Dear [Name]:

For your information and that of other interested persons, this is to advise you that, in view of the early termination of the War Refugee Board, over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, has been transferred from the War Refugee Board to the Department of the Interior.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

National Council of Jewish Women,
1519 Broadway,
New York, New York.

EST:inp 6/26/45
November 8, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Levi:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have today sent to Mrs. Karl Kaufmann.

I regret that I will not be able to accept the kind invitation to speak before the Pittsburgh Section of the National Council of Jewish Women on Tuesday, December 12, 1944.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Mrs. Gerson Levi,
2480 - 16th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

JWPehle:1hh 11-8-44
October 21, 1944

Mr. John W. Pahle, Executive Director
War Refugees Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pahle:

The Pittsburgh Section, National Council of Jewish Women, an organization of 1500 Jewish women, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a dinner on Tuesday evening, December 12, 1944, at the William Penn Hotel. We would feel deeply honored if you would speak for us on that occasion.

You are, of course, already familiar with the service to foreign born program of the National Council of Jewish Women, and you know our deep concern with the work which you are doing, and I am sure you are familiar with the contribution which we have made to the Shelter at Fort Ontario, New York. We believe this occasion is a fine opportunity to interpret to our membership our work in the field of service to foreign born, and it is for this reason that we feel it extremely important that you tell us not only of the work of your board, but of our responsibility to it.

I have taken the liberty of asking Mrs. Gerson S. Levi of Washington, D. C., a member of the Board and the Chairman of the National Committee on Social Welfare and War Activities of the National Council of Jewish Women, to arrange an appointment with you in the hope that she may express to you, even better than I, how important we feel your presence would be and that she might tell you more fully than I can in a letter the place of the National Council of Jewish Women in the American scene.

I hope you will see Mrs. Levi and that you will send me an affirmative answer. I would appreciate your writing to me at my home address - 1917 Wightman Street, Pittsburgh, 17, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann, Chairman
Executive Committee, National Council of Jewish Women
and Chairman, 50th Anniversary Celebration
Pittsburgh Section, National Council of Jewish Women
November 8, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Kaufmann:

I have your letter of October 21, inviting me to speak before the Pittsburgh Section of the National Council of Jewish Women on Tuesday, December 12, 1944.

Mrs. Levi has also called upon me and urged my acceptance of this invitation.

I am well aware of the character and reputation of the National Council of Jewish Women and of the important work which it has performed. I appreciate very much this kind invitation and I regret that I will not be able to accept it.

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Pehle)

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

Mrs. Karl Kaufmann,
1917 Wightman Street,
Pittsburgh, 17, Pennsylvania.

cc: Mrs. Gerson Levi
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Executive Director.

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Pittsburgh, 17, Pennsylvania.
Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

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Sincerely,

(Mrs. Karl J.) Ruth Helen Kaufmann
Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann, Chairman
Executive Committee, National Council of Jewish Women
and Chairman, 50th Anniversary Celebration
Pittsburgh Section, National Council of Jewish Women
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*E-Office
**President, National Council of Jewish Jumers

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WAYS AND MEANS
Chairman—Mrs. Simon E. Somlof
Baltimore, Md.
SPEECH FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
at 16 & Q at 3 p.m. on

April 11, 1944
I AM INDEED HAPPY TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE FUNCTIONS, AIMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

ON JANUARY 22 OF THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, CREATED THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. THE PRESIDENT, IN CREATING THE BOARD, SAID, "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." THE PRESIDENT APPOINTED TO THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. HULL, THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, MR. MORGENTHAU AND THE SECRETARY OF WAR, MR. STimson. HE CHARGED THE BOARD WITH THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING OUT THE ANNOUNCED POLICY OF THE EXECUTIVE ORDER, WHICH IS:

1. THE RESCUE, TRANSPORTATION, MAINTENANCE AND RELIEF OF THE VICTIMS OF ENEMY OPPRESSION AND

2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HAVENS OF TEMPORARY REFUGE FOR SUCH VICTIMS.

THE BOARD WAS FURTHER CHARGED TO ENLIST THE COOPERATION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND OBTAIN THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE EXECUTION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS.

THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD NAMED JOHN W. FEHLE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MR. FEHLE AND HIS STAFF TO
EXECUTE THE PROGRAM OF THE BOARD.

