

Memoranda: MR. PETHE'S OFFICE

000135

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



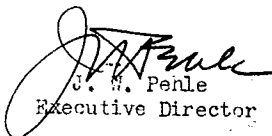
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEC 18 1944

TO ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD:

As the end of the year approaches I would like to express to each of you my appreciation and personal thanks for your wholehearted support in carrying forward the work of the War Refugee Board. I am sure that all of us have reason to be proud of the part we have had in this great undertaking to save human lives.

To each of you I extend my very best wishes for the holiday season and the coming year.


J. M. Penle
Executive Director

000 136

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Lesme
See me

DATE October 19, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM B. Akzin

(1) Kubowitzki has been to see me at 1:30 today. He informed me that, at the suggestion of Mr. Brennan, Irish Minister in Washington, the World Jewish Congress cabled to London and Dublin, asking that the Irish Government be requested to send a diplomatic mission or a delegation of the Irish Red Cross to Budapest, with a view to put a fair number of Jews under Irish protection, along the lines adopted by Sweden.

Kubowitzki asked whether we would not ask the American Minister at Dublin to support this request.

(2) Kubowitzki asked whether, in view of the critical situation, we could not urgently request all other neutral governments represented in Budapest to take speedy action, in issuing documents to Jews in Budapest and taking them under their physical protection, in line with Swedish practice.

(3) Kubowitzki wishes to draw our attention to the special importance of janitors in connection with the present situation in Budapest. Janitors have to keep up to date a list of all Jews in their houses, are responsible for these Jews, have the only keys which open the house doors after 10:00 p.m., and otherwise act as agents for the police with respect to their houses. Kubowitzki suggested, therefore, that special broadcasts (from Paris and Brussels as well as from New York and London) and leaflets be addressed to these janitors, promising them rewards if they facilitated the concealment of Jews pending the liberation of Budapest, and threatening punishment if they aided in the measures being taken at present to exterminate the Jews.

This latter suggestion seems rather ludicrous on the face of it, and yet, on the basis of my knowledge of local conditions, I believe it to be eminently practical. From my own knowledge, I can confirm the vital part which house janitors play in connection with police supervision and law enforcement in Hungary, Austria, and neighboring areas. In the circumstances, the importance of obtaining their assistance cannot be overestimated. A direct appeal to them has, moreover, excellent chances to prove effective, since as a class, they are greedy for rewards, and since their fixed residence and occupation makes them easily discernible for punishment.

Mr. Lanyi, or any other expert on Central Europe, in O.W.I. or elsewhere, will undoubtedly corroborate the above.

B.A.

000137

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1944

*File
Am*

Dear John:

Your memorandum of August 13 with regard to Mr. James H. Dunn has reached me at Lambertton where I am often in virtually all my time at the security conference. I am, therefore, turning it over to Mr. Dunn for his attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ed

Mr. John W. Pehle,

War Refugee Board,

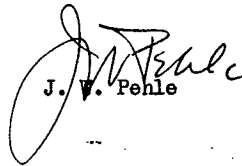
Executive Office of the President.

000138

June 12, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Justice Frank Murphy called me today to say that he was going down to The Homestead for a week and that he was then going away for four months. He referred to his conversation with Ben Cohen and said he would like to be helpful in any way possible.


J. V. Fehle

000 139

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

*file
JWB*

DATE May 26, 1944

TO Mr. John W. Pehle

FROM L. S. Lesser

Congressman Arthur Klein called me today and asked me to give you this message as he was leaving for New York this afternoon:

Klein is the chairman of a committee of Hungarian Jews that intends to hold a mass meeting in Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 14 or 15 (the date is as yet undetermined) and he would like to have you talk. He intends also to invite Senators Wagner and Meade. He would appreciate it very much if you would let him know just as soon as you can whether it would be possible for you to attend.

LS

*5/26/44
advised Cong. Klein
will be unable
to speak.*

000140

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 19, 1944

TO Mr. Fehle
FROM Miss Model

Mr. Leavitt asked me to inform you that the Foreign
Policy Association has scheduled a meeting for June 1st at
which Ira Hirschmann will be the guest speaker. The subject
of the meeting is "Turkey at the Crossroads."

000141

May 19, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Miss Hodel

Mr. Leavitt asked me to inform you that the Foreign Policy Association has scheduled a meeting for June 1st at which Ira Hirschmann will be the guest speaker. The subject of the meeting is "Turkey at the Crossroads."

