

Requests for AIA to Hungary: LICHTENSTEIN, L. (Dn.)

000633

In reply please
refer to: 3247

AUG 26 1944

Dear Dr. Lichtenstein:

The President has referred to me your letter of August 9, 1944, concerning the plight of refugees in Nazi-occupied Europe.

On January 22, 1944, the President created the War Refugee Board composed of the Secretaries of State, War, and Treasury, 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 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, I am sure you were interested to learn that the President has taken action to establish an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, where approximately 1,000 refugees are being cared for until they can be returned to their own countries at the end of the war.

Other facilities to receive refugees include Camp Marschal Lyautey near Casablanca, a shelter being established in Tripolitania under the joint financial responsibility of the United States and Great Britain, and existing refugee camps in the Mediterranean areas which are being expanded. These operations make use of structures originally erected for military or other purposes which are suitable for housing large groups of persons.

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MAILED 11/20/44
RECORDED 10/14/44

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

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

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dr. L. Lichtenstein,
2979 Marion Avenue,
Bronx, New York.

Enclosure.

EBT

BH Hutchison:inp 8/25/44

JW

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War Refugee
Fund

SECRETARY RE
FOR
AND CONSIDER

2979 Marion Ave

Bronx, New York

August 9, 1944

Secretary to the President

President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Wash. D.C.

My dear Mr. President:

By now, you're probably
been besieged by letters impugning you
to do something in behalf of the hapless
victims of Nazism still alive in
Hungary, R. Balkans and elsewhere. We
know that your heart is in the right place,
but what is needed urgently, is prompt
action. We know, too, that perhaps you
haven't felt this an opportune time to
heck Churchill on Palestine. But
wouldn't it be feasible to establish
a number of encampments of temporary
nature in North Africa, large enough to
accommodate several hundred thousand
refugees, instead of a mere few hundred.

Mr. B.
W. W. Authority
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To: Files
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Date

ns. Reg.
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g Authority

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If funds for such an undertaking are not readily available to the government, am sure that millions of people sympathetic to the idea would willingly provide them.

Respectfully yours,
L. Lichtenstein, M.D.

P.S. We notice that your assistant, Mr. Poyross is opposing the Kilgore bill. We hope he's taking out of turn. Is he?

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