

Requests for Specific Aid; TOLAN, JOHN H.

000291

MAR 23 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 337

My dear Mr. Tolan:

I have your letter of March 16, 1944, enclosing a letter addressed to you by Mr. Stefan Blum of San Francisco, California, and a copy of your reply.

Because of the tremendous task it faces in effectuating the policy of this Government to save and rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, 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 Mr. Blum 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 re-uniting families and otherwise assisting specific refugees.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Blum and, in accordance with your request, am returning his letter to you, a copy having been retained for our files.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Honorable John H. Tolan  
House of Representatives.

*Original signed  
by Mr. Pehle*

Enclosures.

*EAB*  
EDT:agr 3-18-44

000292

MAR 23 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 337

Dear Mr. Blum:

Your letter of March 10, 1944, to Congressman John H. Tolson, has been referred to me.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the President's Executive Order of January 23, 1944, declaring it to be the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, and to otherwise afford all possible relief and assistance to such victims consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

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 any specific individuals. We shall, of course, do everything in our power to save the minorities of Europe from Nazi persecution.

I suggest that you may wish to refer your problem 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 help to you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Stefan Blum,  
Chateau Montelena, Inc.,  
593 Market Street,  
San Francisco 5, California.

Enclosure.

EBT  
EBTowler:agr JWP 3/20/44

000293

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.

WASHINGTON, D. C. X337

3/16/44

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
288½ Treasury Building

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in the matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

*John H. Tolan*

M. C.

District.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 9-2404

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JOHN H. TOLAN  
U. S. Representative  
District of California  
Oakland, Berkeley, Albany  
Emeryville, Piedmont

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

Chairman, Committee Investigating  
National Defense Migration  
Member, Committee on Judiciary  
74th, 75th, 76th, and 77th Congresses

March 16, 1944

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

Mr. Stefan Blum  
Chateau Montelena, Inc.  
593 Market Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Blum:

You know from your past experience how gladly I would help you with the problem you present in your letter of March 10 if I could. Unfortunately, I am powerless and the War Refugee Board is powerless to act effectively until by armed strength we can seize those areas in which the prison camps are located.

I am, however, forwarding your letter to Mr. J. W. Pehle, executive director of the War Refugee Board, Room 2984 Treasury Building, who will, I am sure, give you more detailed information regarding the purpose and authority of the Board, and who may be able to give you some hope in regard to your relative in Marseilles.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

John H. Tolan  
Member of Congress

000295

DO NOT RETURN TO  
RECEIVED TO  
RECEIVED TO

CHATEAU MONTELENA, INC.  
Selected California Wines  
593 Market Street  
San Francisco, 5

March 10, 1944

Dear Mr. Tolan:

I am taking the liberty of availing myself of your good services in the following matter.

Relatives (Germans) of mine are in a concentration camp in Holland. I am anxious to get them out, they being in danger of starvation and I wish to find refuge for them in a neutral country.

Some one told me that Germans in Dutch concentration camps can be removed to Palestine in connection with an exchange of prisoners or something of this kind. However, I am unable to find out anything about it.

I would appreciate it very much if you can inform me if there is any way for an exchange of prisoners as mentioned above. I would be able to put up some money to help in this exchange.

Also, I have a German relative in Marseille, France, who is most anxious to get out of France into Switzerland. The sum of \$1500.00 is available for the purpose. The money is blocked by the Federal Reserve Bank as property of my relative in France, but I understand the bank would release it to me to use for the escape of my relative into Switzerland.

I shall be genuinely grateful for any information you may have which would tend to help my efforts in the above.

You, Mr. Tolan, have been very kind to me in the past and I hope you will be able to assist me again.

Cordially yours,  
(Sgd.) Stefan Blum

Stefan Blum

Mr. John H. Tolan  
House of Representatives  
1226 House Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

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