

MANDEL, ERNEST

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JUN 6 - 1945

Dear Mr. Mandel:

I have your letter of May 5, 1945, enclosing a copy of the issue of Egyleti Elet of that date in which there appears an open letter addressed to the War Refugee Board concerning some 1,670 Hungarian refugees who were given temporary refuge in Switzerland.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Government of Switzerland was most generous throughout the war years in receiving within its borders refugees from enemy and enemy-occupied countries. The large numbers of persons who thus benefited from the hospitality of the Swiss placed an increasing strain on the ability of the Swiss to provide food and clothing supplies and shelter facilities to care for them. In accordance with the announced policy of this Government to take all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, the Swiss Government was assured that additional groups of refugees admitted into Switzerland would be evacuated from that country as soon as possible.

Among others who found safety on Swiss territory under this plan are the 1,670 Hungarian refugees who came from the concentration camp at Bergen Belsen. According to latest reports, a large number of these refugees desired to proceed directly to Palestine and the Swiss Government is now giving consideration to permitting this group to remain in Switzerland until they can go to Palestine. At the request of the Swiss Government, arrangements are being made to move the others to a refugee camp in Southern Italy where they will be under the care of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration until such time as

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it becomes physically possible for them to be repatriated to their native lands or to emigrate to other countries.

OFFICE OF
EXCHANGE

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Ernest Mandel,
P.O. Box 33,
Highbridge Station,
Bronx 52, N. Y.

JH ✓

EBT

EBT:FH:hd 6/4/45

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Not used

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Among others who found safety on Swiss territory under this plan are the 1,670 Hungarian refugees who came from the concentration camp at Bergen Belsen. It is contemplated that these refugees will be removed from Switzerland at an early date and that they will be taken to a refugee camp in Southern Italy where they will be under the care of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration until such time as it becomes physically possible for them to be repatriated to their native land or to emigrate to some other country.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

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P.O. Box 33,
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EBA EBT:inp 5/25/45

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CHARLES BROWN, Publisher

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EGYLETI ÉLET

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Office: P. O. B. 33
HIGHBRIDGE STATION
Bronx 52, N. Y. — JErôme 8-5019

May 5, 1945

To the Honorable War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:-

We took the liberty of addressing an open
appeal to you in this weekly paper (copy is enclosed),
in behalf of the refugees at Caux sur Montreux, Switzer
land.

The appeal speaks for itself.

We would be deeply honored for any reply
you may send us, and especially for any consideration
you may be able to extend to the refugees.

Very respectfully yours,

Ernest Mandel

Ernest Mandel, editor

P.O. Box 33, Highbridge Sta.,
Bronx, 52, N.Y. City

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Application for transfer of entry as Passaic, N. J., pending
Entered as Second Class matter, March 22, 1945 at the
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Egyleti Elet

VOL. XXIII.— No. 14. Wallington, N. J. — New York, N. Y. Subscription \$2.00 a Year

WE APPEAL TO THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD NOT TO TRANSFER REFUGEES TO AFRICA

Junius 10-én lesz a United Hungarian Jews of America konvenciója a Pennsylvania Hotelben

Május 14-én "Preconvention Conference"re hívják meg az affiliált egyesületek elnökeit és titkárait.

By **GEORGE SALARDI**
Recording Secretary of the United Hungarian Jews of America.

Nyomatékosan felhívjuk az amerikai magyar zsidóság figyelmét a United Hungarian Jews of America második évi konvenciójára, mely 1945. június 10-én lesz a Pennsylvania Hotel nagytermében. E konvenció, mely a "United Hungarian Jews of America" következő évi munkaprogramját, irányát és tevékenységének keretét fogja megszabni, és új tisztikart fog választani, döntő befolyással lesz a még életben maradt, nyomorban selylő mindenből kifosztott magyarországi zsidóság további sorsára.

A konvencióra az affiliált egyesületek minden 50 tagjukán egy delegátust nevezzenek ki, továbbá pótdelagátu-

sokat, hogy a kellő képviselői biztosítva legyen. Minden amerikai-magyar zsidónak ott kell lenni, vagy megfelelően képviseltetni magát ezen a fontos eseményen, mely történelmi jelentőséggel fog bírni magyarországi zsidó testvéreinkre nézve. Kiktől várhatunk segítséget, ha nem tőlünk, amerikai magyar zsidóktól?

A konvención jelen lesznek az amerikai zsidóság az amerikai nemzeti és társadalmi élet legkimagaslóbb személyiségei. További részletek az egyesületekhez küldött meghívókban és értesítésekben, valamint az Egyleti Elet következő számaiban találhatók.

(Continued on page seven)

To the War Refugee Board, Washington, D. C.

