

Requests for Specific Aid; ROTH, H.

000109

In reply please
refer to: 203

MAR 24 1944

Dear Mr. Fertig:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of February 21, 1944, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in rescuing the family of Hershel Roth from occupied territory.

We have requested the consideration of the Department of State on certain aspects of this problem and will advise you further as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. H. Maldwin Fertig,
Fertig, Walter & Gottesman,
84 William Street,
New York 7, New York.

EBT
EBTowler:agr 3-23-44 JH ✓

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203
FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS.
NO ANS. REQ.
INITIAL
DATE
IN REPLY REFER TO FILE

February 21st
1944

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I suppose I am a bold man indeed to again respectfully call your attention to the correspondence of Hershel Roth under date of February 7th, 1944, to which you replied on February 16th, 1944.

I do so under the impact of the urgent pleas of Mr. Roth and other members of his family with whom I am distantly related. Needless to say I have no professional interest whatsoever in the matter.

I appreciate the huge problem you are confronted with and the necessity for dealing with mass problems rather than with individual cases. Yet, unfortunately for the immediate present, I take it, the possibilities of substantial achievement in the way of mass relief seems none too bright so that if an insignificant trickle of war sufferers can be saved, for one good reason or another, that much is saved from possible annihilation.

A distinguishing feature in this case lies in the fact that Roth's wife and family were on the point of coming here but were delayed by reason of the requirement of them by our representative in Berlin to travel from Gracow to Berlin. Two months later war broke out. I assume that under the rules it was necessary for them so to do; and yet, perhaps, the granting of a visa might have been facilitated in some proper way.

I sincerely hope that it may be possible for you to suggest to the State Department that our embassy in Switzerland approve their passports so that they may be able to come to Switzerland.

I am fully cognizant of the extraordinary action I am suggesting and do so humbly; but, nevertheless, have the temerity to ask it because in the

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Mr. John Pehle, Director -2- February 21st, 1944

midst of the enormity of the world catastrophe, the incidental saving of a few lives, if possible, gives me the courage to communicate with you. I shall deeply appreciate your consideration of this letter and pray for an affirmative response.

Respectfully yours,

Musevin Pehle

MMF:BG

000112

FEB 16 1944

In reply please
refer to: 43

Dear Mr. Roth:

Reference is made to your letter of February 7, 1944, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in saving certain members of your family in Poland from Nazi persecution.

I think that you will understand that the task of the Board is so great that, of necessity, it will have to confine itself to projects involving the relief or rescue of groups of persons and that it cannot deal with problems limited to seeking out and rescuing any specific individuals. I suggest that you may wish to refer your problem to a private organization. The following are some of the organizations which I am advised may be in a position to be of help to you:

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant
Aid Society, (HIAS)

425 Lafayette Street,
New York, New York.

American Friends Service
Committee

20 South 12th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Unitarian Friends Service
Committee

25 Beacon Street,
Boston 8, Mass.

The American Committee for
Christian Refugees

397 Fourth Avenue,
New York, New York.

War Relief Services - National
Catholic Welfare Conference

Empire State Building,
350 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. H. Roth
263 Broome Street,
New York, New York.

RBH Hutchison: 2/15/44

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FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS.
NO ANS. R&Q.
INITIAL
DATE.....

263 Broome Street
New York City
February 7, 1944

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

RE: Roth, Etka
Fertig, Mauryey (Moses)

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I am writing to you in reference to the case of my wife, Etka Roth, and three children, Max, Szyman Leib and Nachman Fein Roth; and also of my son-in-law, Mauryey (Moses) Fertig, my daughter, Sara Rosa Fertig, and their son, Erna. As far as I am aware, they are all in the ghetto of Bochnia, Poland, under the German occupation. I wish to give you a brief case history.

The case of my wife and children were originally approved for the granting of a visa in February, 1940, and due to the fact that she could not travel to Berlin to procure their visa, they could not come to the United States. It is really unfortunate that because of this technical difficulty, it has become impossible for me to become united with my wife and children. At the same time I also wish to inform you that I had filed an affidavit in behalf of my son-in-law, my daughter and their child, in February, 1941.

I wish to further state that I am an ill man, and I have built up a little business in hosiery, and that it is absolutely essential for me to be reunited with my family. I am willing to bring every sacrifice humanly possible so that they should be able to come to this country. I therefore wish to respectfully propose that the Department of State at the suggestion of the War Refugee Board issue visas for my wife and three children; and also my new daughter-in-law, Frieda Roth, formerly Neufeld; and also my son-in-law, Mauryey (Moses) Fertig, his wife and their child; that they cable the approval of these visas to the American Embassy in Switzerland and that the American Embassy ask the Swiss government to inform my family that visas await them in Switzerland. I feel that if such action is taken, it would be possible for them to leave the ghetto and be able to come to Switzerland.

I earnestly entreat and beg that you consider this proposal because I feel that this is the last efforts that I can make to save their lives while it is yet possible. With a deep gratitude for all that you will do in this behalf and I am also willing to state that I am willing to pay every expense that may be incurred for this purpose.

Yours very respectfully,

H. Roth

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