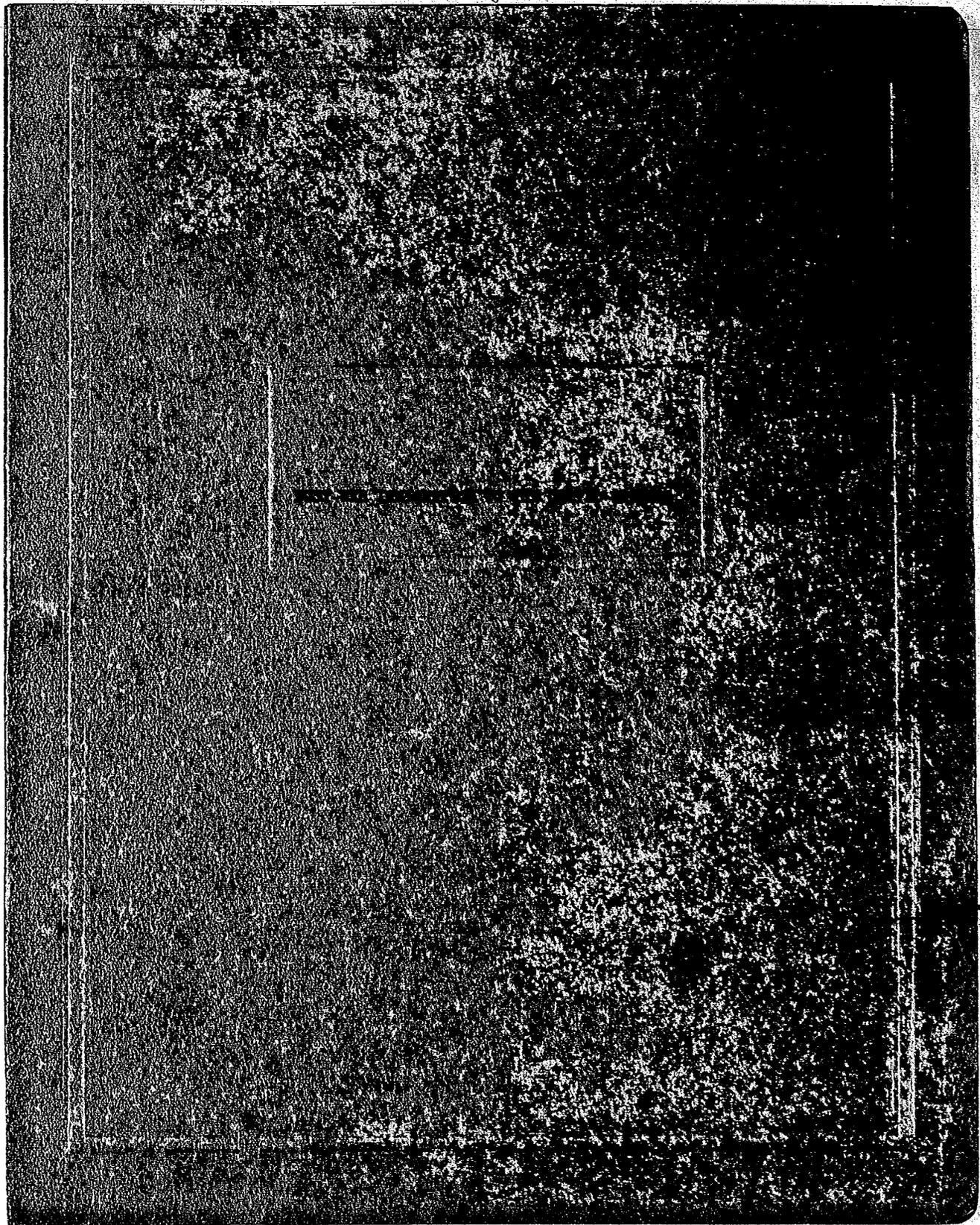


NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

000526



000527

JUL 14 1944

Dear Mr. Beck:

I have your letter of July 6, 1944,
enclosing a copy of "Post War Immigration to the
United States".

I have read the report with interest
and appreciate very much your kindness in sending
it to me.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Joseph E. Beck,
Executive Director,
National Refugee Service, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York 13, New York.

EST RBHutchison:agr 7-11-44

JW

000528



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

JH

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July 5, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

You will recall you indicated interest regarding information on immigration figures that we might have. I am enclosing herewith a copy of a study made by a member of our staff. It is in a tentative form and will later be revised for wider use. The title of the study is misleading. It is really a study of immigration to the United States and the areas from which the immigrants have come.

We will be glad to have you or your staff use this material but since it needs revision, we would prefer that its use be confined to your own organization.

Cordially,

Joseph E. Beck
Joseph E. Beck

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000529

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POST-WAR IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

Past, Present and Future Considerations
with special reference to
Jewish refugees.

Prepared by Joseph A. Berger
for the National Refugee Service, Inc.
March 21, 1944.

000531

POST-WAR IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

In view of the widespread interest in the plight of the millions of human beings who have been deprived of the elemental rights of life by the Nazis since 1933, this memorandum attempts to set forth some of the basic factors for consideration by the American people in regard to the future immigration policy of the United States.

Consideration is given principally to those unfortunates commonly described as 'refugees'. Since the Jewish people has been singled out by Hitler to suffer far greater discrimination than any other group, special emphasis is laid on the particular problems relating to Jewish refugees.

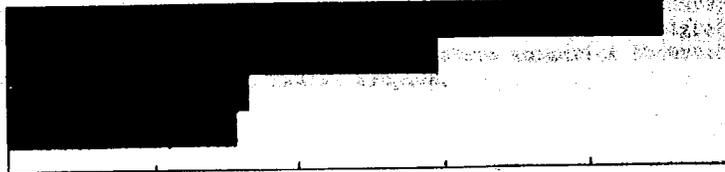
Because of the lack of authoritative statistics touching upon many phases of the situation, it will be observed that many of the figures quoted are based on estimates, but these are believed to conform as nearly as possible to the facts.

For the sake of convenience and in order to obtain a chronological perspective, the material herein submitted is arranged as follows:-

Page 2	.....	Reflections on the past.
" 4	.....	What is a refugee?
" 7	.....	Present location of Jewish refugees outside the United States.
" 8	.....	United States Immigration Policy.
" 9	.....	Distribution of refugees in the United States.
" 10	.....	Table I. Immigrants to U.S. by Countries of Birth, July 1, 1933 - June 30, 1943.
" 11	.....	Table II. Registered aliens in the United States December 31, 1940.
" 12	.....	Table III. German and Austrian Jews.
" 14	.....	Table IV. Jewish Refugees in Allied and Neutral Countries, and in Shanghai.
" 15	.....	Table V. Jews still living in German-controlled Europe.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST

476,930
296,494
165,756
155,424



Immigrants admitted
 Hebrew immigrants admitted
 Immigrants admitted - refugees
 Hebrew immigrants admitted - refugees

During the period of ten years from July 1, 1933 through June 30, 1943, 476,930 immigrants were admitted to the United States, of whom 165,756 (34.75%) declared themselves to be of the Hebrew race. (Table I).

Of the total number of immigrants, (476,930), 296,494 (62.17%) were born in European countries of refugee emigration. (Table I).

Of the Hebrew immigrants, (165,756), 155,424 (93.77%) were born in European countries of refugee emigration. (Table I).

Of the total number of refugee immigrants, (296,494), 155,424 (52.43%) declared themselves to be of the Hebrew race. (Table I).

The expression "immigrants" includes both quota and non-quota immigrants, the latter comprising husbands, wives and children of U.S. citizens, and ministers and professors and their wives and unmarried children.

All the above figures relate to immigrants and do not include persons admitted to the United States for temporary visits. At the present time it is understood that there are some 35,000 aliens in the United States, excluding diplomatic and military personnel, who are in possession of temporary or transit visas. This figure includes persons of all nationalities and races from all countries in the world, except native born citizens of Canada and Mexico.

According to the figures supplied by the Jewish Statistical Bureau, there were 4,770,647 Jews in the United States in 1937. Thus the Jewish refugees who have come to the United States during the last ten years represent only 3.26% of the Jewish population.

Table II of the Statistical Tables shows that, according to the Alien Registration Division of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Department of Justice, there were 2,847,994 registered aliens in the United States on December 31, 1940 who had been born in the countries of European refugee emigration. Thus the refugees who have come to the United States as immigrants during the last ten years represent only 10.41% of the total resident alien population from these same countries.

