

Requests for Specific: MEAD, JAMES M. (SENATOR)

000933

In reply please  
refer to: 3096

JUL 29 1944

My dear Senator:

The Secretary of State has referred to me a copy of your letter of July 11, 1944, written on behalf of one of your constituents who desires to have his sister brought from Italy to the United States.

Your constituent's desire to have his sister 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 this 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.

You may wish to send to him the enclosed 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. It is pointed out in these enclosures that the individuals brought to the shelter will come to the United States outside the regular immigration laws and will be placed in the camp under appropriate military security restrictions 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 not enter the country under the regular immigration procedure, they will not, as a result of their admission under this project, acquire any of the rights and privileges of legal immigrants.

In the event that your constituent's sister is not included in this group, and if he is interested in having her enter the United States under the immigration laws, I suggest that he communicate with the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for information as to the procedure necessary.

Very truly yours,

**(Signed) J. W. Pehle**

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable James M. Mead,

United States Senate.

*RBH* enclosures.

*RBH* RBHutchison:agr 7-27-44

000934

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

3095

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
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To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
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Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

July 21, 1944

In reply refer to  
NRB

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board and refers for his attention and action the attached copy of a letter from Senator James M. Mead of July 11, 1944 and the Department's reply thereto.

Enclosures:

1. From Senator Mead  
July 11, 1944.
2. To Senator Mead.

*gsw*

000935

COPY

UNITED STATES SENATE  
Committee on Commerce

July 11, 1944.

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State  
State Department,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I received a letter from one of my constituents which reads in part as follows:

"Recently, I have read in the newspapers that President Roosevelt has ordered Mr. Murphy, the civilian ranking officer in Africa, to bring 1,000 refugees from Southern Italy to this country, where they are to be put in a camp in New York state.

Is there any way to have my sister be one of those thousand refugees? As I mentioned before, I volunteered for the service 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, I have become an American citizen over a year ago, my sister has applied in 1938 and in 1939 for an immigration visa and so far has had 5 years of concentration camps for no other reason but being Jewish - and I'm the only relative she has - since my father has been deported to either Poland or Russia in 1941 and we have never heard from him since - and my mother has died in 1940 in the Nazi-dominated Vienna . . . "

I shall appreciate your supplying him with the necessary information.

Sincerely yours,

JAS. M. MEAD

000936

COPY

In reply refer to  
WRB

My dear Senator Mead:

I have received your letter of July 11, 1944 containing excerpts from a letter from one of your constituents who inquires whether his sister in Europe may be included among the 1,000 refugees to be brought from southern Italy to the camp at Fort Ontario, near Oswego, New York.

As the President has placed overall responsibility for this project in the hands of the War Refugee Board, your letter has been referred to the Board for reply.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable

James M. Mead,

United States Senate.

000937

July 21, 1944

In reply refer to  
WRB

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1. From Senator Mead  
July 11, 1944.
2. To Senator Mead.

RECEIVED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
RECEIVED

000938