Requests for AIO to Hungary: Bussey, Gedke, and C.
In reply please
refer to: 3303

SEP 19 1944

Dear Miss Bussey:

I have your letter of August 31, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jews in enemy occupied Europe.

On January 22, 1944, the President created the War Refugees Board for the purpose of taking all possible measures to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death, 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 Refugees 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 Refugees Shelter at Port Ontario, Oswego, New York, which is equipped to care for approximately 1,000 refugees until they can be returned to their homelands at the end of the war. Arrangements also have been and are being made to provide other facilities to care for refugees in areas nearer to their homelands.

With respect to the problem of Hungarian Jews, I enclose a copy of a joint statement recently issued by the United States and Great Britain which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Bussey Gestinde
practicable measures to protect the Jews in Hungary have been and are being taken by this Government in cooperation with other governments and with private refugee organizations. Every suggestion received from whatever source concerning the rescue and relief of Jews in Hungary, and there have been many such suggestions, has received our careful and sympathetic consideration. In every instance in which it was practicable to do so without interfering with the war effort, these suggestions have been put into practice.

I assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve its humanitarian objectives.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss Gertrude C. Bushey,
334 S. Allen Avenue,
Pasadena 4, California.

Enclosure.
Aug 21, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Mr. Pehle,

I see that many people are urging that airplanes used in rescuing the Jews from Hungary as victory sums near, we must not lose any possible chance of saving those that are the horrible victims of this struggle. Some way must be found to keep the Jews from being destroyed.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Gouger College
Baltimore, Maryland
Dear Miss Bussey:

I have your letter of March 27, 1944, urging speedy relief to the Jewish refugees in Hungary.

The interest which you have expressed in the problems with which the Board is confronted is greatly appreciated. I assure you that every effort will be made to rescue and save the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Gertrude C. Bussey,
5412 Furlington Way,
Baltimore 12, Maryland.
March 29, 1944

Mr. John F. Cable
Director, War Refugee Board
Dreaming Building
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Cable,

I am writing to urge you to do your utmost to save the Jews now being caught in Hungary. I realize that the obstacles are very great, and that we cannot save them all, but let the U.S. cut every possible bit of red tape, and use all possible speed to rescue the victims of cruel tyranny. We cannot stand idly by and watch our fellow men tortured and murdered.

Whatever the permanent arrangement
may be, we can at least grant them a temporary refuge here in America, and can use our influence with Great Britain to prevent the shutting down of immigration to Palestine, on March thirty-first. We have talked much about the cruelty of the Nazi philosophy, but we are accomplices of the crime if we do not ourselves lift a finger to save them. Can we not use our influence for this purpose as we used it to bring 'freedoms here? It would be a glorious way to keep the Easter season to give to at least some of the Jews a hope of new life.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]