Requests for Aio to Hungary: Leibenstein, Benny
Dear Mr. Leibenstein,

The President has referred to me your letter of June 26, 1944, concerning the plight of the Jewish people in Europe and urging immediate action to help them.

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-occupied countries, to find havens of refuge for them, to obtain better treatment for those for whom escape is not possible, and to persuade the satellite countries to assist 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 for the duration of the war or until they can be returned to their homelands.

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.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Harry Leibenstein,
1320 S. Troy,
Chicago 23, Illinois.
June 24, 1944

Dear President Roosevelt,

I read in the paper that 10,000 Jews killed in Hungary. One's hair just rises after reading such news not for the first time but for years in succession. The Jews over there are just crying for help from U.S. and very little help has been given to them by the government. Please, Mr. President try at least to send a strong protest to Nazio and try to do all in your power for the few remaining living souls. I feel that there is also in your power that can be done and any human person just runs into tears after reading this terrible and knowing that you are living in a democratic country as in the U.S. and not even a strong cry of protest was made. So, Please, again and again you can help and you must help and I am sure that you will help in the very near future.

A young American

Remy Kelenstein
1320 S. Troy
Chicago 23, Ill.