MR. PEHLE WANTED VERY MUCH TO MEET WITH YOU HIMSELF THIS AFTERNOON AND HAS ASKED ME TO EXPRESS TO YOU HIS REGRETS IN NOT BEING ABLE TO DO SO. I AM SURE YOU REALIZE THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES FACING MR. PEHLE AT THE MOMENT, AS HE HIMSELF HAS SAID, OURS IS A LIFE-SAVING EXPEDITION. THERE IS NO TIME TO SPARE. WE MUST SUCCEED.

THIS STATEMENT OF MR. PEHLE'S, "THERE IS NO TIME TO SPARE. WE MUST SUCCEED" TYPIFIES THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD. MR. PEHLE IS A TIRELESS WORKER -- SINCERELY DEVOTED TO THE GOAL OF THE BOARD -- HE IS FEARLESS AND DOES NOT KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD DEFEAT. IN HIS HANDS YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE IMPOSSIBLE WILL BE REALIZED -- THE NON-DOOMED VICTIMS OF NAZI HATE WILL BE RESCUED. "WE MUST SUCCEED".

UNDER HIS DIRECTIONS, IMMEDIATE STEPS WERE TAKEN TO SECURE THE COOPERATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER IN SETTING UP THE BOARD WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS THROUGH OUR EMBASSIES WHO WERE INSTRUCTED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EFFECTUATE THIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND TO ACT WITH THE SPEED WHICH THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION DEMANDED. MR. PEHLE DID NOT REST AFTER THE INITIAL APPEAL TO OTHER COUNTRIES BUT HAS KEPT UP A CONSTANT BARRAGE.

ALL PRIVATE AGENCIES INTERESTED IN THE REFUGEE FIELD WERE SOLICITED FOR SUGGESTIONS. CONFERENCES WERE HELD WITH LEADERS OF PRIVATE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND MANY VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS WERE RECEIVED AND ARE BEING ACTED UPON. RELATIONSHIPS WERE ESTABLISHED WITH UNGPA AND THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ARE IN THIS COUNTRY AT THE MOMENT FOR CONFERENCES TO WORK OUT FURTHER RELATIONSHIPS.

THE BOARD NOW HAS DIRECT REPRESENTATION IN TURKEY, ALIERS, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND PORTUGAL. THIS MEANS THAT POTENTIAL REFUGEES AND THE REFUGEES WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REACHING NEUTRAL TERRITORY NOW HAVE A FULL-TIME REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT LOOKING AFTER THEIR INTERESTS.

THE BOARD HAS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, PORTUGAL AND TURKEY AND EVERY MEANS IS BEING UTILIZED TO GET POTENTIAL REFUGEES FROM FRANCE INTO SPAIN, SWITZERLAND OR PORTUGAL AND TO GET REFUGEES FROM THE BALKANS INTO TURKEY BY LAND AND RAIL AND FROM THERE TO PALESTINE. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE IN ASSISTING MOST OF THE JEWISH POPULATION OF DENMARK TO ESCAPE TO SWEDEN. SEVERAL ACTUAL EVACUATION PROJECTS ARE IN PROGRESS UNDER THE PROMOTION OF PRIVATE AGENCIES. MR. IRA HIRSHMAN, A VICE PRESIDENT OF BLOOMINGDALES, WHO IS THE BOARD'S REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY, HAS DEMONSTRATED WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PRIVATE AGENCIES WHEN BACKED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WHOSE SOLE JOB IS TO ASSIST IN RESCUING PERSECUTED PEOPLES. IT IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF GETTING PERSONS IN DANGER OF DEATH OUT OF GERMAN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY, BUT IN MANY CASES IT IS NECESSARY TO GET FOOD TO THEM IF THEY ARE TO BE KEPT ALIVE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY CAN BE RESCUED. WHEN THE REFUGEE REACHES NEUTRAL TERRITORY, HE MUST BE FED AND MOVED ON TO MORE DISTANT HAVENS IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM IN COOPERATING BORDER NEUTRAL COUNTRIES FOR ADDITIONAL ENTRIES.

