

PRESS RELEASES; TRANSLATIONS

10007



INTELLIGENCE UNIT

CHICAGO

(Name of Division)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

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NO ANS. R.D. ....

INITIAL .....

DATE .....

Chicago 90, Illinois,  
February 25, 1944.

MD \*

Mr. Elmer L. Irely,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Irely:

There are attached hereto one newspaper clipping and one translation of an editorial appearing in the Jewish Daily Courier, February 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

*A. P. Madden*  
A. P. Madden  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosures:  
1 clipping  
1 translation

100008

Mr. Pehle

7/4  
File

Senator Wagner, Chairman of the American Palestine Committee, announced that a conference will be held here March 9 "to mobilize American Christian sentiment" in favor of resettling Nazi-persecuted Jews in Palestine.

The conference, Wagner said, will discuss problems "created by 10 years of Nazi persecution and by the virtual closing of the doors of Palestine by the British White Paper of 1939" which calls for cessation of Jewish entry into Palestine after March 31.

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

February 25, 1944

1:35 P.M.

100009



INTELLIGENCE UNIT  
CHICAGO

(Name of Division)

Official File Copy

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE



Chicago 90, Illinois,  
February 24, 1944.

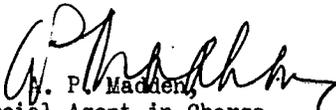
MD

Mr. Elmer L. Ireys,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ireys:

There are attached hereto translations of four articles  
appearing in Forwards and the Daily Jewish Courier of February  
21, 1944.

Very truly yours,

  
W. P. Madden,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosures:  
Copies of four  
newspaper articles.

100010

*To discuss with Mr. [unclear]* *Mr. [unclear]*

DIRECTOR OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD DESCRIBES TO REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL HOW RESCUE WORK IS BEING ORGANIZED

by M. Frank, Washington Correspondent  
of Jewish Morning Journal

Mr. Frank relates the friendly manner in which Mr. Pehle received him and his detailed answers to questions posed. He writes:

With reference to the work and aim of the War Refugee Board, Mr. Pehle declared that it will keep within the framework of the executive order as outlined by President Roosevelt when he established the Board on the 22nd of January of this year. He then produced a copy of the order and underlined the following:

"It is the policy of this government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war".

When asked to elaborate on this paragraph, Mr. Pehle remarked:

The War Refugee Board will not be a directly operative organization that is, it will not ~~save~~ rescue directly the victims of Nazi-occupied Europe. It will, however, help facilitate relief and rescue work of various private and as well as international organizations and bodies. By private agencies, Mr. Pehle said, he means those that are not governmental agencies. The J.D.C. is a private organization although it is wholly subsidized by funds collected from the public. The Board will help such organizations in various ways for instance: to aid transmit funds for direct aid to the victims, to obtain for them the necessary government permits to continue with and extend their activities, so that there should be no obstacles on the part of the government itself, to facilitate the movement of persons in occupied countries so that they should have no difficulty in getting out of those countries and in general do everything possible so that the work of the organizations will be conducted smoothly and swiftly.

In order to carry this out in the best and quickest possible manner, the Board will not limit itself to the small staff in Washington, but will also have special representatives in the most important neutral countries, especially in Spain, Turkey, countries through which a large number of victims is expected to be rescued.

However, this is not all. The War Refugee Board is very much interested in the underground movements of the European countries through which it hopes to achieve certain results. At this point Mr. Pehle spoke guardedly asking me to mention it only in a general way. I therefore wish to emphasize only the following: Efforts will be made undoubtedly to get in touch with the underground movements, in one way or another, ~~and~~ drawing them into the work. How, who, and what cannot be disclosed at this time for obvious reasons. The Board will make use of every possible contact American organizations have with the underground movements. Here Mr. Pehle mentioned as an example the Jewish Labor Committee which does have such contact. The Jewish Labor Committee has already offered its full cooperation in this field and the Board will utilize it when the opportunity presents itself. In general, the work with the underground movements will be conducted quietly and secretly.

Mr. Pehle wants it to be emphasized that the Board will not merely utilize the activities and facilities of this or that organization but ~~also~~ those of Jewish and non-Jewish as well. The fact is that the Board has already sent out invitations to 90 organizations

Jewish and non-Jewish doing relief work of such a nature, inquiring whether they are willing and ready to cooperate with the War Refugee Board. This work will not be limited, therefore, to particular bodies. It is understood, however, that those organizations possessing greater experience and financial means as well as better contact with the victims themselves and the underground movements will receive a greater degree of cooperation from the Refugee Board and their facilities and contacts will be utilized more often.

In reply to my question about the relationship and the division of work between the Refugee Board and other government agencies such as the UNRRA, the Intergovernmental Committee and others, Mr. Pehle answered that he sees no difficulties or specific obstacles. UNRRA, he emphasized, was created to do direct relief and reconstruction work in areas freed from the enemy while the Refugee Board was created with the sole purpose of helping to rescue people from occupied territory. Should the Board see any specific way in which UNRRA can be helpful, it will definitely turn to it for help and should the Board be able to aid UNRRA with certain information, it certainly will not refuse to do so. In general, it has not been clearly worked out where these two agencies part ways in their work but according to Mr. Pehle, he expects the fullest cooperation. He did not wish to dwell on the Intergovernmental Committee but from the few words he dropped and from what he intimated I got the impression that our government is disappointed with the results of this international committee up till now. The truth of the matter is that we would not have had a War Refugee Board had this committee functioned properly bringing about proper results.

As to financing the work of the Board Mr. Pehle explained that this question has not been clearly defined as yet. Considerable sums of money have been offered by private organizations which will be utilized wherever possible and advisable. However, some are of the opinion that the Board should turn to Congress with a request for a special appropriation for its work. It is not definite whether the Board will want to do it, for several reasons: First of all there is the danger that by bringing this problem to Congress a political question might be involved and the entire matter may become a political issue; secondly, obstacles might be made which might impede the rescue work and thirdly, many organizations, ~~xxxxxxx~~ such as the J.D.C. and others, are against it because they do not want to drag in political issues and because they feel that without government funds they will have a freer hand. At any rate, the problem has not been solved as yet and as Mr. Pehle expressed himself, it is a "hot question".

is  
We further asked him: What ~~xxx~~ the Board planning to do with the rescued Jews. Will it help them, for instance, reach Eretz Israel so that they can establish themselves there? Mr. Pehle's reply was that the Board is only interested in finding a temporary haven of refuge for the rescued Jews, what will happen to them later is beyond the framework of its activity. If there should be a possibility, for instance, to get Jews to Eretz Israel through Turkey, it will be done, but to consider Eretz Israel as the sole haven of refuge is out of the question. In most cases the rescued people will be taken to special camps built in places adjacent to Europe. One camp, he mentioned, is already in existence in North Africa, not far from Casablanca. Other places in South Africa such as Angola, for instance, or in Latin American countries, Mr. Pehle declared, were not even considered because they are too far from Europe.

In answer to the question whether other countries will participate in the work of the War Refugee Board, Mr. Pehle replied that so far the work was undertaken by America only. If other countries should want to join in this work, he sees no reason why it should be impossible; at present, however, the attitude of other countries is not clear.

When I took leave of Mr. Pehle he asked me to convey through the Jewish Morning Journal the following message to American Jewry:

"The American government knows and understands the sentiments of American Jews in the great misfortune that befell European Jewry. We therefore wish to make it clear that the War Refugee Board is very earnest and sincere about carrying out the task entrusted to it. The Board will overlook no opportunities to carry out the policy as stated and implied in the President's order. The Board needs everyone's aid and cooperation in this difficult task".

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The rest of the article is devoted to a biographical sketch of Mr. Pehle.

*Miss Wood*

Treasury Department  
Division of Monetary Research

*Am. J. H. L.* Date *Jan. 20*, 1943

To: *C. M. Bernstein*

From: *W. Ostrow*

*Washington Post 1/20/44.*

**371 Jewish Refugees  
Leave Nazi Domain**  
Barcelona, Jan. 19 (AP).—A special train carrying 371 Jewish refugees from northern France, Germany and other countries under Nazi occupation left today en route for Cadiz, where the refugees will board a Portuguese-chartered ship for Palestine.  
The refugees were supported by the American Jewish Refugee organization while in Barcelona awaiting arrangements to go to Palestine as settlers.

100014

January 19, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Developments in Connection with Jewish Refugees in Europe  
(Summaries from News Items found in the  
New York Times 1942 and 1943)

*Handwritten:*  
Hated  
JWA

September 2, 1942

Since the outbreak of the war American Jews, through the Joint Distribution Committee, supplied relief for 3 million persons overseas. The Joint Distribution Committee provided for the emigration of 93,000 refugees from Europe to North and South America and to Palestine; medical aid to 600,000 Polish-Jewish refugees in Asiatic Russia; relief for 60,000 refugee Jews in unoccupied France; assistance for the integration of 123,000 refugees in 18 South American countries, and to persons in need in North Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, and other neutral countries.

The National Refugee Service extended assistance to 31,800 refugees, arranged for 17,000 job placements, resettled 10,200 refugees, provided retraining for 1,900 persons and loans to 4,000 to enable them to become self-sustaining.

February 7, 1943

Sholem Asch writes that ghettos of Poland have become a dumping ground and a clearing house for all Jewry in Nazi-dominated Europe. The Jews of Western Europe, who are used to cultural surroundings, are torn away from their homes. Victims are transported to Poland like cattle in sealed, unventilated, lined freight cars which are death traps. Those who survive become human waste to be thrown into mass slaughter-houses which the Nazis have created for all Jews. These houses of death consist of gas chambers and blood poisoning stations. Steam shovels prepare community graves for the victims. The population of the Warsaw ghetto into which 500,000 Jews were driven was reduced by September 1942 to 120,000, in October to only 40,000 as proved by the number of food cards issued.

The ghetto of Lublin, organized by the concentration of Jews from outlying districts, was also populated with Jews from Germany. This ghetto has ceased to exist, all inhabitants having been liquidated. Many famous Jewish towns in Poland and in occupied areas of Soviet Russia are now proudly acclaimed by the German press as "Judenrein" (free of Jews).

700015

February 9, 1943

Report by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz on the refugee situation.

