Requests for Specific Aid: Capouya, Morris N. (Dr.)
In reply please refer to 528

APR 20 1944

Dear Dr. Capouya:

Your inquiry to Senator Hill, concerning the possibility of assistance from the War Refugee Board in transferring your father, mother and sister from Rhodes, Aegean Islands, to a neutral country, has been referred to me.

I think you will understand that the task of the Board is so great that, of necessity, it cannot deal with problems limited to seeking out and rescuing specific individuals. We shall, of course, do everything in our power to rescue and save victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

I suggest that you may wish to refer your particular case to a private organization. There is enclosed a list of some of the organizations which I am advised may be in a position to be of some help to you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. Morris H. Capouya,
117 Adams Avenue,
Montgomery 5, Alabama.

Enclosure.

[Handwritten note: Original signature by J. W. Pehle]
TO: WRB - Mr. Pehle
FROM: WRB - Mr. Warren

DATE: April 11, 1944

SUBJECT: Senator Hill

Attached herewith is a letter from Senator Hill dated April 3, with reference to the parents of Dr. Morris N. Capouya of Montgomery, Alabama, who are believed to be at present in Rhodes, Aegean Islands.

Also attached is a copy of an acknowledgment written to Senator Hill by the Secretary of State.

Attachments:
1. From Senator Hill, April 3, 1944.
2. To Senator Hill.
United States Senate  
COMMITTEE ON  
EXPENDITURES IN THE EXECUTIVE  
DEPARTMENTS  
April 3, 1944

The Secretary of State  
Washington 25, D. C.  

My dear Mr. Secretary:  

I quote below from a letter which I have just received from Dr.  
Morris N. Capouya, 117 Adams Avenue, Montgomery 6, Alabama:  

"It is my understanding that a Refugee Board has been set up  
with the Secretary of State Haul at its head to enable those  
refugees in the occupied countries to be transferred to neutral or  
other countries.  

"I was referring to my father, mother and sister now  
preumably in Rhodes, Aegean Islands. They are close to Turkey and  
was wondering if something could be done to enable them to go to  
Turkey or any other possible haven. I have been trying to send a  
cable through the International Red Cross, but was told that it was  
a military zone of operations."

I shall greatly appreciate it if you will advise me regarding  
this matter, in order that I may answer Dr. Capouya's inquiry.  

Thanking you and with all good wishes, I am,  

Very sincerely,  

[Signature]
Dear Senator Hill:

I have just received a copy of your letter of April 2
transmitting an inquiry from Mr. Morris V. Capouya of
Guntersville, Alabama, regarding the identity of his parents,
who are believed to be at Anoco, Virgin Islands, to enter
the U.S.

I am requesting the Executive Director of the War
Refugee Board to communicate direct with you concerning
this matter.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable
Lister Hill,
United States Senate.
In reply please refer to: 526

My dear Senator:

Your letter of April 3, 1944, to the Secretary of State, concerning the desire of Dr. Capouya to have his parents transferred from Rhodes, Aegean Islands, to a neutral country, has been referred to me.

Because of the tremendous task it faces in effecting the policy of this Government to save and rescue the victims of enemy oppression, one of the Board's first decisions was to confine itself to projects for the rescue of groups of persons. It was felt that, of necessity, the Board could not seek out and rescue specific individuals.

In view of this, I have suggested to Dr. Capouya that he seek the assistance of a private organization in his problem. Established organizations engaged in relief and refugee work have indicated their willingness to cooperate with the Board in cases of this kind. Once a way of escape has been opened up, these private organizations should be able to be of great help in the re-uniting of families, and otherwise assisting specific refugees.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Dr. Capouya.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable Lister Hill,
United States Senate.

Enclosure.

Original signed by
J.W. Pehle

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