

SECRETARY'S MEMO FILE

000933

CROSS REFERENCE ON

FOR:

Amendment to this License ☐
Extension of this License ☐
Renewal of this License ☐
Correspondence concerning this application ☐
Other (Specify)

For Memorandum for Secretary Morgenthau from Mr. Pehle 3/6/44

Memorandum for the File 3/10/44

Memo 10/17/44 from Mr. Pehle to Mr. Morgenthau 10/17/44
with enc.

SEE: WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000934

See memo file

SEP 12 1945

My dear Mr. Morgenthau:

I take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of my final summary report of the activities of the War Refugee Board. As you know, the Board will be dissolved on September 15th.

I wish to express to you my heartfelt appreciation for the strong support you gave me in the months I served the Board. Your inspired leadership in the creation of the Board and your personal devotion to its problems and programs throughout its existence were largely responsible for the saving of thousands of victims of Nazi oppression. This accomplishment will stand as a monument to your great vision and humanitarianism. It will be a continued source of deep satisfaction to me to have aided you in this task.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Honorable Henry M. Morgenthau, Jr.,
Hopewell Junction, New York.

Enclosure.

74
FH:hd 9/8/45

000935

My dear Mr. Secretary:

As Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, I have the honor to submit to you herewith my Final Summary Report of the activities of the Board.

Sincerely yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 8/13/45

000936

See memo file

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your letter of July 5,
and for your generous comment on my contribu-
tion to the work of the War Refugee Board.

It is my understanding that it is un-
necessary to take any formal action by way
of resignation from the War Refugee Board.
The Executive Order of January 22, 1944,
establishing the Board, named as members the
Secretary of State, the Secretary of the
Treasury, and the Secretary of War. The
persons holding such positions automatically
are members of the Board so long as they
continue to serve in such positions, and
upon a successor being named the successor
automatically becomes a member of the
Board.

It has been a great pleasure for me to
work with you on this task and I personally
appreciate very much your fine support and
cooperation.

Most sincerely,

(Signed) Henry

The Honorable
Edward R. Stettinius, Jr.
The White House

JWP
JWP:1hh

7-10-45

000937

See Memo file

JUL 4 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

In approving for the fiscal year 1946 the use by the War Refugee Board of \$16,000 of the unexpended balance of its 1945 appropriation, the Congress added the words "for completing the liquidation of the activities of such Board". The Board is now in process of winding up all of its activities and it is expected that liquidation will be completed by September 1, 1945.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

FH:hd 7/4/45

000938

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: JUN 7 1945

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM Miss Hodel

I am sure you will be interested to know that the War Department recently indicated great interest in the War Refugee Board files as a possible source of information and evidence for use in connection with the Department's work with the War Crimes Commission. Certain reports and records in our files were turned over to Colonel Bernays who is working with Justice Jackson on this matter. He was so pleased with the material furnished him that he arranged for two of his men to go through all of our records. We have assigned one of our men to work closely with the War Department on this matter. In addition, we have instructed Mr. McClelland in Bern to make available any files he has to the local representative of General Donovan.

J. Hodel

000939

APR 21 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

The following information has just been received in cables from Stockholm and Bern:

1. 5,000 Danish and Norwegian Jews arrived in Sweden April 18th from Germany. Their release from German concentration camps is the result of special negotiations conducted by Count Bernadotte, President of the Swedish Red Cross.
2. 69 Jewish refugees arrived in Switzerland April 19th. They came mainly from Bratislava.
3. The stock of War Refugee Board parcels in Goteburg has been exhausted with the shipment on April 18th of 140,000 parcels to Lubeck.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

FH:hd 4/21/45

*Transmitted by Air Mail
4/21/45*

000940

April 8, 1948

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Model

For your information

General O'Dwyer has asked me to advise you that he called Mr. McClelland on the telephone this morning to get the latest report on our program from Switzerland. Five trucks are leaving Switzerland Monday, April 9th, for Lubeck in the northern part of Germany, carrying 60 tons of parcels and fuel. Four more trucks are leaving Switzerland April 12th for the Dachau camps which are near Munich. 30,000 War Refugee Board parcels will go forward by railroad from Switzerland to an International Red Cross depot near Ravensburg, Germany. With this movement under way, it is contemplated that the 60,000 War Refugee Board parcels still in Switzerland will be cleared out of Switzerland within the next two weeks. This clearly points up the need for the prisoner of war parcels which General O'Dwyer reported to you yesterday had been arranged for with the War Department. Mr. McClelland was delighted with this news and he will work out at once all the details of repackaging in Switzerland. Mr. Katzki has arrived in Switzerland from Paris and will stay in Geneva for the next week to work closely with the International Red Cross on the details of this program.

