

Requests for Aid to Jews - GENERAL BREITMAYER, G. (Mus)

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NOV 18 1944

Dear Mrs. Breitmayer:

The President has referred to me your letter of November 9, 1944, in which you express your interest in the refugee problem.

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 program.

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 areas. In general, and insofar as circumstances permit, efforts are made to care for refugees in places as near to their homelands as possible.

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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

Mrs. Charlotte Breitmayer,
1524 Cordova Avenue,
Lakewood 7, Ohio.

Enclosures.

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RESPECTFULLY REFERRED
FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT
AND CONSIDERATION

William D. Hassett

Secretary to the President

Lakewood, Ohio

November 9, 1944

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The people of the United States are deeply interested in the refugee problem and I urge immediate altering of the administration of our immigration laws. That they be interpreted and applied in a humane and liberal spirit by our officials, which includes temporary asylum, financial help and guarantees to neutrals, Palestine as an asylum and feeding on the Greek plan.

Yours truly,

Charlotte Breitmayer

Mrs. C. Breitmayer

1524 Cordova Avenue

Lakewood 7, Ohio