

SELFHELP OF EMIGREES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, INC.

000961

CROSS REFERENCE ON SELFHELP OF EMIGRES FROM  
CENTRAL EUROPE, INC.

FOR:

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

For relative material -

SEE: SELFHELP OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, INC. - LICENSES

000962

*Self-Help of Emigres from Central Europe*

APR 12 1945

Dear Dr. Weissmann:

There are enclosed with this letter personnel data on several candidates for UNRRA positions which were forwarded to you from the Committee for the Placement of Intellectual Refugees in Geneva through the United States Legation in Bern.

Very truly yours,

*(Signed) William O'Dwyer*

William O'Dwyer,  
Executive Director

Dr. Fred S. Weissmann,  
Self-Help of Emigres from Central  
Europe, Inc.,  
New York, New York.

Enclosure.

*EBT*

RBHutchison: 4/11/45

*JH -*

*no enclosure when rec'd in file*

000963



LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AIR MAIL

RESTRICTED

Bern, March 24, 1945.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

Recently I received a letter from the "Committee for the Placement of Intellectual Refugees" in Geneva informing me that their correspondent in the United States, SELFHELP, had wired them to the effect that there might be a possibility of securing UNRRA jobs for intellectual refugees of French and German language background and a knowledge of social work. The committee therefore sends me the Curriculum Vitae of a number of their more likely candidates which I am sending on to you attached hereto. It would be much appreciated if you would forward them to: Dr. Fred S. Weissmann, Self-Help of Emigrés from Central Europe, Inc. New York City.

Very sincerely yours,

*Roswell D. McClelland*  
Roswell D. McClelland  
Special Assistant to  
the American Minister.

Enclosure: 8 curriculum vitae for Self-Help

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director,  
War Refugee Board,  
Washington 25, D. C.

*no further action needed in files.*

000964

JAN 23 1945

Dear Dr. Weissman:

I have your letter of January 19, 1945,  
requesting an appointment on February 23rd.

I suggest that you call my office upon  
your arrival in Washington on that day to arrange  
for a definite appointment.

Very truly yours,

*10/4 Florence Model*

Florence Model  
Assistant Executive Director

Dr. Fred S. Weissman,  
Executive Secretary,  
Selfhelp of Emigres from  
Central Europe, Inc.,  
139 Centre Street,  
New York 13, N. Y.

*FD*  
FH:hd 1/23/45

000965

*Selfhelp*  
OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.  
139 CENTRE STREET

January 19, 1945

*President:*

PAUL TILLICH

*Vice-Presidents:*

FREDR. POLLOCK  
ELSE STAUDINGER  
TONI STOLPER

*Treasurer:*

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Moritz Straus

*Board of Directors:*

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INGRID WARBURG  
FREDERICK J. WILD  
LILLY WITTELS  
FRIEDA WUNDERLICH  
HANNAH ZIEGLER

*Executive Secretary:*

FRED. S. WEISSMAN

Miss Florence Hodel  
Assistant to the Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Miss Hodel:

I shall be in Washington on February 23rd (Friday),  
and I should like to take the opportunity of  
coming to see you and of discussing some problems  
with you.

Would you be kind enough to let me know  
whether I may see you in the morning of that  
day.

Thanking you in advance,

Very truly yours,

  
Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary.

rl

000966

P. O. BOX 77, CANAL STREET STATION,  
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

TELEPHONE  
CANAL 6-5000

*Selfhelp*  
OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.  
139 CENTRE STREET

September 11, 1944.

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*Vice-Presidents:*

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TONI STOLPER

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INGRID WARBURG  
FREDERICK J. WILD  
LILLY WITTELS  
FRIEDA WUNDERLICH  
HANNAH ZIEGLER

*Executive Secretary:*  
FRED. S. WEISSMAN

Miss Florence Hodel  
Assistant to the Executive Secretary  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25 D.C.

My dear Miss Hodel,

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of today.

I am very grateful that I can see you on Monday, September 25th,  
1944 at 10.30 AM.

Respectfully yours,

*Fred S. Weissman*  
Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary

FSW/eg

000967

*Selfhelp of Emigres - key file*

CABLE TO BERN

From War Refugee Board to Harrison

Please deliver the following message to Mrs. Fanny Hirsch,  
Comite Refugies Intellectuels, 7 Rue Gautier, Geneva, from Fred S.  
Weissman of the Selfhelp of Emigres from Central Europe, Inc:

"Received first report. Transferred meanwhile additional  
\$11,000, earmarked exclusively for rescue work in enemy occupied  
countries. If feasible, use funds in cooperation with Sutro.  
Give detailed reports whenever possible. No objections against  
spending Francs 700 once for Moritz Thilde Heilbronner. Cooperate  
closely with McClelland"

THIS IS WEB CABLE TO BERN 50.