EFFECTIVE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO SECURE THE RELAXING OF
BORDER PATROLS AND EFFORTS MADE THROUGH NEUTRAL SOURCES TO PREVENT THE DEPORTATION OF JEWS TO POLAND. THE BOARD IS ALSO WORKING TO HAVE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS OUR OWN, TO KEEP VISAS RENEWED IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT FURTHER DEPORTATION.

THE SECURING OF TEMPORARY HAVENS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS THE BOARD HAS TO COPE WITH. UNLESS REFUGEES ARE KEPT MOVING FROM NEUTRAL BORDER COUNTRIES, THE WAY WILL BE DEFINITELY BLOCKED FOR THE MANY THOUSANDS YET TO BE RESCUES.

THE SHORT-WAVE RADIO IS BEING USED TO DRIVE HOME TO THE DEPRAVED NAZI MIND THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS IN DEAD ERNEST NOT ONLY IN THE RESCUE OF JEWS BUT THAT WE ARE KEEPING BOOKS, AND WRITTEN IN THE LEDGER IN BLACK TO THE CREDIT OF PERSONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY ARE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO AID OR ASSIST IN THE ESCAPE OF REFUGEES, THOSE WHO DARE TO SPEAK UP IN THEIR DEFENSE AND WHO DEFY THE INHUMAN ORDERS OF THE MILITARY LEADERS, WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER IN RED ARE THE NAMES OF PERSONS WHO IN ANY WAY ARE A PARTY OF ILL-TREATMENT OR DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWS. THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT MESSAGE OF MARCH 24 WAS BROADCAST IN EVERY LANGUAGE OF THE WAR WORLD AND REACHED INTO EVERY COUNTRY OF THE GLOBE.

TO SUMMARIZE BRIEFLY THE POLICY OF THE BOARD, I WOULD SAY IT IS TO SEEK OUT AND RESCUE MASSES OF POTENTIAL REFUGEES. WE CANNOT UNDER- TAKE THE HANDLING OF INDIVIDUAL CASES. REFUGEES ALREADY SAVED ARE NOT OUR RESPONSIBILITY EXCEPT WHEN WE AID IN THEIR MOVEMENT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ENTRANCE OF ADDITIONAL REFUGEES. WE DO ASSIST IN GETTING FOOD AND CLOTHING TO THE POTENTIAL REFUGEES AND TO THOSE IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES WHO OTHERWISE WOULD BE A BURDEN TO THEIR BENEFACCTORS. THE WORK OF RESCUING POTENTIAL REFUGEES HAS NO SET PATTERN. DIRECTIVES WOULD BE FUTILE USELESS.
BEFORE THEY COULD BE TYPED AND APPROVED, THE SHIFTING FATE OF BATTLE
WOULD HAVE RENDERED THEM USELESS. THOSE WHO WOULD ASSIST THE HUNTED OF
HITLER'S HATE MUST BE READY AND WILLING TO USE NOT ONLY FORMAL GOVERNMENT
PROCEDURE BUT EVERY INFORMAL DEVICE AN IMAGINATIVE AND DARING STAFF WORKING
WITH FEARLESS REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE AGENCIES CAN DEVISE. WE MUST BE
DIRECT AND INDIRECT, CONVENTIONAL AND UNCONVENTIONAL. NO METHOD, NO ROAD
MUST BE SCORNED OR NEGLECTED IF IT LEADS TOWARD THE RESCUE OF HUMAN BEINGS.

ALTHOUGH THE BOARD HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE ONLY A LITTLE OVER TWO
MONTHS, MUCH HAS BEEN CHALKED UP TO ITS CREDIT. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT I
CANNOT FULLY DISCUSS ALL OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH YOU. ALL OF OUR
WORKERS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE AGENCIES WHO ARE NEAR THE
SCENE OF ACTION URGE US TO GUARD WELL OUR PLANS AND OUR SUCCESSES. AN ENEMY
INFORMED IS AN ENEMY FORE-WARNED. IF, IN OUR DESIRE TO SHARE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
WITH YOU, WE WOULD TELL YOU THE STORY, FOR INSTANCE, OF THE BREAKING OF THE
BOTTLENECK WHICH HAS LED TO A CONTINUOUS SMALL STREAM OF REFUGEES TRICKLING
TO A POINT OF SAFETY, IT MIGHT IMMEDIATELY CAUSE THE DAMMING OF THAT STREAM.
I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT EVERY CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN WHEN WE TRAFFIC
IN HUMAN LIVES. SILENCE IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR EVEN ONE HUMAN LIFE.
YOU WOULD NOT ASK US TO BE MORE SPECIFIC.

