

ORGANIZED LABOR'S PROGRAM OF RESCUE AND RELIEF

000765

CROSS REFERENCE ON . . . ORGANIZED LABOR'S PROGRAM OF  
RESCUE AND RELIEF

FOR:

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEE THIS FILE

SEE: PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RELIEF & RESCUE OF REFUGEES: RELIEF PROJECTS  
RELIEF THROUGH SWITZERLAND  
(BELGIAN WAR RELIEF SOCIETY, INC.  
FRIENDS OF LUXEMBOURG, INC.  
QUEEN WILHELMINA FUND, INC.)

000766



# LABOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNITED NATIONS RELIEF

WILLIAM GREEN  
HONORARY CHAIRMAN

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GEORGE MEANY  
HONORARY SECRETARY

ABRAHAM BLUESTEIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • ~~EX-502-580~~  
Le. 2-4540

Suzanne LaFollette  
Director, War Relief Program and  
Community Activities

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INTERNATIONAL

MEMBERSHIP

WAR RELIEF

CONTROL

BOARD

October 31, 1944

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

Attention: Miss Florence Hodell

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Confirming my oral statement yesterday to Miss Hodell, this is to inform you that the Queen Wilhelmina Fund has just sent to Switzerland for the use of the Labor trustees the sum of \$50,000.

We have just received word from American Relief for Czechoslovakia that their first remittance of \$50,000 for the budget year 1944-1945 has been sent to London.

We shall be grateful if you will inform us whether or not a license in the amount of \$150,000 has been issued to the Polish War Relief for our 1944-1945 Labor project. A letter from that Society dated October 11 informed us that license had been applied for and that we would be notified as soon as it was granted. Since then, we have had no further word from Polish War Relief.

Sincerely yours,

*Suzanne LaFollette*

Suzanne LaFollette

slf:mbl  
23076

Copy to Queen Wilhelmina Fund  
see (1)

11/11/44  
Discovered on 11/11/44  
checked by LaFollette  
JL

000767

OCT 21 1944

Dear Mr. Jeremias:

Reference is made to your letter of October 13, 1944, concerning your projects for the rescue and relief of victims of enemy oppression.

I am pleased to advise you that the War Refugee Board will be glad to support and facilitate in any way the issuance of the necessary licenses to permit the continuation of these activities for the rescue and relief of persons in enemy-occupied territory. It is the view of the War Refugee Board that the continuation of these projects is consistent with the policy of this Government to save as many victims as possible from enemy oppression.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. Siegmund Jeremias, Director,  
Foreign Relief & International  
Relations,  
National CIO War Relief Committee,  
1776 Broadway,  
New York 19, N. Y.

JH  
FH:hd 10/21/44

000768

**NATIONAL CIO  
WAR RELIEF  
COMMITTEE**



1776 BROADWAY • NEW YORK 19, N. Y. • COLUMBUS 5-2372

PHILIP MURRAY, Special Advisor • IRVING ABRAMSON, Chairman  
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LEO PERLIS, National Director

October 13th, 1944.

Mr. Lawrence Lesser,  
War Refugee Board,  
Main Treasury Building, Rm. 164,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lawry:

This is a follow-up of the discussion I had with you and Miss Hodel relative to the possibility of continuing our relief project behind Axis lines when Germany is defeated.

You agreed that this type of relief for workers of various nationalities who are now prisoners or slave laborers in Germany would be excellent. The trustees of the various European trade union movements would continue to administer this type of relief as they have in the past.

On October 23rd, we will negotiate with the National War Fund concerning the continuation of these projects. Some NWF people question the propriety of continuing our special labor projects if the greatest portion of such allocations are to be spent in Germany itself. They prefer to eliminate this type of relief immediately after the major part of a country has been liberated.

As you know the President's War Relief Control Board takes the same attitude as your Board with respect to the continuation of the project and it therefore endorsed the \$25,000 which we requested after Belgium had been liberated but which has not yet been approved by the National War Fund.

**AT LEAST ONE HOUR'S PAY EACH MONTH**

COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL WAR FUND AND AMERICAN RED CROSS  
REGISTRATION NO. D-9, PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD

000769

Mr. Lawrence Lesser

-2-

10/13/44

I hope it will be possible for you to state the opinion of your Board in a letter addressed to me because I am convinced that the National War Fund will make no further difficulties towards our projects if the War Refugee Board as the appropriate agency of the U. S. Government indicated that such policy will be consistent with the policy of the U. S. Government.

Sincerely yours,

*Jerry*  
Siegmond Jeremias, Director,  
Foreign Relief & International Relations

uopwa  
SJ:jr

000770



# National CIO War Relief Committee

**National CIO Officers**  
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1776 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Columbus 5-2372

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 TED F. SILVEY  
 Secretary  
 HAROLD J. GARNO  
 SAUL MILLS  
 JOHN PHILLIPS  
 AUGUST SCHOLLE  
 LEO PERLIS  
 National Director

*Spoke to Jeremias on telephone  
 and explained to him why this  
 couldn't be done. He answered  
 September 29th, 1944. Necessary.  
 L. C. Lesser*

Mr. John Pehle, Executive Director,  
 War Refugee Board,  
 Main Treasury Bldg., Rm. 164,  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Att: Mr. Lawrence Lesser

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We were wondering if it would be possible for us to get a few of the refugees at the shelter at Oswego, N. Y. to address some meetings we are calling upstate New York in conjunction with the National War Fund drive.

You will undoubtedly realize that their stories of the plight of the people in other countries will be very effective help in our present fund raising activities for the National War Fund and all its member agencies.

The War Relocation Authority has informed us that only your Board could grant such permission. We realize that this is an extraordinary request but we are sure that you will give it friendly consideration.

Sincerely yours,

*S. Jeremias*  
 Siegmund Jeremias, Director,  
 Foreign Relief & International Relations

uopwa  
SJ:jr

*At Least One Hour's Pay Each Month*

OFFICIAL WAR RELIEF AND WAR SERVICE AGENCY OF THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
 Registration No. D-9, President's War Relief-Control Board  
 COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL WAR FUND AND AMERICAN RED CROSS

000771



# LABOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNITED NATIONS RELIEF

LIAM GREEN  
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PRESIDENT

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ABRAHAM BLUESTEIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • ~~LI 8-2590~~  
16 Le. 2-4540

*File*

Suzanne LaFollette  
Director, War Relief Program and  
Community Activities

June 26, 1944

Mr. J.W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Main Treasury Bldg., Room #164  
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Mr. Lawrence Lesser

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you for your letter of June 21st informing us of approval by the War Refugee Board of the Labor-sponsored project for France to be administered by the CGT. Mr. Elliott Lee, Vice-President of the French Relief Fund informs us that he has received the Treasury License. You will probably be receiving notice of approval by the French Committee of National Liberation within the next ten days. May I request that when you receive this message you will so inform Mr. Brunot of the President's War Relief Control Board?

Sincerely yours,

*Suzanne LaFollette*

SUZANNE LAFOLLETTE

SL:EB  
AFOE-23076

000772



# LABOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNITED NATIONS RELIEF

WILLIAM GREEN  
HONORARY CHAIRMAN

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PRESIDENT

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HONORARY SECRETARY

ABRAHAM BLUESTEIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

10 EAST 44th STREET • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • ~~Phone 2-5400~~  
Le. 2-4540

Suzanne LaFollette  
Director, War Relief Program and  
Community Activities

June 12, 1944

Mr. Lawrence Lesser  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

By this time Mr. Pehle has undoubtedly received from the French Relief Fund, Inc. a request for approval and license of a special Labor-sponsored relief project for France in the sum of \$150,000. He will shortly receive from Mr. Jeremias and myself a joint letter endorsing this request. This fund is to be administered by the Confédération Générale du Travail. We are taking the necessary steps to secure approval of the project by the Committee of National Liberation.

A supplementary request for \$50,000 to be distributed through other channels will be submitted later.