France: Before Hitler's seizure of the unoccupied part, refugees were rounded up in large numbers in their homes in both occupied and unoccupied zones for deportation to Eastern Europe. To avoid deportation thousands fled to Switzerland and Spain. This situation was intensified when the Nazis marched into the southern part of France. The number of Jews who escaped from France since the summer of 1942 is estimated at 12,000.

Switzerland: More than one-half of these French refugees escaped into Switzerland. The Joint Distribution Committee makes a monthly grant for refugees in Switzerland of \$60,000.

Spain: The number of refugees in Spain is estimated to be approximately the same as in Switzerland, growing daily at 100 to 150 persons. No refugees were turned back from Spain but many were imprisoned. Many refugees have been released from prison on the guarantee by the Joint Distribution Committee that it would maintain them. The committee's relief program for Spain called for \$67,000 a month.

North Africa: The number of native Jews in Algeria and French Morocco is reported to be 300,000; the number of Jewish refugees is estimated at about 10,000 to 12,000.

Dr. Schwartz stated that a special program was being worked out for evacuation of children. Plans had been made to rescue large numbers of children from unoccupied France when Hitler marched in on November 11.

February 10, 1943

Assistance was provided for 750,000 refugees since Hitler's advent to power in 1933.

1. The Joint Distribution Committee made possible emigration of 260,000 refugees from Europe to the Western Hemisphere and to Palestine.
2. Roughly 125,000 emigrants have been settled in Central and South American countries with the aid of the Joint Distribution Committee.

3. During the Hitler decade 305,000 refugees from Europe emigrated to Palestine with the help of the United Palestine Appeal.
4. A major portion of the 250,000 refugees of all creeds who entered the United States since 1933 received financial assistance from the National Refugee Service. Through the National Refugee Service 19,150 job placements and 5,000 professional placements were made for emigres in the United States, while 14,200 refugees were removed from crowded ports of entry to inland communities in the United States.

February 14, 1943

Pamphlet, "Tale of a City," published by OWI, contains information based on confidential, official, and private sources, and eye-witness accounts of Nazi atrocities in Warsaw. No information is available as to the number of Poles executed by the Nazis. Mass shootings take place regularly at Palmiry, near Warsaw, where 20 persons at a time are lined up between deep trenches and shot.

In the first half of 1941, 8,000 persons were born in Warsaw, but 21,800 died. In the first 8 months of 1941 typhus took a toll of 5,992 persons compared with only 23 in 1938.

February 14, 1943

European representatives of World Jewish Congress report that in one place in Poland 6,000 Jews are killed daily. Jews are confined in 55 ghettos, some in the larger towns, some in smaller towns that have been transformed into ghettos.

According to reports from Rumania 130,000 Rumanian Jews have been transported to Transdnistria in the fall of 1941, and 6,000 in the summer of 1942. Of the deportees 60,000 were reported to be dead and 70,000 are expected to die as a result of conditions under which they live.

February 25, 1943

Of 90,000 Jews who lived in Bohemia and Moravia before the Nazi occupation of this area, some 10,000 are locked up in the Terezin Fortress and more than 62,000 have been deported to East Poland. The remaining 18,000 live under humiliating, indescribable conditions.

February 25, 1943

Moshe Shertok, Chief of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, expressed the opinion that, without disruption of the economy, Palestine could absorb 2 million Jews over a period of 5 to 10 years, but this would necessitate additional capital for industrial and agricultural expansion.

March 24, 1943

Bulgaria deports Jews to Germany. According to an official report from Sofia, the first 10,000 of an estimated 40,000 eventual deportees had arrived in Germany from Bulgaria. Roughly one-half of the deported Bulgarian Jews were to be employed in agriculture in Germany, one-fourth as semi-skilled laborers in war industries, the remaining one-fourth was to be transported to German-occupied Poland.

March 31, 1943

Dr. Stephen S. Wise asserts that Nazi atrocities have taken a toll of more than 2 million Jewish men, women, and children.

October 3, 1943

Sweden offers asylum to some 7,000 Jews arrested by the Gestapo in Denmark on September 30, on the occasion of the Jewish New Year.

Walter W. Ostrow

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714

JEWS IN THE WORLD, BY COUNTRIES

The American Jewish Committee estimated the Jewish population of the world in 1939, as follows:

|              | <u>Millions</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|
| World total  | 15.7            |
| Europe       | 9.0             |
| Africa       | .6              |
| Asia         | .8              |
| The Americas | 5.3             |

The distribution by enemy-occupied countries in Europe was as follows:

| <u>Country</u>    | <u>Jews</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Poland and Danzig | 3,125,000   |
| Roumania          | 900,000     |
| Hungary           | 445,000     |
| Czechoslovakia    | 357,000     |
| France            | 240,000     |
| Germany           | 240,000     |
| Austria           | 192,000     |
| Netherlands       | 157,000     |
| Lithuania         | 155,000     |
| Latvia            | 94,000      |
| Greece            | 73,000      |
| Jugoslavia        | 69,000      |
| Belgium           | 60,000      |
| Bulgaria          | 49,000      |
| Italy and Albania | 48,000      |
| Denmark           | 6,000       |
| Estonia           | 5,000       |
| Luxembourg        | 3,000       |
| Finland           | 2,000       |
| Norway            | 1,500       |

A summary of the principal changes in the Jewish population of these countries is being prepared and will be sent to you shortly.

100019

CROSS REFERENCE ON PRESS RELEASES -  
TRANSLATIONS

FOR:

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

For translations from "Forward" transmitted to  
Mr. Irej from A. P. Madden -

SEE: CHARGED PERMANENTLY TO MISS MANNON, 388 1/2 Main Treasury

100020



INTELLIGENCE UNIT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE



CHICAGO  
(Name of Division)

Chicago 90, Illinois,  
January 5, 1945.

MD

Mr. E. L. Irely,  
Chief Coordinator,  
Treasury Enforcement Agencies,  
Room 109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Irely:

There is attached hereto translation of an article  
appearing in Forwards of December 30, 1944.

Very truly yours,

  
P. Madden,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosure:  
Translation.

700021

FORWARDS 12-30-44

Workers Committee Appeals to the American Government to  
Rescue Jews in Belgium.

- - - - -

The Jewish survivors in Belgium are in fear of their safety on account of the present Nazi offensive. The Jewish Workers Committee have received reports that the Belgian leaders and the Nazis are taking out their revenge on the Jews who are still to be found in the Belgian regions which the Nazis are recapturing. The brutalities of the Nazis is now greater than before.

The Jewish Workers' Committee has turned over their reports which they have received to the American Government, to Secretary of War Stimson, to The Refugee Board, and also to President Roosevelt. In its appeal, the Jewish Workers' Committee's message is as follows:

"We are uneasy about the safety of the remaining Jewish survivors in Belgium and Luxembourg. Steps must be taken to help the last remnants of the Jewish people. We ask that this be done in time. The help must not come too late. In the moment when the thoughts of all our people are taken up with the heroic fighting of our armies, composed of our sons and brothers, and we are fully confident that we will defeat our enemies, we still can not forget the terrible plight which the small remaining group of survivors of our old and great people find themselves in.

"The Jewish Workers' Committee desires that it be made possible for the groups of Luxembourg and Belgian Jewish survivors to be shipped further inland.

"In connection with the appeal of the Jewish Workers' Committee to the American Government, news was today received from Washington that the War Refugee Board has already taken steps to rescue the Jews from Belgium and Luxembourg."

- - - - -

Correspondence should be addressed  
"THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS  
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WASHINGTON, D. C."

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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
DIVISION OF ORIENTALIA  
WASHINGTON  
Semitic Section

May 18, 1944

Mr. David White  
Administrative Assistant  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. White:

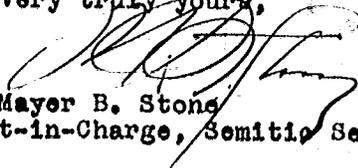
The enclosed translation in condensed form has been made from an article entitled "The United States takes over the complete work of saving the Jews from Nazi countries" in the New York "Jewish Daily Forward" of April 30, 1944.

The translation contains all essential points in reference to the work of the War Refugee Board presented in the other six Yiddish items which are herewith being returned.

I will reiterate what I told you over the telephone that the verbiage is rather dense and the articles replete with repetition.

For the Librarian of Congress,

Very truly yours,

  
Mayer B. Stone  
Assistant-in-Charge, Semitic Section

( 10 encl.)

100023

THE UNITED STATES TAKES OVER THE COMPLETE WORK OF  
SAVING THE JEWS FROM NAZI COUNTRIES

"The Nazi occupation of Hungary has opened the eyes of many to the fact that nothing has been done to save the Jews from Nazi hands. Almost a million Jews reside in Hungary. The Hungarian Government was prepared to evacuate hundreds of thousands of them, but nothing was done to take the Jews out.

It is now late...

...The inactivity of the "Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees" led President Roosevelt to give up his "Evian baby" as of no account. He created the "War Refugee Board," and this time without English partnership; this time as a surprise to England.

The results were soon manifest. The American "War Refugee Board" took itself to work in a pure American way. Ships began to ply between Constanza and Turkey, and from there to Palestine. Visa difficulties were overcome in neutral countries. Franco's Spain reminded itself that the Spanish Jews in Greece and Yugoslavia were of Spanish extraction, and brought them back to Spain through Germany on Spanish passports. From Transnistria 40 thousand Bessarabian and Bukhovina Jews were transported to Roumania with the idea that they be slowly evacuated from that country.

These and other similar steps which the young "War Refugee Board" attained in the few weeks of its existence, did not pass unnoticed by the "Foreign Office" in England...

The issue has now clarified itself to the extent that the "Intergovernmental Committee" will engage principally in helping the stateless return to their respective homelands. This is a job to be performed after the war. In the present immediate work- the work to save the Jews from the Balkan countries, -this Committee will not participate; this work will be left for the "War Refugee Board."

This new situation crystallizes the whole question of rescue work. It is now clear that the work of

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saving the Jews from the Nazi countries falls entirely upon the United States, with England withdrawing from the arena. Why England steps aside is not difficult to conceive. The only land where Jewish victims could save themselves is Palestine, and England does not find it feasible to participate in a work that entails a wide opening of the gates for Jews.