AMERICA IS AT WORK TO SAVE THE JEWS OF EUROPE. ATTEMPTS ARE
BEING MADE TO PERSUADE EVERY GOVERNMENT TO TAKE PARALLEL ACTION. AT THE SAME
TIME BY SHORT WAVE RADIO, WORD OF MOUTH AND LEAFLETS, WE ARE FIGHTING TO
CREATE A BATTLE-LINE IN THE MINDS OF EVERY GERMAN AND EVERY CITIZEN OF THE
GERMAN-OCCUPIED COUNTRIES, A BATTLE-LINE WHERE THE DRAWN FORCES ARE HUMANITY
VERSUS BRUTALITY AND THIS BATTLE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE WILL BE WAGED
RELENTLESSLY TO PREVENT DEPORTATION ABUSES AND TO ENLIST AID FOR ESCAPING
VICTIMS UNTIL THE VICTORIOUS ARMIES OF THE ALLIES GAIN LIBERATION FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE.

ANNIE LAUGHLIN
Dear Mrs. Welt:

Thank you for your letter of March 7, 1944, submitting, in response to my recent request, a statement to aid the War Refugee Board in planning its rescue programs.

We are glad to have the information concerning the activities of your organization, and your suggestions will receive our careful consideration.

I shall be pleased to receive such further views and proposals as you may wish to offer, as our projects develop. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
Mr. John W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you for sending us the copy of your letter of February 8, 1944, in which you asked for a statement of specific action we believe the War Refugee Board should take to effectuate the policy announced in the President's Executive Order, and of the measures the Council is equipped to take to lend assistance to such program.

We understand the tremendous difficulty of the task the Board is undertaking. The immediate rescue and transportation of the victims of Hitler's government, thousands now in extreme danger of death, will require highly trained and skilled intergovernmental action, and no private agency can presume to do more than suggest feasible measures. However, in the maintenance, relief, and resettlement of those rescued, the National Council of Jewish Women and other such organizations can be of service. We wish the Board to recognize the fitness of the Council for certain kinds of work and then to call upon us for any assistance we can possibly give.

We ask you to consider the attached statement in this light and to let us know in what way the Council can aid in this program for the rescue of the Jews and other persecuted minorities of Europe.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Joseph M. Well
National President

March 7, 1944.
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
1819 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

STATEMENT TO WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The work of the War Refugee Board has two distinct aspects: 1) immediate rescue and transportation to havens of refuge of Jews and other European minorities in danger of death. 2) Maintenance, relief, and resettlement of the rescued refugee population.

We know the Board is now taking steps to enlist the aid and cooperation of foreign governments in the first part of this program. All permissible publicity should be given to any accomplishment of this kind. Information should be as widely broadcast as possible through the underground movements of the various countries, so that the despairing may take hope and facilitate their own rescue.

A United Nations Conference, such as that which preceded establishment of UNRRA, would vastly strengthen the action of the United States and would increase and focus the emotional force of public opinion throughout the world. It would make clear the position and quality of leadership of our Government and would influence those governments now afraid to take decisive action. It may be argued that such a conference at this time would delay the program. As a secondary step, it is obviously necessary.

All the United Nations should declare themselves ready to share in providing temporary havens of refuge, and the United States should immediately take the lead by permitting large numbers to enter this country on temporary visas.

The support of public opinion is necessary for each step of the program. The big job is to get this support, and here the National Council of Jewish Women and other opinion-forming organizations can give real help. Our 65,000 members, organized in Sections in 215.
Statement to War Refugee Board

of the largest cities, are representative and leading members of their communities. Through national releases, meetings and institutes, the national office provides information that is spread through Section leaders to the individual members and, through them, to the communities as a whole. Should there be a United Nations Conference for the rescue and relief of the refugees, such agencies as our own would begin immediately to help create favorable public opinion for the decisions made by the Conference.

