

Requests for A.C. to Jews - General; ARMSTRONG, Nellie C. (Miss)

000438

NOV 17 1944

Dear Miss Armstrong:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of October 21, 1944, concerning the fate of the Jewish people in Europe.

Since its creation on January 22, the Board has worked with other governments ready to cooperate in saving the lives of innocent persons at the mercy of the Nazis and with established private organizations engaged in refugee and relief activities. We have solicited and received suggestions from many sources, and in every instance where it was at all possible or practicable to do so these suggestions have been developed into programs designed to help in effectuating this Government's avowed humanitarian policy.

While the steps by which we have sought and are seeking to attain our objectives cannot, for obvious reasons, be described in detail, the approaches are directed to assisting persons to escape from enemy-occupied territory, to finding havens of refuge for them, to obtaining protection for and better treatment of those for whom escape is not possible, to inducing the satellites to desist from cooperation in the Nazi policy of extermination of minority peoples, and to forestalling the Nazis themselves from further campaigns of persecution and extermination of their victims. Special representatives are stationed in strategic countries to assist in the effective execution of the Board's programs.

In connection with the matter of havens for refugees, you will be interested in the enclosed documents describing the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, New York, where 982 refugees are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war. In addition to the shelter at Fort Ontario, a number of other facilities have been arranged to receive refugees. These include Camp Marechal Lyautey near Casablanca, a newly established shelter in Tripolitania, and expanded refugee camps in the Mediterranean area. In general, and insofar as circumstances permit, efforts are made to care for refugees in places as near to their homelands as possible.

000439

- 2 -

Thank you for your interest in the fate of these persecuted people. I assure you that we will continue to do everything in our power to realize the objectives which prompted the formation of the War Refugee Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Nellie C. Armstrong,
414 Hodgson Street,
Oxford, Pennsylvania.

Enclosures.

EBH RBHutchison:inp 11/15/44 JWA

000440

97
P. H. H. H.
Council

RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

Miss Nellie C. Armstrong
414 Hodgson Street
Oxford, Pennsylvania

✓ *William D. Harrell*
Secretary to the President

Oct. 21, 1944

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President —

I am deeply concerned about
the fate of the persecuted and suffering
Jews in Europe. As in the U.S. and
I am sure, it seems to me to do over there
in helping them with financial aid in
in providing on any loan. Furthermore,
Great Britain and other countries have
done so much more!

Could we not adopt a more
generous policy in admitting our
present immigration laws so that
we could give more of them shelter

000441

people as temporary refuge?

It seems right and just that we should stand by those Jews who have a legal right to find a home in Walltown.

Finally, I believe the offices of the U. S. government should do all in its power to create the spirit of good-will toward the Jewish people here. Thus discouraging anti-Semitism with its disastrous results.

America's greatness is in part due to the fact that she opened her doors to the oppressed, the persecuted and hunted. If we do less to-day, we are slipping.

Very cordially yours,

Willis C. Woodbury

000442