

Requests for Specific Aid: Szegő, G. (Dr.)

000271

SEP 1 1944

Dear Professor Szego:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 8, 1944.

Please be assured that the War Refugee Board is doing, and will continue to do, everything within its power to protect the lives of victims of Nazi persecution in Hungary and elsewhere. The Board cannot, however, for practical reasons, undertake the rescue or special protection of specific individuals.

With respect to your mother, however, I suggest that as an American citizen you promptly file with the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice at Philadelphia, Pa., a petition to establish her status as a person entitled to a first-preference quota immigration visa to the United States as the mother of a citizen of the United States who is 21 years of age or over. It is suggested that when you file the petition you advise the Immigration and Naturalization Service that you are doing so at the suggestion of the War Refugee Board. Enclosed you will find a proper form of such petition.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director.

Professor Gabor Szego,  
Department of Mathematics,  
Stanford University,  
Stanford University, California.

Enclosure.

LSLesser:

*M.S.*  
MSargoy/dh 8/30/44

*JW*

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Stanford University, Aug. 25, 1944. 3300

War Refugee Board,  
Treasury Department,  
Room 190,  
Washington, D.C.

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Authority \_\_\_\_\_  
To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
No. Ans. Req. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Sirs -

In a letter of Aug. 8 I applied to your Board for help to my relatives in Hungary. In the meantime my friend Capt. C. I. Stafford from the War Department (Republic 6700, Extension 6824) was kind enough to visit your office on my behalf. He sends me today the following information received from your officials:

"The U.S. has an agreement with the Swiss whereby the Swiss will assist in helping persecuted persons and refugees in Hungary where these persons are members of the immediate family of U.S. citizens. . . . In the event these people apply to the Swiss and their relationship to American citizens is established, the Swiss will grant them transit visas for entry into Switzerland. . . . Should any of your relatives be members of your immediate family, as thus defined, the War Refugee Board will attempt to assist you. . . ."

In view of this I should like to submit a new application to the Board in the interest of my mother. My specific request is that assistance should be extended to her by your agencies in order that she should be enabled to leave Hungary and enter Switzerland as soon as possible.

I am citizen of the U.S.A.

My mother's name is: Mrs. Adolf Szegö (maiden name: Hermine Neumann), widow, Hungarian citizen, her age is 76, she is in good health, her last known address: Kresz Géza-utca 36, II/7, Budapest, Hungary.

In case she could not be reached under this address (because of the bombing many people left Budapest) an attempt might be made with the following address: Mrs. Adolf Szegö, c/o Mrs. Dezsö Roth, Szolnok, Hungary, Magyar-utca.

A further possibility would be the following address: Mrs. Adolf Szegö, c/o Mrs. Jenö Andor, Személynök-utca 16, IV, 5, Budapest V, Hungary.

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As I mentioned in my previous letter  
I have a friend in Switzerland:

M. Robert Monnier, Kungenmattstrasse 29, Zürich, or  
Chalet des Alpes, Chesieres, Switzerl.

Swiss citizen, who knows my mother personally and he  
would be no doubt of help to her.

I am willing to take over expenses of  
the communication and also the living expenses of my  
mother in Switzerland until some kind of final arrangement  
can be found for her.

I should be greatly obliged to you  
for notifying me of any future change in the functions  
and power of the War Refugee Board which may make in-  
dividual help more practicable than at the present mo-  
ment.

Thanking you in advance for whatever  
help you are able to render in this case, I am

very truly yours

*Dr. G. Szegö*

000274

Stanford University, Aug. 8, 1944.

War Refugee Board,  
Treasury Department,  
Room 190,  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs -

I am Professor of Mathematics and Executive Head of the Math. Department at Stanford University, Calif., I am USA citizen. I take the liberty to submit an application in order to secure aid and protection for my relatives in Hungary.

I understand that the War Refugee Board is a new organization of the Government with the purpose to help refugees and persecuted persons in territories occupied or ruled by Fascist governments. According to my information your Board is in the position to transfer cases, brought to your attention, directly to your representatives in neutral countries. I received this information by way of the Swiss Legation, Washington, D.C.