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Reflections on the Past (cont'd)

According to the immigration laws of the United States quota visas could have been issued to 606,400 persons born in the countries of European refugee emigration during the last ten years. The actual immigration during this period of all persons born in these countries amounted to less than half this number, namely 296,494.

000534

WHAT IS A REFUGEE

It is difficult enough, in terms of any given moment, to define the term 'refugee'. Viewed historically or statistically over the period of the last ten years since the rise to power of Hitler, this difficulty is multiplied a thousandfold.

Leaving out of account altogether the millions who have fled from their homes because of the physical ravages of war, famine, floods and pestilence, even the narrowest interpretation of a 'refugee' is apt to be verbose.

A refugee may be defined as either:-

- (1) A person who fled or who was compelled to depart from the country of his citizenship, permanent residence or birth by reason of actual or anticipated religious, political, racial or economic persecution, or
- (2) A person who, being absent from the country of his citizenship, permanent residence or birth, is unable to return there without subjecting himself to persecution.

The definition of a refugee does not, therefore, include a person who, finding himself away from the country of his citizenship, permanent residence or birth, is unable to return there solely because of lack of transportation facilities. For example- An Irishman in the United States who would like to return to Eire, and who finds himself unable to do so because of inability to secure transportation, would not be counted as a refugee.

Because of the small number of refugees admitted to the United States from non-European countries, the facts and estimates in this study will be confined to European refugees.

Even with these limitations it is impossible to relate refugee movements to any specific period without first realizing the many imponderables which have to be considered in arriving at any substantive conclusions.

Apart from and in addition to the tragic fate of the Jews and active anti-Nazis and of all people in countries over-run by Germany since 1939, it may be well to reflect for a moment upon some of the 'incidents' of the past decade which have also brought in their wake a succession of waves of 'refugees'. As late as 1933 there still wandered around Europe, homeless and stateless, hundreds of thousands of refugees from Russia, who, for one reason or another, were unable or unwilling to return there, and who represented a long-term legacy from the days of the Russian revolution. The Spanish civil war of 1936/38 created an additional class of thousands of refugees, not all of whom by any means were Spanish, and the majority of whom were condemned to a prison-like existence in the internment camps of southern France. The occupation of Austria, the Sudetenland, Albania, Bohemia-Moravia, and Memel, - all of these 'incidents' in a world at peace, - each added new groups to the legions of the wandering.

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What is a Refugee (cont'd)

Moreover, in considering whether or not immigrants to the United States during the last ten years from any specific country should or should not be counted as refugees, it seems desirable to take the broadest view of the implications of European political events upon the lives of persons affected by them. For example- It might at first be thought that emigrants from Italy should be regarded as refugees only if they left Italy after June 10, 1940, the date upon which Italy declared war on France and Great Britain. Viewed realistically, however, it is well known that a very large number of persons who emigrated from Italy during the several years prior to this time should be counted as refugees. Some of them fled as political refugees from the Mussolini regime; some of them voluntarily exiled themselves because they disagreed with the Italo-Ethiopian war in 1935, or with Italian intervention on the side of the Franco forces in the Spanish Civil War of 1936/1938; many of those who came from the former Austria Tyrol fled as refugees in order to avoid the exchange of population which had been agreed upon, prior to the war, between Hitler and Mussolini, and which would have required them to move into the Reich; finally, since the role of Italy as a partner in the Axis was forecast by a large number of Italians long before the present war, undoubtedly a number of Italians fled their native country before 1940 in order to avoid the situation which they felt was inevitable and which eventually materialized in fact. Thus undoubtedly a large but undeterminable number of Italian immigrants to the United States, even during the years before 1940, should be regarded as refugees.

Taking all factors into account, therefore, it would seem that the closest approximation to the truth is to include as refugees all persons who immigrated to the United States, since July 1, 1933, from the countries which today are included as countries of European refugee emigration.

So much has already been written about the barbarous fate of the Jews of Europe that there is little to add on the subject, except to repeat that every Jew in Hitler territory is, and has been since 1933, condemned to extermination, and it is little short of a miracle that any of them survive to this day.

Unfortunately, when we come to define the expression 'Jew' we again find ourselves in serious difficulty. Hitler's definition includes thousands who themselves deny any Jewish affiliations whatever except partial or remote Jewish ancestry. The Jewish people itself is divided on the issues- there are Jews by religion, Jews by birth, Jews by racial recognition, and Jews in terms of national aspirations. The official attitude of the government of the United States, at least in terms of the Departments of State and Justice, does not attempt to separate Jewish immigrants from non-Jewish immigrants. The statistics published by the Department of Justice, however, have until recently classified as Hebrew immigrants those persons who declared themselves to be of the Hebrew race. Indeed, the only information from which figures can be compiled of Jewish immigration to the United States is

What is a refugee (cont'd)

that based upon the declarations of the immigrants that they are of the Hebrew race. In considering this fact, it will be realized, on the one hand, that not all Jewish immigrants will have declared themselves to be of the Hebrew race; on the other hand, some immigrants who are not professing Jews will have declared themselves to be of the Hebrew race, either because under the Nuremberg laws they were considered to be Jews by the Nazis by reason of remote Jewish ancestry, or because, paradoxically enough, they may have found it easier to secure permission to depart from Hitler-controlled territory if they declared themselves to be of the Hebrew race.

Since October 1943, the Department of Justice no longer includes the expression 'Hebrew' as a mark of racial distinction, and it would seem therefore that unless and until some adequate machinery is set up for the purpose, it will be impossible, as from November 1943, to separate Jewish or Hebrew immigrants from non-Jewish or non-Hebrew immigrants. For the moment, therefore, we shall have to be content to define a Jewish refugee as a refugee who declares himself to be a Jew. Moreover, we shall have no statistics of these people unless a Jewish refugee records himself as such to one or other of the social agencies which assist immigrants and which forwards its recorded statistics to a central body set up for that purpose.

Finally, in considering problems of immigration to the United States, and especially in considering figures relating to Jewish refugees, it must be remembered that the official statistics take account of two important additional facts. First, account is taken of the country (post Versailles and Trianon treaties) in which the immigrant was born. Second, account is taken of the country (post Versailles and Trianon treaties) in which the immigrant last resided for one year or more. The following examples will show how unreal the application of either of these facts may be in relation to any estimates for the future:- (1) A person, born in Warsaw, who lived for fifty years in Berlin, and then, after a 'refugee' stay of two years in France, immigrated to the United States, is recorded as having Poland as his country of birth, (although Warsaw was in Russia when he was born) and as having France as his last permanent place of residence. (2) A person born in Trieste, who since his infancy lived for forty years in Brussels, and then, after a 'refugee' stay of two years in London, immigrated to the United States, is recorded as having Italy as his country of birth (although Trieste was in Austria when he was born) and as having England as his last permanent place of residence.

000537

PRESENT LOCATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Table IV and V of the Statistical Tables show that at the present time there are believed to be 3,197,000 Jews of refugee status outside the United States and Palestine (360,000 in Allied and Neutral countries and in Shanghai, and 2,897,000 in German-controlled Europe), - sufficient, if they all desired and were able to come to the United States, to fill the quotas for a very long time in the future. Even the German and Austrian Jews, about whose fate the worst fears have been expressed, number at least 142,000 (129,000 in Allied and Neutral Countries and in Shanghai, and 13,000 in Germany and Austria), in addition to an unknown number still existing in the deportation camps in Poland, - a figure itself sufficient to fill the quotas for these countries for the next five years.

It is impossible to forecast how many of these Jewish refugees would want to seek admittance to the United States or how many of them would be able to secure the necessary affidavits or other documentation which would enable them to obtain visas for such admittance. It is reasonable to suppose, however, that a large majority of them will for a number of years after the war be unable to find economic, religious or racial freedom in the countries where they are at present, even if an optimistic view be taken of the reconstruction period to come. Although the subject of future immigration is under discussion in several countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others, no definitive policy has yet been laid down in any of them. Of all the countries in the world, only China, Palestine and the United States have developed policies which permit bulk immigration. For reasons outside the scope of this memorandum, it seems extremely doubtful whether any appreciable number of Jewish refugees would plan to make their homes in China. The future immigration policy of Palestine is uncertain and unpredictable. Thus the United States stands out as one of the principal places of future permanent opportunity for a substantial number of these Jewish refugees, and the large Jewish population of the United States has demonstrated time and time again its desire to help as many as possible of the refugees to find their new homes in the United States.

