

Requests for Specific Aid: Rogers, Will, Jr.

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MAR 20 1944

In reply please
refer to: 325

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I have your letter of March 13, 1944, written in behalf of Jacob and Israel Moscovici who are endeavoring to enable their family to leave Rumania and go to Palestine.

One of the projects which the War Refugee Board is pushing with the greatest possible speed is an effort to evacuate to Turkey and Palestine Jews from Rumania and other areas adjacent to the Black Sea. The Board's representative in Ankara, Mr. Ira Hirschmann, has been extremely active in arranging transportation from Bulgaria and Rumania into Turkey, and in securing the cooperation of the Turkish Government in this matter. The War Refugee Board and other government agencies, including the War Shipping Administration, are backing to the limit these efforts of Mr. Hirschmann. Already Hirschmann has succeeded in increasing the flow of refugees by land from Bulgaria into Turkey and the Board has hopes that evacuation by sea from Rumania will be initiated very soon. The Board, through all possible channels, is exerting pressure on the Governments of Rumania and Bulgaria to permit Jews to leave those countries and to desist from collaboration in the Nazi campaign of extermination.

Because of the tremendous task facing the War Refugee Board in effectuating the policy of this Government to save and rescue Jews and other victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death, the Board feels that it cannot undertake projects limited to the seeking out and rescue of specific individuals. However, it is hoped that the general program now being actively carried out by the Board in the Black Sea area will, if successful, result in the rescue of many persons from Rumania.

In the interests of the Board's program, it is suggested that

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you regard as confidential the information given to you in this letter with respect to the specific action being taken in Turkey.

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Pehle
J. W. Pehle,
Acting Executive Director

Honorable Will Rogers, Jr.,
House of Representatives.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

JBF
JBF:bbk - 3/18/44

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
In reply please
refer to: 325

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I have your letter of March 13, 1944, written in behalf of Jacob and Israel Koscovici who are endeavoring to enable their family to leave Rumania and go to Palestine.

Because of the tremendous task it faces in effectuating 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.

It is expected that the facilities of private organizations will be utilized to the greatest extent possible to achieve the objectives of the Board. Established private organizations engaged in relief and refugee work have indicated their willingness to cooperate with the Board and persons seeking assistance for the rescue of specific individuals are being referred to such agencies. Once a way of escape has been opened up, these organizations should be able to be of great help in cases of this kind.

I am enclosing a list of several private organizations which I am advised may be in a position to be of help to these people. It is suggested that your friend in Los Angeles may wish to take the matter up with one of these agencies for them.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Honorable Will Rogers, Jr.,
House of Representatives.

Enclosure.

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WILL ROGERS, JR.
16TH DISTRICT CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

March 13, 1944.

W. R. B. _____ *325
Filing Authority _____
To: Files _____
Ans. _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Acting Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Main Treasury Building,
Washington, D. C.

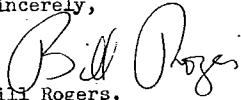
Dear Mr. Pehle:

A very good friend of mine in Los Angeles has written me as follows:

"Two Rumanian kids by name of Jacob and Israel Moscovici got sick of the pushing around they and their people were getting and got themselves into the British Air Force in Palestine. Currently they can be reached at this address: c/o Shonfeld, 52 Nachmany Street, Tel-Aviv. Since they've been there, they've been trying to get their folks, brothers and sisters, out of Rumania and into Palestine. And an immigration certifice, #M/438/43/F/325, has been given the folks who live at 11 Burqajeni Street, Harlau, Rumania. Name: Aizik Hersch Moscovici and Family. The stumbling block is a transit visa through Turkey. If they get that, they're on the way to join the fighting sons. Can you help them get this transit visa?"

I shall appreciate it very much if the War Refugee Board will endeavor to expedite issuance of the transit visa through Turkey for these deserving people.

Sincerely,


Bill Rogers.

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