The American Government, in order to save England from embarrassment on the Palestinian question, must accept the status quo of the present English policy on rescue work, and must seek other places, outside of Palestine, for Jewish refugees...

To admit Jewish refugees from Europe to "free ports" on American soil, to live until after the war, does not mean admission to the United States as immigrants. It appears (at this point) that the real issue is to bring to life again the question of opening the American "Virgin Islands" as a temporary home for Jewish refugees.

...The Virgin Islands stands directly under the administration of the Department of the Interior. The State Department has no jurisdiction over the islands. It is also well known that Mr. Ickes and the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands are heartily in accord with such a step.

...This project has many adherents in Washington; also because the refugees, although on American soil, are still not in the United States.

...It would naturally have been much better if the refugees were permitted to enter the United States on the same basis as other immigrants. Since the immigration quota has not been filled for several years, there would not have been difficult legislation to overcome in order to permit tens of thousands of European Jews to enter the United States under the present existing quota.

...One of the members of the "War Refugee Board" who has shown the way to save Jews from Nazi countries-and has actually saved several thousand- is the young Ira Hirschmann. He was in Turkey but a few months and accomplished more in that short period of time than the whole "Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees" has done during its entire existence.

100025

Turkey has been persistently adamant in its attitude towards refugees and has been unwilling to rescue Jews from Nazi countries. She has kept her doors securely closed to those already rescued.

Hirschmann has changed this attitude. He has been successful in influencing the officials of the Turkish Government to the extent of active participation in refugee work. And now Turkish ships, -as ships of a neutral country, pass to the shores of Roumania and take aboard hundreds of Roumanian and Hungarian Jews, who later debark at Turkish ports, and from there board trains bound for Palestine by the way of Syria.

Encouraged by the success of Ira Hirschmann, the "War Refugee Board" is now sending two special representatives to Sweden and Switzerland.

Well deserved praise for the impetus injected into the refugee work must be given to the director of the "War Refugee Board", John W. Pehle. He is a young Washington official who takes most earnestly the work of saving the Jews from Nazi hands. He thinks of this problem, not only during office hours, but in all of his free moments during the day and night...

One cannot go into details what the "War Refugee Committee" intends to do... One fact can certainly be disclosed here: the "War Refugee Board" is in constant touch with all worthy Jewish organizations in the United States... The Board knows who is who in Jewish work and will not be misled by troublemakers who represent no one.

The big problem confronting the "War Refugee Board" at this moment is not only the saving of Jews from the Balkan countries through Turkey, but also the saving of 5000 Jewish children from occupied France. The American Government is desirous of permitting entry of these children without extra formalities. They must be brought together and then taken to Spain. At present they are spread far and wide throughout France in non-Jewish homes and institutions, so that they be saved from deportation to Poland. The difficulty in getting the children out of France to Spain is due to the Gestapo. The Gestapo will not permit their leaving France; secondly, the Gestapo dare not know that the children are Jewish.

The "War Refugee Board" is confronted with the same identical problem in Bulgaria where several thousand Jewish children are confined.

There are many plans of rescue on the table of the "War Refugee Board" and their completion involves massive sums of money... However, the real difficulty is with the Gestapo who stand between the countries wishing to aid the Jews to escape, such as Roumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, and the "War Refugee Board" which is prepared to find a haven for them in other lands."

May 9, 1944

Daily Jewish Courier, Inc.  
1214 South Halsted Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sirs:

We are greatly in need of two copies of each of the newspapers listed below, and would appreciate your sending them to us as soon as possible, together with bill for same.

February 21, 1944  
February 24, 1944  
March 23, 1944 (No. 59)  
March 27, 1944  
March 30, 1944  
April 12, 1944  
April 16, 1944 (Sunday)  
April 19, 1944

Please send these papers to War Refugee Board, Room 387 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Main Treasury Building, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

David White  
Administrative Assistant.

100028



27 SIXTH AVENUE

BROOKLYN 17, N. Y.

STERLING 3-2501

PUBLISHED BY FIELD PUBLICATIONS

May 8th, 1944

Mr. David White  
2422 Hotel Lincoln  
8th Avenue and 44th Street  
New York City

Dear Mr. White:

At the request of Miss Bernice  
Candle I am enclosing a copy of PM for April 24th,  
1944.

Sincerely yours

*Beryl Pogue*  
Beryl Pogue  
Sect'y. to Albert Deutsch

LE 2-5200

100029

JEWISH JOURNAL AND DAILY NEWS

May 5th, 1944.

"5000 Jewish children are already being rescued assures Hirschmann"

Special Report to the Jewish Journal from S. Mandell.

"A door has been opened for the rescue of Jews in Europe. The first ships of refugees have already arrived in Turkey on their way to Palestine. The next transport will have 5,000 Jewish children from Roumania."

This cheering news was given at a special conference with the Jewish press at the Lotus Club by Ira A. Hirschmann who has recently returned from Turkey executing an important mission for the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Hirschmann told the newsmen of a number of confidential things about the scope and methods of the rescue work which is being done and he expressed his hope that this activity will be widened more and more.

"The administration of President Roosevelt has done a marvelous job," this Mr. Hirschmann emphasized, "the War Refugee Board has been a great and effective instrument for the rescue of the persecuted and suffering Jews in Europe. In addition John W. Pehle the director of the Board who is heartily devoted, the services of the Ambassador to Turkey are outstanding. (Lawrence Steinhardt) Ambassador has labored day and night with me in order to break through a door which has been sealed with a thousand locks to prevent rescue work."

Mr. Hirschmann continued to give us details of his feverish efforts to get at first permission from the Turkish Government to have the refugees enter Turkey and then the complicated negotiations with Bulgaria and Roumania to let the refugees out.

Ira Hirschmann received from President Roosevelt the broadest authority. This coupled with his high diplomatic status enabled him to reach the highest authorities and to carry through things which were never dreamed of previously in this war.

In giving us the details of his work Mr. Ira Hirschmann repeatedly emphasized the way Jewish heart of Ambassador Steinhardt, who is always very busy with the most important problems of American diplomacy and in spite of this he was frequently awakened in the middle of the night in order to intervene with the Turkish authorities so that the incoming ships containing refugees should not be sent back.

Ira Hirschmann has spoken with admiration about the Palestine young people, the representatives of the Jewish Agency who are managing the rescue work in Ankara and Istanbul. These are the leaders of the underground movement who restlessly seek all kinds of methods to take out as many Jews as possible from Hitler's Gehenna. Then he started an outpour of admiration of the wonderful work of the Joint Distribution Committee.

"The money for this work of rescue (Ira Hirschmann said with enthusiasm) is being supplied mostly by the Joint. The size of the money costs are not being taken into consideration, no price is too high to rescue Jewish lives. The Joint conducts its relief work on an even, intelligent manner and has earned the reputation as the greatest private rescue organization in the world. The Joint has earned its prestige through the years of honest and ceaseless work. If in some cases the name of the Joint was not mentioned, there must be a reason for it and you can bet that the Joint is behind the work with its financial and moral support. If I would remain now in this country, I would devote all, my energies to the Joint as this is the greatest and the most solid Jewish organization for rescue."

As it is well known the Joint received its money from the United Jewish Appeal which expects to collect this year \$32,000,000 for the rescue work of the Joint, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service.

Hirschmann spoke also with high regard about the leadership of the Joint and particularly about the chairman Paul Baerwald.

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# JEWISH JOURNAL AND DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK CITY

PHONE CANAL 6-7200

To I. M. Weinstein,- translation of news item on front page 5/5/44

May 5th, 1944.

"5000 Jewish children are already being rescued assures Hirschman"

Special Report to the Jewish Journal from S. Mandell.

"A door has been opened for the rescue of Jews in Europe. The first ships of refugees have already arrived in Turkey on their way to Palestine. The next transport will have 5,000 Jewish children from Roumania"

This cheering news was given at a special conference with the Jewish press at the Lotus Club by Ira Hirschman who has recently returned from Turkey executing an important mission for the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Hirschman told the newsmen of a number of confidential things about the scope and methods of the rescue work which is being done and he expressed his hope that this activity will be widened more and more.

"The administration of President Roosevelt has done a marvelous job.- this Mr. Hirschman emphasized,- the War Refugee Board has been a great and effective instrument for the rescue of the persecuted and suffering Jews in Europe. In addition John W. Pehle the director of the Board who is heartily devoted, ~~is also~~ the services of the Ambassador to Turkey are outstanding. (Lawrence Steinhart) Ambassador has labored day and night with me in order to break thru a door which has been sealed with a thousand locks to prevent rescue work." ~~xxxxx~~

Mr. Hirschman continued to give us details of his feverish efforts to get at first permission from the Turkish Govt. to have the refugees enter Turkey and then the complicated negotiations with Bulgaria and Roumania to let the refugees out.

Ira Hirschman received from President Roosevelt the broadest authority. This coupled with his high diplomatic status enabled to reach the highest authorities and to carry through things which were never dreamed of previously in this war.

In giving us the details of his work Mr. Ira Hirschman repeatedly emphasized the warm Jewish heart of Ambassador Steinhart, who is always very busy with the most important problems of American diplomacy, and in spite of this he was frequently awakened in the middle of the night in order to intervene with the Turkish authorities so that the incoming ships containing refugees should not be sent back.

Ira Hirschman has spoken with admiration about the Palestine young people, the representatives of the Jewish Agency who are managing the rescue work in Ankara and Istanbul. These are the leaders of the underground movement who restlessly seek all kinds of methods to take out as many Jews as possible from Hitler's Gehenna.

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TRANSLATION FROM "JEWISH DAILY FORWARD" - . . . 5, 1944

**48,000 JEWS RESCUED  
ON THE SIDE OF THE RIVER DNIESTER, THE FIRST THREE BOATS  
WITH REFUGEES ALREADY ARRIVED TO TURKEY  
REPORTED BY IRA HIRSCHMANN, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S EMISSARY  
FOR THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
HIRSCHMANN PRAISES THE RESCUE WORK OF AMBASSADOR STEINHARDT.  
HE SAYS THAT THE JEWISH REFUGEES MUST FEEL THAT THEY ARE  
NOT ALONE IN THIS WORLD.**

A complete report on the activities of the War Refugee Board to rescue the Jews of Nazi-occupied Europe was given yesterday, May 4, 1944, at a press conference by Ira A. Hirschmann, the Special Emissary of President Roosevelt, who has recently returned from Turkey where he was active in the rescue work.