2. As soon as the possibility of temporary refuge in the United States has been declared, all agencies such as the National Council of Jewish Women, equipped to give immigration aid, and all community groups and organizations trained in social welfare should be immediately called upon and organized for action. To aid in rehabilitation, in providing food, clothing, and other essentials; to help in preparing shelters. A nation-wide campaign should be inaugurred to enlist community support, to open private homes and available buildings, and, if necessary, to maintain and provision camps.

The National Council of Jewish Women will support and aid such a program with all its facilities and resources. Its trained professional staff and experienced volunteers will be ready to help in arousing public opinion and enlisting community support. They will help to organize activities. The Council will offer its long experience in immigration aid, Americanization, and social welfare. Its location of relative file (see our letter of February 9, 1944, attached) will be made available to the Government for use in reuniting families.
When havens are established, the Council Sections in those communities will give direct and immediate assistance to individuals and groups.

The War Refugee Board, later, should provide the people of the United States, and the Department of State, and the Congress of the United States with complete information on conditions among dislocated populations and complete information, when it is safe to do so, concerning the Board's activities and accomplishments. Such data, revealed to the people of the United States, would show the need for a revision of our immigration laws. Our national pledge and our faith in democracy demand a more generous immigration policy than present legislation presents.

The Council has developed, in the fifty years of its existence, a serious educational program in all its departments, including Service to the Foreign Born; Social Welfare and War Activities; Social Legislation; International Relations and Peace; and Contemporary Jewish Affairs.

The Council has been a leader in Americanization and naturalization work and is well equipped to help in the adjustment of newcomers to national life and in preparing them for citizenship.

Because of its large and well-distributed membership, its long experience in aiding refugees, and its deep devotion to the work, the National Council of Jewish Women can offer the War Refugee Board very valuable assistance in whatever aspect of the work is assigned to it.

March 7, 1944.
February 9, 1944,

Mr. John V. Pehle,
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The National Council of Jewish Women wishes to express its gratification at your appointment as Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board and to offer you the support and assistance of our organization. Your experience as Director of Foreign Fund Control and your personal interest in Europe's refugee population give us hope and reassurance.

The War Refugee Board, we understand, expects to work partly through private international agencies. We are deeply concerned over the fate of the exiled Jews of Europe and anxiously desire that you avail yourself of the Council's many years of experience in location of relatives, of our trained volunteer and professional workers in Service to the Foreign Born, and of our widespread organization and facilities.

Our international service was begun after the first World War, when the National Council of Jewish Women was one of the very few agencies equipped to trace members of war-separated families and to get in touch with American relatives. Our international service has continued through the years and is very active now. The master file in the national office contains information about thousands of individuals, and, through our 215 Sections and our Canadian Division, we are able to trace relatives and friends in all parts of America. Through our Service to the Foreign Born Department, established forty years ago, thousands of immigrants have been aided in entering the country and in becoming naturalized and functioning American citizens. Today, Council's service to the immigrant and refugee and its Naturalization program are organized nationally under a professional director and her staff of trained assistants.

Will you kindly let us know how the National Council of Jewish Women can be of assistance to you and the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred J. Wilt
Mrs. Joseph M. Wilt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Dear Mrs. Welt:

With reference to your letter of February 15, 1944, I am forwarding to you herewith a duplicate of our letter of February 8, 1944, which you state you have never received.

We look forward to receiving your statement which will be given our immediate attention.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Enclosure.
In reply please refer to: 146

FEB 8 1944

Dear Mrs. Welt:

The War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War, was created by President Roosevelt on January 22, 1944. The President's purpose in creating the Board, as well as the Board's duties and authority, are set out in Executive Order No. 9417, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

The Board is not unmindful of the fact that private agencies, including yourselves, have for some time been active in seeking means to effect the relief and rescue of Jews and other minority groups threatened with extermination by the enemy. Nor is the Board unmindful of the fact that such agencies have actually brought relief to and effected the rescue of a number of such victims of enemy persecution.

The Board is presently preparing programs for action and earnestly solicits the advice and cooperation of every agency concerned with the problem. Consequently, the Board would appreciate it if you would submit to it, at your earliest possible convenience, a detailed statement in writing of such specific action as you believe the Board should take to effectuate the policy announced in the Executive Order, and of the measures that you are equipped to take to lend assistance to such program. While your statement may be informal, it should contain all available information necessary or incidental to the effectuation of any project you suggest. In this connection, you should bear in mind that the Board must, of necessity, confine itself to projects involving the relief or rescue of groups of persons and cannot deal with proposals limited to any specific individual.
The Board is fully cognizant of the difficulties involved in the preparation of any such statement, but nevertheless believes that the effort thus expended will have its compensation in achievement.