The Egyleti Elet, official weekly journal of a score of New York Hungarian-American societies and synagogues, is grateful to you for the wonderful work you have accomplished in saving thousands of human lives.

It is deeply conscious of the many difficulties you have had and still have to overcome in the midst of a world conflagration.

We are convinced that you are motivated by humane feelings and there is no question in our minds but that you are always trying to do the best under the circumstances.

It was with a stunning shock and a most painful amazement therefore that we learned that your Honorable Board, in agreement with the Swiss Government decided to transfer the 1670 Hungarian refugees who found temporary refuge, no doubt, through you, in Switzerland, at Caux sur Motreux, to an internment camp now being made ready by the UNNRA in Philippeville, Algeria.

It is our understanding that your decision to transfer these refugees to Algeria was made some months ago, prior to the liberation of Hungary from Axis domination, at a time when the end of the war was still in the far-away distance.

Hungary has since been made free and the end of the war is in sight.

Since we know that the majority of refugees—who are distinguished scientists, scholars, physicians, lawyers, teachers, writers, artists, and leaders of communal, commercial, financial and industrial life—are anxious to return to their native land, some others to enter Palestine, in order to resume the building and living of their lives as active self-supporting and self-respecting human beings, and also to participate once more in community activity, we wonder if it would be possible for your Honorable Board to suspend and alter its decision so as to comply with the yearnings of these refugees.

We realize that the fate of 1670 humans, in the midst of a war which has affected the lives of tens of millions of people the world over, seems like a drop in the ocean yet we cannot refrain from submitting this respectful appeal to you, in the hope that you and we may thus be able to lighten the burden and agony of these people, who have suffered so much in the past few years through no fault of their own.

Respectfully yours,
THE EGYLETI ELET
ERNO MANDEL, Editor

United Hungarian Jews Aid Less Fortunate



THE AMERICAN JEWISH
JOINT-DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
270 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

March 15, 1945

Mr. Samuel B. Ohlbaum, President
The United Hungarian Jews of America
165 Broadway
New York 6, N. Y.

America konvenciója a Pennsylvania Hotelben

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THE EGYLETI ELET
ERNO MANDEL, Editor

United Hungarian Jews Aid Less Fortunate



Judge Jonah J. Goldstein of the Court of General Sessions, Honorary Chairman of the Council of Organizations of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, receives a check for \$20,000 from Samuel B. Ohlbaum, President of the United Hungarian Jews of America. The money which represents contributions received during two months of campaigning, will be used for the relief and rehabilitation of the Jews of Hungary and for the reconstruction of their community institutions. — Others pictured above are: Joseph H. Parness, Dr. A. V. Weinberger, Mrs. Piri Schweiger, Mrs. Elvira Liszt, Mrs. Helena Ackerman, Isidor Braun and Eugene Israel.

Dr. Wise Says Truman Backs Palestine Plan

Zionist Quotes President as Following Roosevelt on Letting Colonists In

WASHINGTON — Dr. Stephen S. Wise said today that President Truman, in clear and unmistakable terms, had asserted his support of President Roosevelt's policies in regard to Palestine.

Dr. Wise visited the White House as chairman of the

American Zionist Emergency Council. He said the President had authorized him to say that he is carrying out the policies of President Roosevelt — and that "we, his visitors, know what Mr. Roosevelt's policy in regard to Palestine has been."

Dr. Wise quoted President

Roosevelt's most recent statement on Zionism, which the rabbi said was on Mr. Truman's desk. This statement was made to Senator Robert F. Wagner, Democrat of New York, who read it at the Zionist convention at Atlantic City on Oct. 15 last year.

Mr. Roosevelt in that statement said efforts would be made to find appropriate ways and means of fulfilling the Democratic party platform plank calling for the opening

(Continued on page seven)

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

March 15, 1945

Mr. Samuel B. Ohlbaum, President
The United Hungarian Jews of America
165 Broadway
New York 6, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Ohlbaum:

I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of March 2nd with enclosed check in the amount of \$20,000, representing an earmarked contribution from the United Hungarian Jews of America, Inc.

In line with the arrangement consummated between the J.D.C. and the United Hungarian Jews of America, we shall be glad to sit down with a committee of your group to agree upon specific projects for which you wish the funds applied in connection with J.D.C. relief and rehabilitation programs in behalf of the Jews of Hungary — for that portion of the amount which the J.D.C. will receive from this earmarked contribution to the United Jewish Appeal of 1944. As to the balance, an equivalent amount will be spent by the J.D.C. through its representatives in Hungary for the benefit of our stricken brethren in that country.

We wish to express to you our deep appreciation for your generous support. Your real thanks come from the beneficiaries to whom we are being additional aid and hope because of the generosity of the good people in your organization.

Sincerely yours,
F. C. BERMAN
Executive Vice-Chairman