Mr. Hirschmann reported to those present about the great work which is being done by the War Refugee Board about rescuing the Jews of the Balkans. The Jewish conditions in Balkan lands, said Mr. Hirschmann, is much worse than we first could imagine. In his opinion the War Refugee Board should have been created much sooner.

The Roosevelt administration, according to Mr. Hirschmann's report, is deeply worried as far as the problem of rescuing the Jews of the Nazi-hell is concerned, and he was granted by the government full power to execute the work. The government of Turkey has prepared the ground for the activities of Mr. Hirschmann before his arrival in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. Thanks to the powers which were granted to him from the White House, he could get in a direct contact with the highest personalities from other governments, and to enable him to do such work which brought good results. His first important work was to break through a way for the boats with Jewish refugees that had to cross the Turkish waters. It was the hard way. He met with all kinds of difficulties but he finally succeeded in making his way and to build a bridge in order to further continue with his work.

Mr. Hirschmann's work would probably be impossible if not for the cooperation and assistance of the American Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. Lawrence Steinhardt. Mr. Steinhardt is now occupied with much work. His position in Turkey is now a very responsible one. He has at times to acknowledge hundreds of important telegrams daily, and still Mr. Steinhardt has been devoted with all his heart to the rescue work. Many times

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in the middle of the night he had to get in touch with different Ministers and he was always ready to cooperate. Mr. Hirschmann has won praiseworthy words from Mr. Steinhardt and he considers him as one of the future leaders of American Jewry. The most difficult task was to bring into the port of Turkey the first liner "MILKA" with Jewish refugees from Rumania. It required plenty of work but through the assistance of Mr. Steinhardt this task was realized, and after the "MILKA" it wasn't so hard any more to bring into port the other two liners, the "BELLACITTA" and the "MARITZA". In conjunction with this Mr. Hirschmann gave details about the great rescue work which is being done by the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee. The Joint is now in back of all the Jewish rescue work. It dedicates for this work the necessary funds and the necessary prestige. Mr. Hirschmann further reported about the rescue work which was done in Rumania. In Transnistria which is now occupied by Russia 175,000 Jews were sent out by Rumania two years ago, who were enslaved in the concentration camps. In the period of the past two years only 50,000 out of the 175,000 Jews remained alive; the rest died from hunger and epidemic diseases.

Mr. Hirschmann undertook to rescue the rest of the Jews in Transnistria and he succeeded through neutral governments to get in touch with the Rumanian government and his request that it should dissolve the concentration camps and permit the Jews to leave and to settle down in the cities of the country. After consultation with the Rumanian government he finally succeeded in rescuing 48,000 Jews from the concentration camps and to enable them to live freely as Rumanian citizens.

The International Red Cross showed a great measure of goodwill and assisted in this work of rescue.

Mr. Hirschmann also got in touch with the Soviet Power through her Ambassador in Ankara and was promised that the Soviet Government will take care of those Rumanian Jews who still remained in Transnistria. The Rumanian Government permits those Jews who are anxious to leave to get out of Rumania. The agenda of the day now is the rescue of 8,000 Jewish children from Bulgaria who expect to arrive into a Rumanian port. The second point on the agenda of the day is the question of creating in America free ports for Jewish refugees. This is a very important problem which must be solved as quickly as possible. For this question, first of all a favorable public opinion must be created and a real effort should be made in the government circles.

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Daily Jewish Courier - May 4, 1944.

Editorial - AGAIN UPON THE SUBJECT OF REFUGEE CAMPS

We have already previously stated that it would be much better, finer and just to open the doors of America for a freer influx of Jewish refugees, at least until the unfilled part of the immigration quota in this country shall have been filled. We can not, however, fail to take up the plan for the time being of obtaining or creating special camps in the United States for rescued Jews.

As it is reported from Washington, the country everywhere is in favor of creating such camps. Not only our people, but non-Jewish friends are greatly in favor of such a plan. We have been informed that the War Refugee Board has received letters from a number of Jewish organizations, national and local, who are in favor of these refugee camps, "that it will be a great help in rescuing Jews from Europe, and that this plan should be supported."

It is not to be assumed that such camps will solve the Jewish refugee question in Europe. First of all, it is necessary to rescue the Jews from the Nazi claws, and in the past, very little has been done on that subject. We are not sufficiently informed as to what plans the various countries can undertake to rescue, for example, the hundreds of thousands of Jews in Hungary and Roumania, or elsewhere. But we think, that the great plight in which the hundreds of thousands of Jews find themselves did not arouse the proper co-operation of the Allied countries, which should not have at least stopped warning, day after day, the Hungarian and the Roumanians that they will be heavily punished for their atrocities upon the Jews.

Therefore, we will hope that hundreds or thousands of Jews will be saved in various ways, and for them we must have at least a temporary haven of refuge; and refugee camps are assuredly better than nothing.

The leaders of both parties in Congress, and many congressmen are in favor of the issuance of an Executive Order, by Pres. Roosevelt for the creation of such camps, and it is therefor advisable that all Jewish organizations should let the War Refugee Board hear about it; that they support this particular plan and that they desire the hasty fulfillment.

The time is short, the plight of the European Jew is great, and any plan which can bring succor for Jewish refugees should not be abandoned, and should not be delayed for any lengthy time.

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FORWARDS - April 30, 1944.

Article by Boris Smoler

THE U.S. HAS NOW TAKEN OVER THE WHOLE WORK OF RESCUING JEWS FROM  
NAZI LANDS.

\* \* \* \* \*

The purpose of President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board to rescue from Nazi hands as many Jews as is possible. The great obstacles that stand in its way. The project to settle Jewish refugees in the Virgin Islands. The role of the various Jewish organizations in the rescue work.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Nazi occupation of Hungary has opened the eyes of many to see that England has until now done nothing to save the Jews from Nazi hands. Less than a quarter million Jews live in Hungary. The Hungarian government was willing to permit their emigration. But nothing was done to help them out.

Now it is late. Now when German soldiers stand on all Hungarian borders it is not practical and easy to take out Jews in great numbers, or not even in small numbers. Now the plight of the Jews in Hungary is precarious. Only a fast defeat of the Nazis will save them.

Surely the intention of the last created War Refugee Board was good and proper, and she means and will try to rescue as many Jews from Nazi hands as conditions will permit. She is, though, late. She was created too late. And the other international relief organizations which were in existence before and still exist such as, for example, the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees, they sat still the whole time with folded hands and made not the slightest effort to justify their existence.

The Hungarian Government was willing to release the Jews. The Pro-Nazi Roumanian Government was willing to release the Jews. The Vichy-French Government was willing to permit the departure of thousands of Jewish children. The Bulgarian Government was ready to release her Jews. But what did the so-called relief organizations do to justify their existence.

In the midst of the darkest days of European Jewry, especially since the outbreak of the war, the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees kept itself completely in the background, just as though

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she never existed, just as though no refugees existed, and just as though the question of rescuing Jews from Nazi-hands was entirely completed.

The explanation for this inactivity, if not a violation, the inactivity is merely because the English Foreign Office did not want the Committee to be active. An intensive work for this Committee would result in a larger migration of European Jews to Palestine. This the Foreign Office did not want and does not want it now.

But the situation at the present time is somewhat different. The slumber in which the Intergovernmental Committee fell into then, fell in when she should have been feverishly active. It forced Pres. Roosevelt to give up the Avior baby as unnecessary, and he established the War Refugee Board, and this time, without consulting England, this time as a surprise to England. The results were felt immediately. The War Refugee Board immediately began to work on and American Standard Ships began to transport Jews from the Roumanian border to Turkey and from there to Palestine. The difficulties of getting visas were dispensed with in neutral countries. Franco-Spain all of a sudden, reminded herself that the Jews in Greece and Jugo-Slavia, were, after all, at one time Spanish subjects, and therefor brought them into Spain, through Germany, on Spanish passports. From Transistoria 40,000 Bessarabian and Bukovinian Jews were transported to Roumania with the idea that they would be taken out, little by little, from Roumania. These things and others, which the young War Refugee Board had accomplished in the few weeks of her existence, was not done without being noticed by the foreign office in England. Of course, not as far as the dormant Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees. The same Committee, all of a sudden realized that she had a competitor. A young, energetic, and very active competitor - a refugee committee that is actually rescuing.

The result was felt immediately. First, between the memorandums, the Intergovernmental Committee and the War Refugee Board, and through a personal investigation to America by Sir Herbert Emerson, the English Chief Director of the Interg. Committee, and in fear that the War Refugee Board should not take the entire credit for the rescue work of the Jews, Sir Herbert Emerson now came to Washington to come to an understanding, and to show that his Refugee Committee is not entirely dead. The understanding which is being reached in Washington between the War Refugee Board and the Avion Committee for Refugees, does not clear everything up. But one thing is clear.

The War Refugee Board will continue to carry on the war refugee work with the same enthusiasm as it has done up to now, and the Intergovernmental Committee will continue to sleep in London, just as it has done up to now.

At last the understanding, which is a conclusion that the Inter-governmental Committee will confine itself to help those who have left their homeland to return to their home. This is work to be done after the war. In the present the immediate work is the task of rescuing Jews from the Balkan Countries. This the I. G. Committee will not do. This she passes up to the War Refugee Board to be done.

This present new situation crystallizes the whole question of rescue work. It now becomes clear, that the immediate work of rescuing Jews from Nazi-lands is now thrown entirely upon America, and if England stands aside, and the reason for the same is not hard to guess. The only land in which Jewish victims of Nazi regimes can now save themselves is Palestine. And for England it does pay for her to stay in a work which would require her to open the doors of Palestine wide for the Jews.

The American Government which at the moment does not want to put England on the spot on the Palestine question, must assume the new English policy in the rescue work of Jewish refugees in its present status, and must look for other places outside of Palestine for rescued Jews. Such places which lay close to the Balkan countries are not available, which brings up the question now of transporting rescued Jews to North America, and whether a certain part of them will be permitted to enter on American shores.