Of course, the above statements are made not unmindfully of the fact that future refugee and non-refugee immigrants to the United States will hardly be made up exclusively of Jews. At least, however, it is clear that there is no basis to any suggestion that there are not enough Jewish refugees still living to form a sizeable pool for future immigration to the United States.

000538

UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION POLICY

The immigration policy of the United States during the past century has been predicated upon the traditional role of American democracy in offering asylum to the persecuted and homeless. Based on the highest concepts of humanitarianism, the practice of this policy during the last 100 years has enabled upwards of thirty million immigrants to build up new lives and to find new economic and cultural opportunities in an atmosphere relatively free of racial, religious or political persecution.

On countless occasions, too, this policy has been shown to have been of benefit to the economic and social life of the people of the United States. New skills, new laborers in all walks of life, and the preservation and development of the arts and sciences of the old world have been among these tangible benefits.

These reasons are as cogent today as ever before in our history, perhaps more so, in that today we are engaged in a life and death struggle to maintain our traditional standards of culture and economy.

From the point of view of the refugees, an additional factor needs to be taken into account. Practically every refugee who has immigrated to the United States during the last decade has perforce suffered separation from members of his immediate family. Husbands, wives, children and parents are separated, not merely by 3,000 miles of ocean, but by the greater gulf which separates those living in freedom from those existing in misery, want and persecution. The least that every American will want is to offer to these separated ones the chance of a reunion in a land of freedom.

The application of the United States Immigration laws calls for the permissive granting of quota visas on the basis of the ethnic origin of the immigrants. For the purposes of this memorandum it is assumed that the quotas will remain as they are at present, at least for the time being.

In the procedures of the State Department, which is the department of the United States government responsible for the issuance of visas, applications for visas in behalf of immigrants born in all countries of the world, except the British Commonwealth and the Western Hemisphere, must be submitted to the State Department at Washington for advisory approval before the immigrant can himself apply to the United States Consul nearest his home for the actual visa to be issued. This procedure, implemented as a war measure in July 1941, is necessarily fraught with considerable delays.

DISTRIBUTION OF REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES

It is estimated that approximately 55% of the refugees who have arrived in the United States during the last ten years have settled in New York City, while 45% have made their homes in other communities.

Allowing for the fact that nearly all the refugees arrived in New York City as their port of entry to the United States, the proportion of refugees settled outside New York City is itself a remarkable achievement; nevertheless, it may be felt that greater efforts should be made in the future to settle an even larger proportion of immigrants away from New York City. These efforts may well take the form, partly of more intensive pre-immigration orientation for the newcomers in their countries of emigration, and partly of more intensive interpretation to the refugees on their arrival, as to the opportunities and desirability of their settling in communities other than New York City.

The success of such a program, and even the degree to which it can be attempted, depends principally upon the willingness of communities outside New York City to develop plans for the integration of newcomers in their localities. The machinery for local settlement already exists in the hundreds of refugee committees set up throughout the United States during the past five years by the National Refugee Service. What is now required is a careful study by these communities of the implications of this memorandum and an indication from them as to their willingness and ability to intensify in the future their successful work of the past.

TABLE I

Immigrants to U.S. by Countries of Birth (1)
 July 1, 1933 - June 30, 1943
Selected Countries of Refugee Emigration

<u>Country of Birth (2)</u> <u>Selected Countries</u>	<u>Annual Quota</u>	<u>Hebrew Immigrants</u>		<u>Total Immigrants (3)</u>	
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Belgium	1,304	1,471	.95	3,802	1.28
Bulgaria	100	200 E	.13	737	.25
Czechoslovakia	2,874	7,052	4.54	16,693	5.63
Danzig, Free City of	100	357	.23	531 E	.18
Denmark	1,181	55	.04	2,274	.77
Estonia	116	— NA		370	.19
Finland	569	39	.03	2,695	.91
France	3,086	2,095	1.35	8,467	2.86
Germany (inc. Austria)	27,370	97,321	62.60	128,516	43.35
Greece	307	117	.08	6,342	2.14
Hungary	869	4,117	2.65	7,528	2.54
Italy	5,802	953	.61	46,911	15.82
Latvia	236	930	.60	1,338	.45
Lithuania	386	1,696	1.09	2,780	.94
Luxemburg	100	206	.13	311 E	.10
Netherlands	3,153	1,489	.96	4,911	1.66
Norway	2,377	31	.02	3,951	1.33
Poland	6,524	27,741	17.84	34,332	11.58
Rumania	377	2,719	1.75	4,538	1.53
Soviet Russia	2,712	6,343	4.08	10,240	3.45
Spain	252	39	.03	3,626	1.22
Yugoslavia	845	453	.29	5,401	1.82
Total	60,640	155,424	100.00	296,494	100.00

All Countries

Total from all countries 151,774 165,756 (4) 476,930 (4)

E - estimated.
 NA - not available.

- (1) The term 'immigrants' includes quota immigrants; husbands, wives and children of U.S. citizens; and ministers and professors and their wives and unmarried children.
- (2) The countries selected are those which have come under the control of Germany since 1933. Since the U.S.S.R. does not normally permit emigration or immigration, immigrants born in Soviet Russia have been included in the table on the assumption that they came from countries other than U.S.S.R. and that they are unable to return to the country of their birth. Spain is also included in the table because, although not under the control of Germany, most of its emigrants have been refugees.
- (3) The figures of total immigrants are taken from the official releases of the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, for the ten year period July 1, 1933 through June 30, 1943.
- (4) These figures include natives of non-quota countries.

000541

TABLE II

**Registered Aliens in the United States
December 31, 1940 (1)**

Countries of Birth - Selected Refugee Countries

Belgium	15,766
Czechoslovakia	72,668
Denmark	29,742
Finland	50,326
France	33,334
Germany (inc. Austria)	600,819
Greece	82,398
Hungary	116,696
Italy	695,363
Latvia	7,054
Lithuania	86,835
Netherlands	32,419
Norway	67,818
Poland	442,333
Rumania	32,164
Soviet Russia	366,842
Spain	39,670
Yugoslavia	55,904
Other Europe (including Bulgaria, Danzig, Estonia, Luxemburg, etc.)	19,623
Total	2,847,994

The total number of all Registered Aliens
was 4,921,452

(1) Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization
Service.

000542

TABLE III

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN JEWS

Countries of Birth of Jews commonly described as originating from, and having their permanent places of residence in, Germany and Austria.

<u>Countries of Birth</u>	<u>German origin</u>		<u>Austrian origin</u>		<u>Combined Figures</u>	
	1933 (1)		1934 (2)			
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Austria	3,237	.6	80,985	42.3	84,222	12.2
Czechoslovakia	3,882	.8	16,575	8.7	20,457	3.0
France	11,637	2.3			11,637	1.7
Germany	379,439	76.0			379,439	54.9
Hungary	2,295	.5	22,100	1.2	24,395	3.5
Latvia	1,266	.3			1,266	.2
Lithuania	1,420	.3			1,420	.2
Netherlands	1,099	.2			1,099	.2
Poland	82,072	16.4	66,300	34.7	148,372	21.5
Rumania	3,138	.6	2,762	1.4	5,900	.9
Soviet Russia	4,742	.9			4,742	.6
Yugoslavia			2,210	1.2	2,210	.3
Other Countries	5,455	1.1	552	.5	6,007	.9
Total	499,682	100.0	191,484	100.0	691,166	100.0

(1) Die Glaubensjuden in Deutschen Reich
 Statistik des Deutschen Reichs - Band 451, Heft 5, page 14 - Berlin 1936
 On June 16, 1933, of 499,682 professing Jews in Germany, 379,439 were born in Germany. A further 73,693 were born as follows:-

Poland, 47,159	Soviet Russia 4,742	Czechoslovakia 3,882
Austria 3,237	Rumania 3,138	Hungary 2,295
Latvia 1,266	Lithuania 1,420	Netherlands 1,099
Other known countries 5,455		

The remainder, 46,550 were born in former German territories lost by the Treaty of Versailles, and are estimated to have been born as follows:-
 75% - 34,913 in Poland 25% - 11,637, in France.

(2) Die Juden Wiens: Eine Statistische Studie - R. Lewit, Wien, 1927
 In 1925, there were 201,513 Jews in Austria. Of this number 85,227 were born in Austria (77,260 in Vienna, 7,967 in other parts of Austria). The remainder, 116,286, were born outside Austria. R. Oppenheim, former leader of the Austrian Jewish Community, estimates this number to have been born as follows:-
 Czechoslovakia, 15%; Hungary, 20%; Poland, 60%; Rumania, 2.5%; Yugoslavia, 2%; Other Countries, .5%.
 The above table is compiled by relating these figures to the 1934 Austrian Census, quoted by the American Jewish Year Book as containing 191,484 Jews. Information supplied by the Jewish Library of Information, New York.

