Request for Specific Aid: Berkowitz, David
In reply please refer to: 2940

Dear Mr. Berkovics:

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
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. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.
Eo. pgng to place your idea for help and you see all...

Since you:

David Berkowicz

David Berkowicz