With regard to the Dutch and Luxembourg projects I am informed that the request for approval of the Luxembourg fund went to Mr. Pehle on Friday. On that day I telephoned Mr. Scales of The Queen Wilhelmina Fund to ask why the request for approval of our Dutch project had not gone to the War Refugee Board. I discovered that the treasurer had held it up because he had been told by the National War Fund that a Treasury license was necessary for the project and did not realize that it was precisely for the Treasury license that he had been asked to apply. On Saturday morning he telephoned me and I explained the procedure; whereupon he assured me that he would send in the application without delay. It should therefore be in Mr. Pehle's office by the time this letter reaches you.

We shall shortly submit letters expressing approval of the projects for Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg by the Governments of those countries.

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WILLIAM BLUESTEIN

ADVISORY BOARD  
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RELIEF BOARD  
BOARD

000773

-2-

Mr. Lawrence Lesser  
War Refugee Board

June 12, 1944

I think it is hardly necessary to ask you to let us know when the licenses have been issued for you have never yet had to be asked for a favor by either of our organizations. I cannot tell you how deeply we appreciate your interest in our projects and your constant and thoughtful cooperation.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Suzanne La Follette*  
SUZANNE LAFOLLETTE

SL:EB  
AFOE-23076

000774

Emergency Fund for the Pres., Natl.  
Defense, 1942-1944, Allotment to the  
War Refugee Board.

May 19, 1944

LEO PERLIS, NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL CIO WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE  
1776 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK 19, NEW YORK

RELET MAY FIFTEEN. AM SORRY I AM UNABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR  
KIND INVITATION TO MEET WITH YOU AT HUDSON SHORE. MR.  
LESSER WILL REPRESENT ME AT THE MEETING. WITH REGARDS.

(Initialed) J. W. P.

J. W. PEHLE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

*JWP*  
*File to*  
*Perlis*

000775



# National CIO War Relief Committee

### National CIO Officers

PHILIP MURRAY, President  
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S. H. DALRYMPLE, Vice Pres.  
ALBERT F. FITZGERALD, Vice Pres.  
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1776 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Columbus 5-2372

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HAROLD J. GARNO  
SAUL MILLS  
JOHN PHILLIPS  
AUGUST SCHOLLE

LEO PERLIS  
National Director  
CHARLES LIVERMORE  
Assistant Director

May 15th, 1944.

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

On behalf of the National CIO War Relief Committee I want to thank you for the cooperation your Board has extended to us to obtain the necessary licenses for our special labor projects for Norway and Czechoslovakia. Our Mr. Siegard has also described with particular enthusiasm the effective assistance which your Mr. Lawrence Lesser has given us in order to expedite the projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that all field representatives of the National CIO War Relief Committee will meet in conference at Hudson Shore, N. Y. from May 26th to June 3rd. I would like to cordially invite you to address this conference on Monday, May 29th and I hope that it will be possible for you and Mr. Lesser to attend.

I am sure that it would be of great interest to our entire staff to understand better the objectives of the War Refugee Board and the policies which guide them.

If you will kindly wire your acceptance, we will be glad to make all necessary arrangements regarding transportation and accommodations at Hudson Shore.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Perlis,  
National Director

ncpwa-19  
LP:jp

*One Hour's Pay Each Month . . . . . Give Once For All!*

OFFICIAL WAR RELIEF AND WAR SERVICE AGENCY OF THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
Registration No. D-9, President's War Relief Control Board  
COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL WAR FUND AND AMERICAN RED CROSS

000776

# NATIONAL WAR FUND

INCORPORATED

46 CEDAR STREET, NEW YORK 6, N. Y. • BOWLING GREEN 9-1380



WINTHROP W. ALDRICH, *President* • JEAN B. ADOUE, JR., *Texas*; ROBERT M. HANES, *North Carolina*; FRANCIS P. MATTHEWS, *Nebraska*; WALTER RÖTHSCHILD, *New York*; EDWARD L. RYERSON, *Illinois*; ROBERT G. SPROUL, *California*; HENRY M. WRISTON, *Rhode Island*, *Vice-Presidents* • RALPH HAYES, *Secretary*  
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HARRY P. WAREHAM, ROBERT O. LOOSLEY, *Executive Vice-Presidents*

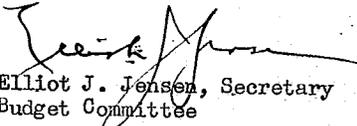
May 17, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Many thanks for your prompt response to my request for a letter confirming the War Refugee Board's approval of the projects for relief in Norway and Czechoslovakia. The National War Fund has now approved the two projects and will make partial payments to the two agencies in the very near future.

Yours very truly,

  
Elliot J. Jensen, *Secretary*  
Budget Committee

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*Member Agencies of the National War Fund:*

U.S.O. • United Seamen's Service • War Prisoners Aid • The Belgian War Relief Society • The British War Relief Society • French Relief Fund • Greek War Relief Association • Friends of Luxembourg • Norwegian Relief • Polish War Relief • The Queen Wilhelmina Fund • Russian War Relief • United China Relief • United Czechoslovak Relief • The United Yugoslav Relief Fund • Refugee Relief Trustees • United States Committee for the Care of European Children

324

000777



# National CIO War Relief Committee

## National CIO Officers

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JOSEPH E. CURRAN, Vice Pres.  
S. H. DALRYMPLE, Vice Pres.  
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COLUMBUS 5-2372

**Committee**  
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HAROLD J. GARNO  
SAUL MILLS  
JOHN PHILLIPS  
AUGUST SCHOLLE

LEO PERLIS  
National Director  
CHARLES LIVERMORE  
Assistant Director

File  
May 16th, 1944.

Mr. Lawrence Lesser, Asst. Dir.,  
War Refugee Board,  
Main Treasury Bldg., Rm. 164,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

Since we talked last, Mr. Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, has publicly endorsed the Free Ports proposal. I think that this will make the letter we contemplated unnecessary.

You see in this case the labor people have responded very quickly and have lived up to the humanitarian tradition of their movement.

As you undoubtedly know, the National War Fund has finally released the \$200,000 for Norway and the \$150,000 for Czechoslovakia. Could you please inform us as quickly as possible if you could solve the problem of transmittal to Norway? We would like to send the first \$50,000 as required.

Since the money for Czechoslovakia will be transmitted to London, there is naturally no difficulty.

Thank you very much for your nice note of yesterday.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Jerry*

Siegmund Jeremias, Director  
Div. Foreign Relief & Intl. Relations

uopwa  
SJ:jr

*One Hour's Pay Each Month . . . . Give Once For All!*

OFFICIAL WAR RELIEF AND WAR SERVICE AGENCY OF THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
Registration No. D-9, President's War Relief Control Board  
COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL WAR FUND AND AMERICAN RED CROSS

000778

May 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Jeremias:

I want you to know how deeply Mr. Mann and I appreciate your great helpfulness in Philadelphia last week. We feel confident that through your aid the groundwork has been laid for a good measure of progress in the Board's work.

Faithfully yours,

*15/ Lawrence S. Lesser*

Lawrence S. Lesser  
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Siegmund Jeremias  
National GIO War Relief Committee  
1776 Broadway  
New York 19, N. Y.

*Mailed 5/15/44*

LSLesser:als 5/15/44

000779

MAY 12 1944

\* Attention: Elliot J. Jensen

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 9, 1944.

The projects for relief in Norway and Czechoslovakia, referred to in my letter of March 9, 1944 to Mr. Charles P. Taft of the President's War Relief Control Board, have our approval, are in accord with the policy of this Government as announced by the President in Executive Order 9417, and in conformity with foreign policies determined by the Secretary of State, as evidenced by the approval by the Department of State of similar projects. Since March 9, 1944, the Treasury Department has issued the necessary licenses under the Trading with the enemy Act and Executive Order 8389, as amended, to effect the remittances involved.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

National War Fund, Inc.,  
46 Cedar Street,  
New York 5, New York.

L.S.L.

LSLesser:als 5/12/44

ASST

Czechoslovak Relief - The Office

000780

# NATIONAL WAR FUND

INCORPORATED



46 CEDAR STREET, NEW YORK 6, N. Y. BOWLING GREEN 9-1380

707  
W. B. B.  
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No. 115. 1197  
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Date

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HARRY P. WAREHAM, ROBERT O. LOOSLEY, *Executive Vice-Presidents*

May 9, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Acting Director  
War Refugee Board  
Room 288, Treasury Department  
Washington 25, D.C.

