CROSS REFERENCE ON PALESTINE FOUNDATION FUND

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SEE: ROSENBLATT, BERNARD A.

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August 17, 1944

Mr. Bernard A. Rosenblatt
President, Palestine Foundation Fund
41 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Rosenblatt:

Thank you for your letter of August 8. I deeply appreciate the generous offer of the Palestine Foundation Fund to render assistance to the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director
August 8th, 1944

Mr. John W. Peake
Far Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Peake:

I am glad to inform you that the Palestine Foundation Fund has just cabled $650,000 to the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the large part, we hope, to be utilized for the immigration and settlement of Jewish refugees who may obtain visas in Hungary, in view of the recent statement by Admiral Horthy.

I assume, of course, that in accordance with President Roosevelt's purpose in setting up the Far Refugee Board, your good offices will be employed to the utmost in securing the visas from the British authorities for entrance into Palestine. There is a great opportunity now which may not recur in the near future. If there is anything that we can do, as the fiscal arm of the Jewish Agency - the international body set up by the League of Nations "to advise and cooperate with the Palestine Administration in the upbuilding of the Jewish National Home" - to aid you in representations to the British Government through our State Department, you have only to call upon us.

The Jews of America are eagerly looking forward to cooperate in this rescue work, for we all realize that the time is short and the opportunity unique. We dare not report to them that countless thousands went to their death because of their failure to obtain visas for Palestine in this great emergency.

Trusting that you will call upon us for any help that we may be able to render, whether financial or by way of research and investigation, I am

Very truly yours,

Bernard A. Rosenblatt
President
Dear Mr. Rosenblatt:

I wish to thank you for your letter of March 10, 1944, giving me further information on temporary reception centers for refugees.

I sincerely appreciate your help and prompt attention to this matter. I suggest that before you take your trip to England, you get in touch with me again for further discussion of our problems and programs.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Bernard A. Rosenblatt,
President, Palestine Foundation Fund,
41 East 42nd Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

PH:lab 3/13/44
Mr. John W. Pehle  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Following our talk at your office on Wednesday, I want to submit, in accordance with our conversation, two other places as possible temporary reception centers for refugees, and shall be glad to submit fuller details, if you so desire.

First: there is an extensive area in southern Syria, but separated from the main part of that country by the Jabal Druse, stretching from the Lake of Galilee, north and east, which is very sparsely settled. Because of its proximity to Palestine, from which it might derive considerable food supplies, etc., this would be an ideal center as a temporary haven. The district, known as the Hauran, can be reached entirely by railroad through Turkey. It is north of Transjordan and north-northeast of Palestine, so that it doesn't enter into any political question that might be raised.

Second: the Sinai Peninsula, particularly at El Arish, where sufficient water is available, would be an ideal center as a temporary haven. Technically it might be argued that it is subject to Egyptian sovereignty, although the British control the whole area, even to the extent of supervising any Egyptian who may pass through the territory. This district could be reached easily by connections through the Palestine railway, and if objection should be raised against the use of that railway, there is only a relatively short Mediterranean crossing, terminating at the Suez Canal.

Both of these districts are, in my opinion, good centers for the reception of such immigrants and will incur less expense and less diversion of saving space, while having the advantages of proximity to Palestine, from which they may draw sustenance.

Incidentally, I might mention that I expect to go to England in the next month or two in connection with the work of the Palestine Foundation Fund, and if you think that I can be of any service to your organization, I should be glad to volunteer...
to proceed to the Near East to take up any question on the economic side or in the diplomatic field.

Thanking you for your kind reception, I am

Very truly yours

Bernard A. Rosenblatt
President