I think that you can understand our desire for having the suggestions of all agencies submitted to the Board in writing and at the earliest possible moment. On the other hand, I want you to know that the staff of the Board is always available for discussions with your representatives and the consideration of such further proposals or suggestions as you may be prepared to make.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Mildred G. Welt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,

Enclosure.
February 15, 1944.

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 1944, in which you express the appreciation of the War Refugee Board for our offer of support and assistance of the National Council of Jewish Women.

In that letter, you refer to a previous one, under date of February 8, 1944, in which you requested a statement of some kind. We have not received any letter under that date, nor a request for a statement about the Council.

The Council is most anxious to give immediately whatever assistance it can to your program. Therefore, we should appreciate it very much if we might have a copy of your February 8 letter. As soon as we know what kind of statement you desire, it will be prepared and forwarded to you immediately.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

SEVENTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION—CHICAGO, ILL.—NOVEMBER, 1943

MRS. MAURICE L. GLICKMAN, President
San Francisco, Calif.

Mrs. Josiah M. Welz, First Vice-President
Detroit, Mich.

MRS. OSCAR S. MAYN, Second Vice-President
Mount Carmel, Ill.

Mrs. Benjamin Spitzer, Third Vice-President
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mrs. Jacob Loeb Landschot, Treasurer
Philadelphia, Penna.

Mrs. Edgar M. Mendelson, Recording Secretary
Cincinnati, Ohio

Miss Aimee Stroos, Financial Secretary
Philadelphia, Penna.

Mrs. Karl J. Kaufmann, Chairman, Executive Council
Pittsburgh, Penna.

Flora R. Rottenberg
Executive Director

February 15, 1944.
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*Mrs. Marion A. Strasburger, Montgomery, Ala.
*Mrs. Joseph W. Winn, Tampa, Fla.
*Mrs. Julius Wolff, New York, N.Y.

*Member Executive Committee
**President, National Council of Jewish Teenagers
In reply please refer to: 138

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your letter of February 12, 1944, and its enclosures, transmitting a copy of a letter from Mrs. Joseph M. Welt, National President of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The matter referred to in Mrs. Welt's letter will be given appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

[Stenod] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

The Honorable Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.
Mr. John Pehle,
Assistant to the Secretary,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am pleased to inclose a copy of a letter dated January 27, 1944, from Mrs. Joseph H. Welt, National President of the National Council of Jewish Women, tendering the services of her organization to the War Refugee Board. For your information, I also inclose a copy of my reply to Mrs. Welt. It is my understanding that you will make the necessary recommendations in this regard to the War Refugee Board at the proper time.

Sincerely yours,

Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War.

2 Incls.
Incl 1 - cy of ltr 1-27-44
from Mrs. Welt
Incl 2 - cy of reply to Mrs.
Welt
Mr. John Pehler,
Assistant to the Secretary,
Treasury Department,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehler:

I am pleased to inclose a copy of a letter dated January 27, 1944, from Mrs. Joseph N. Welt, National President of the National Council of Jewish Women, tendering the services of her organization to the War Refugee Board. For your information, I also inclose a copy of my reply to Mrs. Welt. It is my understanding that you will make the necessary recommendations in this regard to the War Refugee Board at the proper time.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) HENRY L. STimson

Secretary of War.

2 Incls.
Incl 1 - cy of ltr 1-27-44
from Mrs. Welt
Incl 2 - cy of reply to Mrs. Welt
Mrs. Joseph H. Walt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Walt:

Receipt of your letter of January 27, 1944, conveying the generous offer of the National Council of Jewish Women to be of all possible assistance in the work of the President's War Refugee Board, and congratulating me on my appointment to the Board is gratefully acknowledged.

As a member of the Board, I want to assure you that every effort will be made, consistent with military necessity, and the policy of unconditional surrender, to alleviate the hardships and sufferings of all innocent victims of the war and to take all practicable measures for the relief of inhabitants of territory now occupied by the enemy.