FH:lab 5/19/44

000 142

May 4, 1944

Mr. Bundy

J. W. Pehle

Attached is a copy of a cable to Algiers which I cleared
with you this morning.

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

*Original signed by
Mr. Friedman*

*sent to War Dept.
By Special Messenger*

JBF:bbk - 5/4/44

*no attachment to
when received
in files m.w.*

000143

April 17, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

At the Secretary's suggestion I called Berle today and made the following proposals to him:

1. I suggested that Mr. Hull might want to see Sir Herbert Emerson and in connection with seeing him might want to make some statement to the press with regard to the relation of the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board. Berle said he would pass the suggestion along.
2. I suggested that Berle see Ira Hirschmann in order to get his story and advised him that Secretary Morgenthau suggested Hull might want to call a meeting of the War Refugee Board to talk with Ira Hirschmann. Berle said he would pass this suggestion along also to Secretary Hull.

JTB

000144

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(Signed) J.W. Fehle

JWP:1hh 4/17/44

000 145

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

File

DATE April 12, 1944

TO Mr. Friedman
FROM J. W. Pehle

When convenient, speak to me about a Turkish
shipping matter that Basil Harris of the United States
Lines mentioned to me while I was in New York.

J. W. Pehle

000146

April 7, 1944

TO : Mr. Pehle

FROM: Myles Standish

Mr. Friedman has asked that you be sent the attached copy of a memorandum I have just prepared at his suggestion. Copies have gone also to the Messrs. DuBois, Lesser, and Abrahamson for their opinions.

Attachment

S.
MStandish:lem
4-7-44

*The attachment is when
presented to files
W.*

000147

MEMORANDUM

March 14, 1944

I talked to Raymond G. Swing today concerning the psychological warfare side of the War Refugee Board's problems. Swing seemed very sympathetic with the purposes of the War Refugee Board but was very discouraging generally on what could be done through propaganda. He made the following points:

- (1) Swing did not think it would do any good at all to try to bring home to the German people the German Government's activities in murdering the Jews since the German Government would deny the accuracy of any statements which were made and was in a position to neutralize the effect of any such statements without any trouble. He felt that the German people would not be particularly concerned about the problem and even if they were somewhat concerned Swing felt it would not have any effect, at this stage of the war, on the German Government's position.
- (2) Swing did not feel that any approach to the German Government would be worth while and felt that any publicity given to any failure of an approach to the German Government would only result in intensification of measures against the Jews. He said the only possibility of doing anything with the German Government would be to make a deal with some faction in the Nazi party, such as Goering, and he felt it would be very bad policy to make such a deal.
- (3) Swing said he thought much could be done by directly pressing the satellite governments and some good might be done in propaganda aimed at the satellite people. He said that if the Russian Government were willing to bring pressure on the satellite governments it would increase many fold the effectiveness of such pressure.
- (4) Swing thought possibly something could be done by way of pressure on the Vichy Government.

Swing was very cordial and said he would be glad to help out in any way which he felt was practical and would really do some good.

J. T. Paul

000148

XXXX

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Swing was very cordial and said he would be glad to help out in any way which he felt was practical and would really do some good.

/s/ J. W. Fehle

000149

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

TO Mr. Donle
FROM L. S. Lesser

March 13, 1944

Mr. Brunot, the Executive Director of the President's War Relief Control Board, was in on Saturday to discuss financial matters. He told us that his Board and the National War Fund had declined, for the time being, to allow most of the increases in appropriations that voluntary agencies had requested. The result of this is that the National War Fund's contingency fund will contain approximately \$6,000,000. This sum is subject to a number of claims, the most important one of which is for \$2,000,000 which may have to be appropriated to the Greek War Relief. This sum of \$2,000,000 represents the amount needed under Greek War Relief's commitment to UNRRA for the support of Greek refugees in the Balkans. This commitment was worked out at a time when there were more funds available than the relief organizations knew what to do with and the Greek government was, as it now is, in "poor straits." Mr. Brunot said that the British government had been advancing the funds necessary for the support of the refugees and that the Greek War Relief had, in effect, assumed the obligation of making funds available for the reimbursement of the British. Mr. Brunot said that the Greek War Relief had been instructed to advise UNRRA that the commitment no longer held for the future and it was hoped that some way could be worked out of eliminating Greek War Relief's \$2,000,000 liability for the past. UNRRA comes into the picture since it has assumed the operation of the MERRA camps.