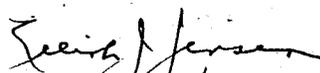
Dear Mr. Pehle:

The Budget Committee of the National War Fund approved the projects for relief in Norway and Czechoslovakia which the War Refugee Board approved in your letter of March 9, 1944 to Mr. Charles P. Taft, of the President's War Relief Control Board, subject to one or two qualifications.

One of those qualifications is that our files have a letter from you, similar to the one you addressed to Mr. Taft, indicating that the War Refugee Board has approved these proposals and that they are in accord with the foreign policies determined by the Secretary of State.

This is really a pro forma matter, but since the Budget Committee's action was taken subject to this qualification and since the Labor organizations in particular are anxious to get these projects moving, I hope it will be possible for you to send such a letter promptly.

Yours very truly,

  
Elliot J. Jensen, Secretary  
Budget Committee

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ef

*Member Agencies of the National War Fund:*

USO • United Seaman's Service • War Prisoners Aid • The Belgian War Relief Society • The British War Relief Society • French Relief Fund • Greek War Relief Association • Friends of Luxembourg • Norwegian Relief • Polish War Relief • The Queen Wilhelmina Fund • Russian War Relief • United China Relief • United Czechoslovak Relief • The United Yugoslav Relief Fund • Refugee Relief Trustees • United States Committee for the Care of European Children

1000781

THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD  
WASHINGTON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON 5

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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~~FREDERICK W. KEPPEL~~  
Charles Warren  
MELVIN D. HILDRETH  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
HOMER S. FOX  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 15, 1944

James Brunot  
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We have today received your letter of March 9 advising us of the War Refugee Board's approval of the proposals referred to your office with Mr. Taft's letter of February 12.

We are enclosing herewith copies of our letters to the National War Fund, the National CIO War Relief Committee, United Nations Relief, A.F.L., United Czechoslovak Relief, and American Relief for Norway, Inc., advising them of our approval of these projects involving expenditures of \$150,000 through United Czechoslovak Relief and \$200,000 through American Relief for Norway, Inc.

We are gratified for your assistance in clearing these projects and we share your hope that they may go forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,



James Brunot  
Executive Director

The Honorable  
John W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Room 288, Treasury Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Enclosures

March 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Wigeland:

I am glad to inform you that we have today received notice from the War Refugee Board of their approval of the proposed project sponsored by Labor's War Relief Committees for expenditure of \$200,000 for relief purposes within Norway.

Accordingly I am happy to inform you of clearance of this project by the President's War Relief Control Board. We are so notifying the National War Fund and the Labor Committees.

We understand that the War Refugee Board has made arrangements for issuance of the proper Treasury licenses and we hope that the project can go forward promptly.

Sincerely yours,

James Brunot  
Executive Director

Mr. Andrew E. Wigeland, Assistant Treasurer,  
American Relief for Norway, Inc.,  
135 South La Salle Street,  
Chicago 3, Illinois.

JTB:EC

000783

March 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Kacer:

In further reference to the \$150,000 project submitted with your letter of December 20, and subsequently referred to the War Refugee Board as indicated in my letter to you of February 12, I am glad to inform you that we have been advised of approval by the War Refugee Board.

I am happy to advise you therefore of clearance of the project by the President's War Relief Control Board. We are also advising the National War Fund and the Labor Committees of this clearance.

We understand that the War Refugee Board has arranged the necessary licenses and we hope that the projects may go forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

James Brunot  
Executive Director

Mr. Adolf Kacer, Treasurer,  
United Czechoslovak Relief,  
Eight West Fortieth Street,  
New York 18, New York.

000784

March 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Jeremias:

I am glad to report that we have just received from the War Refugee Board notice of their approval of the special relief projects submitted through American Relief for Norway, Inc., and United Czechoslovak Relief, involving expenditures of \$200,000 and \$150,000 respectively for relief behind Axis lines.

We have notified the two agencies and the National War Fund of approval of these projects by the President's War Relief Control Board and of our hope that they can go forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

James Brunot  
Executive Director

Mr. Siegmund Jeremias,  
Div. of Foreign Relief and International Relations,  
National CIO War Relief Committee,  
1776 Broadway,  
New York 19, New York.

000785

March 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Bluestein:

I am glad to report that we have just received from the War Refugee Board notice of their approval of the special relief projects submitted through American Relief for Norway, Inc., and United Czechoslovak Relief, involving expenditures of \$200,000 and \$150,000 respectively for relief behind Axis lines.

We have notified the two agencies and the National War Fund of approval of these projects by the President's War Relief Control Board and of our hope that they can go forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

James Brunot  
Executive Director

Mr. Abraham Bluestein, Executive Director,  
Labor League for Human Rights, United Nations Relief,  
Nine East 46th Street,  
New York 17, New York.

000786

March 15, 1944

Dear Elliot:

I am enclosing copies of letters to American Relief for Norway, Inc. and United Czechoslovak Relief advising them of approval of the special projects submitted by them under the sponsorship of Labor's War Relief Committees. I am also enclosing a copy of Mr. Pehle's letter to Mr. Taft, the third paragraph of which will be of special interest to you.

As indicated in Mr. Taft's letter of February 12 to Mr. Pehle, a copy of which is also enclosed, this Board had already approved these projects subject to the clearances provided by Mr. Pehle's letter. We hope that the projects can go forward promptly.

Sincerely yours,

James Brunot  
Executive Director

Mr. Elliot J. Jensen, Secretary,  
Budget Committee,  
National War Fund,  
46 Cedar Street,  
New York 5, New York.

JTB:EC

CC: Mr. Pehle,  
War Refugee Board.

000787

MAR 9 1944

Dear Mr. Taft:

Reference is made to your letter of February 12, 1944, and its enclosures, addressed to Mr. Lesser's attention.

Please be advised that the matter has been discussed with representatives of United Nations Relief, A.F.L., National C.I.O. War Relief, United Czechoslovak Relief, American Relief for Norway, Inc. and the Norwegian Government. On the basis of these discussions and formal requests submitted to this Board by the two relief organizations and the two labor groups, we approve the uses to which it is intended to put the funds for which special appropriations of \$150,000 and \$200,000 from the National War Fund are being sought for the United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway, Inc., respectively.

We are advised that the Treasury Department is prepared to issue at once the necessary licenses under the Trading with the enemy Act and Executive Order 8389, as amended, to effect the remittances. The proposed programs are also in accord with the policy of this Government as announced by the President in Executive Order 9417, and in conformity with foreign policies determined by the Secretary of State, as evidenced by the approval by the Department of State of similar projects.

We would appreciate your prompt action in giving clearance to the proposed special appropriations from the National War Fund to United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway, Inc., so that these worthwhile projects may go forward as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Charles P. Taft, Acting Chairman,  
The President's War Relief Control Board,  
Washington Building,  
Washington, D. C.

*L.S.L.*  
L.Lesser:lab 3/9/44

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THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD

WASHINGTON BUILDING

WASHINGTON 5

February 12, 1944

JOSEPH E. DAVIES  
CHAIRMAN  
CHARLES P. TAFT  
~~FREDERICK P. KAPP~~  
Charles Warren  
MELVIN D. HILDRETH  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
HOMER S. FOX  
Acting EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

205  
MAIL ROOM  
TO: Mail & Files  
ANS.  
NO. ANS. REQ.  
INITIAL  
DATE Feb 14 1944  
CNA

Official File Copy

Attention: Mr. Lawrence Lesser

Dear Mr. Fehle:

As agreed in our conversation yesterday we are referring to you for consideration the request of United Czechoslovak Relief for clearance of a project involving \$150,000 to be expended on a special labor relief project for Czechoslovakia in 1944 and a similar request relating to a \$200,000 Norwegian project through American Relief for Norway, Inc. These two projects are outlined in the attached copies of a letter from United Czechoslovak Relief dated December 20, 1943 and a letter from Norwegian Relief, Inc. (now known as American Relief for Norway) dated January 20, 1944.

