

Requests for Specific Aid: BERKOWITZ, DAVID

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In reply please
refer to: 2940

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mr. Berkowicz:

I have your letter of July 5, 1944, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in bringing your parents from Italy to the United States.

Your desire to have your parents included in the 1,000 refugees to be brought to the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, meets with the fullest sympathy of the Board. I know you will understand, however, that the urgency of the task, and the speed with which it had to be carried out, precluded any selection of specific individuals by the Board. Selection of refugees was made abroad on the basis of their availability for immediate transport, and their relative need.

I am enclosing for your information copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram to Ambassador Murphy in Algiers, and his memorandum of June 8, 1944, to the heads of the agencies concerned in the execution of the project. You will note from these enclosures that the individuals brought to the shelter will come to the United States outside the regular immigration laws, and will stay in the camp until the end of the war when they will be returned to their homelands. This is strictly an emergency measure and since the persons to be given asylum here will be brought in outside the regular immigration procedure, none of them will, as a result of their admission under this project, acquire any of the rights and privileges of legal immigrants.

In the event that your parents are not included in this group, it is possible that a private organization may be in a position to be of some assistance until such time as

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conditions may permit them to immigrate to this country. Accordingly, I suggest that you make inquiry of any one of the agencies named in the enclosed list.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. David Berkowicz,
233 Spring Street,
Trenton 8, New Jersey.

Enclosures.

R3/RBHutchison:agr 7-26-44

JW

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7/11
2940

233 Spring Street,
Trenton, 8 New Jersey,
July 5, 1944

To: Files _____
Ans. 7/26/44 _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Mr. John Pehle,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I have been referred to you by Mr. Howard K. Travers, chief of the Visa Division of the Department of State, concerning my deep hope of having my parents included in the group of war refugees which the government is planning to bring to the United States from Italy.

I am a citizen of the United States and a veteran of this war. I have filed all necessary papers with the Department of State for the regular immigration of my parents to this country and a petition for preference visas for them has already been approved. The one unfortunate point is that at the present time there is no American consular visa issuing office in Italy and their visa cases must therefore remain inactive indefinitely.

My parents fled from Germany and were formerly held as prisoners of war in the concentration camp at Ferramonte-Carsia in the province of Cosenza, southern Italy. They were freed by the Allied army and have remained on at this camp as they have no other place to go.

My sincere hope and prayer is that in view of all these circumstances, you may see fit to include my parents in the group to be brought to the United States. Any help or assistance, materially or financially, that I might be able to give toward this end, I would consider a great favor.

Hoping to receive your kind consideration and thanking you deeply for it, I remain

Sincerely yours,

David Berkowicz

David Berkowicz

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