

Requests for Specific Aid: WELLES, ELI S.

11

000370

FEB 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 159

My dear Mr. Delaney:

I have your letter of February 16, 1944, enclosing a letter addressed to you by Mr. Eli Resnikoff of Brooklyn, New York, on behalf of Mr. Eli S. Weller.

Because of the tremendous task it faces in effecting 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.

In view of this, I have suggested to Mr. Weller 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 the reuniting of families and otherwise assisting specific refugees.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Weller and am returning Mr. Resnikoff's 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 J. Delaney,
House of Representatives.
Enclosures.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

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FEB 24 1944

In reply please
refer to: 159

Dear Mr. Weller:

I have your letter of February 15, 1944, and its enclosure, requesting the assistance of the War Refugee Board in saving your wife and children in Europe from Nazi persecution.

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 rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

I suggest that you may wish to refer your particular case 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 some help to you.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Eli S. Weller,
14 Lee Avenue,
Brooklyn, New York.

Enclosure.

*Original signed
by Mr. Pehle*

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RECEIVED
FEB 16 1944

DELANEY
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON
25

February 16, 1944

COMMITTEE ON
RULES
159
FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS.
NO ANS. REQ.
INITIAL
DATE 2/21/44
CHA

Honorable John W. Pehle,
Chairman, War Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

This morning I received a letter from Eli Resnikoff,
(a resident of my Congressional District) in the interest of
Eli S. Weller, 14 Lee Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, who is
also one of my constituents.

I am sending Mr. Resnikoff's letter on to you, to-
gether with Mr. Weller's petition on behalf of his family.
If you will be good enough to look into this matter at your
earliest convenience and advise me in the premises, return-
ing Mr. Resnikoff's letter with your reply, it will be
greatly appreciated.

With my very best wishes, I am

Sincerely,
[Signature]

JJD:MMF
Enc.

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ELI RESNIKOFF
Counselor at Law
170 Broadway
New York (7)

--
BARclay 7-7089

February 15, 1944

Honorable John J. Delaney
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

My dear Congressman:

I enclose a petition by Mr. Eli S. Weller of #14 Lee Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, addressed to the Hon. John W. Pehle, Chairman of the newly formed War Refugee Board. The petition is self-explanatory and its appeal is most trenchant. You are quite familiar with this sad situation as you have attempted to help Mr. Weller time and again to bring his family here, which was most appreciated.

Now, it seems, there is a real opportunity to unite this family since the above mentioned Board was formed for the specific purpose of solving such situations. Mr. Weller's case probably is one of the most deserving ones and on that basis it is hoped that the Board will take it up among the first cases to be handled.

Mr. Weller has in the meantime obtained his citizenship and this possibly has removed any obstacle in the way of his being entitled to the fullest assistance of the State Department and the said agency.

He pleads with you, through me, to transmit his petition to Mr. Pehle personally and to do everything possible to assure prompt action thereon as every day counts in the matter of saving the lives of the poor woman and her children and reuniting them with the head of their household here.

Respectfully and with kindest regards,

s/ Eli Resnikoff

ER:KW

000374

February 15, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle, Chairman
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I, Eli S. Weller, am a citizen of the United States, residing at #14 Lee Avenue, Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York. My wife and five children were, at the outbreak of the war in 1939, residing in Warsaw, Poland, and for five long years I have been unable to bring them here out of the hell of Nazi-occupied Europe or even get word of them.

On August 26, 1939, I received a telegram from the American Consul in Warsaw that my wife and children had appointments on October 3 for the issuance of visas to them, in accordance with previous arrangements made through the State Department.

Subsequently, after further steps in the matter I received a letter dated January 29, 1940, from the Department of State advising me to arrange for their transportation. A copy of said letter is annexed hereto. In accordance therewith, I procured the issuance of prepaid steamship tickets by the United States Lines and deposited with them the necessary funds for all transportation costs, visa and other expenses. Shortly thereafter, the transportation arrangements were transferred by the United States Lines to the Italian Line, but when Italy entered into the war there was an end to the possibility of bringing my family here.

I need not dwell upon the pain, suffering and anxiety suffered by me, and infinitely more by my unfortunate wife and children during these five long years, waiting for the war to end or at least for governmental steps to be taken to unite my family and the countless other families kept apart by the war, as well as to save the many victims of the war and Nazism. I believe you will readily realize that my situation is one that deserves attention among the very first cases to be handled by your Board. Every day counts in the saving of their lives and making it possible for my family to become united with me in this blessed country.

May I, therefore, appeal to you to undertake promptly the solution of this case and bring succor and assistance to me and my family as you will, with God's help, also undoubtedly do to many others similarly situated. The names and last known addresses of my wife and children are as follows:

000375

Zlata Weller, Brandla, Mordko-Josef, Ruchla,
Szlama-Jeruchem, and Chaim, Warsaw, Ul Pawra 13/29.

However, in all probability they were removed from
Warsaw and the following addresses all in Poland may be help-
ful in locating them:

- a) Warsaw, Ul, Nalewka No. 23 apartment 81
- b) Biala-Podlasky, Ul. Pilsudski No. 6,
c/o Berko Edelstein
- c) Wlodawa-Podlasky, Ul. Rymarska No. 14,
c/o David Lustigman
- d) Siedleca, Ul. Sokolowska No. 12
c/o Sholom Rubinstein

The file number in the State Department is 811.11
Weller Zlata and children.

I am prepared to pay any necessary sum of money to
guarantee their care and maintenance wherever they may be
and the expenses for their transportation to this country or
any other safe place if their emigration to the United States
or some other safe place can be arranged. I beg you to take
all measures to locate them and to supply them with food,
clothing and other necessities in order to keep them alive until
such action will be possible.

Please, please assure me that you will take immediate
steps in this matter for which I express in advance my deepest
gratitude.

Respectfully yours,

Eli S. Weller

Official communications to
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

January 29, 1940

In reply refer to
SD340.1115/12180

My dear Mr. Weller:

The Department has received a telegram dated January 16, 1940 from the American Consulate General at Warsaw, via Berlin, in which it is stated that Zlata Weller and children are residing at Warsaw, Pawia 13/29.

As soon as Mrs. Weller and children are ready to proceed to the United States it is suggested that you may wish to consult a steamship or travel agency with a view to prepaying ocean passage from Genoa, Italy, and having both transportation and funds cabled to the steamship company's agents at that port. The agents should be instructed to inform the American Consul General at Genoa and the American Embassy at Berlin of any tickets and funds made available to Mrs. Weller. The American Embassy at Berlin should also be requested to advise Mrs. Weller, through the American Consulate General at Warsaw, of the tickets and funds being held for her. It is understood that the following steamship lines are now

Mr. Ela Samuel Weller,
401 Berry Street,
Brooklyn, New York

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maintaining passenger service between Genoa and the United States: American Export Lines, American President Lines and the United States Lines. The Italian Line is also maintaining such a service.

The Department is willing to accept funds for transmission to Mrs. Weller through the American Embassy at Berlin by telegraph at your expense or by mail without cost to you. Funds sent to the Department for transmission abroad should be in the form of certified checks, bank drafts or money orders payable to the Secretary of State of the United States. Should you desire the Department to transmit such funds for you an expression of your wishes as to whether such funds should be transmitted by telegraph or by mail would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours

For the Secretary of State:

Geo. L. Brandt
Administrative Officer
Special Division.

000378