Mr. Brunot stated that in view of his Board's action in refusing to increase appropriations and the smallness of the National War Fund's contingency fund, it is urged that pressure be brought to bear on UNRRA and the individual United Nations to undertake the support of refugees and escape to Allied territory. He again requested our cooperation in this matter and pointed out that unless the care of refugees was recognized as a governmental responsibility, the National War Fund would be hard-pressed to supply the necessary funds and if it had to do so, it might be compelled to cut down on other activities such as relief to prisoners of war.

Mr. Brunot would also like to have from us, if he can, a general undefined estimate of how much money we think we might ask his Board and the National War Fund to appropriate out of the contingency fund for purposes sponsored by us during the next six months.

I think we ought to discuss these matters as soon as possible.

W.R.

000150

CROSS REFERENCE ON . MEMORANDA; MR. PEHLE'S
OFFICE

FOR:

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

FOR MEMORANDUM DATED 3/7/44 TO MR. WHITE FROM J.W. PEHLE
AND ATTACHED MEMORANDUM DATED 3/2/44 RE: MR. WHITE'S
DISCUSSION WITH ROBERT

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: EVA-
CUATION TO & THRU SPAIN (AND PORTUGAL)
(EVACUATIONS FROM SPAIN TO LYAUTEY)

000151

Mr. Pehle

February 28, 1944

L. J. Lesser

In considering what, if any, action should be taken to persuade the British to issue visas for emigration to Palestine or Cyprus to persons who have not yet come out of enemy-occupied territory, it must be borne in mind that a policy identical with that of the British prevails in our own State Department and is considered so well-grounded as to find expression in a form letter, witness the following, commonly known as "Visa Form K-4":

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

"In reply refer to VD

"I refer to your recent communication requesting forms for use in connection with the centralized visa control procedure.

"If you will inform the Department regarding the names, ages, addresses, and places of birth of the prospective visa applicants, and will state whether you are interested in their cases as a sponsor or as a paid intermediary, you will be advised concerning the proper procedure to be followed.

"It may be pointed out, however, that if the persons in whom you are interested reside in enemy-controlled territory where no American consular visa services are available, no steps may be taken with a view to providing them with visas for admission into the United States so long as they are residing in such territory."

Very truly yours,

H. K. Travers
Chief, Visa Division."

*Underscoring supplied.

L. J. L.
LSLesser:als 2/28/44

000152

February 2

Mr. Pehle

Miss Hodel

The next time any of our people are in New York I suggest that they may wish to call on Manfred George, Editor of Aufbau, 67 West 44th Street, New York City. Mr. George has written us concerning extensive information available to "Aufbau", an American Jewish weekly newspaper, and has offered to be of help to the War Refugee Board. I also suggest that someone may wish to call on Israel Mereminski, American representative of the Histadrut, General Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine, 510 West 112th Street, New York City. Mr. Mereminski has written us twice concerning cables received from their representative in Turkey and has offered to mobilize volunteers for work in the neutral countries.

Mr. Friedman has been advised of the foregoing and concurs in my suggestion.

JH

FHodel:hd 2/22/44

000153

MEMORANDUM

February 19, 1944

On Thursday, February 17, 1944, Morris Ernst had a small dinner at his home to introduce me to certain commentators and other persons interested in the problems of the War Refugee Board. The following were present:

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Ernst
Helen Reid of the New York Herald Tribune
Samuel Grafton
Quincy Howe
Russell Leffingwell
Sam Shore
Shaw of News Week
George Fielding Elliott.

I summed up briefly for the group the purposes and plans of the War Refugee Board and there was a long discussion of the problem and what can be done to meet it. The following comments were particularly significant:

- (1) We discussed the activities of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The Committee was criticized by Sam Shore and praised by Samuel Grafton who said that the Committee followed the same propaganda tactics as the farm bloc with comparable success.
- (2) Several of the commentators were very interested in the psychological warfare problem of bringing pressure on the satellites. Quincy Howe suggested that we play up the good things about what the Hungarian and Swedish Governments have been doing and presumably will take this line in some of his radio comments. In particular he was impressed with the idea that certain German soldiers are now asking refugees for some evidence they can carry in their possession indicating that they have been humane in their treatment of the refugees.
- (3) Russell Leffingwell was very sympathetic with the War Refugee Board problem. He felt strongly that the problem of getting the endangered out of occupied Europe is the job of the American people and not just of the Jews in the United States.