May I therefore make the request to kindly undertake the necessary steps in order that my relatives may obtain the protection of the representatives of Switzerland in Budapest, Hungary. Furthermore may I seek your help in order to acquire Swiss visa for the persons listed enclosed in order to secure for them a "temporary heaven".

The reason why I make my application to Switzerland is that my family has friends of Swiss citizenship and relatives residing in that country. This fact is, as I understand, a prerequisite to the willingness of neutral governments to extend permits to refugees. The cousin of my wife is

Mrs. Andor Teleki, Avenue Mon Repos 32, Lausanne, Switzerl.

She and her husband are also refugees from Vienna and are residing in Switzerland since about 6 years. I do not know whether they are Swiss citizens.

M. Robert Monnier, Kungenmattstrasse 29, Zürich, or  
Chalet des Alpes, Chesieres, Switzerl.

is a business friend of my brother Andreas Szegö, Budapest.

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Finally

Mathilde Hess, Zollikerstrasse 27, Zollikon-Zürich,

is a friend of my wife since 1927. According to present regulations I am not allowed to contact these people directly. I suppose that your representatives will be in the position to do so.

The safety and even the life of these mostly "non-arian" persons is seriously endangered in Hungary. Although according to news reports the deportation of people with Jewish ancestry was promised to stop, such promises are not always kept. The situation may change to the worse, especially if the Nazis become desperate. Also my relatives have been or may be persecuted not necessarily on racial grounds alone. Another reason may be that they have relatives in this country. Furthermore it may be known that they were politically liberal and have been wishing an Allied Victory ever since the war started in Europe. Prior Pearl Harbor, i.e. as long as we could communicate with them, their letters contained only thinly veiled allusions to this fact.

May I ask approximately what expenses are expected to be involved in any arrangements your Board would undertake in this matter? I own property here and my yearly salary and savings might be a guarantee to the Swiss authorities that their expenses would be reimbursed as soon as transfers will be again permissible. I hope that the above mentioned Swiss citizens may be also willing to support this case.

I should be greatly obliged to you for any quick help you may be able to extend to these poor suffering people. Of course I am eager to give you more detailed information concerning questions or inquiries if requested.

Very truly yours

G. Szegö

Gabor Szegö

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Name	Maiden Name	Age	Relation	Last Address
1. Mrs. Adolf Szegő (widow)	Hermine Neumann	76	mother	Budapest, V. Kresz- Géza-utca 36, II/7
2. Andreas Szegő		44	brother	Budapest, Pozsonyi- ut 24, IV, 2 or as 1.
3. Mrs. " "	Etta Kenyeres	36	sister-in- law	"
4. Judith " "		11	niece	"

all relatives of Gabor Szegő, USA citizen.

5. Jenő Andor		63	brother-in- law	Budapest, V. Személy- nök-utca 16, IV, 5
6. Mrs. " "	Elisabeth G. Neményi	55	sister	"
7. Károly Singer		38	nephew by marriage	Budapest, V. Pozsonyi- ut 32, mez. 1 or as 5
8. Mrs. " "	Eva Andor	34	niece	"
9. Julius Eisner		64	brother-in- law	Budapest, VI. Teréz- körut 26, or Leány- falu-Pócsmegyer (Pécs- megye).
10. Mrs. " "	Maria Neményi	47	sister	"
11. Tamás "		27	nephew	" <i>Last heard:</i> (soldier, Pécs)
12. George Nagy		30	nephew by marriage	"
13. Mrs. " "	Marietta Eisner	25	niece	"
14. Baby boy of 12 and 13.		1	gr. nephew	"
15. Janos Eisner		22	nephew	"
16. Andor Neményi		57	brother	Eger (Heves megye) Piac-tér
17. Georges Neményi		25	nephew	"

all relatives of Mrs. G. Szegő, née Ann Elisabeth Neményi,  
USA citizen.

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