The entrance of Jewish refugees from Europe upon American shores to open for them hope of freedom, to live on them until after the war, does not mean to let them enter as immigrants in the various states. It means, more than anything else, that the question of opening the American Virgin Islands as a temporary home for Jewish refugees can again now arise as a revival of the dead.

The question to permit the entrance of refugees on these American islands was given earnest consideration in Washington shortly before the outbreak of the war. The Virgin Islands come under the administration of the Department of the Interior. The State Department has no control over them. It is a well-known fact, that except for various native inhabitants of the islands and except for the Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, everyone is for the idea wholeheartedly to permit the entrance of Jewish refugees from Europe without hindrance for the duration of the war.

The project is to settle, for the time being, Jewish refugees in the Virgin Islands, and it has many supporters in Washington. The refugees, although being on American soil, will not be in the United States Proper, and to come over to the U.S. from the islands, it will be necessary for them to obtain visas as under the existing immigration quota.

When the question of permitting refugees in the Virgin Islands was brought up in Washington in 1940, the State Department was against it. American consuls in European countries were of the opinion that the whole visa system would suffer thereby if refugees would be permitted to come to American shores promiscuously without quota visas. Also, at that time, the question of shipping came up. Military opinion against it, also carried much weight, in that the plan for the time being should be laid aside.

Now when the worthiness of the project of rescuing refugee Jews from Nazi hands of rescuing refugee Jews from <sup>Nazi</sup> hands becomes a fact which is laid at the door of the War Refugee Board, which was created by Pres. Roosevelt. There is the hope that the plan will be taken up again. All of the arguments which were brought up in previous years against it, can now be set aside in view of the new understanding on the subject.

It would naturally be much better if the rescued refugees of Europe were permitted to enter America, the same as other immigrants. As of today, when the immigration quota has not been filled for the last several years, and there would not have to be any hardship in leaving in tens of thousands of European Jews in America under the existing quota.

But the question of filling the quota is primarily a question with which the various central Jewish organizations should interest themselves in. Right now it is very proper to mobilize on their side the War Refugee Board, and through it carry out the idea of obtaining American visas for the plagued Jews.

It is true that the rate of the immigration quota was much lighter before. It would receive, in the present effort, the full support of the American Federation of Labor, of many influential people in Washington, and from all liberal circles in America.

One of those associated with the War Refugee Board who show the way in which Jews can be rescued from Nazi lands, and has really saved several thousand of them, is the young New Yorker Jewish business man, Ira Hirshman. He was in Turkey several months, during which time, he did more than the whole Inter-governmental Committee for Refugees could show during all the years of its existence.

Ira Hirshman has now returned to New York, and it is problematical whether or not his firm will permit him to return to Europe. He is the vice-president of the large Bloomingdale department store, and his trip to Turkey, on behalf of the Jewish victims in Nazi lands, was permitted for a specific time limit.

It would naturally be a great loss for the entire rescue work, if Hirshman should be unable to return to Turkey, where he has installed such good rescue operations in such a short time. Turkey was always unsympathetic towards the refugee question. She never wanted at any time to enter into the rescue of Jews from Nazi lands, and had always held her doors strongly shut against rescued Jews. Hirshman changed that. He was instrumental in influencing the leaders of the Turkish government, that they should take an active part in the rescue work. And things happened that should have taken place a long time ago.

Turkish ships began, as a neutral nation, to arrive on the shores of Roumania, and took from there hundreds of Roumanian and Hungarian Jews and were deposited in camps in Turkey from whence they were taken to Palestine, through Syria. When you combine these results with the time when ships with Jewish refugees were permitted to sink in the stormy waters of the Black Sea, because Turkey then would not permit them to enter its seaports, and that only happened a year ago, it then becomes clear as to the magnitude of the services rendered by the young Ira Hirshman. Needless to say that his work did not stop with the changing of the position of the Turkish Government, but he also negotiated with leaders of Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, and other Nazi-controlled countries.

The deeds of Ira Hirshman showed what one can do when he is earnest and his heart is in the right place. His results in Neutral Turkey acted as a conviction against the non-acting Inter-Governmental Committee.

As a result of the accomplishments of Ira Hirshman, the War Refugee Board has sent two special emissaries, one to Sweden and one to Switzerland. In these two countries which lie directly in line with Nazi-Germany and occupied Europe, there is still much to be done. One can rest assured that these two representatives will be as successful in their respective posts as Ira Hirshman was in Turkey.

The full credit for the proper impetus which was brought in the rescue work must be given to the director of the War Refugee Board, John W. Pahlje. He is a young Washington executive, who takes the work of rescuing Jews from Nazi-hands in an earnest manner. He not only thinks of his work during his office hours, but during all of his waking hours, both day and night.

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Jewish leaders in all walks of life who have had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Pahle, are all without exception, sold on his earnestness to do the right thing in the refugee work. He makes the impression of a man who knows what he wants, and does not permit himself to be dragged into any bureaucratic red tape when it comes to carrying out a plan. His doors are always open to any one who can bring him any ideas by which to help in the rescue of more Jews. And in the same spirit, all his assistants are working.

One can not go into details and tell everything that the young War Refugee Board has now in mind with reference to getting out as many Jews as conditions will permit from Nazi lands. Most of the plans of the Refugee Board must be kept in secret, so that they might be carried out expeditiously, and without failure.

One thing can be told here. The War Refugee Board is in continuous contact with all of the important Jewish organizations in America, and is interested in their plans. She is in constant contact with the Jewish Distribution Committee, and with leaders of all other important Jewish groups. She knows who is who and does not permit herself to be swayed by noise-makers who do no good. She also does not permit herself to be swayed by loud advertisements which certain unimportant Jewish groups from time to time insert in English newspapers.

Today, The War Refugee Board is doing work not only in Turkey but is making plans to rescue Jews from Nazi lands also through Spain. It can now be told how the Spanish Government recently helped many hundreds of Spanish Jews in occupied Greece to escape from Nazi toils, because of their Sefardian ancestry who originated in ancient Spain. How Spain issued visas to them, and induced the Nazis to permit them to return to Spain as citizens of Spain.

The Nazi government quickly complied with this request, and the rescued Jews are now in Spain. It is true that the Spanish Government is not willing to permit them to remain in Spain, and is negotiating with Jewish relief organizations to transport them elsewhere, but it is also true that the Spanish Government under General Franco has in the meanwhile rescued them from Nazi lands, and she did this solely because she desires to remain on good terms with America.

The rescued Greek Jews will now be transported to Africa, and the Spanish Government is making arrangements to admit other refugees to take their place. There are still to be found many Jews in occupied France, Belgium and Holland. The Spanish Government is not sending them back any more, which was the case before the War Refugee Board was created.

The big problem of the War Refugee Board at this moment is not merely on how to rescue the Jews from the Balkans through Turkey, but also on how to rescue 5000 Jewish children from occupied France. The American Government is desirous of admitting them to America with formalities. It is only necessary to gather them together in France, and bring them into Spain.

The greater part of these Jewish children are scattered in non-Jewish homes and institutions in France, who shelter them so that the Nazis will not deport these children to Poland. The hard part is in gathering them together to be sent to Spain.

The Gestapo must not know that they are Jewish, so as to permit them to leave.

An endless task also faces the War Refugee Board, in Bulgaria. There also are found several thousand Jewish children, who it is trying to get out. The Bulgarian government is desirous of permitting their departure. The Red Cross is willing to help in their transportation. But the Gestapo has control now in Bulgaria, and it is not therefore up to the Bulgarian Government to permit their exit.

More and more plans for active refugee work lay now on the table of the Director of the War Refugee Board in Washington. Their carrying out requires large sums of money, millions of dollars. This, however, is not the real obstacle. The real obstacle is that the Gestapo stands in the way between such countries as Roumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, who are willing to release the Jews, and the War Refugee Board which is ready to find other lands for them to live in.

Financially active in helping the War Refugee Board in carrying out her rescue plans is the Joint Distribution Committee. A many-sided picture of the work of the "Joint" at the present moment would be given if it would not hurt the chances of rescuing more Jews. The "Joint", however, holds that the rescue work is important, and not the loudness of publicity, the "Joint" doing the greatest share of the rescue work in conjunction with the War Refugee Board. She, therefore, abstains from loud publicity, at a time when other organizations create more noise than work, basing their work mostly on publicity.

Many institutions in Washington, when they get more intimately acquainted with the activities of various Jewish groups in America, can not understand why American Jews tolerate the existence of certain Jewish organizations whose sole aim is vociferous publicity which blinds the eyes of well meaning people. That is an inherent trait, which cannot be brought out amongst the large non Jewish world. The only salvation for Jews lies in the fact that the leading personalities in Washington who busy themselves with relief work, know today very well who are the worthy ones in American Jewish life, and who are not. They know who are the real Jewish workers, and those who do nothing but the shouting.

And that alone is of great worth in the work of rescuing the European Jewry from Nazi lands.

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TRANSLATION FROM "THE DAY" (NEW YORK), APRIL 22, 1944.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS SAVED, SAYS IRA HIRSCHMANN  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REFUGEE  
BOARD TELLS "THE DAY" ABOUT HIS MISSION  
TO SAVE JEWS

Special for "THE DAY"  
by S. Dingall

Washington, April 21.-- Many thousands of Jews have already been rescued from Nazi-occupied countries, and many more will still be rescued, declared Ira Hirschmann, representative of President Roosevelt's War Refugee Board in an exclusive interview for "The Day" shortly after his return from Europe.

When President Roosevelt announced last January his War Refugee Board of three Cabinet members, instructing them to make use of every way and every means to rescue refugees from Nazi-occupied countries, everybody felt that America is shaking off the dust of Evian and Bermuda and is embarking on a new road of true rescue.

This feeling was further strengthened when, a fortnight later, it became known that the President's rescue Board had sent a first delegate to Turkey, not a diplomat, but a young energetic Jewish businessman, Ira A. Hirschmann of New York, and that it had given him full authority to carry out rescue activities on the widest possible scale.

Ira A. Hirschmann has returned these days from his European mission to report to the President's War Refugee Board concerning his work during the period of over two months which he spent in Turkey, and to make new recommendations for rescue activities based on the facts and conditions which he had found on the spot.