Table III (cont'd)

German and Austrian Jews

In 1933 there were 382,676 Jews in Germany who had been born either in Germany or Austria.

In 1934 there were 80,985 Jews in Austria who had been born in Austria.

In all, therefore, there were 463,661 native born Jews in Germany and Austria.

Of this number 97,321 have immigrated to the United States, and it is estimated that 35,465 have immigrated to Palestine. (1)

There remain, therefore, 330,875 native born German and Austrian Jews whose fate needs to be determined.

Table IV estimates that 129,000 of them are now in Allied or neutral countries or in Shanghai.

Table V estimates that 13,000 of them are still living in Germany or Austria.

The balance of 188,875 must be presumed dead or in deportation camps in Poland.

(1) According to the Palestine government Department of Migration, 32,818 native born German and Austrian Jews immigrated to Palestine during the period 1935-1941.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 90,056 native born German and Austrian Jews immigrated to the United States during the period 1935-1941. The figures for Palestine have been adjusted in this estimate so as to bear a like relation to the 97,321 native born German and Austrian Jews who immigrated to the United States during the period from July 1, 1933 through June 30, 1943.

TABLE IV

Jewish Refugees in Allied and Neutral Countries, and
in Shanghai.

The figures quoted below are estimates supplied by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee as of February 11, 1944:-

Great Britain	60,000
Canada	7,000
Latin America	125,000
Sweden	10,000
Switzerland	21,000
Spain	6,000
Portugal	600
North Africa	30,000
Shanghai	20,000
	<hr/>
	279,600

To which should be added an unknown number in Turkey, Iran, Eire, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and other places of temporary refuge; probably not less than

20,400

Total 300,000

On the basis of completed immigration to the United States and Palestine for the years 1935-1941, this figure of 300,000 may be estimated to have originated as follows - (1)

Born in Germany (inc. Austria)	43%	129,000
Born in Poland	30%	90,000
Born in Rumania	4%	12,000
Born in Czechoslovakia	4%	12,000
Born in Soviet Russia	3.5%	10,500
Born in Other Countries	15.5%	46,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100.00%	300,000

(1) NRS Immigration Statistics, August 18th, 1943.

TABLE V

Jews still living in German controlled Europe

Belgium	20,000
Bulgaria	50,000
Czechoslovakia	185,000
Finland	1,500
France	200,000
Germany	5,000
Austria	8,000
Greece	40,000
Hungary	400,000
Italy	47,000
Latvia	15,000
Lithuania	30,000
Luxemburg	200
Netherlands	40,000
Poland	1,400,000 (1)
Rumania	430,000
Yugoslavia	20,000
	<hr/>
Total	2,897,000
	<hr/>

(1) This figure includes 200,000 of the surviving deportees from Central and Western Europe, and presumably includes at least some from Germany and Austria.

The above figures are taken from Table I (page 303) of Hitler's Ten Year War On the Jews - Institute of Jewish Affairs of the American Jewish Congress. They relate to September 1943 and are quoted as published except for authoritative revisions. Resulting, no doubt, from careful research, they are believed to represent one of the least optimistic viewpoints.

000546

SEP 12 1945

Dear Mr. Beck:

As you may know, the War Refugee Board will be dissolved on September 15th. Because of your deep interest in the work of the Board, I am sending you herewith for your confidential information a copy of the summary report of its activities.

It was only through the cooperation of the private agencies that it was possible for the Board to bring some measure of relief and hope to the suffering victims of Nazi oppression. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Board for the support and assistance rendered by your organization to this unique humanitarian undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Mr. Joseph Beck,
National Refugee Service, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York, N. Y.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 9/5/45

000547

JUN 26 1945

Dear Sirs:

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,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

National Refugee Service,
139 Centre Street,
New York, New York.

EBT:1np 6/26/45

000548

NRS

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

March 5, 1945

special delivery

Mr. Benjamin Akzin
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Akzin:

I shall be in Washington on Wednesday and early Thursday morning and I hope you will have some time to see me either late Wednesday or early Thursday morning. I plan to call your secretary sometime on Wednesday to arrange for a mutually convenient time.

Among the questions I would like to discuss with you are the developments on the I-133 project; the status of "exchangees" who came on the Gripsholm, like the Weiner children — Ruth Hanna, age 17, Eva Else, age 14, and Miriam, age 11.

Would you please give my regards to Paul McCormick and thank him for having sent us the list of 150 "exchangees"?

Sincerely yours,

Ann S. Petluck
Ann S. Petluck, Director
Migration Department

ASP:VG

Ann P. was here. March 7. I explained that W. can't come within our province. Ba.

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000549

MAR 1 1945

RELIEF UNIT TO OPEN ITS OWN CAMPAIGN

National Refugee Service Will
Seek \$1,444,330 for Exiles
in the United States

The National Refugee Service, which has shared heretofore in funds raised by the United Jewish Appeal, announced yesterday that it was undertaking a separate campaign to raise \$1,444,330 for refugees in the United States.

Meanwhile it was disclosed that new efforts to arbitrate differences between the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, principal members of the UJA, had broken down, and that each group would continue with plans for separate campaigns.

The refugee organization's plans were announced by Edwin Rosenberg, first vice president, who said its carefully devised program of aid and adjustment has helped thousands of recent immigrants find their proper niche in American economic and social life.

"America is now drawing its tangible dividends from the refugee who found haven here in the past," Mr. Rosenberg said. "The refugees who are in our country's military services, the refugees who are giving their lives side by side with their American brothers—these are the tangible products of our country's granting asylum to the persecuted."

Local Agency to Continue

Mr. Rosenberg explained that the National Refugee Service would seek its finances from the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, which will continue to function as a purely local agency and from the various welfare funds and local community campaigns throughout the country.

Rudolf G. Sonneborn, chairman of the National Council of the United Palestine Appeal, released a letter he had sent Sidney Hollander, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, terming the JDC's acceptance of a new arbitration proposal as "tantamount to another rejection of arbitration."

Indicating that the UPA considered Palestine the paramount issue in this year's campaigns, Mr. Sonneborn said: "The insistence by

the JDC that Palestine in 1945 remain in a subordinate position reflected an unyielding refusal to understand the importance of Palestine, even in the terms of pure saving of life, to say nothing of the dynamics of rehabilitation in Palestine, which has given security to over 300,000 refugees since 1933—virtually as many as the rest of the world combined."

Differences Are Disclosed

An official of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds disclosed for the first time yesterday the nature of the financial differences between the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal. It was these differences, along with the issue of how much emphasis was to be given Palestine, which led

to the dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal.

The JDC, this official said, had proposed that the first \$25,000,000 raised be divided 60 to 40 per cent in its favor. The UPA said the 60-40 division was acceptable for the first \$10,000,000, but insisted that the \$25,000,000 should be allocated on a 58-42 basis.

A compromise proposal that \$17,500,000 be divided on a 60-40 basis was subsequently accepted by the JDC, but rejected by the UPA, it was learned, after which arrangements for the individual campaigns were undertaken.

Under the individual campaign arrangements, each of the principal Jewish welfare organizations will present separate requests to each local welfare body, creating the possibility of a dispute in each instance.

Whereas UPA concentrates its efforts in behalf of Palestine, the Joint Distribution Committee is known to feel that the year 1945 presents a number of problems throughout the ravaged areas of Europe and advocates a program that will solve as many of them as possible.

000550

November 28, 1944

Dear Eph:

The material on the Camp Crowder situation arrived this morning. I have discussed this with Dave Niles, and he is reluctant to participate. He reports that matters of this nature are generally handled in a manner indicated by the War Department. He did not seem at all surprised that the President does not customarily write to individual units. I am sorry that I could be of no assistance.

Enclosed is a recent report released by the Board. Although Joe Beck has a copy, it occurs to me that you may be interested in having one also.

Cordially,

Albert Abrahamson

Albert Abrahamson

Albert Abrahamson files

000551

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

FROM
EPHRAIM R. GOMBERG

November 27, 1944

Dear Jim:

The attached from my old friend Roman Slobodin is self-explanatory. Your help in obtaining a letter from the President (as per the attached suggested draft) is earnestly solicited.

It is a little out of my line to serve as a channel for an official request of this sort, but because I see its important morale-building and public relations value, I am passing it on to you without hesitation. Needless to say you will have my personal thanks as well as those of Camp Crowder if the President's greetings reach there in time for the December 2nd occasion. This would mean that it would have to be transmitted by mail certainly by Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

Regards.