As further indication of the nature of these projects we are also enclosing a copy of a letter dated January 13, 1944 from Mr. A. Ralph B. Lientell, Executive Director of the Labor League for Human Rights United Nations Relief (A.N. of L.) and a letter dated January 10, 1944 from Mr. Sigmund Jeremias of the Division of Foreign Relief and International Relations of the National CIO War Relief Committee. As indicated in this correspondence these two organizations have sponsored projects to be operated through various relief agencies participating in the National War Fund which involve approximately \$1,000,000 during 1944. As in the case of the two present requests the funds for these projects will actually be handled through agencies such as United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway under plans worked out in collaboration with the labor groups.

As

Mr. John W. Fehle,  
War Refugee Board,  
Room 238,  
Treasury Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

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As we indicated yesterday these two proposals were referred to the Department of State through Mr. Kuppinger and more recently to the Treasury Department through Mr. O'Flaherty. We understand that the Department of State has already referred the matter to the American Embassy in London. We are asking them to transmit to you and to us any pertinent information that results from their inquiry.

A/ Clearance by this Board is necessary before United Czechoslovak relief or American Relief for Norway can actually expend funds on these projects and before the National War Fund can advance money to those organizations for that purpose. The Board is prepared to give such clearance immediately upon receipt of notice from the War Refugee Board that the projects can be carried out under their authorization and, as required by the Executive Order establishing the President's War Relief Control Board, in conformity with foreign policies as determined by the Secretary of State. /A

Sincerely yours,

*Charles P. Taft*

Charles P. Taft  
Acting Chairman

encls.

( )  
for Capt Charles P. Taft  
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C. P. T.  
S. C. T.

NATIONAL CIO WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE  
1776 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

January 26th, 1944.

Mr. Homer S. Fox, Acting Exec. Secy.,  
The President's War Relief Control Board,  
Washington Building,  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fox:

Mr. Abraham Bluestein of the Labor League for Human Rights, sent us a copy of your letter of January 22nd, 1944 for our information.

As far back as June, 1943, we had to request from representatives of the labor movements of the occupied countries, specified budgets for relief to be distributed in their own country, in order to submit our program to the National War Fund.

The President's War Relief Control Board, in its meetings of July 13th and July 20th, 1943, approved this project as it had been outlined to your Board. Confirmation of this was sent to us in a letter dated July 21st, 1943, over the signature of Mr. Frederick I. Keppel. The National War Fund finally approved the project in September, 1943.

You now have on hand, requests for allocations for Czechoslovakia and Norway and you will receive one for Poland within the next few days, if you have not already received it.

You are undoubtedly cognizant of the fact that funds for relief behind Axis lines are needed now. Our labor friends from the occupied countries can no longer understand the delay in this matter nor can we.

In our request, we stated that all these funds should be transmitted from here to London only. Responsible British governmental agencies, such as those closer to the European scene, might then have to determine again if the money can leave Great Britain.

This kind of involved procedure is very slow. Our Committee is disturbed by the fact that any further delay might turn what was designed as an urgently needed war relief program into a postwar project.

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The National CIO War Relief Committee will meet this Saturday. In every way possible, the Committee has conformed to the requirements of the National War Fund and the President's War Relief Control Board. We understood that once the nature of the projects and the methods of administration had been agreed upon between the War Relief Committees of CIO and AFL and the respective foreign war relief organizations, which was the procedure finally approved by the National War Fund, that there would be no further delay.

Your recent communication has the unhappy effect of seeming to return us to the point we had reached last June before your Board had approved the project. In good faith, we do not believe this to be your intention.

Money was contributed by our members with the understanding that this project was under way. The project appealed to our membership and to our leaders, universally, out of proportion to its actual share of the budget of the National War Fund.

Would you, therefore, be good enough to specify the government agencies with whom such clearance is necessary in your opinion and more specifically, the individuals in those agencies?

The Committee would like to have as much specific information as possible in order that it might use its influence to hasten the granting of these funds.

Sincerely yours,

SIEGMUND JEREMIAS  
Div. of Foreign Relief & Intl. Relations

*Express*

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NORWEGIAN RELIEF, INC.  
135 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

January 20, 1944

Mr. Charles P. Taft, Acting Chairman  
The President's War Relief Control Board  
1044 Washington Building  
Washington 5, D.C.

Re: Funds for Labor's War Relief Committees

Dear Mr. Taft: ✓

By a special vote taken by mail on December 21, 1943 the Board of Directors of American Relief for Norway, Inc. approved a proposal to make special application to the President's War Relief Control Board and to National War Fund, Inc. for \$200,000 to be expended in consultation with Labor's War Relief Committees. We now and hereby submit this proposal to you for your approval:

We request that \$200,000 be allocated to us by the National War Fund from the contingent fund of \$1,000,000 which we understand has been earmarked for Labor projects in occupied countries. It is understood that the allocation to us of this sum will in no way interfere with or reduce the amount allocated to American Relief for Norway, Inc. for our regular budgeted purposes and, in particular, will not come out of the \$200,000 set aside for American Relief for Norway, Inc. as stated in the letter of Mr. Elliot J. Jensen, Secretary, to Mr. Ingvaldatad, our executive secretary, dated July 26, 1943.

It is understood that the transfer of this sum and of the materials and supplies purchased with these funds will not interfere with or reduce the licenses for the transfer of money and goods which have been or may be issued to American Relief for Norway, Inc. in connection with its regular activities.

We feel convinced that the two officials of the Norwegian Trades Union Council (Den faglige Landsorganisasjon), Konrad Nordal in London, its president, and Lars Evensen in Stockholm, its vice-president, will distribute the aid in Norway in a conscientious and efficient manner to all needy persons regardless of

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labor affiliations.

The entire plan has the endorsement of the Norwegian Government-in-Exile, as evidenced by the enclosed copy of a letter dated December 7, 1943 from the Norwegian Ambassador in Washington, D.C.

We shall be glad to endeavor to submit such further information and evidence as you may require to support this application. We understand, however, that Labor's War Relief Committees are in close contact with the President's War Relief Control Board on this whole subject.

Yours very truly,

/s/ A. E. Wigeland  
Assistant Treasurer

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Y  
NORWEGIAN EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 7, 1943

Rev. Orlando Ingvoidstad,  
Norwegian Relief, Inc.,  
135 South La Salle Street,  
Chicago 3, Ill.

Dear Dr. Ingvoidstad,

I want to acknowledge, with my best thanks, receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant regarding the meeting which American Relief for Norway Inc. has had with representatives of American and Norwegian labor representatives in New York City on November 17th.

As I look upon this matter it would be advisable that the American Relief for Norway Inc. and representatives of the labor organizations endeavor to arrange the transfer of money involved directly with the American authorities. I do not think it would be judicious for the Norwegian Government or its official representation in the United States to take an active part. That the suggestion to extend relief as proposed has the entire sympathy of my Government and of this Embassy, is already a matter of record. For the event that you have not already seen my letter to Mr. Haakon Lie dated July 13th, I enclose herewith a copy. The gratitude expressed by Mr. Olav Hindahl, Minister of Public Works in the Norwegian Government, p.t. London, is undoubtedly shared by us all.

On this basis I would suggest that you proceed in this matter in collaboration with the said labor representatives.

I wish you all possible success in this important undertaking and remain,

Sincerely yours,

W. MORGENSTIERNE  
Ambassador for Norway

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LABOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF  
9 East 46th St., New York.

January 13, 1944.

Mr. Homer S. Fox, Executive Director  
President's War Relief Control Board,  
1044 Washington Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fox:

Confirming our telephone conversation of yesterday, I wish to take this opportunity to request that you present for the consideration of the President's War Relief Control Board a proposal that the Board grant tentative approval to the Labor Program of Refugee Relief in Occupied Countries as a basis for early consideration and, we trust, favorable action by the Budget Committee of the National War Fund. It is of course understood that actual transmittal of funds for this purpose would be subject to the approval of the proper departments and agencies of the Government interested in this type of program.

I am offering this suggestion with the knowledge and approval of the National CIO War Relief Committee for the following considerations:--we believe it would stimulate greater hope and courage among representatives of the bona fide trade union movements of the occupied countries of Europe and through them, we trust, the nuclei that apparently still exist in the various countries of Europe. It will also encourage the War Relief Societies involved who, as co-sponsors and responsible administrators of the program, would welcome favorable action by the President's War Relief Control Board, even on a tentative basis, as an indication that the project is making progress. It would also, we are inclined to believe, be likely to stimulate prompter action by the various departments and agencies of the Government who must pass upon each transaction if, in considering the proposed project, they knew that funds were available for its achievement, rather than considering the proposal in the abstract, as a question of principle, without assurance that moneys were available to carry out the project.