Mr. Hirschmann has returned a week ago and has been staying all this time in Washington where he is engaged in conferences relative to the work of rescue.

His office is in the Treasury Department -- quite a modest office of two rooms with a secretary who answers his telephone (which rings ceaselessly) and brings in the papers he is asking for.

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Mr. Hirschmann is a dark-complexioned Jewish young man, with an expression full of charm, of medium height, with penetrating black eyes, an energetic face and quick movements. He is the type which Americans call "go-getter" -- a man used to getting things done.

I met him in his office soon after the lunch-hour, but he had not yet lunched. He took two apples out of his pocket and put them on his desk: "This will have to be my snack."

I asked him whether he had already reported to the Board concerning his work, and whether he can acquaint me with the contents of the report.

Mr. Hirschmann replied that he had submitted a brief report and had attached several memoranda which might prove useful to the Board in its future activities.

The report will not be made public; not because it contained secrets, but because the general character of the Board's activities is such that it could be hindered by too much publicity. "We make use of all sorts of ways and devices to get the victims out of Nazi-occupied areas, and as soon as the enemy will learn about them, we shall no longer be able to utilize them", declared Mr. Hirschmann.

I asked him to give me a general idea of his work in Turkey.

He thought for a while and opened before me a book of cables which he sent almost daily from Ankara to the War Refugee Board in Washington.

The cables are signed by Ambassador Steinhardt and are sent to the address of the Department of State, since in this way only they can avoid censorship. Some of them are sent in code.

Had it been possible to relate the entire contents of the cables, they would have produced the greatest sensation and would have shown that for the first time we are in the presence of a true rescue action. The number of the rescued people mentioned in the individual cables does not amount to many thousands. But each cable tells of a completed action of rescue, and the number of cables is quite large.

With Mr. Hirschmann's permission, I shall relate here a few facts which I have gathered from the cables.

A boat was filled with refugees from Rumania to be transported into Turkey. But the boat's crew refused to sail fearing Russian submarines and mines.

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It became necessary to negotiate with the Russian government. The War Refugee Board received the assurance of the Soviet government that it will let the boat pass. In this manner, 239 persons were rescued.

It became necessary to obtain a safe conduct from the Nazis for another boat filled with Jewish children. Neither Mr. Hirschmann nor the American Ambassador could deal with the Nazis, but the children had to be saved. Thereupon, Mr. Hirschmann talked it over with Mr. Simond, Representative of the International Red Cross. Mr. Simond, together with the Apostolic Delegate -- the Pope's Ambassador in Turkey, went to the German Ambassador von Papen. Von Papen is a Catholic. The safe conduct was given, and 1,500 persons were saved.

In the same manner certain things have been accomplished to ease the position of the Jews of Hungary who suddenly fell into the hands of the Nazis.

Mr. Hirschmann succeeded in chartering two boats -- the "Tari" and the "Kilca" -- which have systematically carried loving souls from slavery to freedom...

His only weapon was a calling card of 3 lines, reading: Ira A. Hirschmann, Attache of the Embassy of the United States, Ankara.

This calling card opened for him all the doors of Turkish government officials and of foreign embassies. He was received everywhere not only with courtesy but also with great interest.

He ascribes this to the great popularity of President Roosevelt in Europe. He enjoys everywhere the greatest confidence, and great things are expected of him. No one in Europe, except the Nazis, of course, would believe that there are people in America who don't like the President.

I asked Mr. Hirschmann why he selected Turkey as first point for the work of the War Refugee Board.

He replied: -- Turkey is an open window to the Balkan. My ambition was to transform the window into a door. The difference between window and door is that through a window one may only look, but through a door one may enter... -- Did you succeed in this? -- I asked. -- To a certain extent, yes. I could not open a wide door, so I opened a narrow doorway and a few thousand children came through it, to begin with.

Mr. Hirschmann smilingly added:

-- Children do not require much space. Besides, it is easier to obtain the sympathies of neutral powers when one appeals to them on behalf of children. Afterwards adults also are entering. In addition, one should emphasize -- says Mr. Hirschmann -- that when it is a matter of rescuing a family, the parents always ask that the children be saved first and that they, themselves, be taken out last.

-- How many refugees have been rescued by the War Refugee Board? -- I asked him.

-- It is impossible to give a precise figure -- he answered -- nor is it advisable to make such a figure public. But you can say that everybody was rescued wherever this was possible, and I believe that this policy will be continued by Mr. Pehle, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.....

Mr. Hirschmann had two offices in Turkey, the one in Ankara, the other in Istanbul.

Ankara is Turkey's diplomatic center. The Nazis and their adherents keep there now their best diplomats, through whom they conduct political warfare against the United Nations by all kinds of intrigues. It is easy to imagine, therefore, how difficult it is for American representatives to work in such an atmosphere.

Istanbul, on the other hand, is the center of Turkish commerce and the largest port. Tens of boats enter the harbor daily, and it was necessary to keep one's eyes open for every boat with a view to determining to what extent she could be used for purposes of rescue.

So Mr. Hirschmann had to travel always between Ankara and Istanbul, carrying his "office" with him. While he was in Istanbul, the diplomatic work was conducted for him by Mr. Steinhardt.

I pointed out to Mr. Hirschmann that Mr. Steinhardt, while still Ambassador to Soviet Russia, had been criticized here for his attitude toward refugees. Mr. Hirschmann asked me to deny this impression about Mr. Steinhardt.

-- He threw himself into the rescue work with body and soul, neglecting all other important activities -- declared Mr. Hirschmann.

He found Steinhardt a loyal and devoted Jew who does not let anything stop him when an opportunity arises to rescue a group of Jews. He ignores all formalities and all precedents.....

Mr. Hirschmann quickly emphasized, however, that it is the President who merits the greatest credit. Ambassador Steinhardt and he are merely the instrumentalities through which the President and the War Refugee Board carry out their plans.

Mr. Hirschmann declared that only upon reaching Ankara did he find out what broad powers the President has given him. No ambassadors have such powers. Naturally, he made as much use as he could of these powers for the purposes for which they have been given to him.

I asked Mr. Hirschmann what he thought of the White Paper and what effect it would have on future immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann replied that this was a political question which he cannot discuss, but he, personally, is not so pessimistic concerning the future of the immigration into Palestine.

Mr. Hirschmann could not find enough words to praise the work of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and of the Joint. Both organizations have greatly helped him in the work of rescue.

He spoke with special enthusiasm about Mr. Barlas, the representative of the Jewish Agency in Ankara.

He also gave credit to the British representatives in Turkey who helped him a great deal.

He ascribes the major part of the success of the War Refugee Board to its Director, John W. Pehle, a former official of the Treasury Department, and also to the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau.

Secretary Morgenthau kept him yesterday in conference for two hours, making inquiries about every detail of the rescue work in Europe.

-- We have in him a great American and a good, warm-hearted Jew who is not sufficiently appreciated -- said Mr. Hirschmann.

I asked him what the Jewish press, and American Jews in general, could do to aid in the rescue work.

Mr. Hirschmann's eyes shone:

That's a good question -- he said -- and I shall gladly answer it. Two things can be done: in the first place, support the War Refugee Board in all its plans in every way, because the people on it are devoted earnest people who have no other aim than that of rescuing from Hitler as many Jews, and also non-Jewish victims, as possible.

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-- Secondly, stop the internecine fight among various organizations for the sake of honors, and not to make capital from Jewish misery,

-- Too much noise does not help -- he continued -- but, on the contrary, it creates the impression on the outside that we ourselves do too much already, and this is far from being true,

Mr. Hirschmann's mission for the War Refugee Board is terminated. He returns today to New York and will resume next week his important position in Bloomingdale Brothers' Department Store, in which he serves as Vice-President and business expert,

But his name will remain written in letters of gold in Jewish history as the first Jew whom fate chose to be America's messenger of mercy to rescue tens of thousands of European Jews from death.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE



INTELLIGENCE UNIT

CHICAGO

(Name of Division)

Chicago 90, Illinois,  
March 14, 1944.

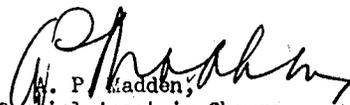
MD

Mr. E. L. Irely,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
Room 109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Irely:

There are attached hereto a translation and a clipping  
from Forwards, dated March 5 and March 7, 1944, respectively.

Very truly yours,

  
W. P. Madden,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosure:  
1 clipping  
1 translation

700055

Official File Copy

March 6, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

You will want to read the attached translation of an excerpt from "The Forward" of February 26, 1944, which is replete with misstatements, together with a copy of a letter from the Jewish National Workers' Alliance transmitting a column written by Dr. S. Margoshes which appeared in the New York Jewish Day on March 1.

We are preparing an appropriate reply to the Jewish National Workers' Alliance and are arranging a conference with the Editor of "The Forward".

(Initialed) J.W.P.

JWP

JWP:mgt 3/6/44

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Official File Copy

**JEWISH NATIONAL WORKERS' ALLIANCE**

**45 East 17th Street, New York 3, N. Y.**

**March 2, 1944**

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

**Dear Mr. Pehle,**

I am enclosing herewith a column written by Dr. Samuel Margoshes, which appeared in the New York Jewish Day on March 1st, discussing the possibility of the War Refugee Board to finance the rescue work of the Board.

Since the questions raised by Dr. Margoshes are of great importance, I would highly appreciate receiving your comment on the subject matter.

I am **Thanking you for your kind cooperation,**

**Very sincerely yours,**

**(signed) L. Segal**

**Louis Segal  
General Secretary**

**COPY**

100057

# NEWS AND VIEWS

The President's Refugee Board.  
The Plea of Poverty.  
The Fount of Futility.  
Making Washington See.

By Dr. S. MARGOSHES

I see where the President's War Refugee Board, when, when interviewed by a number of Jewish organizations about the failure to act quickly in the rescue of Jews of Europe, has pleaded poverty and inability to get an, funds, and particularly the large funds that are required for the huge task, unless these funds be supplied by the Jewish organization themselves. To me this is no more than an alibi.

