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I learned that you have visited the Refugee Shelter in Oswego. As a regular and steady taxpayer I should like you to clear me some questions concerning this camp. I know that this thousand people represent the U. S. A.'s share in the saving of the few thousands Sons of Israel left in Europe. These refugees are considered as U. S. A.'s guests for the duration of the war, and are supposed to be sent back to Europe. By the composition, apart of a few exceptions, it was a mistake that the ship took the direction of the U. S. A. and not that of Palestine. Nobody will contest the humanity of this enterprise, but how it was started and is conducted at the present represents one of the largest stupidities of the administration. It is supposed they must stay behind the barbed wire until the end of the war and breathe the pure air of the great U.S.A. Democracy.

Until the end of what war? This with Germany and Japan? or the coming war with "Uncle Joe" against the whole Sovietic Europe? I hope the administration in Washington is not childish enough to believe the solemn and simultaneous entry in Berlin of three Allied armies. There will be a German suicide at the end, which will precipitate whole Europe in the hands of Moscow - so with Europe it will be out of the question. Where will you send after this all these people, which are in possession of the most damned invention of the late League of Nations - the famous "Passport Nansen". In the meantime they have to breathe for an undetermined number of years, without any occupation, the pure U.S.A. air, which can smell differently, filtered thru the barbed wires! You must not forget that even the war prisoners have the right for a job, with an indemnity.

It was very touching, the visit of the First Lady to this camp - gift of flowers, smiles, honor place in the synagogue, etc.etc. But all this ridiculous "mise en scene" does not help a bit the practical solution of the situation.

Before the war we saw the innumerable photos of small girls presenting flowers to the smiling "peace loving Angels" Adolph - and Uncle Joe. After came the numerous photos of the smiling statesmen, shaking each other's hands, having ready the boot to be placed in the appropriate place some time later. The world becomes tired of all this hypocrisy - which should be finally stopped.

Concerning the situation with Oswego, it should be liquidated as soon as possible. You do not think that the people will stay a couple years behind the wires without occupation - and not become living corpses, mentally and physically? In the last couple years the immigration to the U. S. A. was reduced to a small portion of the normal. One thousand more will not change the situation in the country. In consequence, an offer for the Oswego people to get the necessary affidavits, birth certificates, and a U. S. A. Consular employe coming from Canada with a seal and stamping the famous Nansen passport will resolve the abnormal situation. To complete the formality, all the

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people could be put on a steamer, with an extra-size Star Spangled Banner, and after a stop in a Canadian Great Lakes harbor, make a solemn entry into the U.S.A., with a bunch of happy, regular immigrants. We saw already with what prestidigitation can work, the Allied authorities in transforming overnight the kind of Darland, Badoglio, etc. into good friends of the democracies. One subterfuge more will shock nobody!

On the other hand, history has proved that in rare cases the "Sons of Israel" are capable of physical work, too. In ancient Egypt, and in ancient Rome still exist the imposing ruins of the "Coliseum", built in eight years by 20,000 Jews, exported from Jerusalem. And in Europe the experience has shown, too, that it was not the labor but the crematoriums which were needed to kill. Certainly later will come the trade.

The present Administration has a very pompous pretention to dictate order in the whole world. I do not believe in its capacity to do it, and shall vote next November 7th for the Republican Party, although I have not too much illusions about their capacities, too. I have to observe every day the very stinky and incapable Republican administration of the City of Philadelphia. And next year, in making my Income Tax Return I shall insert a special paragraph of deductions: "governmental stupidities" - of the kind of Oswego.

As a general rule governments elected by the people and for the people do not care much about the people once they are elected, and I have few hopes that my suggestions will be taken into consideration. I do not count, too, on the so-called "free press". Some times I think shoemakers would make, in some cases, a better job!

Yours very truly,

W. Katkov

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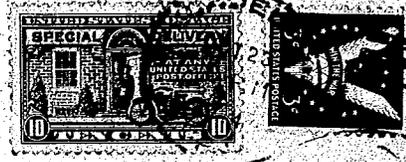
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AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

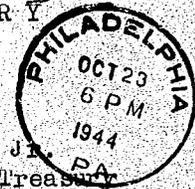
N. Kotikov

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SPECIAL DELIVERY



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

SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE DIVISION

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