

Requests for Aid to Jews - General: BEARDSLEY, HELEN MARSTON

000443

In reply please
refer to: 343

MAR 24 1944

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.

EBT
EBTowler:agr 3-21-44

000444

1907 ESCARPA DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

W. R. D. x343

Filing Authority
For Files

March 15, 1944

C. A. S. Reg.

Initial

Date

Hon. John V. Pehle
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I wish to express my happiness in the appointment of the War Refugee Board and my earnest hope that it may attack its difficult task 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 Quakers 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 government may urge the admission of as many as can be assimilated under a courageous but carefully drawn and well-supported economic and cultural 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 asylums 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 neutrals 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 changes 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 Beardslay

000445