At the present time the work of the War Refugee Board is still in the formative stage. It is hoped that we will soon be enabled to turn to good use the proffered services of such organizations as yours with their world-wide interest in the rescue of all peoples from their oppressors. I have no doubt that the practical experience of the National Council of Jewish Women will prove of great benefit to the War Refugee Board. In the meantime, I am pleased to hand your letter to Mr. John Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, who is presently assisting the War Refugee Board as acting director.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HENRY L. STIMSON
Acting Secretary of War.

Memo for Record: Reply based on ltr to Unitarian Service Committee, 2 Feb 44; ltr to Congregation Beth Shelom, 2 Feb 44, and conversation with Mr. Pehle on 3 Feb 44.
Honorable Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

My dear Secretary Stimson:

With sincere respect and lively confidence in your power to carry out the difficult task assigned to you, the National Council of Jewish Women wishes to congratulate you on your appointment by President Roosevelt to the War Refugee Board, recently established by his Executive Order. Our profound anxiety for the fate of the Jews and other persecuted minorities of Europe makes all the more intense our relief at this action of the President and all the greater our gratitude to you and the other members of the Board.

As a national organization concerned for more than forty years with immigrant aid and service to the foreign born, and as the oldest organized group of Jewish women in this country, the Council is profoundly aware of the necessity for immediate action, if the victims of Nazi persecution are to be saved from annihilation. Also, the Council earnestly desires to give to our Government what support and help it can in the program of refugee rescue and resettlement.

Our long established Service to the Foreign Born is well organized and trained, with representatives in 215 Sections throughout the country. The National office maintains a staff of professional workers, equipped with technical knowledge, who have worked for many years with various governmental departments in meeting immigrants, in making affidavits, and in other problems of immigration. Council Sections, especially in areas of large foreign born population, have highly effective programs in naturalization and Americanization.

The location of the American relatives of refugees and the reuniting of war separated families is one of our important services. The National Council of Jewish Women has the great advantage of having members in remote villages, as well as in the large cities, in all parts of the country.

In common with other organizations seriously concerned with this most tragic problem, the Council is hopeful that immediate assistance will be given the doomed minorities of Europe, now that our President has established a War Refugee Board and appointed as its directors men of high distinction and exceptional ability. We trust you may be wholly successful in fulfilling the purposes of the Board, thus bringing honor to our country as a nation and as an international power.

Cordially yours,

/s/ Mildred G. Welt

/t/ Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
National President
Dear Mrs. Welt:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 1944, concerning my appointment as Acting Executive Director of the new War Refugee Board.

Your interest in the work of the Board and your offer of the support and assistance of your organization are greatly appreciated.

No doubt, you have by now received my letter of February 8, 1944, requesting the advice and cooperation of agencies concerned with the problems of the Board. It is expected that the statement requested in that letter will be very helpful, and we shall be pleased to receive your suggestions as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
National President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York, New York.
Mr. John W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

The National Council of Jewish Women wishes to express its gratification at your appointment as Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board and to offer you the support and assistance of our organization. Your experience as Director of Foreign Fund Control and your personal interest in Europe's refugee population give us hope and reassurance.

The War Refugee Board, we understand, expects to work partly through private international agencies. We are deeply concerned over the fate of the exiled Jews of Europe and anxiously desire that you avail yourself of the Council's many years of experience in location of relatives, of our trained volunteer and professional workers in Service to Foreign Born, and of our widespread organization and facilities.

Our international service was begun after the first World War, when the National Council of Jewish Women was one of the few agencies equipped to trace members of war-separated families and to get in touch with American relatives. Our international service has continued through the years and is very active now. The master file in the national office contains information about thousands of individuals, and, through our 215 Sections and our Canadian Division, we are able to trace relatives and friends in all parts of America. Through our Service to Foreign Born Department, established forty years ago, thousands of immigrants have been aided in entering the country and in becoming American citizens. Today, Council's service to the immigrant and its Naturalization program are organized nationally under a professional director and her staff of trained assistants.

Will you kindly let us know how the National Council of Jewish Women can be of assistance to you and the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

Wilfred Welt
Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
National President

SEVENTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION—CHICAGO, ILL.—NOVEMBER, 1943

MRS. MAURICE L. GOldMANN, President
San Francisco, Calif.

