CROSS-REFERENCE

(Name of Applicant)

(Application Number)

For cable 5/12/44 from James G. McDon·ld of Presidents Advisory Committee
Copy of letter #690 to Mr. Pehke - reply 5/22/44
Letter #705 to the President

SEE: FREE PORTS
April 6, 1944

Dear Mr. Warren:

This is to advise you that I shall be pleased to attend the meeting of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees at the Century Club, 7 West Forty-third Street, New York, on Monday, April 10 at 12:45 p.m.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pohle

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

Mr. George L. Warren
Adviser on Refugees and Displaced Persons
Room 606, Department of State
1712 G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

JWP:mgmt 4/6/44
My dear Mr. Pehle:

This will confirm my telephone message to your office that the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees will be pleased to have you meet with them and with Mr. Taylor for luncheon at the Century Club, 7 West Forty-third Street, New York on Monday, April 10 at 12:45 p.m. The Committee welcomes the opportunity to learn directly from you of the program of the War Refugee Board.

Sincerely yours,

George L. Warren
Acting on Refugees and Displaced Persons

Mr. John W. Pehle, Director,
War Refugee Board,
Room 5371,
Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.
MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Pehle

From: Mr. Mann

The membership of the President’s Advisory Committee on Political Refugees is as follows:

James G. McDonnell, Chairman—Former High Commissioner for German refugees
Paul Beersfeld—Chairman, Joint Distribution Committee
Hamilton Fish Armstrong—Editor, Foreign Affairs
Samuel McCree Cevert—Protestant minister prominent in the Federal Council of Churches

Archbishop Rummel
Joseph P. Chamberlain
Lewis P. Kenedy—Former head of the National Council of Catholic Men
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise
Ezra Harris—of the United States Lines
William E. Seears—prominent Protestant laymen
George L. Warren, Secretary

It appears that the Committee is not active now. Its first activity was assisting Byron Taylor at the Evian Conference. Apparently the Committee’s function, in the early days of its existence, was attempting to resettle refugees with such projects as the Dominican Republic resettlement. It helped Taylor set up the coordinating foundation which was intended to finance refugees from Germany and which never amounted to much. It has been instrumental in obtaining about 2,500 American visas which helped many people get out of Germany. Of these 2,500, 2,090 landed in the Western Hemisphere or in England. However, in July of 1941 the nature of the refugee problem changed and the work stopped.

I take it that the Committee is rather loosely organized and when a meeting is called, it usually is a result of a prior meeting of Beersfeld, Seears and McDonnell. The Committee has never made a formal report to the President since it has been able to see him on particular problems. Warren has been studying ways and means of using the Committee in our work but as yet hasn’t thought of anything. The Committee seems to be a well informed group and should be of some assistance to the War Refugee Board.
TO: Mr. Pohle  
FROM: Mr. Abrahamson

Date March 20, 194

The current membership of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees is as follows:

James G. MacDonald, Chairman  
Paul Baerwald  
Joseph P. Chamberlain  
Archbishop Jos. F. Rummel  
Hamilton Fish Armstrong  
Rabbi S.S. Wise  
Monseigneur M. J. Ready  
George L. Warren, Executive Secretary

I am informed that the Committee has not been particularly effective in recent months. Its most recent meetings have dealt with such matters as the Bermuda Conference, and the accuracy of Breckenridge Long's figures on immigration.

This information has been obtained from sources other than the Executive Secretary of the Committee. If you wish further details, I'll be glad to call Warren.

R.A.