I shall appreciate learning, at your earliest convenience, what reception the Board gives to this suggestion. In closing, may I express my personal regrets at your announced intention to leave the Board. It has been a pleasure to work with you, and I know the Board will find it difficult to replace you.

Trusting that I may see you again before you leave, I am,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM BLUESTEIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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UNITED CZECHOSLOVAK RELIEF  
8 WEST 40th STREET  
NEW YORK 18

December 20, 1943

Mr. Homer Fox, Executive Secretary  
President's War Relief Committee  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fox:

In his letter of November 23, 1943 Mr. Elliot J. Jensen, Secretary of the Budget Committee of the National War Fund, notified us that his committee cannot act upon our application for the Special Labor Relief Project for Czechoslovakia in 1944, which we understand is to be considered over and above our regular 1944 budget. The amount requested for this project is \$150,000 and we enclose herewith a breakdown of the budget presented to us and approved by both labor committees.

It is our understanding that these allotments would be transmitted in monthly installments to our organization. We in turn would forward them to Mr. Frantisek Nemecek and Mr. Jan Becko in London. Mr. Nemecek is the General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Union of Railroad Workers and Mr. Becko is the chairman of the Czechoslovak Union of the Coal-Mine Workers. Mr. Nemecek is a member of the International Transport Workers' Federation and Mr. Becko of the International Coal-Mine Workers' Federation. Both represented for 20 years the Czechoslovak Labor Movement in the Prague Parliament. These funds would not go to them in their present capacity as members of the Czechoslovak Government in London but as trustees for the Czechoslovak labor movement, chosen because of their leading position. On the basis of today's conference with the representatives of the A.F.L. and the C.I.O., we hereby are asking the President's War Relief Control Board to kindly consider this matter and, if it is in accordance with their policy and that of the State Department, to refer it to the Budget Committee of the National War Fund for such action as they may seem fit to take.

Thanking you in advance for your kind prompt consideration,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Dr. Ruza L. Stuern,  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Mr. Adolf Kacer,  
Treasurer

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CZECHOSLOVAK LABOR  
RELIEF

The Federation of Labor of Czechoslovakia was driven underground in 1939. Since the organization has been driven underground it was forced to develop extensive relief activities. The expenses for these relief activities were covered by funds from union treasuries which were brought to London before the Nazi occupation. In the year 1943, when the funds were pretty much exhausted, the Czechoslovak government took over the responsibility and covered the larger part of the relief expenses incurred by the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor.

For the year 1942, a breakdown of expenses incurred for these relief activities is as follows:

1. For families of executed and jailed persons in Czechoslovakia.....	\$50,000.
2. For assistance given to destitute and aged persons in Czechoslovakia.....	20,000.
3. For rescue of persecuted people from Central Europe to neutral and allied countries.....	30,000.
4. For persecuted people hiding in Czechoslovakia and, so far, unable to escape.....	15,000.
5. For Jews living in ghettos in Czechoslovakia.....	55,000.
6. For Czechoslovak Jews in ghettos in Poland.....	15,000.
7. For Czechoslovak women and children in France (families of Czechoslovak soldiers).....	20,000.
TOTAL.....	\$205,000

Steady changes in the political situation make an exact estimate for 1944 impossible. Increasing persecution makes increasing activities necessary. At the same time, maintaining the necessary contacts with the persecuted becomes increasingly difficult. The relief expenses in 1943 will run to approximately \$250,000. This large increase in 1943 expenditures over 1942 is due to the needs for relief for the families of workers mobilized into German slave labor battalions. It is estimated that the amount needed for 1944 will again be somewhere between \$350,000 and \$400,000.

The Czechoslovak Federation of Labor is expecting \$150,000 from the American labor movement.

Similar requests for funds are being made to other labor organizations throughout the world. Meanwhile the Czechoslovak government has promised to help out in any emergency.

The administration of relief money has been the responsibility of Messrs. Becko and Nemeš since 1939. Mr. Becko, former president of the Czechoslovak Mine Workers Federation, is Minister for Social Welfare in the Czechoslovak government, and Mr. Nemeš, former president of the Czechoslovak Railway Brotherhood, is Minister for Reconstruction in the Czechoslovak government. We therefore, request that funds for the relief activities of the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor from American labor be transmitted to Messrs. Becko and Nemeš through Dr. Jan Papanek, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak government in New York City. Receipt of money will always be acknowledged by these two cabinet members, and they will report periodically on disbursements.

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C O P Y

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Czechoslovak Information Service  
1790 Broadway, New York.

July 3, 1943.

Mr. Dezo Benau,  
325 East 80 Street,  
Apt. 2 F,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Benau:

I have been informed by the Czechoslovak Government in London that the leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Frantisek Nence, former secretary of railway workers and now Minister for Economic Reconstruction in the Czechoslovak Government in London, and Mr. Jan Pecko, former secretary of Miners' Union, now Minister of Social Welfare in the Czechoslovak government, appreciate the work which you are doing in the United States in the interest of the Czechoslovak trade unions and they approve all steps taken by you on behalf of the Czechoslovak labor movement. They are also grateful to the American Trade Unions which are willing to help materially the Czechoslovak victims of the labor underground movement in Czechoslovakia,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Jan Papenek  
Minister Plenipotentiary.

# LABOR'S WAR RELIEF PROGRAM

285

LABOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
 UNITED NATIONS RELIEF · A. F. L.  
 MATTHEW WOLL · PRESIDENT  
 ABRAHAM BLUESTEIN · EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
 9 EAST 46th ST. · NEW YORK 17, N. Y. · EL. 5-2580

Filing Authority  
 To: Files  
 NATIONAL C. A. H. S. O.  
 WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE  
 IRVING ABRAMSON · CHAIRMAN  
 LEO PERLIS · NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
 1776 BROADWAY · NEW YORK 19, N. Y. · CO. 5-2372  
 Date 3/31/44

March 3, 1944

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

Attention: Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser

Dear Mr. Peble:

I understand that United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway, Inc. have written to you with respect to the United Labor Relief Programs which we have requested them to submit to the National War Fund.

We would very much appreciate it if the War Refugee Board could approve of the programs submitted and expedite the licenses as requested by these war relief organizations as follows:

\$150,000 for United Czechoslovak Relief, and W-2153 (3/23)

\$200,000 for American Relief for Norway, Inc. W-2152 (3/30)

Sincerely yours,

*S. Jeremias*  
 Siegmund Jeremias  
 Nat'l C.I.O. War Relief Committee

*Suzanne La Follette*  
 Suzanne LaFollette  
 United Nations Relief - AFL

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REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO BOTH COMMITTEES

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LABOR'S WAR RELIEF PROGRAM

Labor League for Human Rights  
United Nations Relief - A.F.L.

Matthew Well - President  
Abraham Blustein - Executive Director

9 East 46th St. - New York 17, N.Y. -  
El. 5-2590

National C.I.O.  
War Relief Committee

Irving Abranson - Chairman  
Lee Perlis - National Director

1776 Broadway - New York 19, N.Y. -  
Co. 3-2372

March 8, 1944

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

Attention: Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser

Dear Mr. Pehle:

We understand that United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway, Inc. have written to you with respect to the Special Labor Relief Programs which we have requested them to submit to the National War Fund.

We would very much appreciate it if the War Refugee Board would approve of the programs submitted and expedite the license as requested by these war relief organizations as follows:

\$150,000 for United Czechoslovak Relief, and

\$200,000 for American Relief for Norway, Inc.

Sincerely yours,

(s) S. Jeremias  
Sigmund Jeremias  
Nat'l C.I.O. War Relief Committee

(s) Suzanne LaFollette  
Suzanne LaFollette  
United Nations Relief - AFL

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LABOR'S WAR RELIEF PROGRAM

Labor League for Human Rights  
United Nations Relief - A.F.L.