I don't care to keep on saying "I told you so" while quoting my own remarks. I cannot help, though, pointing out that while everybody was rejoicing over the President's Refugee Board, I asked for some kind of guarantee that the Board will be more energetic or wise or interested than, say, the Intergovernmental Committee in London or the Bermuda or other conferences that were similarly huffed and that brought us only bitter disappointment. Not being a prophet but only an analyst of events, mainly Jewish, I predicted that the Board will turn out to be another Intergovernmental Committee unless clothed with more power and, what is still more important, armed with a real desire to save Jews, no matter how great the obstacles and how enormous the cost. It was, I pointed out, the

Intergovernmental Committee to overcome obstacles—not its indifference to Jewish suffering or lack of humanitarian impulse—that stymied all efforts to save the Jews from what was admittedly a tragic situation, and until clear directives are issued from the highest executive authority to override difficulties in a concrete manner, such as, for instance, to set aside the immigration restrictions in the United States and to remove all obstructions to large-scale Jewish immigration into Palestine, no change from the old program of futility is to be expected. It is this what Dr. S. S. Wise had in mind when, appearing at the hearing on the Refugee Bill before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, he pleaded for inclusion in the measure of a clause providing for the open door in Palestine. With this plea, indeed, and the President's Board having been created without any special directive other than a general reference to the desirability to save as many refugees as possible and in such a short time as possible, it was inevitable that the shortcomings that plagued and all but destroyed the Intergovernmental Committee and all Refugee Conferences beginning with that of Evian and ending with that of Bermuda, should come to plague the Board as well.

We see now that it did, and sooner than we expected. For what does the plea of poverty on the part of the President's Board mean? It can only mean one thing, namely, that there is no inclination on the part of the highest government circles to act in the matter in a way that would justify the hopes of the refugees and their friends who saw in the Board a real attempt on the part of the American Government to grapple at long last and adequately with the problem of rescuing the Jews of Europe. Otherwise how can any one begin to explain why the President's Board, with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Secretary

of the Treasury as its members, cannot find the funds that are necessary to start and continue the work of rescue? And the money, mind you, doesn't run into billions, it begins and ends with millions. When only a few weeks ago the Under-Secretary of State Breckinridge Long wanted to show how good the State Department could be to the Jews, he spoke of some eight million dollars which the government was prepared to spend on feeding the European Jews through the International Red Cross, and now three of the most important government departments put together cannot find enough cash to finance the beginnings of the rescue work in Europe and must come begging to the Jewish organizations for funds!

What I am afraid of is that even should the Jewish organizations pony up the cash which the President's Committee asks of them—a thing which in view of their past obligations is most probable—it will avail them nought. For what the Board seems to be lacking is not money—the Government of the United States is not quite as broke as the Board seems to imply—but in directives to go the limit or to do the impossible in order to solve the problem facing it. Some one said some time ago—I don't remember who—that the refugee problem will never be solved by the United States as long as the Government will not decide to do for the refugees exactly what it would do if they were American citizens; that means—do everything possible, even if it entails difficulties and the smashing of old, time-honored formalities and conventionalities, even prejudices. Well, it would seem that we are still far away from that way of viewing the refugees, now in their last life-and-death struggle. We are standing at the water's edge, watching men drown, and who bothers us is who will pay for the life-line.

O (SEAL)  
P Intelligence Unit  
Y Chicago  
(Name of Division)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Chicago 90, Illinois,  
March 4, 1944.

MD

Mr. Elmer W. Iroy,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
Room 109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Iroy:

There are attached hereto copies of two translations  
from *Forwards and Courier*, dated February 28, 1944, and March  
5, 1944, respectively.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) A. P. Madden

A. P. Madden,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosure:  
2 translations.

cc: Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois, Stewart, Lesser, Friedman, Miss Hodel,  
Miss Luaghlin, Messrs. Abramson, Murphy, Marks, Parke, Pollak, Smith,  
White, Mrs. Cohn, Mrs. Mannon.

100059

Forwards

February 28, 1944.

SAD NEWS - WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
HASN'T ENOUGH MONEY FOR RESCUE WORK  
ON A LARGE SCALE

Jewish delegation receives the said news from Director Pable, Jews alone cannot raise enough money, as it will entail quite a few million dollars.

From a Forwards reporter.

Mr. John Pable, Director of the War Refugee Board which was created to rescue Jews and other victims from Hitler persecutions, has made a statement to a Jewish delegation that the "Board" has not as yet sufficient sums of money to undertake the rescue work on a large scale. This was made known at a meeting of a large Jewish organization which had sent the delegation to confer with the Refugee Director in Washington.

The Jewish delegation had come to Washington with the following understanding:

The Director of the War Refugee Board had appealed to many Jewish organizations that they should submit their ideas to him with reference to their plans to help the Jews who find themselves in need in Europe and also apprise him of their steps taken therein. Since this particular organization which is composed of many organizations, had gone into, on a large scale, refugee relief work for the Jews in Europe, it immediately responded to the Director's request, and worked out various plans as to how to carry on the rescue work. The organization sent a delegation with its plans to Washington to confer with Director Pable and to turn over to him their plans and to arrange with him definitely where help is most urgently needed.

The delegation did as instructed. It had seen and conferred with the Director, but when they showed him the need for immediate help, he then told them that no immediate help could be given because, for the present, no money is available for the work. The Government has as yet made no appropriation, which leaves one to assume that it will be up to the Jewish people to finance the refugee work.

The delegation saw itself confronted with a big worry. Various congressmen and senators who were told about the news wondered, and did not understand, what was going on. They agreed to interest themselves in the matter of inducing the three members of the Board to have the Government finance the work.

The delegation informed the congressmen and senators to understand that it is absolutely impossible to abandon and throw overboard the plans

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for rescue work of the Jews. For such a task it would take several hundred million dollars, which is of such magnitude that only the Government could undertake it. With reference to the work, there was organized a relief fund under the name of the "United Jewish Appeal", which had undertaken to raise thirty-two million dollars for relief work, which sum would not cover a part even of the enormous task of the rescue work, and it is impossible at this time to create a greater fund amongst the Jews. Several senators immediately went to the State Department to discuss the news situation with Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

At the meeting where this question was considered they discussed a number of problems and solutions as to how to work out a plan so that the Government should be able to finance this work. The question also came up whether this news should be publicized. The consensus of opinion was that for the time being, it should not; however, several representatives were of a different mind, and they said that they would give out this news. This question brought out sharp discussions, because of the present-day order of business.

The question of the Zionist resolution.

Several have shown just as you can't approach the State Department with all these problems, therefore the question of financing should be postponed. Against this policy, there were those that agreed that the Jewish people were of more importance than the Jewish homeland, and postponing this would mean, God forbid, the extinction of a great number of Jews. It is, therefore, more important to talk about, primarily, the financing of the refugee work, before talking about the Zionist cause.

Here will bring forth several quotations from Pehle's letters to the Jewish Organizations, in which he had invited these organizations to come to him, which organizations are members of the American Jewish Conference, and these are the most important Jewish agencies, and they came to him. The letter reads as follows:

"Executive Office of the President's War Refugee Board,  
Wash. D. C.

"The Refugee Board which consists of 3 cabinet members, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of State, was created by President Roosevelt on the 22nd day of January 1944. The President's purpose as to this Board, as well as the purpose and authority of the Board were enumerated in the President's order #9417, a copy of which is hereto attached for your information."

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"The Board has taken into consideration the fact that private agencies, your organization amongst them has for a time been active in looking for ways and means to help save the Jews and other minority groups, which are in danger of being exterminated by the enemy. The Board has also taken into consideration the fact that these agencies have brought about relief to a certain number of victims of the enemies atrocities."

"The Board is now planning a program for this activity, and appeals for help and advise and cooperation. In addition she asks all agencies, that have been active in this problem if it is possible to render a report as soon as possible in writing as to these activities, and also what you recommend the Board should do to accomplish the policy which was announced in the Executive order and also the ways and means you have adopted to accomplish this problem."

"The agencies which have joined in the American Jewish Conference responded that they will submit all plans that they have and that they would forward them to Washington."

As we understand it some of the most impert Jewish leaders went to Washington, who will meet with all three cabinet members of the Board and will try to do all in their power to convince them that the Government should finance the activities of the Board.

(End)

100062

Courier

March 2, 1944.

**MASSMEETING OF JEWS AND NON-JEWS DEMAND  
ALLIES SHOULD RESCUE JEWS, MANY IN  
TEARS AT HEARING REPORT.**

**\$4,000,000 will be given to the Inter-  
Governmental Committee for Refugees.**

Massmeeting demands that England should establish war-refugee board as Americans have done.

(Special to the Courier) March 1, 1944, London, (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

More than 1,000 people, Jews and non-Jews, many with tears in their eyes, listened to the outrageous report of the Jewish tragedy in Nazi Europe, and also to a long list of attacks and protests to the indifference of the Allies to the predicament of the Jews and other suffering victims of Nazi atrocities. At a massmeeting which was called for this evening through "Committee for Relief from Nazi Terror", it was agreed and accepted that a resolution demanding that the British Government establish a 'War Refugee Board' such as President Roosevelt established in the United States.

The resolution also demanded that the British Government shall send special representatives to countries who are willing to accept refugees, and British obstacles against refugee victims who cannot help themselves should be done away with. All speakers appealed for immediate action before the victims will be exterminated by the Nazi atrocities.

Dr. C. J. Garbert, Archbishop of York, said both humanity and Christianity demand that all efforts should be made as long as there is time to rescue as many as can be rescued from this great darkness.

Grand Rabbi of England, Joseph H. Hertz, accused the Allies of procrastination and negligence in dealing with human suffering, to the cheapness of the lives of the democracies. Many have accepted, Rabbi Hertz continued, as a fact, endorsing Adolph Hitler's doctrine of the non-existence of individualism, "a doctrine breeding fascism, and opening the door for World War III".

In the House of Commons, several Parliamentarians demanded of the Government that more Jews should be allowed to enter into the country.

Replying for the Government, the Under-Secretary for Home Affairs Horbert Pick declared that the reason why England cannot allow more refugees is not merely the question of food and housing, but other problems.

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(3300)  
MARCH 1 1944  
OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1

(Special to the Courier) March 1, 1944, London.