With respect to evacuating refugees to Switzerland, McClelland reported that it is expected that a truck convoy will arrive in Switzerland very shortly bringing 300 women, children and aged people. He stated that the Germans had not yet finally agreed to the use of our trucks for evacuating refugees to Switzerland.

(Signed) Florence Model

FH:nd 4/7/48

000941

MAR 20 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

For your information

Interested Jewish groups in this country have been deeply concerned over the publication on March 16 in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of the following item:

"Geneva, Mar. 15. (JTA) -- The Nazi Government, through its news agency DNB, today issued a warning that all Jews now in German hands, as well as Jewish war prisoners who may be captured, will be killed in reprisal for the reported plan to send Germans to Russia as laborers to rebuild the areas devastated by the German Army.

"If Roosevelt now admits that he and his accomplice Churchill undertook at the Yalta conference to surrender German war prisoners to the Soviet Union, then it is nothing but part of a devilish Jewish plan," the Nazi news agency said. Emphasizing that the Hitler government will retaliate, DNB added: "Above all, we shall make every Jew who is, or who falls into our hands, pay for all others. When the war comes to an end, there will be no more Jews in Europe."

The groups have been pressing for a warning and have telegraphed you, the Secretary of State and General O'Dwyer.

At our request, OWI and Federal Communications have checked this report and find that the following was released on March 12 by DNB for the German press:


"For all Germans battle cry is kill enemies like mad dogs! Murdering beasts deserve no better if Roosevelt now admits he and accomplice Churchill undertook in Yalta surrender German POW as slaves to Russia that too is part of diabolical Jewish plan. We will thoroughly upset machinations of slave drivers of Jewish

000942

- 2 -

international. Or are these international criminals under impression we have no means of retaliation? Here too they will be taught lesson. Above all we will make every Jew in our hands or who falls into them pay for all others. When war comes to end there will be no more Jews in Europe. Again and again enemies have to admit we are daily becoming more fanatical and dogged."

(Signed) Florence Edel


FH:hd 3/20/45

000943

February 16, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY'S FILE

At 3:30 p.m., February 16, 1945, Secretary Morgenthau met with Dr. Israel Goldstein of the American Jewish Conference who explained that Dr. Stephen Wise and Dr. Haiman Goldmann of the World Jewish Congress who had planned to be present were unavoidably delayed. Miss Hodel of the War Refugee Board also was present.

Dr. Goldstein outlined to the Secretary the present possibilities for rescue of large numbers of Jews from disintegrating Germany. He pleaded that the situation called for extraordinary action if large-scale rescue were to be undertaken to save the Jews remaining in Nazi-controlled areas from annihilation. Dr. Goldstein urged that a high official of the United States Government go to Switzerland immediately to undertake the action necessary to save these people and that such official be provided with adequate funds to finance the operations.

The Secretary explained to Dr. Goldstein that the Board was deeply concerned over the new situation developing in Germany with respect to the fate of the Jews, that the Board is now working on plans and possible courses of action designed to save as many of these people as possible, and that the matter was of such urgency that he had arranged for a meeting of the Board members early next week. He also explained that General O'Dwyer was planning to undertake a trip to Switzerland and that he would be accompanied by Miss Hodel. On the question of funds, the Secretary assured Dr. Goldstein that he was convinced that sufficient private funds would be available for the rescue and relief work yet to be done. He stated that the main obstacle was not money but military considerations.

At this point Dr. Wise and Dr. Goldmann joined the meeting and the Secretary summarized to them the foregoing points which he had made to Dr. Goldstein. Dr. Goldmann raised the problem of clearances with the British and Russians before action could be taken by this Government and the Secretary advised Dr. Goldmann that the first and most important problem was to get clear-cut decisions by this Government.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

RM:nd 2/17/45

000944

February 16, 1945

: Secretary Morgenthau
: Miss Hodel

In connection with your meeting this afternoon with Dr. Stephen Wise and Dr. Nahum Goldman, you might be interested in the following excerpts from a letter General O'Dwyer received today from Dr. Goldmann:

"From various reports coming to us from Switzerland, it appears to us that there are new opportunities for rescuing Jews from German-occupied countries. The release of 1200 internees from Theresienstadt who were brought by train all the way to the Swiss border is an indication of the possibilities. The disintegration of the Nazi Reich has created conditions where possibilities of rescue are opening up in a degree which did not hitherto exist. If this is true, coupled with the fact that this may be the last period of time in which large-scale rescue can be undertaken, and in the light of the danger that at the last moment before the Nazi collapse, they may annihilate the remaining Jews under their heels, as was done in Lodz and elsewhere, it seems to us that some extraordinary action must be undertaken in order to utilize whatever possibilities exist.