Sincerely,

Ephraim R. Gomberg
Ephraim R. Gomberg

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

000552

Hq Det, 7th Regt, ASFTC
Camp Crowder, Mo.
November 22, 1944

Mr. Ephraim R. Gomberg
National Refugee Service
139 Centre Street
New York 13, N.Y.

Dear Eph:

Since you're more or less accustomed to having the Army, Navy and Marines, not to mention the State and Treasury Departments ask you offhand to solve their little problems, I trust you were able to take in stride my phone call requesting first aid for the Signal Corps.

If you can do anything about it, various generals and colonels, not to mention one acting corporal, will be most grateful, and it will go down in unrecorded history as another of those "achievements of NRS which for obvious reasons cannot be generally publicized."

To repeat what I told you hurriedly on the phone, the scenario is this: December 2 will be the third anniversary of the arrival of the first troops at Camp Crowder, the largest Signal Corps training post in the world. This date has been selected as occasion for a big morale-boosting ceremony and entertainment in our Field House, to which everyone is invited. On November 17 I wrote Steve Early, asking for a message from FDR. I sent him a draft, copy of which is enclosed.

Today I phoned Early's office. In his absence from Washington, his assistant, Miss Myrtle Bernheim, told me the matter had been referred to another presidential secretary, Hazlett (spelling uncertain), who now handles such requests. Hazlett was also away, and his assistant, a Miss Winegar, told me it would be taken up by him on his return after the week-end.

Now, we are anxious if possible to receive the letter in time for reproduction in our camp paper appearing before the event. For this purpose it would have to be here Wednesday. Furthermore, I'm a little apprehensive of the thing being stymied in Hazlett's office, because Miss Winegar said it "isn't customary for the President to write to individual units." That, of course, is the old oil. There's no law against it, and this Post is large and important enough to merit Presidential attention. Nevertheless, if we can't get anything else, one of those indirect messages "The President has told me to extend. . . .etc" would be better than nothing.

Of course, I skipped all kinds of "channels" in writing direct to the White House in my own name. In doing so, I need hardly say, I had the unofficial encouragement and approval of The Brass.

000553

I think it's perfectly amazing how, for a fellow so far away, I can manage to get in your hair almost as much and as ~~fast~~ frequently as when I was right down the hall. I might as well be back there! (In fact, possibly this could be arranged in the not too distant future, unless you duck fast).

Now, I haven't said a word about the magnificent letter you wrote on my behalf for OSS. I read it over a couple of times, trying to recognize the sterling character whom you described and endowed with my name. If I'm that good, I think I should apply for a General's commission at once.

Seriously, Eph, it was swell, and I'm deeply grateful to you once more. Needless to say, it has gone off to Sgt. Friediger. Now we'll see what happens.

Life continues to be slightly hectic for me. I always seem to manage to involve myself in things that require my staying up all night. At any rate, I'm beginning to become known around here as a character who is forever rushing from one place to another and in and out of offices. ~~Anyway,~~ I'm building up a reputation for being so busy that no one dares trouble me about any mere routine office work. The trouble is I am busy (at least part of the time.) Why can't I develop the faculty of seeming to be terrifically at work when actually I'm taking life easy? ■

My brother got back from the Pacific a couple of weeks ago, and proceeded to marry a pre-overseas girl friend of his in Boston. I got a 3-day pass, and by stretching it some, managed to get to NY for a few hours, spending three days and four nights on the train ~~in~~ for the purpose. It was worth while, however, to see the kid (he's a lieutenant jg now with strings of "fruit salad" on his chest) and see that all is well at home with Claire and the boys. Her great trouble is that she doesn't get enough rest. I would have phoned you, but you can imagine that ~~I~~ in that hit-and-run visit I didn't have even ten seconds to spare. It seemed to me that I walked out of Grand Central, turned around and walked back.

Well, I hope it won't be too long now. Kindest regards to everyone.

Cordially



Cpl. Roman Slobodin

000554

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Prosser
Commanding General
Camp Crowder, Mo.

My dear General Prosser:

The magnificent work of the Signal Corps in establishing the greatest communications system mankind has ever known is playing a major part, day by day, in winning the war. Knowing that this achievement is in a substantial measure due to the ability, courage, and devotion of soldiers trained at Camp Crowder, I take great pleasure in extending to you, and through you to the men and women of your command, hearty good wishes on the camp's third anniversary.

To "get the message through" in the honorable Signal Corps tradition, Camp Crowder has sent thousands of skilled fighting men to every part of the world. Those of you now in training will join them in manning our ever-expanding network of radio, telephone, and telegraph lines as they go forward with our advancing armies. The mission that the Signal Corps performs is not only essential to our military operations but carries as well a message of hope for the liberation of the oppressed and the establishment of a lasting peace for our Nation and mankind.

Sincerely yours,

000555

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NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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- Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

November 27, 1944

Mr. Laurence Lesser
War Refugee Board
Room 152
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

I will be in Washington on Thursday,
the 30th and will stop in to see you. Will
9:30 be all right?

I hope this is a convenient time for
you.

Sincerely yours,
Ann S. Petluck
Ann S. Petluck, Director
Migration Department

ASP:VG

air mail

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000557

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Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

October 30, 1944

Mr. Laurence Lesser
Room 152
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

I shall be in Washington on Wednesday afternoon, November 1st, and I hope that you will have time to see me about two o'clock. If this isn't convenient, I shall appreciate it if your secretary will call the Roger Smith Hotel and leave word when you can see me. (I won't be checking in until about 1:30 P.M.)

I am looking forward to our conference.

Sincerely yours,

Ann S. Petluck
Ann S. Petluck, Director
Migration Department

ASP:VG

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000558

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

September 5, 1944

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Jonah B. Wise
Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

Mr. Pehle will be receiving a formal invitation from Toledo to address the opening meeting of their Annual Welfare Fund Campaign on the evening of Sunday, November 19. Toledo, United Jewish Appeal and I will be very grateful if you can persuade him to accept the invitation.

Between five and six hundred people will be present at the Toledo meeting. That community is making elaborate and painstaking plans for a successful campaign and Mr. Pehle's presence will help tremendously to create the proper atmosphere for the raising of a substantially larger sum of money than has ever been obtained in Toledo.

The United Jewish Appeal has asked Toledo for a minimum allotment of \$140,000 from this year's Welfare Fund Campaign. Last year (1943), the UJA was allotted \$95,000 from a total gross of approximately \$163,000 raised by Toledo. Dor Coons has pointed out to Toledo that in order to provide \$140,000 for the UJA, Toledo will have to raise at least \$208,000, assuming that all their allotments and expenses obtained in 1943 remain unchanged in 1944. While no goal has been fixed, Toledo is considering establishing one of \$225,000.

To show you how tremendously important the 1944 Toledo campaign is to the UJA, the following comparative allotments from Toledo may be of interest:

1939 - \$53,000	1942 - \$70,000
1940 - 51,000	1943 - 95,000
1941 - 57,050	1944 - 140,000 (requested)

Toledo is most anxious to have Mr. Pehle and I hope you will persuade him to accept.

Many thanks and best regards,

Sincerely,


Ephraim R. Gomberg

ERG:te

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000559

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

*Answered in person
J.S.A.*

August 28, 1944

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Louis S. Weiss
Jonah B. Wise
Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

Mr. Lawrence Lesser
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Room 152
Washington, D.C.

Re: ZEITLINE, Georges-Marc
Camp Mirahda
Lerida, Spain
Case # A39122

Dear Mr. Lesser:

We were informed during June, 1944 that Mr. Georges Zeitline and his brother Marc had arrived in Spain. In 1942 an American visa was given to them when they were living in France. An uncle, Mr. Philippe Zeitline of 88 Central Park West, New York City, was the sponsor. However, they were unable to emigrate as exit visas were not available at that time.

We have since learned that the American Consulate in Madrid has communicated with the Department of State, recommending that consideration be given for the issuance of advisory approval in this case.

We wonder whether Messrs. Georges and Marc Zeitline reached neutral territory based on previously granted advisory approval. Do their names appear on your list of those refugees for whom visas will be expedited according to this regulation?

We thank you for your cooperation.

Yours very truly,

Ann S. Petluck

Ann S. Petluck, Director
Migration Department

Reply to:
Lillian Cohen

rs

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000560

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

June 5, 1944

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Jim:

I presume that you have seen the copy of the attached, which was written by Clarence Pickett late in April. If not, you may keep it for your files.