\*\*\*\*\*

June 17, 1944  
1:20 p.m.

*W- 2137*

*DA* FH:lab 6/17/44

*no record in files of the  
cable ever having  
sent.*

00096A



*Selfhelp*  
OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.  
139 CENTRE STREET

June 12, 1944

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PAUL TILLICH

*Vice-Presidents:*

FREDR. POLLOCK  
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TONI STOLPER

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INGRID WARBURG  
FREDERICK J. WILD  
LILLY WITTELS  
FRIEDA WUNDERLICH  
HANNAH ZIEGLER

*Executive Secretary:*

FRED. S. WEISSMAN

Executive Office of the President  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

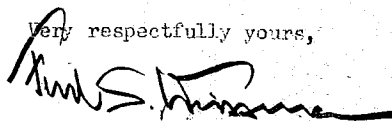
This is to confirm receipt of the message from  
our committee in Switzerland which you kindly trans-  
ferred to us on June 2nd.

Referring to my conversation with Miss Florence  
Hodel, I should be very grateful if you would forward  
the following reply to Mrs. Fanny Hirsch, Comite Refuzies  
Intellectuels, 7 Rue Gautier, Geneva (Switzerland):

"Received first report. Transferred meanwhile  
additional \$ 11,000, earmarked exclusively for rescue  
work in enemy occupied countries. If feasible, use  
funds in cooperation with Gutro. Give detailed reports  
whenever possible. No objections against spending  
francs 700 once for Moritz Thilde Heilbronner. Co-  
operate closely with McClelland"

Thanking you in advance very much for your  
kind consideration,

Very respectfully yours,



Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary.

fsw/rl

000949

P. O. Box 77, CANAL STREET STATION,  
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

TELEPHONE  
CANAL 6-5000

*Selfhelp*  
OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.  
139 CENTRE STREET

June 1, 1944

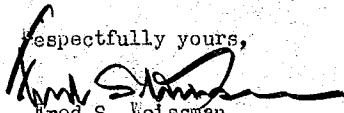
Miss Florence Model  
War Refugee Board  
U.S. Treasury  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Model:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of the  
other day according to which you have kindly granted me an  
interview for next Wednesday, June 7, 1944, at 2:30 p.m.

Thanking you for your kind cooperation,

Respectfully yours,

  
Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary.

rl

000970

files

Mrs. Wills  
194

000971

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

(Room) (Blk.)

(Room) (Blk.)

(Room) (Blk.)

P. O. BOX 77, CANAL STREET STATION  
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

TELEPHONE  
CANAL 6-5000

*Selfhelp*

OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.

139 CENTRE STREET

June 1, 1944

Mr. Herbert Katzki  
War Refugee Board  
U.S. Treasury  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Katzki:

With reference to our telephone conversation of the other day, I should like to inform you that I have an appointment to see Miss Hodel next Wednesday, June 7, at 2:30 p.m.

I am wondering and should be very grateful if you could give me a chance to speak to you, too, that same afternoon. Would it be possible that I come to see you when I am through with the discussion with Miss Hodel?

Hoping that you will be good enough to drop me a line and let me know whether it suits you,

Very sincerely yours,

*Fred S. Weissman*  
Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary.

rl

000972

P. O. Box 77, CANAL STREET STATION  
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

*Selfhelp*

OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.

139 CENTRE STREET

601  
W. R. B. TELEPHONE  
Filing Authority 5000  
To: Files  
Ans. *2H*  
No. Ans. Req. *2H*  
Initial  
Date

April 20, 1944

**President:**

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HANNAH ZIEGLER

**Executive Secretary:**

FRED. S. WEISSMAN

Miss Florence Model  
War Refugee Board  
190 Main Treasury Building  
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Miss Model:

Referring to the telephone conversation you had with our Executive Secretary, Dr. Weissman, I want to inform you that our group would feel highly honored if you or another representative of the War Refugee Board could be with us at the annual meeting of our Board of Directors, scheduled for either May 8 or 15, 1944.

This Board meeting will be held at the Quakers' "Powell House", 130 East 70th Street, New York City, in a small circle, without any publicity. The Directors of our Board are all deeply interested in the situation of the people left behind in Europe, and we should be very glad if we could have a short survey of the policy of the War Refugee Board and the work we can do within its frame.

Looking forward to your favorable consideration,

Respectfully yours,

*Paul Tillich*

Paul Tillich  
President.

*Answered  
by teleph. as  
May 2 '44  
JH.*

000973

Mailing Address:  
P.O.Box 77, Canal Street Station

C O P Y

*Paul - 1*  
*raising*  
139 Centre Street  
Phone: Canal 6-5000

SELFHELP OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.  
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

March 1, 1944

I M P O R T A N T

N O T FOR Publication;

Only for Personal Information of our Members.