Matthew Well - President  
Abraham Blustein - Executive Director

9 East 46th St. - New York 17, N.Y. -  
El. 5-2590

National C.I.O.  
War Relief Committee

Irving Abramson - Chairman  
Lee Perlis - National Director

1776 Broadway - New York 19, N.Y. -  
Co. 3-2372

March 8, 1944

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

Attention: Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser

Dear Mr. Fahle:

We understand that United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway, Inc. have written to you with respect to the Special Labor Relief Programs which we have requested them to submit to the National War Fund.

We would very much appreciate it if the War Refugee Board would approve of the programs submitted and expedite the license as requested by these war relief organizations as follows:

\$150,000 for United Czechoslovak Relief, and

\$200,000 for American Relief for Norway, Inc.

Sincerely yours,

(s) S. Jeremias  
Siegfried Jeremias  
Nat'l C.I.O. War Relief Committee

(s) Suzanne LaFollette  
Suzanne LaFollette  
United Nations Relief - AFL

000802

LABOR'S WAR RELIEF PROGRAM

Labor League for Human Rights  
United Nations Relief - A.F.L.

Matthew Woll - President  
Abraham Blustein - Executive Director

9 East 46th St. - New York 17, N.Y. -  
El. 5-2590

National C.I.O.  
War Relief Committee

Irving Abramson - Chairman  
Leo Ferlis - National Director

1776 Broadway - New York 19, N.Y. -  
Co. 5-2372

March 8, 1944

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

Attention: Mr. Lawrence S. Lesser

Dear Mr. Fehle:

We understand that United Czechoslovak Relief and American Relief for Norway, Inc. have written to you with respect to the Special Labor Relief Programs which we have requested them to submit to the National War Fund.

We would very much appreciate it if the War Refugee Board would approve of the programs submitted and expedite the license as requested by these war relief organizations as follows:

\$150,000 for United Czechoslovak Relief, and

\$200,000 for American Relief for Norway, Inc.

Sincerely yours,

(s) S. Jeremias  
Siegmond Jeremias  
Nat'l C.I.O. War Relief Committee

(s) Susanna LaFollette  
Susanna LaFollette  
United Nations Relief - AFL

000803



# National CIO War Relief Committee

## National CIO Officers

PHILIP MURRAY, President  
JAMES B. CAREY, Sec. Treas.  
JOSEPH E. CURRAN, Vice Pres.  
S. H. DALRYMPLE, Vice Pres.  
ALBERT F. FITZGERALD, Vice Pres.  
JOHN GREEN, Vice Pres.  
ALLAN S. HAYWOOD, Vice Pres.  
EMIL RIEVE, Vice Pres.  
REID ROBINSON, Vice Pres.  
FRANK ROSENBLUM, Vice Pres.  
R. J. THOMAS, Vice Pres.

1776 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Columbus 5-2372

### Committee

IRVING ABRAMSON  
Chairman

JOHN BROPHY  
Treasurer

TED F. SILVEY  
Secretary

HAROLD J. GARNO

SAUL MILLS

JOHN PHILLIPS

AUGUST SCHOLLE

LEO PERLIS

National Director

CHARLES LIVERMORE  
Assistant Director

\* February 29th, 1944.

Mr. Lawrence Lesser,  
War Refugee Board,  
Main Treasury Building, Rm. 164,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesser:

This is to confirm our appointment at your office on  
Wednesday, March 8th at 10 a.m.

Miss Suzanne La Follette, of the Labor League for  
human rights, AFL; Mr. Andrew E. Wigeland, Treas-  
urer, Norwegian Relief Inc.; and Miss Ruza Steurm,  
Executive Secretary, United Czechoslovak Relief, will  
be present at that meeting with me.

Thank you very much for your kind and very effective  
cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

*S. Jeremias*  
Siegmond Jeremias

Div. Foreign Relief & Intl. Relations

uopwa  
SJ: jr

*One Hour's Pay Each Month . . . . Give Once For All!*

OFFICIAL WAR RELIEF AND WAR SERVICE AGENCY OF THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS  
Registration No. D-9, President's War Relief Control Board

COOPERATING WITH NATIONAL WAR FUND AND AMERICAN RED CROSS

000804

# LABOR'S WAR RELIEF PROGRAM

LABOR LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF · A. F. L.

MATTHEW WOLL · PRESIDENT  
ABRAHAM BLUESTEIN · EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
9 EAST 46th ST. · NEW YORK 17, N. Y. · EL. 5-2590

NATIONAL C. I. O.  
WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE

IRVING ABRAMSON · CHAIRMAN  
LEO PERLIS · NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
1776 BROADWAY · NEW YORK 19, N. Y. · CO. 5-2372

February 25th, 1944.

Mr. Lawrence Lesser,  
War Refugee Board,  
Main Treasury Building, Rm. 164,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: War Relief Project in Czechoslovakia

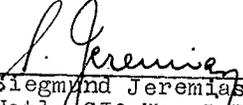
Dear Mr. Lesser:

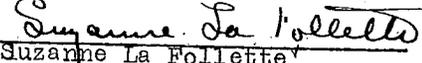
In response to an inquiry about the possibility of designating trustees in Sweden or Switzerland for Labor's relief funds for Czechoslovakia, Mr. Dezo Benau, the American representative of the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor, has just received a letter of which we enclose copy for your information.

In consideration of this information, we would still like to request permission to send Labor's funds to London where Mr. Frantisek Nemec and Mr. Jan Becko, both outstanding leaders of the Czechoslovak trade union movement and members of the Czechoslovak Government in exile, will act as trustees for the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor, as explained in the formal application submitted by the United Czechoslovak Relief.

As we explained to you in our conversation of February 16th, the Labor funds for Czechoslovakia will be used, insofar as conditions permit, to continue the relief activities which the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor has been carrying on in 1942 and 1943. United Czechoslovak Relief, in the formal application for the \$150,000 has submitted a detailed description of these relief activities.

Sincerely yours,

  
Sigmund Jeremias  
Natl. CIO War Relief Comm.

  
Suzanne La Follette  
Labor League for Human Rights, AFL

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REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO BOTH COMMITTEES

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CZECHOSLOVAK INFORMATION SERVICE  
1790 Broadway, New York, N. Y.  
Columbus 5-1914

February 25, 1944.

In reply refer to No. 1895/44

Mr. Dezo Benau,  
325 East 80 Street,  
Apt. 2 F,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Benau:

In reply to your recent inquiry we wish to inform you that we have just been advised by the Czechoslovak Government in London that contributions of American labor organizations for the victims of Nazism in Czechoslovakia are to be remitted through London. The best technical facilities for transmitting material aid to Czechoslovakia are in London.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) Dr. Ernest Sture.

000806

MEMORANDUM

February 23, 1944

I spent an hour yesterday afternoon with Mr. James Brunot, Executive Director of the President's War Relief Control Board, during which time we discussed the possibility of the War Refugee Board securing funds from the National War Fund and the steps that the War Refugee Board should take vis-a-vis the War Relief Control Board once the former was prepared to approve the C.I.C. - A.F. of L. rescue and relief projects.

As to the first point, Mr. Brunot stated that offhand it seemed to him that if the War Refugee Board should need funds for a project, such funds might be made available, at least mechanically, by authorizing an additional appropriation from the contingency fund to some voluntary organization to be used at the War Refugee Board's directions or by readjusting some voluntary agency's budget so that funds already appropriated to it would be available in that manner. Mr. Brunot was unable to state (and not having the applicable executive orders, charters, etc. before me I was not able carefully to question him on this score) whether any more direct means were available for putting moneys of the National War Fund at the disposal of the War Refugee Board. Mr. Brunot said, however, that while they had expected that they would have a contingency fund of twelve and one-half million dollars for the 9-month period beginning January 1, 1944, he was afraid that the contingency fund would be considerably less than that because (1) pledges to the National War Fund in large amounts were not materializing -- New York City alone will apparently be four million dollars short, and (2) the avenues open to the voluntary agencies for the spending of money have so increased recently that their requests for appropriations exceed previous estimates.

As to the second point, Mr. Brunot stated that when we were ready to go ahead with the C.I.C. - A.F. of L. projects, for which there are already requests for funds in the files of the President's War Relief Control Board, all that the War Refugee Board had to do was to write to the President's War Relief Control Board stating that we had approved the projects and that they were consistent with the foreign policy of the Government as laid down by the Secretary of State.

