

Representation of Yugoslav Jews

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NOV 18 1944

Dear Dr. Weltmann:

Mr. Ira Hirschmann, until recently the Special Representative of the War Refugee Board in Ankara, has referred to me your letter of October 10, 1944, concerning the plight of a group of Jewish refugees in Partisan-controlled Yugoslavia.

The situation of these refugees is known to the Board's representatives and to various private organizations, and I am informed that private agencies are now endeavoring to extend emergency aid to them.

Please be assured that the Board will do everything in its power to facilitate measures for the protection and relief of these people.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Dr. Meir Weltmann,  
Representation of Yugoslav Jews,  
33 Lilienblum Street,  
Tel-Aviv, Palestine.

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OFFICE OF  
I. A. HIRSCHMANN

November 7, 1944.

To: Mr. John W. Pehle

The enclosed letter was  
transmitted to me from Ankara,  
which I assume you will wish  
to acknowledge.

iah/em  
encl.

I. A. Hirschmann



*Best regards!*

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# התאחדות עולי יוגוסלביה / HITAHDOT OLEI JUGOSLAVIJA

תל אביב / רחוב לילינבלום 33 / טלפון 2576 / TEL - AVIV / 33, LILIENTHUM ST. / PHONE 2576

REPRESENTATION OF YUGOSLAV JEWS  
JERUSALEM / 5, RAMBAN STREET / PHONE 5541

נציגות יהודי יוגוסלביה  
ירושלים / רחוב רמב"ן 5 / טלפון 5541

תל אביב, 10th Oct. 1944  
ירושלים, JERUSALEM.

Dear Mr. Hirschmann,

I address myself to you as President Roosevelt's representative for the rescue of war refugees and beg to appeal to you in the name of Yugoslav Jewry which, on the day of the German invasion, numbered about 80,000 souls.

Perhaps 8,000 to 10,000 of us are alive today: Some 2,000, or more, are fighting with the Partisans. We estimate the number of Jewish officers and men in the Yugoslav Army, who are prisoners of war in Germany, to be a few hundred. In concentration camps in Yugoslavia there may be another thousand or more, and in Palestine, the U.S.A., Italy, Hungary and Switzerland some 3,000 to 4,000. That is all.

1,200 persons, elderly men and women with children are in Yugoslavia proper, saved by the Partisans. They are living in the liberated area, round the little towns of Topusko and Glina, without food, clothing or shoes, without medicine, among people who even in peace time had not too much to wear or eat, and who during war time have not remained immune from imported anti-semitism. The Partisans are protecting them and have agreed to send them, since the Dalmatian ports are still in German hands, by air to Italy. We have received letters and requests for help. They are free, but starving in the mountains and forests of Yugoslavia. It is unlikely that this part of Yugoslavia will be liberated before winter sets in and our refugees there, the last remnants of a Jewish community, can be saved from complete annihilation. In addition they are in daily danger of the Germans and Croat Ustachis.

Their situation is not identical with that of the other non-Jews there. These are not in danger of being killed by Germans or Ustachis and they have some food in their homes and fields, even if it is not too much. They, too, are suffering, but the situation of the Jews is incomparably worse. But they can be saved.

The Allies supply these areas by air, and by the same means the refugees can be transported to Italy. In the same way these 1,200 Jews can be supplied with food, clothing and medicine.

I implore you, Mr. Hirschmann, to do your best to rescue these people who can be saved.

Yours very respectfully,

*Dr. Meir Weltmann*  
Dr. Meir Weltmann

I. Hirschmann, Esq.,

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