We are looking forward to hearing you talk on the 8th.

Sincerely,

Ephraim R. Gomberg
Ephraim R. Gomberg

ERG:rk
Enc.

Done - Abrahamson's file

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000561

COPY

April 27, 1944

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I have noted in the press the announcement by the Director of the War Refugee Board that consideration is being given to establishing free ports of entry for political, religious and racial refugees who are in danger of their lives. It is my understanding that some form of friendly internment also is involved until it is possible for those received to return to their point of origin.

I write to express to you the profound hope that insofar as you may be called upon to pass judgment on this matter, it may have your support. I see little possibility of refuge being given to persons of this sort in other countries on a temporary basis unless and until we of the United States make some such offer. I write on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee to endorse this proposal and to assure you of our willingness to give any assistance that may be desired on the part of our organization in making the undertaking a success.

Very cordially yours,

Executive Secretary

000562

1530 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

May 26, 1944

Mr. Joseph Beck,
National Refugee Service,
139 Centre Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Joe:

I shall appreciate receiving ten copies of the annual
report of NRS for 1943.

Cordially,

Albert Abrahamson

Albert Abrahamson file

000563

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

May 12, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

We were very much disturbed about the attached, which was apparently mailed to 500 delegates of the organization in question after clearance with Washington. I have called it to Weinstein's attention.

Sincerely yours,

Eph

Ephraim R. Gombert

ERG:m
encl.

See Camps - American Jewish Conference May 5

Return to Abrahamson's files

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000564

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK CITY

April 26, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We of National Refugee Service read with tremendous satisfaction your courageous statement which may lead to the establishment of places of temporary refuge in this country.

We hail this as a great humanitarian gesture which, if put into effect, will not only save the thousands of lives of those brought here, but will also serve as an inspiration and example to other nations and will therefore save countless more lives.

Believing as we do in your program and efforts, we would be less than frank if we did not point out some of the difficulties which may arise, and some of the ways in which our agency, with its years of experience in preventing the influx of refugees from becoming a public problem, may cooperate with you in keeping to a minimum these difficulties and such criticisms as they may provoke.

Since our earlier conference with you we have visited approximately twelve of the largest communities in the East, Middle West and Far West. We have learned that in order to avoid critical attitudes and possible repercussions which might endanger the smooth operation of the program, interpretation and explanation are essential. Interpretation is needed as to why group care is the only method of saving substantial numbers of people -- what would the nature of such havens of refuge be -- why is it necessary to use group or congregate facilities -- where are such places likely to be located -- under what auspices would they be operated -- is there any assurance that other countries will establish similar programs. Such places are certain to shelter relatives and friends of citizens and refugees already in the United States. Emotional ties of such people would make it essential that they have an understanding of the entire program.

We believe that National Refugee Service, the largest refugee organization in the United States, can be of major assistance in many ways. Even before the actual completion of plans we can, through our committees in all parts of the United States, and with

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Mr. John W. Pehle

- 2 -

April 26, 1944

the aid of other cooperating sectarian and non-sectarian organizations, help to provide the necessary interpretation and understanding. We can provide the social work service to act as an intermediary between persons whom you bring across and relatives and friends throughout the country. It will be essential to deal with the fears, insecurities and problems of such people. We believe our experience dealing with thousands of similar refugees would enable us to be of service to these people. We will undoubtedly be able to provide the many special needs which may be required to adjust people more adequately to group life -- or to help to secure these needs.

In these and many other ways National Refugee Service, with its many activities, can help to insure the success of the program.

We have already written previously that we stand ready to make available our years of experience in refugee work and to provide such aid as may be required, within the limits of our resources, for all refugees whom the War Refugee Board is able to bring to the United States.

Sincerely yours,

William Rosenwald

William Rosenwald

000566

*for
Haimon*

NRS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

May 10, 1944

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- Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

Mr. Albert Abrahamson
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jim:

Attached is a statement obtained by Mr. Berger from the British Information Service on the British equivalent of "free ports." ~~Mr. Berger~~ prepared a draft of the statement, which was submitted to the British Information Service and, after a few more changes had been made, it was released to us as an official document.

While there is little parallel between the British experience and this thing that we talk about as "free ports," it will, at least, give you background data which you may not already have.

Regards.

Cordially,

[Signature]
Ephraim R. Gomberg

*He used
to write
in our
Small words!*

ERG:rk
enc.

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000567

Joseph M. Prosser, New York
Joseph J. Ready, Washington, D. C.
Leon M. Robinson, New York
Stanley Robinson, New York
Harold J. Roy, Washington, D. C.
Stanley A. Kaufman, New York
Charles A. Kaufman, New York
Wm. Rosenberg, New York
Wm. Rosenberg, New York
Wm. Rosenberg, New York

FREE PORTS

AN ANALOGY IN GREAT BRITAIN

In November 1938 the Nazi pogroms against the Jews in Germany and Austria reached a new height. In addition, other religious and political minority groups were similarly subjected to the harshest persecution. At that time, a private committee was formed in London under the Chairmanship of Sir Robert Waley Cohen, working in close association with the already established German refugee organizations. With the permission of the British Government, a disused camp in Kent, (commonly known as the Kitchener Camp), was taken over by the Committee for the purpose of accommodating a new group of refugees (Jewish and non-Jewish) which the Committee brought to England. This group consisted of about 8,000 men aged 18 to 40 who had some ultimate hope of emigration overseas, mainly to the United States, South America, or Palestine, but were in the meantime in Nazi concentration camps, forced to stay there until their turn for emigration came. They were people without means who, except for this plan, would have had opportunity of being released from the concentration camps.

Under the Committee's plan as accepted by the British Government, the refugees were admitted to Great Britain without visas; they were considered neither as immigrants nor as visitors; their landing cards were so stamped that they obligated themselves to remain in the camp indefinitely unless permission was secured from the Government for them to leave the camp for short visits to relatives or for approved recreational purposes; failure to comply with the conditions on their landing cards would render them liable to immediate deportation.

In selecting refugees for this camp, the Committee sent over representatives to Europe to work out a method of operation with the local committees and actually to choose on a personal basis some of the refugees with which to start the camp. As the scheme developed, the remainder of the names were put forward by the local committees and received some check from the British authorities on a security basis. It is thought that very few, if any, of the names put forward by the committees were rejected by the British Government.

The camp was administered by the Committee without Government interference, and indeed, its direction was largely on a basis of self-government by the refugees themselves. It is understood that there is no recorded instance of any refugee infringing the terms by which he was admitted.

In the ensuing period of time, a number of the refugees succeeded in fulfilling their original purpose, - that is to say, they re-emigrated to the United States or elsewhere. After Great Britain declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939, the refugees in the camp, who by that time totalled about 8,500, including a number of women, appeared before the Tribunals that were set up for all enemy aliens, and were almost all classed as friendly refugees. Some were immediately taken into the Pioneer Corps of the British Army; others were given war jobs. At the time of the collapse of France in 1940, most of these refugees, like the other enemy aliens in Great Britain, were interned, but this policy was very soon modified; and within a relatively short time almost all enemy refugees, including those from this camp, were released. They have played, and are playing,

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FREE PORTS - An Analogy in Great Britain -

a useful part in the British war effort.

The camp has thus been disbanded. It served the purpose of giving shelter to several thousand innocent human beings who, but for the implementation of this plan, would have suffered continued imprisonment and, in many cases, death at the hands of the Nazis.

J.A. Berger
5/8/44

000569

MAY 10 1944

In reply please
refer to: 683

Dear Mr. Beck:

Thank you for your letter of May 2, 1944,
and the reports on the adjustment of refugee children.

These reports are presently being studied
by our staff. I am sure they will be of considerable
value to us, and your cooperation in making this in-
formation available is much appreciated.

I enjoyed seeing you again at our recent
conference. Please convey my best wishes to Mr. Rosen-
wald.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. Joseph E. Beck,
Executive Director,
National Refugee Service, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York 13, New York.

EBT
MBTowler:agr 5-8-44 JAF

000570

633
Cables: NACOMREF, New York
Initial
Date



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
139 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

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Executive Committee

Joseph E. Beck
Executive Director

May 2, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In accordance with your request I am enclosing reports on the adjustment of refugee children brought to the United States. One of these reports was prepared by Miss Lotte Marcuse, Secretary of the European Jewish Children's Aid (this is a corporate organization under management of the National Refugee Service). This statement covers children brought here from 1934 to 1941. The second report was prepared by Miss M. Ingeborg Olsen, Acting Director of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children.