Dear Friends:

The rescue program of the newly established War Refugee Board has given us the much desired opportunity of extending - through our committee in Switzerland - help to people in certain enemy occupied countries, who are in danger of starvation or who may be able to find refuge in a neutral country if means for escape are available. Of course, this rescue work is very difficult; but we are sure that our friends in Switzerland will do everything in their power to bring effective relief. It is our task to supply them with the necessary funds.

During the past two years, it was a matter of great concern that there was no possibility of assisting our dear ones trapped in Europe. Now that we have once more an opportunity of doing something for them, it is up to us to be generous. We count on your cooperation and urge you very strongly, indeed, to do your utmost to raise the largest possible funds among the emigres living in safety, so that the greatest possible number of refugees still in Europe may escape persecution and starvation.

Please send us your special contribution and earmark it for our rescue work in Europe.

SELFHELP OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, INC.

Selfhelp of Emigres from Central Europe, Inc.  
P.O.Box 77, Canal Street Station  
New York 13, N.Y.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my check - money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
as my special contribution earmarked for your rescue work in Europe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name - please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

3/15/44

000974

February 4, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. O'Flaherty and I talked with Dr. Weissman today concerning the desire of his organization to aid needy refugees in France. Dr. Weissman stated that the proposal contained in his letter of January 25, 1944, to Mr. Billikopf to the effect that a fund be established in this country against which borrowing could be effected in Switzerland was made because of the difficulties they have encountered in the past in obtaining Swiss francs. He stated that his organization had some funds which they desire to send at once to Switzerland for relief and evacuation purposes provided a good rate could be obtained for the necessary Swiss francs. The recent developments in the Swiss franc situation were explained to Dr. Weissman and, in particular, it was stated that the Swiss have indicated a fairly liberal attitude for remittances for relief purposes.

It was suggested to Dr. Weissman that he submit in writing the details of the proposed program of relief and evacuation with a request for appropriate licenses to permit the transactions. It was indicated to him that the War Refugee Board would give sympathetic consideration to such a program.

*File*  
F. Hodel

000975

February 4, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. O'Flaherty and I talked with Dr. Weissman today concerning the desire of his organization to aid needy-refugees in France. Dr. Weissman stated that the proposal contained in his letter of January 25, 1944, to Mr. Billikopf to the effect that a fund be established in this country against which borrowing could be effected in Switzerland was made because of the difficulties they have encountered in the past in obtaining Swiss francs. He stated that his organization had some funds which they desire to send at once to Switzerland for relief and evacuation purposes provided a good rate could be obtained for the necessary Swiss francs. The recent developments in the Swiss franc situation were explained to Dr. Weissman and, in particular, it was stated that the Swiss have indicated a fairly liberal attitude for remittances for relief purposes.

It was suggested to Dr. Weissman that he submit in writing the details of the proposed program of relief and evacuation with a request for appropriate licenses to permit the transactions. It was indicated to him that the War Refugee Board would give sympathetic consideration to such a program.

F. Hodel

FHodel:hd 2/8/44

000976



P. O. Box 77, CANAL STREET STATION  
NEW YORK 13, N. Y.

TELEPHONE  
CANAL 6-5000

*Selfhelp*  
OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.  
139 CENTRE STREET

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PAUL TILLICH

*Vice-Presidents:*

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INGRID WARBURG  
FREDERICK J. WILD  
LILLY WITTELS  
FRIEDA WUNDERLICH  
HANNAH ZIEGLER

*Executive Secretary:*

FRED. S. WEISSMAN

January 31, 1944

Miss Florence Model  
190 Main Treasury Building  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Model:

This is to thank you for today's call.

As agreed upon over the telephone, I shall be  
in Washington, Friday, February 4th, 1944, on  
the train scheduled to arrive at 1:30 p.m..

I hope I can be at your office at 2:30 p.m., as  
discussed.

Very sincerely yours,

*Fred S. Weissman*  
Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary.

fsw/rl

000977

FEB 2 1944

Dear Mr. Billikopf:

I have received your letter of January 26, 1944, enclosing a letter addressed to you by Dr. Fred S. Weissman.

I have referred Dr. Weissman's letter to Mr. John W. Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary, and arrangements have been made to have Dr. Weissman come to Washington on February 4, 1944, to discuss his proposals in detail.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. S. Klotz

Mr. Jacob Billikopf,  
Labor Standards Association,  
805 Bankers Securities Building,  
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

*Handwritten initials: JH JWP*

FHodel:hd 2/1/44

000978

LABOR STANDARDS ASSOCIATION

805 BANKERS SECURITIES BLDG.  
PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

January 26, 1944


BLAUNER'S  
THE BLUM STORE  
BONWIT TELLER CO.  
FRANK & SEDER  
GIMBEL BROTHERS  
LIT BROTHERS  
STERN & CO.  
STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER

Dear Mrs. Klotz:

I am sending a self-explanatory letter from Dr. Fred S. Weissman, Executive Secretary of the Selfhelp of Emigres From Central Europe, Inc., in New York City. I dislike to trouble you, and if Dr. Weissman's request adds in any way to the heavy burdens, then I will ask you not to concern yourself with it. Should you, however, write to Dr. Weissman, may I have a copy of your letter.