MRS. JOSEPH M. WELT, First Vice-President
Detroit, Mich.

MRS. OSCAR S. MARX, Second Vice-President
Mount Carmel, III.

MRS. BENJAMIN SPITZER, Third Vice-President
Brooklyn, N. Y.

MRS. HANNAH G. SOLOMON, (1858-1942)
Founder

MRS. JACOB LEE LANGSFORD, Treasurer
Philadelphia, Penna.

MRS. ROGER MENDRIS, Recording Secretary
Cincinnati, Ohio

MISS AIMIE STONE, Financial Secretary
Philadelphia, Penna.

MRS. KARL J. KAMKAMP, Chairman, Executive Committe
Pittsburgh, Penna.
Dear Mrs. Welt:

Your letter to President Roosevelt concerning the new War Refugee Board has been referred to this office.

The interest of your organization in the President's new program of help to the persecuted minorities of Europe is deeply appreciated. I assure you that everything in our power will be done to see that effective action is taken to carry out the policy of this Government to save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Your offer of service and help to the Board is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.
Respectfully referred to the Secretary of the Treasury for such acknowledgment as may be deemed appropriate.

Attention: Mr. John W. Pehle.

[Signature]

M. C. Latta
Executive Clerk
Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Washington, D. C.

My dear President Roosevelt:

Esteeming most highly your courage, integrity and regard for human life, the National Council of Jewish Women wishes to express to you its appreciation of your recent Executive Order establishing a War Refugee Board. May your direct and forceful action be successful in its great purpose of rescuing from extermination the Jews and other persecuted minorities of Europe and in providing havens of refuge for them.

As a national organization concerned for more than forty years with immigrant aid and service to the foreign born, and as the oldest organized group of Jewish women in this country, the National Council of Jewish Women is profoundly aware of the necessity for the immediate action authorized by your Executive Order. Also, the Council earnestly desires to give our Government what help and support it can in the program of refugee rescue, rehabilitation and resettlement.

With sincere best wishes for your personal well being and for the security of our country, I am,

Cordially yours,

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt
National President
Dear Mrs. Welt:

I sincerely appreciate your letter of January 27, 1944, concerning my appointment to the President's new War Refugee Board.

The support and help of organizations such as yours will be of great value to the Board in the important but difficult task it faces in effectively carrying out the policy of our government to rescue the victims of enemy persecution.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.

Mrs. Joseph M. Welt,
President,
National Council of Jewish Women,
1819 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

FHodel:hd 1/31/44
Honorable Henry Morgenthau
Secretary of Treasury
Washington, D. C.

My dear Secretary Morgenthau:

With sincere respect and lively confidence in your power to carry out the difficult task assigned to you, the National Council of Jewish Women wishes to congratulate you on your appointment by President Roosevelt to the War Refugee Board, recently established by his Executive Order. Our profound anxiety for the fate of the Jews and other persecuted minorities of Europe makes all the more intense our relief at this action of the President and all the greater our gratitude to you and the other members of the Board.

As a national organization concerned for more than forty years with immigrant aid and service to the foreign born, and as the oldest organized group of Jewish women in this country, the Council is profoundly aware of the necessity for immediate action, if the victims of Nazi persecution are to be saved from annihilation. Also, the Council earnestly desires to give to our Government what support and help it can in the program of refugee rescue and resettlement.

Our long established Service to the Foreign Born is well organized and trained, with representatives in 215 Sections throughout the country. The National office maintains a staff of professional workers, equipped with technical knowledge, who have worked for many years with various governmental departments in meeting immigrants, in making affidavits, and in other problems of immigration. Council Sections, especially in areas of large foreign born population, have highly effective programs in naturalization and Americanization.

The location of the American relatives of refugees and the reuniting of war separated families is one of our important services. The National Council of Jewish Women has the great advantage of having members in remote villages, as well as in the large cities, in all parts of the country.

In common with other organizations seriously concerned with this most tragic problem, the Council is hopeful that immediate assistance will be given the doomed minorities of

SEVENTEENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION—CHICAGO, ILL.—NOVEMBER, 1943
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Cordially yours,

Mrs. Joseph N. Walt
National President
My dear Secretary Hall:

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Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Mrs. Joseph M. Holt
National President