In Miss Marcuse's report there is a brief description of the relationship between the two agencies and the division of responsibility. There is considerable more statistical material available (especially on the early group of children) which we have summarized to avoid too bulky a document. These statistics are available, however, to answer any questions or to make any further analysis you may feel desirable. In reading these reports one must keep in mind the experiences of the children prior to coming to this country. Only a word here and there implies what these children went through. Many of them have seen their parents torn away to concentration camps; others have had to hide with Christian friends and relatives; some have walked miles and miles over the Pyrenees to get into Spain. The reports of the adjustment of these children take on greater significance and are far more remarkable when these facts are kept in mind.

As I indicated in our conference last week, we recently had a meeting of the Executives of the larger Jewish child care agencies. There was definite indication that these agencies are prepared to accept many more children if they can be brought across and the Committees are willing to absorb the burden of cost on the local level.

We hope that these reports, in some small way, may be helpful towards the end of bringing additional children into the country.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph E. Beck

A DECADE OF REFUGEE AID IN AMERICA

War Relief Control Board Reg. No. 570

000-571

REPORT PREPARED BY MISS LOTTE MARCUSE,
SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN-JEWISH CHILDREN'S AID

The European Jewish Children's Aid was incorporated in June 1934 for the purpose of issuing corporate affidavits for children who were to enter the United States as unaccompanied under the provisions of the immigration law. It commenced to operate with the admission of the first group on November 9, 1934, and continued to admit children from Germany (Altes Reich) and Austria until the closing of the U. S. Consulates in these countries, which cut off additional admissions. Subsequently, on November 21, 1941, an agreement was reached with the newly formed United States Committee for the Care of European Children, that all corporate affidavits for children be channelled through one agency -- the U. S. Committee. But as children came over, the reception and care of all Jewish children would be delegated to the European-Jewish Children's Aid, which, in turn, would place these children in approved child care agencies in local communities throughout the country.

AGE GROUPS IN CARE

The agency brought over on its own affidavits in all 590 boys and girls. The immigration law set the upper age limit at 16, after which no corporate affidavits could be used. Subsequently, the U. S. Committee brought over 361 Jewish children who now are, or who have been, under the delegated supervision of the E.J.C.A.

This report is concerned with the earlier group of 590 brought across on our own affidavits. (The report of the U. S. Committee, attached, covers the children brought over on their affidavit. It includes both Jewish children under our supervisory care and Christian children for whom the U. S. Committee assumes direct responsibility.)

There has never been a lower age limit for admissions. The majority of children on admission fell between the ages of 14 to 16, because these youngsters were more directly threatened, first by exclusion from institutions of learning,

000572

and, in the later stages of the Hitler regime, by placement at forced labor, internment, or deportation. We pledged to the United States Government responsibility for each boy and girl to the age of 21, and continuous supervisory services during the period of care. Case material is therefore available for each boy and girl for an extended period of time, and information is available in many instances far beyond the 21 year age limit, for informal contact of the agencies and foster families with their former charges continued, because of the significant role which both played in the lives of these young people.

DISTRIBUTION IN PLACEMENT

Care for children was provided through local child care services in different parts of the United States. The agency was committed to the program of individual care of children in private family homes and for this purpose called upon selected social agencies for cooperation on the project. Care in private family homes had become the approved method of care for children deprived of parental care in their own families, throughout the U.S.S., and the Jewish child care program offered sufficient flexibility and opportunities for expansion through agencies with standard professional services. Placements of immigrants on an individual basis rather than segregation in groups had long been the basic philosophy of immigration services, also, and it was therefore possible to commence work on the project on the basis of agreement on aims, methods and procedures. In the early stages of the development, it was necessary to stimulate different parts of the country and urge cooperation on the project. Very soon, however, it became apparent that different areas, and gradually all geographic sections of the Jewish population, wished to share the responsibility of the program and even offered to improve services in order to qualify under the standards set.

The two most important criteria used in selecting an agency were the stability of the professional program as such, and the attitude of the general

000573

The records are
to be destroyed
after 100 years

Legal ent. R. 618
Inventorship

community in city and state toward an expansion of the refugee population. The financial resources available to carry the program never needed special examination, since every offer of cooperation from a local agency was accompanied by an offer of adequate local financial responsibility. The total number of 590 children was distributed by 40 agencies in placements covering 125 communities in 31 states.

EVALUATION OF PROGRAM

The group of social workers who cooperated on the project throughout the last decade have repeatedly suggested that a study be undertaken to include all children, and it is hoped that there will be such a large-scale study when the United States returns to its peacetime pursuits. But there is general agreement among the agencies that pending such a comprehensive study, a review of case material undertaken by the individual agencies but based on agreement on fundamental values and a common approach to the problem would be a valid substitute. Eight agencies, operating in the East and Midwest of the United States, whose professional services are comparable in quality, and which have accepted, through the years, a cross section of the children who have come over, agreed to evaluate their case material and submit their results on identical schedules. The facts presented in the following statements are obtained from these studies, which include material on 331 boys and girls, or 56.1% of the total group admitted.

AGES AND PERIOD OF CARE

	<u>Age at Admission</u>	<u>Present Age</u>
All children	<u>331</u>	<u>331</u>
Over 6 and under 10 years	15	--
" 10 " " 14 "	130	11
" 14 " " 18 "	186*	47
" 18 " " 22 "	--	170
" 22 " " 26 "	--	103
Median age	14	20

* None over 16 years

000574

REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED

The 331 boys and girls studied repeat the picture of age distribution of the total group referred to in the earlier general statement. Since the admissions had to be curtailed with the closing of the U. S. Consulates during the early stages of the European war, the majority has been in care for many years; the median length of stay extends to 6 years, with only 3 children cared for less than 2 years, and 60 less than 5 years.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF CHILDREN

There have been children from all social groups abroad; in the beginning, discriminatory measures struck hardest those who had least resources and a minimum degree of stability, but gradually all groups became equally affected and the need of the children in the families of industrial leaders and professional people was just as great as in the family of the artisan and tradesman. The parents' assurance that their family had "lived in Germany as long as Jews lived on German soil" was found on as many social histories received from abroad as the statements that the parents had left Post-War Poland for the hospitality of the German republic. There were children from industrial centers and children from rural villages in which their family was the only Jewish group in residence. There were children of homes broken through death and illness, and homes in which life was still pleasant and helpfully integrated even though limited to the four walls of a single room.

Many of the children had attended well-known educational institutions, and had expected to proceed to the university or the professional school in Germany. Others had had only basic instruction in a small country school house, and later had to seek refuge in a Jewish Parochial school. From 1939 on, children arrived who had had to sit idle at home, for Hitler's policies had limited their school attendance to the age of 14. One of the agency's most successful scholars had been described as playing chess with his mother every day and all day for a whole year, for he could not venture forth to the common playground, there was no school open to him, and he was not permitted to move to a community which might have given him educational opportunities specially provided by the Jewish agencies.

000575

TYPES OF FOSTER HOMES

The placement of children in foster family homes is predicated on the assumption that each child's best interests can be furthered by placement in an environment approximating his own family home before the need for removal arose. Plans for children whose parents do not give up permanent guardianship are also dependent on the parents' wishes, ambitions, plans for their child's maximum adjustment. Social agencies planned placements for refugee children, generally speaking, on the same premises. There is indication that children who came from socially prominent homes fitted themselves into homes of socially prominent American families, and that a sufficient number of these homes was available. In this group many of the boys and girls made a permanent adjustment to such families and became identified with the socially prominent groups in the communities of which the foster parents were a part. Many of the children who came from simpler homes were able to live up to the expectations of foster families whose social standing was markedly higher than the children's families in Europe had been. The degree to which these children could be absorbed into such prominent families depended largely on their ability to give emotionally what these American families expected. A child who remained closely tied to his own parents, no matter how far away, was usually not able to satisfy the emotional needs which this type of foster family had, and was more comfortable and made greater progress in a family in which he could remain free of close emotional ties to "substitute" parents. This was specially true of the majority of boys and girls who came here at the age of 15, when the normal adolescent tends to establish his own identity by freeing himself from parental authority and affectual relationships. Placements of either type can meet the individual's needs, and the experiences of the agencies prove that this is true of this group also, wherever the selection of foster homes was based on sound professional judgment.

