Requests for Aid to Jews - General: Berdassy, Horon Maestros
Dear Mrs. Beardsley:

Thank you for your letter of March 15, 1944, concerning the establishment of the new War Refugee Board.

Your interest in the problems with which the Board is confronted is greatly appreciated. I assure you that every effort will be made to achieve the humanitarian objectives which prompted the formation of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mrs. John Beardsley,
1907 Escarpa Drive,
Los Angeles, California.
THE ENSCARPA DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Mr. John "R. Fohle
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Fohle:

I wish to express my happiness in the appointment of the
Refugees Board and my earnest hope that it may attack its difficult
work with the resolute conviction that much can be done to save the Jewish
people of Europe if every possible avenue of approach is utilized. So
terrible and complicated a problem is a challenge to human intelligence
and creativity. I hope that among the experts to be chosen to serve
on the Board there may be some workers experienced in relief projects
in which they have proved themselves experts, often achieving what seemed
impossible to others through imagination and goodwill.

It would seem that the more favorable military situation
in the Middle East would now enable the British to relax their restrictions
against the entry of Jews into Palestine. I hope that our govern-
ment may urge the admission of as many as can be assimilated under
a courageous but carefully drawn and well-supported economic and cul-
tural plan that recognizes the rights and psychological attitude of
the Arabs as well as the desperate need of the Jews.

Surely the problem of the immediate rescue of the Jewish
people of Europe calls for international strategy and action. If the
great powers among the United Nations feel the compassion that moved
Sweden to open its doors to the Danish Jews and Switzerland again and
again to admit destitute refugees, they can find temporary asylum
somewhere in the world for all the Jews that can escape and can help
them make plans for permanent settlement.

To me it seems of first importance that the United States
with its great territory and resources should initiate such a movement,
accepting its proportion of refugees and aiding financially the smaller
nations and the South American countries that might be willing to
take more refugees if they were assured of support for them. I know
the prejudice and resistance which your committee must overcome in this
country for such a program, but I do not believe we can help achieve
any real solution for the Jews if we are not willing to do our share.
A great deal could be accomplished merely by change in the spirit of
the administration of our present immigration laws, which would permit
the legal entrance of many more refugees under existing quotas.

Immediate action is necessary and behind it determination,
imagination and faith.

Yours respectfully,

(Mrs. John) Helen Marston Beardsley