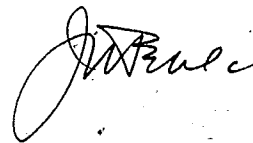
000154

- (4) Sam Shore felt that I had overemphasized the dissension between the Jewish groups and that he could do a lot to bring them together. I told him to go ahead on his own and do what he could and that as far as I was concerned I was going to work with the various groups separately unless they got together, which I doubted very much.
- (5) George Fielding Elliott was very sympathetic although he did not contribute much to the discussion. He said afterward that he would be glad to do what he could in connection with the military.

After dinner we were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Pilpel. Harriet Pilpel is a partner of Greenbaum, Wolfe, and Ernst. Her husband is a representative of the JDC who is going to Lisbon for them and who we have just assisted in getting transportation.

After the dinner the Ernst's, Pilpel's, and I called on Dorothy Thompson and her husband and had a long discussion, particularly as to the psychological warfare aspects of the problem. Dorothy Thompson felt that this Government had never really appreciated the potentialities of the use of psychological warfare on the German people and emphasized the fact that the Germans are by nature sentimental and their sentimentalities can be taken advantage of if a proper approach is made. For example, she said that in broadcasting to Germany we should assume that the German people do not know of the atrocities against the Jews and do not agree with the actions of their Government. She said it is very important to make it clear not only that we are watching the Germans who commit atrocities, but we are also making note of the Germans who refrain from engaging in such activities. She seemed convinced that psychological pressure on the satellites is bound to be very helpful.

The following morning I called on Louis Dolivet of the Free World Association and had a short talk with him during which he summarized the meeting of the night before attended by Friedman.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE Feb. 15, 1944

TO Members of staff of War Refugee Board
FROM J. W. Pehle

In sending me memoranda for my information please send me copies and not the originals so that I may keep them in my files and the originals can be sent to the official files. Also show on each copy the other persons receiving copies. For the time being I believe that very wide distribution should be made of all memoranda to the people working on War Refugee Board matters, including Luxford.



Official File Copy

000156

Official File Copy

February 9, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Miss Brown of the Columbia Broadcasting System called for Mr. Wood of the Special Events Department and inquired when I would be able to make a broadcast. She will call again next week.

A handwritten signature, possibly "JMT", in dark ink.

000157

February 9, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Miss Brown of the Columbia Broadcasting System called for Mr. Wood of the Special Events Department and inquired when I would be able to make a broadcast. She will call again next week.

(Initialed) J.W.P.

JWP:lhk 2/9/44

000158

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

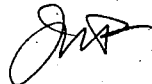
DATE Jan. 31, 1944

TO Miss Hodel
FROM J. W. Pehle

In order to avoid any confusion between presently active projects, as well as contemplated projects, of the War Refugee Board, I wish you would assign numbers to all of such projects or contemplated projects including the following:

1. JDC operation in France.
2. WJC operation in France and Rumania.
3. Union of Orthodox Rabbis operation on transfer of Jews from Poland to Hungary, etc.
4. Evacuation of Jews from Transnistria to Rumania.
5. Evacuation of Abandoned children from France to Switzerland.
6. Evacuation of Yugoslav refugees on Island of Rab.
7. Evacuation and relief of refugees through Turkey.
8. International Red Cross field and relief operations.

This will enable all the interested persons to set up books containing all the documentations on each of these projects.



000159

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE

January 31, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM L. S. Lesser

715
for files

After a week-end of conversations with persons whose sole desire is to be helpful and remain anonymous, I strongly urge that before going much further, the War Refugee Board call a conference of representatives of each and every private organization engaged in relief and/or rescue work and of each and every of the fast multiplying self-constituted "Save the Jews" committee. Each committee and organization should be limited to one or possibly two representatives. The powers and functions of the Board should be plainly stated to those attending the conference and they should be asked for specific written statements of what they would do if they were clothed with the Board's powers and of what they propose to do to help get the job done. It is the view of those with whom I had my conversations that unless some such procedure is followed, the Board will find itself wrapped up in a maze of intrigue, politics and fault-finding that will not only nullify its effectiveness but stultify its members. It was suggested that such organizations and committees may be inclined to use the Board as a scape-goat for their own ineffectiveness and that the suggested course may check-mate any such tendency.

LS

000 160

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE January 26, 1944

TO Miss Hodel
FROM J. W. Pehle

Please prepare a reply for my signature as Assistant to the Secretary. I suggest a little more than an acknowledgment.

J. W. Pehle

000161

January 26, 1944

Miss Hodel

J. W. Pehle

Please prepare a reply for my signature as Assistant to the
Secretary. I suggest a little more than an acknowledgment.

J. W. Pehle

000162