000576

One of the important factors in selecting homes for this group was the need to meet the religious tradition in which the children were reared. There were many children who had been brought up in the diaspora, and who clung tenaciously to the orthodox ritual which became more meaningful in separation from home and the familiar religious atmosphere. Many of the children found it impossible to make any concessions and to recognize that in the United States different religious groups practiced different observances. Efforts to meet the needs on an individual basis were, on the whole, successful, since all kinds of religious groups in the United States could be stimulated into cooperation.

EDUCATION

Vocational and educational plans as such did not depend on the type of foster home chosen for the child. Children attended public grammar schools and high schools or vocational high and trade schools, according to their individual aptitudes or interests. Support was available, whether through a free foster home or through subsidizing of a paid home. Higher education was offered either through scholarships from colleges, high schools or scholarship agencies in their communities, unless foster parents wished to assume even this burden of their own accord.

The majority of the children came here with high expectations of their educational preparation and all but a few attained at least a high school education. The drive for educational attainment is one of the outstanding characteristics of the group, and the degree of their educational achievement can be called "most astounding," to use the only term in which one of the State universities could express its evaluation of the performance of one of the 331.

American public schools deserve special recognition for the assistance they have given to the children in finding their place in school room and in

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relationship to classmates and teachers. It was in the German schools that most of the painful rejection and persecution was first experienced. "I am sorry, Harry, but today I may no longer protect you from the aggression of these boys, as would have been my duty still yesterday." In these words, one of the 331 had to learn that a beloved teacher had decided to accept the Nazi District leader's orders on the treatment of Jewish pupils. Several of the children wrote of their happiness at being accepted in an intersectorian group. "Now I know that I am in a free country. For I found, even in this short month since my arrival, that American schools rate the pupils for their effort and their performance and not for the religion they or their fathers may have." This is from the first letter of one of the 331 boys who came here in 1938.

It is therefore only natural that the child's ability as well as his personality could develop freely in the school situation. Plans for the grading of the foreign school record differ in American communities; in some cities, agencies preferred a period of private tutoring in English to the immediate registration in school; in some others, the board of education preferred to have this process of adjustment take place within the school room and offered adequate facilities for this end. Every opportunity was given to the children for an adjustment of their program as they went along, with double promotions and selection of special schedules. It is therefore perhaps not as surprising as it appears to the outsider that children were able to graduate from high school at ages which compare favorably with those of American-born pupils.

A large proportion of the group entered the United States at an age when their American-born contemporaries are well advanced in high school and when lack of the language presents a special handicap. Of 101 boys and girls whose high school records were studied, 48, or almost 50%, graduated before they were 18, and only 14, or 7%, were over 19 on graduation day. Of 207 whose high school and grammar school

000578

performance was rated, 70, or 33%, had outstanding performances, while 55, or 25%, rated as above average and good. Only 25, or 12%, were below average.

Among the outstanding scholastic and academic successes, we count one member of Phi Beta Kappa, two instructors at American colleges. One of the boys who specializes in rural sociological research is the author of a book on Cooperative Farming, and testified as an expert before a Senate Committee examining the budget of the Department of Agriculture. One of the girls is subsidized by Harvard Medical School to complete an important study of vitamins. Students at Princeton, Wisconsin, Harvard, Ohio and Penn State, Columbia, the Universities of Pennsylvania, Texas and of Southern California, of Armour, Rensselaer and Carnegie Institutes are present in the 331 covered by the special study.

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

Important though these educational attainments are, more significant still seems to be the degree of social adjustment which these young people were able to achieve. Some of the boys and girls were able to function at top capacity from the beginning of their stay here. Some had a hard time to find their niche in a society so alien from their native one. Some had not yet been damaged by the teachings of Nazi socialism, and some of them had unwittingly absorbed more than democratic groups in the United States would tolerate. The agencies and the foster families had to learn how much patience was needed by their charges in order to find and give satisfaction. Many of the children recognized this and interpreted to the agencies in which areas they needed help.

Some of the case evaluations state that the child was selected for a scholarship or a medal not only for his academic rating, but for his all around personality adjustment. One of the girls was invited by the dean of a Midwestern college on a tuition scholarship basis, because "I want my students to meet a human being like you, and you, in turn, should come to know the real America, because you can make use of the best there is in it."

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A charming young woman, only 2 years in the United States, won a sorority scholarship to a college in the Southwest. "After I had accepted it, I realized what a daring undertaking this was for me, as the comparative greenhorn, to invade the territory of old American tradition and also the place where race bigotry was supposedly raising its head. When I arrived at the station, I found myself greeted in a noisy welcome scene by the whole sorority, and carried like an honored guest to the House. I now begin to learn what a real American feels and does."

According to the case evaluations, 70% of the 331 boys and girls made an adjustment that was outstanding or good; about 6% had difficulty; the rest may be classified as average or reasonably satisfactory.

The degree to which identification with their adoptive country was possible is the best available criterion of democracy's ability to permit the individual to reach capacity development. In the testimony before the Senate Committee, the young man referred to earlier made constant reference to "We in America," and "We Americans," and analyzed the difference between the cooperative farm as an expression of "our democratic form of society" compared to the collective farming experiment as one foreign to American ideology. One of the girls, after a few years in her hospitable foster home in the Middle West, returned from a social gathering and stated that she and one other girl had been the "only Americans" invited.

Petitions for citizenship papers are filed on or right after the 18th birthday, and final paper petitions as soon as the law permits. The children have gratefully acknowledged the privilege of becoming citizens of the United States, which is implied in the admission on quota visa; that this country is holding out this same privilege in times of war also, has been referred to frequently, especially

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in comparison with the practices and policies of other countries to which refugees have sought admission. Classification as an alien of enemy nationality under the Alien Registration Act has been a painful experience to all so classified, and they have made ample use of re-classification opportunities, under the law.

PARTICIPATION IN WAR EFFORT

"It has been a privilege to have had Frank in our home, and he will always be with us, no matter where the fortunes of war may carry him." This was the tribute by foster parents with whom one of the earliest inductees of the agency had lived. The outbreak of hostilities in Europe found many of the boys "raring" to volunteer their services, in the hope of participating in the downfall of the regime that deprived them of family, home and country. Since they were at that time not citizens, they were rejected. As soon as Axis aggression enveloped the United States in the war, however, and the draft age was lowered, all of them saw their opportunities to help protect their adoptive country as well as "to settle a score." The number who volunteered for the Air arm is surprising, but that particular weapon presented to them the best opportunities to "strike down on Germany." But other services, including the U-boat services, are also represented. There have been only 4 long-time deferments or rejections, and 2 honorable discharges. Two of the boys have paid with their lives, and a third one, now missing for 2 years, should probably be added to this number. 114 boys counted in the service represent only a portion of those actually serving, since the status of some of the 24 and 25 year olds is at present not known to the agency.

The girls in the group have given the usual contributions to the war effort, as civilians; three are listed for or in training as Cadet Nurses. The majority of the husbands of the 21 young "matrons" are in services also.

In the course of the years, some of the parents were admitted to this country also, and have found their niche here, either through the efforts of their

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children, the foster parents or through their own relatives who preceded them. Some were admitted to countries outside of the United States and are in comparative safety. For those who were last heard from in Nazi occupied countries, children still hope to be able to make up for suffering and deprivations, when the world is at peace again; they have been saving for the day on which reunion and help from "over here" is possible.

No social agency can possibly expect 100% successful adjustment of its charges, and failures of refugee children to adjust successfully in the United States were expected from the outset. Many of the boys and girls who arrived in the first groups needed transfer from one foster home to another until they could finally settle down. Some of them were educationally maladjusted. Some of the problems indicated difficulties in relationship to their own parents before they came to the United States; some of them indicated only the average adolescent "dislocations." Some of these problems would have been less serious if the wisdom which agencies and foster families acquired in the course of time had been available in the early stages of placements. In retrospect, however, the agencies have agreed that the majority of their early problem charges have settled down and have become useful members of their communities and social groups. Four of the boys and girls in this group fall into the group of delinquents, even though they have not been brought to court for commitment. Two of the girls and one boy in the group of 331 needed prolonged psychiatric treatment in a protected environment of a private institution.

The best test for the success of the project is found in the continued and sustained interest which American organizations and American families express for its continuance. They have been most articulate in the expression of their hope that many hundreds or thousands of children can find security here, and are

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convinced that this country can and will absorb as many as can be admitted. There has been a continuous flow of applications from families who wish to become foster parents, even at a time when it is difficult to obtain foster home offers for American dependent children. Social workers have expressed their appreciation for the lessons learned from their work with these children, which have given them "a better appreciation of the strength which all childhood possesses," and they feel that they have been able to give better service to their American born charges since they have come to know the refugee child.

May 1, 1944

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