At the close of the meeting, Mr. Brunot told me that while heretofore his Board had been dealing with the voluntary agencies on an individual basis it was now, by reason of experience it had gained, causing to be set up several committees, each dealing with specific phases of relief work and composed of representatives of voluntary agencies. Mr. Brunot stated that it was expected that these committees would coordinate the work of the voluntary agencies and prevent

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duplication and overlapping. In other words, he said, it was hoped that the work of these committees would result in unified programs for dealing with particular problems.

Mr. Brunot also told me that his Board was somewhat troubled by possible jurisdictional overlapping between it and the War Refugee Board. For his own part, however, he said that he felt that any such overlapping was in the realm of theory rather than of practice. Nevertheless, he informed me that his Board had instructed their counsel to prepare a statement of possible jurisdictional conflicts and that when the statement was ready, he would get in touch with us. He closed, however, on this hopeful note: His Board's counsel was very busy at the present time and there was no telling when such a statement would be available for discussion.

*L.E.L.*  
Lawrence E. Lesser

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MEMORANDUM

February 18, 1944

ORGANIZED LABOR'S PROGRAM OF RESCUE AND RELIEF

History--The A.F. of L., through the Labor League for Human Rights and the C.I.O., through the National CIO War Relief Committee, jointly have a call upon the use of \$1,000,000 held by the National War Fund in its contingencies account. Although neither group is a member of the War Fund, they have been given this right in consideration of their substantial contributions to the Fund.

Since last June these labor groups have been attempting to secure the allocation of a portion of these funds to the United Czechoslovak Relief and the Norwegian Relief, Inc., both of which are members of the National War Fund. This has not yet been accomplished because: (1) The National War Fund cannot make special appropriations out of the contingencies account without the approval of the President's War Relief Control Board and (2) The President's War Relief Control Board has not been willing to approve the programs because they do not lend themselves to the strict accounting and reportorial requirements which the Board considers extremely important. These difficulties would now appear to be out of the way, for in referring this matter to the War Refugee Board under date of February 12, 1944, the President's War Relief Control Board wrote:

"Clearance by this Board is necessary before United Czechoslovak Relief or American Relief for Norway can actually expend funds on these projects and before the National War Fund can advance money to those organizations for that purpose. The Board is prepared to give such clearance immediately upon receipt of notice from the War Refugee Board that the projects can be carried out under their authorization and, as required by the Executive Order establishing the President's War Relief Control Board, in conformity with foreign policies as determined by the Secretary of State."

The Proposals--The labor groups have proposed that \$150,000 be allocated to the United Czechoslovak Relief for use in Czechoslovakia, and that \$200,000 be allocated to the Norwegian Relief, Inc. for use in Norway. Similar proposals for the use of funds in Poland and France are in the course of preparation and have been awaiting the outcome of the proposals already made.

As to both the Czech and Norwegian projects, the proposal is that the funds be remitted to persons in London who will undertake their retransfer. In the case of the Czech plan the London transferees proposed are Frantisek Nemeck, General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Union of Railroad Workers, and a member of the International Transport Workers' Federation, and Jan Becko, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Union of Coal-Mine Workers and a member of the

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International Coal-Mine Workers' Federation. Both were members of the Czechoslovak Parliament for over twenty years; and both are now members of the Czech Government-in-Exile. The Norwegian plan envisages that, in the first instance, the funds will be sent to Konrad Nordal, President of the Norwegian Trades Union Council, who is now in London, and Lars Evensen, the Council's Vice-president, who is now in Stockholm.

The Norwegian project is barren of any detail. In fact, all that is said is that it is felt that Nordal in London and Evensen in Stockholm "will distribute the aid in Norway in a conscientious and efficient manner to all needy persons regardless of labor affiliations." The Czech program is more complete. It appears, although only by inference, that the Czech project envisages the use of funds:\*

1. For families of executed and jailed persons in Czechoslovakia.
2. For assistance given to destitute and aged persons in Czechoslovakia.
3. For rescue of persecuted people from Central Europe to neutral and allied countries.
4. For persecuted people hiding in Czechoslovakia and, so far, unable to escape.
5. For Jews living in ghettos in Czechoslovakia.
6. For Czechoslovak Jews in ghettos in Poland.
7. For Czechoslovak women and children in France (families of Czechoslovak soldiers)."

Present Status--On February 16, 1944, the writer met with Miss Suzanne LaFollette of the A.F. of L. and Siegmund Jeremias of the C.I.O. about these projects. It was agreed that: (1) within two weeks, both organizations would lay before the War Refugee Board, either directly or through the relief agencies that are to act as their instrumentalities, their joint proposals with respect to relief and rescue in Czechoslovakia and Norway, and perhaps in France and Poland as well; (2) such proposals would outline with clarity the nature of the work to be done, in a manner similar to the pending Czech program, but not relying on inference; (3) such proposals would call for remittances to satisfactory persons in Sweden and/or Switzerland, rather than to persons in Great Britain; and (4) once such proposals were before the War Refugee Board in concrete and acceptable form, we would see what could be done to expedite and facilitate such action by the President's War Relief Control Board and the National War Fund as might be necessary to secure the release of the funds required to put the program into action.

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\*The inference is drawn from the statement of the purposes for which funds were used in 1942, and the patent implication that these were the purposes for which funds were to be used in 1944.

MEMORANDUM

February 18, 1944

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CC: Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois and Friedman and Miss Hodel  
LSLesserials 2/18/44

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Official File Copy

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 1944

I had a long conversation this afternoon with Mr. Bruno of the President's War Relief Control Board. Specifically, our conversation dealt with the pending proposal before the Board, sponsored by the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O., to allocate \$1,000,000 of the War Fund's money to certain members of the War Fund, particularly the Norwegian Relief and the Czechoslovak Relief organizations, for rescue and relief work in occupied Europe. As I understand it, it is proposed that the funds be remitted to certain agents in London with instructions but no "strings." The War Relief Control Board has adopted the policy, before certifying extra appropriations by the War Fund, of imposing strict accounting and reporting requirements. Mr. Bruno stated that to impose such conditions on the instant scheme would render it ineffectual. While the Norwegians have given no detailed statement of what they intend to use the funds for, the Czechs have. The Czechs say, as I understand it, they want to use the money to aid the families in Czechoslovakia of those who have been executed, imprisoned or deported, to aid them in concentration camps and to assist in the rescue and relief of such Jews and political non-conformists as are in hiding in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Bruno stated that he believed his Board would be willing to certify appropriations for projects approved by the War Refugee Board, and accept such approval in lieu of accounts and reports. He made it clear, however, that this matter had not yet been formally passed upon by his Board.

This project has been the subject of much correspondence between the War Relief Control Board, the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L., the relief organizations concerned, and the State Department. Apparently there have also been communications to London on the subject. In a recent letter the C.I.O. complained of all the red tape involved, and contrasted the difficulties they have encountered with our speedy treatment of projects sponsored by non-registered organizations. Mr. Bruno is going to send me a skeleton file on the matter, sufficient adequately to advise us of the proposal and the issues raised thereby.

In passing, Mr. Bruno stated that his Board's counsel is preparing a letter outlining possible jurisdictional disputes between the War Refugee Board and the President's War Relief Control Board.

*Lucas*

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THE PRESIDENT'S WAR RELIEF CONTROL BOARD  
WASHINGTON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON

JOSEPH E. DAVIES  
CHAIRMAN  
CHARLES P. TAFT  
~~FREDERICK J. KERREL~~  
Charles Warren  
MELVIN D. HILDRETH  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
HOMER S. FOX  
Acting EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

January 31, 1944

RECEIVED  
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
# 502  
MAIL ROOM

502

Dear Mr. O'Flaherty:

In accordance with our discussion Saturday, January 29, there is enclosed herewith a copy of a letter dated December 20, 1943 and enclosure thereto from United Czechoslovak Relief regarding the proposed labor relief project for that country. There is also attached copy of a letter dated January 20, 1944 from Norwegian Relief, Inc. (the name of which has now been changed to American Relief for Norway, Inc.), together with a copy of the enclosure thereto, being a letter dated December 7, 1943 from the Norwegian Ambassador in the United States, relating to a similar labor relief project for Norway.