Kindest regards, as ever,

Cordially yours,

  
JACOB BILLIKOPF

Exe

000979

# Selfhelp

OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.

139 CENTRE STREET

January 25, 1944

*President:*

PAUL TILLICH

*Vice-Presidents:*

FREDR. POLLOCK  
ELSE STAUDINGER  
TONI STOLPER

*Treasurer:*

HERMANN LEUBSDORF

*Board of Directors:*

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FREDERICK J. WILD  
LILLI WITTELS  
FRIEDA WUNDERLICH  
HANNAH ZIEGLER

*Executive Secretary:*

FRED. S. WEISSMAN

Mr. Jacob Billikopf  
805 Banker's Security Building  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Billikopf:

I enjoyed it so much to have seen you again at the Annual meeting of the National Refugee Service, and I am sincerely sorry that I could talk to you only in such a rush. But your very friendly words and your mentioning of Mrs. Klotz's name have encouraged me to give some thought to a problem which has been bothering a great many of our friends for quite a while. I am still more encouraged to ask you for your never failing assistance since I have read about the appointment of the new Board for the rescue of refugees. There are still many thousand refugees in France, as far as we know, many of them in hiding, others still in camps, still others liberated and living in small villages, etc. I have seen quite a number of recent Red Cross messages in which these unfortunate people ask their relatives and friends here for help. I am aware that, according to the "Trading with the Enemy Act", money must not be transmitted to enemy occupied countries. But I also know that some relief agencies, as e.g. the American Joint Distribution Committee, have been given permission by the Treasury to guarantee to local committees in enemy occupied countries, like Shanghai, that money borrowed by local groups will be refunded by the Joint after the war.

Many emigres have friends and relatives in Switzerland who would be able and willing to advance relief payments to needy refugees in France, if only they knew that what they might advance now would be refunded to them after the war. If the Treasury permitted us to collect, from people living in this country, a trust fund, blocked here for the duration, earmarked for the sole purpose of reimbursing after the war people or groups in Switzerland that have advanced such relief payments to their dear ones in France, I feel sure that we could save many lives. As far as I know, there is no law in Switzerland against using Swiss funds for such relief purposes in France, and we have a very reliable corresponding committee in Switzerland which could give all required guarantees for the proper handling of this problem. I should be very grateful if you kindly looked into this matter and brought it to the attention of Mrs. Klotz if you should think there is a fighting chance of success. Needless to say that I should be very happy if you could help me to an appointment in Washington so that I might submit more details of this plan to the proper authorities.

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## Selfhelp

OF EMIGRES FROM CENTRAL EUROPE, Inc.

139 CENTRE STREET

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Executive Secretary:  
FRED. S. WEISSMAN

Mr. Jacob Billikopf  
Philadelphia, Pa.

January 25, 1944

Such a trustfund would be useful not only for refugees in France but also with regard to people who escaped to Switzerland from France and, recently, from Italy. You may know that more than 10,000 such refugees have crossed the Swiss border and have to rely on relief, regardless of whether they are detained in camps or released and allowed to live privately in the country. The Treasury permits transfers to be made to these people, but only if effected from blocked dollar accounts, through a domestic bank. (We ourselves hold such a license and have a special transfer service, in cooperation with the Quakers). However, the whole plan does not work out properly, because the Swiss Government does not allow payments to be made over there from the blocked dollar accounts. If money which is now being sent from blocked dollar accounts to Switzerland could, instead, be put in a trust fund in this country, there might be a chance that people in Switzerland who are interested in alleviating the suffering of refugees in Switzerland were ready to advance those relief payments for the duration. You may be sure that the realization of such a plan could save a great deal of money. It would cut short a lot of red tape, and, last not least, would give encouragement to many victims of Nazi oppression here and abroad.

I leave it to your judgment, dear Mr. Billikopf, whether you think this plan phantastic, or whether you think it worthwhile to submit the idea to Mrs. Klotz. You helped me once,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years ago, to start the transfers to unoccupied France, and I am sure you are proud that this idea, which, at the time, sounded so phantastic, has meanwhile proved quite a success in transmitting funds for relief purposes to many countries. I am sure you will find the proper way also this time.

For your convenience, I enclose 2 copies of this letter.

Thanks in advance for everything you may be able to do for this idea, and many regards,

Very sincerely yours,



Fred S. Weissman  
Executive Secretary.

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