

Requests for A.I.O. to Jews - GENERAL: KRICHERBOCKER YARN CO., INC.

000525

JUL 21 1944

In reply please  
refer to: 2993

Dear Mr. Onish:

President Roosevelt has referred to me your letter of July 7, 1944, appealing for action to save the Jewish people of Europe.

On January 22, 1944, the President created the War Refugee Board for the purpose of taking all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression and to afford them all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

To accomplish the purpose for which it was created, the War Refugee Board has initiated numerous measures to assist persons to escape from enemy and enemy-occupied countries, to find havens of refuge for them, to obtain better treatment for those for whom escape is not possible, and to induce the satellite countries to desist from cooperating with the Nazi policy of persecution and extermination of minority peoples. The Board has stationed representatives in strategic countries in order to expedite these measures.

In connection with the problem of finding places of asylum for those who are enabled to escape from enemy-controlled areas, you will be interested to know that the President has recently taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, which will be equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands at the end of the war.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Mr. A. H. Onish,  
President,  
Knickerbocker Yarn Company, Inc.,  
635 Sixth Avenue,  
New York, New York.

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# KNICKERBOCKER YARN COMPANY

*Yarns*

635 SIXTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

July 7, 1944

His Excellency the President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

These lines are addressed to you concerning one of the most appalling tragedies never before recorded in the annals of human history, now taking place in Europe.

It concerns the fate of a people - old, young, infirm - women and children alike, who are being rounded up for slaughter at human 'Extermination Centers' - like cattle in the Chicago Stockyards - and wantonly killed for no other reason than they were born Jews.

This, Mr. President, is an appeal for action to save as many as may yet be saved from starvation and slaughter inevitably threatening them. This is a plea for compassion and humaneness, generosity and constructive statesmanship.

This is not a plea for vengeance, for no vindictive retribution will restore the lives that have so innocently been destroyed! This is a heart-rending appeal, addressed to the conscience of America, and particularly to Christian Humanity at large, not to remain silent while 'The Voice of thy Brother's Blood Crieth unto Me from the Ground.'

This is a prayer, Mr. President, that emanates from the hearts and minds of all decent, law-abiding men and women everywhere on this earth, that Providence guide you in these hours of travail, that you may be strengthened in health and remain vigorous of mind, to cope with solutions of this gigantic problem of saving human souls.

May the response of our Government, with your brilliant leadership, be commensurate with the tragic need.

Most respectfully,

KNICKERBOCKER YARN COMPANY, INC.

A.H. Onish  
President



AHO:mlv

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