Richard K. Lowe, Minister of State in Foreign Affairs, today said to the House of Commons that America and England have agreed each to contribute \$2,000,000 as expenses for the Inter-Governmental Committee for Refugees. He said that England has already contributed toward it \$250,000.

It has been worked out that the committee will deal with housing, transferring and preserving 20,000,000 people who have been victimized and thrown out of their homes in Europe.

Bringing the debate to an end, Lowe declared that it is essential to establish a war refugee board because there exists in England already a cabinet committee that already has many functions.

(End)

March 4, 1944

Dear Mr. Liberson:

Enclosed are glossy prints of Mr. John W. Pehle, Acting Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, and of Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury.

No group pictures have been taken of the War Refugee Board. I suggest that you write to the Public Relations Divisions of the State Department and War Department for pictures of Mr. Hull and Mr. Stimson.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Virginia M. Mannon  
Public Relations Division

Mr. David Liberson  
Jewish Daily Forward  
175 East Broadway  
New York, New York

Enclosures

VM:gd

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FORWARD BUILDING  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

# JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

World's Largest Jewish Daily

175 EAST BROADWAY

NEW YORK, N.Y.

March 2, 1944.

Mr. John Pehle  
Chairman, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

My dear Mr. Pehle:

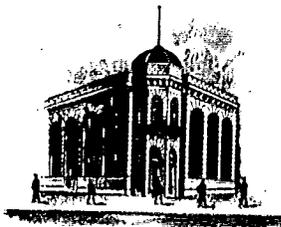
We have been hunting high and low for some pictures of yourself and your board but have succeeded only in getting a suggestion that we apply directly to you. Could you help us? Of course, we should be glad to pay any fees or charges.

With best wishes for success in your undertaking,

Respectfully yours,

DL

JEWISH DAILY FORWARD  
Per David Liberson



FORWARD BUILDING  
CHICAGO, ILL.

THE GATEWAY TO THE JEWISH MARKET



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TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

INTELLIGENCE UNIT

CHICAGO  
(Name of Division)

Chicago 90, Illinois,  
March 4, 1944.

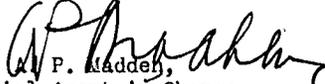
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Mr. Elmer L. Irely,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
Room 109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Irely:

There are attached hereto copies of two translations  
from Forwards and Courier, dated February 28, 1944, and March  
2, 1944, respectively.

Very truly yours,

  
W. P. Madden,  
Special Agent in Charge.

Enclosure:  
2 translations.

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MAR 2 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 239

Dear Mr. Irey:

Thank you for sending us the articles from  
the Jewish Daily Courier, February 24, 1944, which  
were sent to you by Mr. A. P. Madden, Special Agent  
in Charge of the Chicago Division.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Elmer L. Irey,  
Assistant to the Secretary,  
109 Treasury Building,  
Washington, D. C.

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**SAD NEWS: WAR REFUGEE BOARD HAS INSUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR LARGE-SCALE RESCUE WORK**

by a reporter of the Forward

Mr. John Pehle, director of the War Refugee Board, created to rescue Jews and other victims of the Hitler Gehena, declared before a Jewish delegation that the Board so far has insufficient funds to conduct rescue work on a large scale. This was reported at a meeting of a large Jewish organization which had sent the delegation to the rescue-director in Washington.

The Jewish delegation went to Washington under the following circumstances:

The director of the War Refugee Board had turned to many Jewish organizations asking them for information about their relief activity on behalf of the needy Jews in Europe and the measures taken to alleviate their plight. Since this particular organization has many other organizations affiliated with it and it occupies itself a great deal with rescuing Jews of Europe, it responded immediately to the director's request and worked out detailed plans for conducting rescue work. A delegation from this organization was then sent to Washington to submit the plans to director Pehle and to discuss certain instances where relief is of immediate necessity.

The delegation had an audience with the director but when the members pointed out certain instances where immediate aid is necessary, the director stated that aid immediately cannot be given because so far there is no money. The government has made no appropriation as yet for this purpose and opinion has it that Jews will be turned to to finance the rescue work.

Immediately the delegation visited a number of Congressman and Senators informing them about it. Those gentlemen were perplexed but promised to look into the matter and prevail upon the three members of the Board that the government should finance the activity.

The delegates made it clear to the Congressmen and Senators that it is virtually impossible to impose the burden of such relief work upon the Jews. Several hundred million dollars is required for such work. It is a task which only the government can undertake. Besides, the U.J.A. has just decided on a program for a \$2 million dollar relief fund which cannot incorporate even part of the rescue work. No larger fund can now be created by Jews. A few Senators immediately went to see Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, about the new situation.

At the meeting, where this problem was taken up, various plans were discussed as to how to effect the government's financing the rescue work. There was a divergence of opinion in connection with publicizing the news. The opinion prevailed that the news should not be published as yet but a few representatives declared that they will publicize it. The question aroused a heated discussion particularly because of the Palestine Resolution now under consideration. Some pointed out that since one cannot approach the State Department with many problems at the same time, the question of financing the rescue work should be postponed. On the other hand, there were others who argued that the Jewish people is of greater importance than the Jewish homeland and that if postponement should lead, God forbid, to the annihilation of a certain number of Jews, then it is more important to consider first the problem of financing the rescue work rather than talk about the Palestine Resolution.

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M. Kavit

(HUB)

**STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZES VAAD HAHATSALA TO DO RESCUE WORK**  
(Special report by A. Reishman)

A communication received by the Agudath Harabanim from the State and Treasury Departments discloses that the government has given its authorization and approval for the Vaad Hahatsala, famous relief organization of orthodox Jewry, to conduct general rescue work as well, and that it is ready to enable the Vaad to do large-scale rescue work.

The Vaad Hahatsala, which was organized four-and-a-half years ago to rescue the remnant of Polish and Lithuanian orthodox Jewry, and began over a year ago to extend its relief activities to include general Jewish rescue work, that is, rescuing not only orthodox Jewish refugees, but also all other Jews who could be snatched from the clutches of death, now has the opportunity to extend its rescue activities with the blessings of our government in Washington.

Vaad Hahatsala has already remitted \$154,000 for immediate rescue

The Vaad Hahatsala has already given its answer to the historic and humanitarian gesture of the American Government, which has just created a special government agency -- the War Refugee Board -- with the aim to undertake immediate and practical steps for the rescue of unfortunate European Jewry.

After President Roosevelt announced the decision of the government to create the War Refugee Board, placing at the head of this government commission the greatest and most important diplomatic, military and economic experts in the country, and on the basis of the above-mentioned communication from Washington to the Vaad Hahatsala -- the leaders of the Vaad called an urgent meeting of the administrative board in order to map out a plan for rapid action in the field of relief for those who have the opportunity now to be rescued.

At this meeting, held Monday evening at the office of the Vaad Hahatsala, 138 Nassau Street, with Rabbi Israel Rosenberg presiding, and attended by a number of prominent personalities, heads of yeshivas, rabbis, social workers and lay-leaders, tens of thousands of dollars were collected on the spot (through loans), thus enabling the Vaad Hahatsala to remit \$154,000 at once for the rescue of thousands of Jewish people, numbering many Torah scholars.

Many ten thousands of dollars were spent by the Vaad Hahatsala in the course of the past year to rescue Jews from the European valley of tears; hundreds and perhaps thousands of Jewish men, women and children were recently rescued from a horrible death, thanks to the vigilance and tireless work of the Vaad Hahatsala. Now, however, with the remittance of \$154,000 -- is the first time the Vaad Hahatsala has managed to collect so swiftly and remit such a large sum for general Jewish rescue.

At the present moment the Vaad Hahatsala is preparing to arouse American Jewry to seize the opportunity to rescue tens of thousands of Jews from the European Gehena. The rescue activity, which is already going on, must not be interrupted but strengthened and accelerated.

The same news item is repeated in the Jewish Daily Forward.

Transl.  
hr/hw  
1/26/44

The Day  
Sunday - January 23, 1944

Mr. Buchman

STATEMENT OF JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS ON CAMPAIGN TO RESCUE JEWS

On Friday, January 21st, a news item from Washington in the Jewish press reported that the Treasury Department has concluded an agreement with representatives of the American Jewish Conference and the Jewish World Congress according to which "the Jewish World Congress is recognized as the agency to carry on the activity of rescuing Jews from the European Gehena." In connection with this the Executive Committee of the Jewish World Congress has the following explanation:

For quite some time the Executive Committee of the Jewish World Congress and the Rescue Committee of the American Jewish Conference have been conducting negotiations in Washington in the name of American Jewry for rescue activity of Jews in Europe on a larger scale. Similar efforts are being made by the British section of the Jewish World Congress in London. Plans submitted in both Washington and London have been well received. There is ground for hope that the rescue activity will soon expand considerably.

At the same time the Executive Committee of the Jewish World Congress must state that no official agreement of any sort has been concluded until now, and that negotiations have not been conducted in the sense that the Jewish World Congress should become the sole agency for carrying on the rescue activity of European Jews. No one of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress has issued such a statement.

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Transl.  
hr/hw - 1/24/44

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Jewish Morning Journal  
January 31, 1944

*Handwritten initials*

**U. S. GOVERNMENT WILL AID THE CAMPAIGN OF THE JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS  
TO RESCUE JEWS**

**(Special telegram to the Jewish Morning Journal)**

Washington, Thursday. -- Your correspondent learned today that the American government made a very important step towards rescuing the Jews of Europe. Through the Treasury Department an agreement was concluded with the Jewish leaders of New York, representing the American Jewish Conference and the Jewish World Congress according to which the Jewish World Congress is recognized as the agency through which the campaign to rescue Jews will be conducted.

The details of this agreement have not been revealed as yet. It was assured, however, that it is pretty extensive and provides possibilities for carrying on concrete work, which means the rescue of hundreds and thousands of Jewish lives.

It seems as though the government will allot for this purpose a very large sum of money.

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The Jewish Morning Journal contacted yesterday both the Jewish World Congress and the American Jewish Conference but obtained no more than a confirmation as to the truth of this report and that Rabbi Irving Miller has reported on it Wednesday evening to the Administrative Committee of the Jewish Congress.

It was also intimated that any day the matter will be published in greater detail.

Transl.  
hr/bw - 1/31/44

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