"One of the difficulties in rescue activities in the past was due to the delay because there was lack of authority to act. We think that the time has come when someone with full authority to act, someone of high standing, empowered by the United States government, provided with the necessary funds, should proceed to Switzerland immediately to explore the possibilities on the spot and take the necessary action on his own responsibility. It would be ideal if you, yourself, would be prepared to undertake this, accompanied, if necessary, by one or two experts. It would be a high humanitarian mission, and may be a way for the War Refugee Board and the American government to achieve something substantial in the way of rescue and of saving thousands of Jews who may be exterminated as millions of others have been.

000945

- 2 -

"I hope that you and the members of the War
Refugee Board will consider this suggestion and
find a way of acting on it."

General O'Dwyer asked me to bring this to your
attention.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

000946

January 31, 1945

Mrs. Klotz

General O'Dwyer

Will you please inform the Secretary that I am planning to meet the press this afternoon at 2:30. Obviously, there can be no discussion of the details of the work of the War Refugee Board. The purpose is merely to make the acquaintance of the press and to answer such questions as are possible.

FH:hd 1/31/45

*in lab 1/31/45
received in file*

000947

Mr. Charles Bell

January 27, 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

John Pehle is resigning as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board and will be succeeded by Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer who has been designated Executive Director of the Board.

I want Pehle to retain his office in the main Treasury building and I am relying on you to find appropriate space for General O'Dwyer.

Just
FH:hd 1/27/45

000948

Dec. 16, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

[REDACTED]

I strongly urge you take the time to read the attached report from Roswell McClelland, the War Refugee Board Representative in Switzerland. I know you will be thrilled, as I am, at the spectacular achievement of the War Refugee Board activities in this area. Incidentally, most of the funds, the use of which is described by McClelland, were contributed by the JDC.

131 J.W. Pehle

Attachment

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

JWPehle:1hh 12-16-44

No attachment
followed in file

000949

Sept. 28,
1944

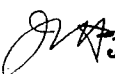
Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

Re: Possible St. Louis appearance.

Abrahamson has just heard from St. Louis that both the local War Fund people and the local Jewish Federation group feel that it would be inadvisable to try to arrange a meeting at this late date for October 11.

(Initialed) J.W.P.

 JWPehle:1hh

9/28/44

000950

Secretary Morgenthau

MAY 9 1944

J. W. Pehle

I believe you will be interested in the attached book which was recently prepared for our staff.

It presents an outline of the work we are doing with an analysis and copies of important cables and gives an overall picture of the programs we have initiated and developed.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

*Original signed by
Mr. Pehle*

Attachment.

JH

FH:lab 5/8/44

000951

Mar. 13, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

If you agree I will ask Mr. Hull
to call a meeting of the War Refugee Board
for the latter part of this week.

I agree (initialed) H. M. J.

JWP

JWP:lh 3/13/44

000952

March 8, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

This is the United Nations Declaration on the
extermination of the Jews, issued in December, 1942.

(Initialed) J.W.P.

not initialed

JWP:mgt 3/8/44

000953

C O P Y

1944 FEB 15

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

MRS MCHUGH, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

*****SUGGEST JOHN PEHLE HE CONSIDER TAKING ON SOME ONE
FROM UNITARIAN OVERSEAS SERVICE.

HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR.

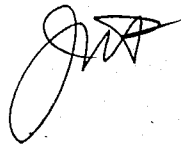
*NY
76
for
Filer*

000954

January 26, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

Secretary Morgenthau called Pehle at 6:25 p.m. He said that he had called Stettinius and brought Stettinius up to date on his conversation with the President. Stettinius said why don't we get busy and do something. Secretary Morgenthau suggested to Pehle that he try to get out a cable tomorrow morning on the International Red Cross matter. He said Stettinius would be there tomorrow until noon.

A handwritten signature, likely of the Secretary of War, Henry Stimson, is written in ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'H. S.' followed by a flourish.

000955

January 26, 1944.

MEMORANDUM:

Secretary Morgenthau called Pehle at 6:25 p.m. He said that he had called Stettinius and brought Stettinius up to date on his conversation with the President. Stettinius said why don't we get busy and do something. Secretary Morgenthau suggested to Pehle that he try to get out a cable tomorrow morning on the International Red Cross matter. He said Stettinius would be there tomorrow until noon.

(Initialed) J.W.P.

JWPehle:1hh

000956