Sincerely yours,

  
Homer S. Fox  
Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosures

Mr. E. W. O'Flaherty,  
Foreign Funds Control,  
Treasury Department,  
602 Sloan Building, 21  
Washington, D.C.

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UNITED CZECHOSLOVAK RELIEF

8 WEST 40th STREET

NEW YORK 18

December 20, 1943

Mr. Homer Fox, Executive Secretary  
President's War Relief Committee  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Fox:

In his letter of November 23, 1943 Mr. Elliot J. Jensen, Secretary of the Budget Committee of the National War Fund, notified us that his committee cannot act upon our application for the Special Labor Relief Project for Czechoslovakia in 1944, which we understand is to be considered over and above our regular 1944 budget. The amount requested for this project is \$150,000 and we enclose herewith a breakdown of the budget presented to us and approved by both labor committees.

It is our understanding that these allotments would be transmitted in monthly installments to our organization. We in turn would forward them to Mr. Frantisek Nemecek and Mr. Jan Becko in London. Mr. Nemecek is the General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Union of Railroad Workers and Mr. Becko is the chairman of the Czechoslovak Union of the Coal-Mine Workers. Mr. Nemecek is a member of the International Transport Workers' Federation and Mr. Becko of the International Coal-Mine Workers' Federation. Both represented for 20 years the Czechoslovak Labor Movement in the Prague Parliament. These funds would not go to them in their present capacity as members of the Czechoslovak Government in London but as trustees for the Czechoslovak labor movement, chosen because of their leading position. On the basis of today's conference with the representatives of the A.F.L. and the C.I.O., we hereby are asking the President's War Relief Control Board to kindly consider this matter and, if it is in accordance with their policy and that of the State Department, to refer it to the Budget Committee of the National War Fund for such action as they may seem fit to take.

Thanking you in advance for your kind prompt consideration,

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Dr. Ruza L. Stuern,  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Mr. Adolf Kacer,  
Treasurer

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COUNCIL ON  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS

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CZECHOSLOVAK LABOR  
RELIEF

The Federation of Labor of Czechoslovakia was driven underground in 1939. Since the organization has been driven underground it was forced to develop extensive relief activities. The expenses for these relief activities were covered by funds from union treasuries which were brought to London before the Nazi occupation. In the year 1943, when the funds were pretty much exhausted, the Czechoslovak government took over the responsibility and covered the larger part of the relief expenses incurred by the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor.

For the year 1942, a breakdown of expenses incurred for these relief activities is as follows:

1. For families of executed and jailed persons in Czechoslovakia.....\$50,000.
  2. For assistance given to destitute and aged persons in Czechoslovakia..... 20,000.
  3. For rescue of persecuted people from Central Europe to neutral and allied countries..... 30,000.
  4. For persecuted people hiding in Czechoslovakia and, so far, unable to escape..... 15,000.
  5. For Jews living in ghettos in Czechoslovakia..... 55,000.
  6. For Czechoslovak Jews in ghettos in Poland..... 15,000.
  7. For Czechoslovak women and children in France (families of Czechoslovak soldiers)..... 20,000.
- TOTAL..... \$205,000

Steady changes in the political situation make an exact estimate for 1944 impossible. Increasing persecution makes increasing activities necessary. At the same time, maintaining the necessary contacts with the persecuted becomes increasingly difficult. The relief expenses in 1943 will run to approximately \$250,000. This large increase in 1943 expenditures over 1942 is due to the needs for relief for the families of workers mobilized into German slave labor battalions. It is estimated that the amount needed for 1944 will again be somewhere between \$350,000 and \$400,000.

The Czechoslovak Federation of Labor is expecting \$150,000 from the American labor movement.

Similar requests for funds are being made to other labor organizations throughout the world. Meanwhile the Czechoslovak government has promised to help out in any emergency.

The administration of relief money has been the responsibility of Messrs. Becko and Nemeš since 1939. Mr. Becko, former president of the Czechoslovak Mine Workers Federation, is Minister for Social Welfare in the Czechoslovak government, and Mr. Nemeš, former president of the Czechoslovak Railway Brotherhood, is Minister for Reconstruction in the Czechoslovak government. We therefore, request that funds for the relief activities of the Czechoslovak Federation of Labor from American labor be transmitted to Messrs. Becko and Nemeš through Dr. Jan Papanek, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Czechoslovak government in New York City. Receipt of money will always be acknowledged by these two cabinet members, and they will report periodically on disbursements.

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REV 288A  
CZECHOSLOVAK COMBAT  
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Letter enclosed from Mr. Taft  
PLEASE REPLY TO THE ADDRESS  
IN THE ADDRESS BOX ON  
SIDE BACK OF THIS LETTER  
FROM THE ORGANIZATION  
THE ACQUISITION OF REPTOL

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Y

NORWEGIAN RELIEF, INC.  
135 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

January 20, 1944

Mr. Charles P. Taft, Acting Chairman  
The President's War Relief Control Board  
1044 Washington Building  
Washington 5, D.C.

Re: Funds for Labor's War Relief Committees

Dear Mr. Taft:

By a special vote taken by mail on December 21, 1943 the Board of Directors of American Relief for Norway, Inc. approved a proposal to make special application to the President's War Relief Control Board and to National War Fund, Inc. for \$200,000 to be expended in consultation with Labor's War Relief Committees. We now and hereby submit this proposal to you for your approval:

We request that \$200,000 be allocated to us by the National War Fund from the contingent fund of \$1,000,000 which we understand has been earmarked for Labor projects in occupied countries. It is understood that the allocation to us of this sum will in no way interfere with or reduce the amount allocated to American Relief for Norway, Inc. for our regular budgeted purposes and, in particular, will not come out of the \$200,000 set aside for American Relief for Norway, Inc. as stated in the letter of Mr. Elliot J. Jensen, Secretary, to Mr. Ingvaldstad, our executive secretary, dated July 26, 1943.

It is understood that the transfer of this sum and of the materials and supplies purchased with these funds will not interfere with or reduce the licenses for the transfer of money and goods which have been or may be issued to American Relief for Norway, Inc. in connection with its regular activities.

We feel convinced that the two officials of the Norwegian Trades Union Council (Den faglige Landsorganisasjon), Konrad Nordal in London, its president, and Lars Evensen in Stockholm, its vice-president, will distribute the aid in Norway in a conscientious and efficient manner to all needy persons regardless of

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FOREIGN FUNDS CONTROL BOARD

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labor affiliations.

The entire plan has the endorsement of the Norwegian Government-in-exile, as evidenced by the enclosed copy of a letter dated December 7, 1943 from the Norwegian Ambassador in Washington, D.C.

We shall be glad to endeavor to submit such further information and evidence as you may require to support this application. We understand, however, that Labor's War Relief Committees are in close contact with the President's War Relief Control Board on this whole subject.

Yours very truly,

/S/ A. E. Wigeland  
Assistant Treasurer

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COMMITTEE FOR  
WAR RELIEF

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NORWEGIAN EMBASSY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 7, 1943

Rev. Orlando Ingvaldstad,  
Norwegian Relief, Inc.,  
135 South La Salle Street,  
Chicago 3, Ill.

Dear Dr. Ingvaldstad,

I want to acknowledge, with my best thanks, receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant regarding the meeting which American Relief for Norway Inc. has had with representatives of American and Norwegian labor representatives in New York City on November 17th.

As I look upon this matter it would be advisable that the American Relief for Norway Inc. and representatives of the labor organizations endeavor to arrange the transfer of money involved directly with the American authorities. I do not think it would be judicious for the Norwegian Government or its official representation in the United States to take an active part. That the suggestion to extend relief as proposed has the entire sympathy of my Government and of this Embassy, is already a matter of record. For the event that you have not already seen my letter to Mr. Haakon Lie dated July 13th, I enclose herewith a copy. The gratitude expressed by Mr. Olav Hindahl, Minister of Public Works in the Norwegian Government, p.t. London, is undoubtedly shared by us all.

On this basis I would suggest that you proceed in this matter in collaboration with the said labor representatives.

I wish you all possible success in this important undertaking and remain,

Sincerely yours,

W. MORGENSTIERNE  
Ambassador for Norway

1944 FEB 1 11 21 AM

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*no reference when filed - 4/12/44*

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