

SMITH, CURTIS W.

000178

In reply please
refer to: 640

JUN 14 1944

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your letter of April 30, 1944, to the Honorable Cordell Hull, requesting information concerning the work the Board is doing, has been referred to me.

The War Refugee Board was created by the President on January 22, 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 such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

To accomplish its purpose, the 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 persuade the satellite countries to desist from cooperation with the Nazi policy of persecution and extermination of minority peoples. Established private organizations engaged in refugee and relief activities are cooperating with the Board in the development and execution of its rescue programs. The Board has also stationed representatives in strategic countries in order to expedite these measures.

The enclosed press releases will give you the highlights on what we are doing. I am sure you will appreciate that the nature of this task is such that a detailed account of our work cannot be given. The important thing is that people whose lives are in danger are escaping from enemy-controlled territory, those who are brought out are being cared for, and places of asylum are being found for them where they can remain in safety until the time comes when they may be returned to their homes. In this connection, I think you will find especially interesting the attached copies of the President's recent message to Congress, his cablegram of June 8, 1944, to Ambassador Robert Murphy in Algiers regarding the establishment of an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, and his memorandum of the same date to the agency heads concerned with the execution of the project.

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I can assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve the humanitarian objectives for which it was created, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Curtis W. Smith,
5757 University Avenue,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EBT
EBTowler:agr 6-13-44

000180

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I can assure you that the Board is doing everything in its power to achieve the humanitarian objectives for which it was created, knowing that the measure of its success will be the number of lives saved.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Curtis W. Smith,
5757 University Avenue,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Enclosures.

EST
ESTowler:agr 6-10-44

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Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mr. Curtis W. Smith,
5757 University Avenue,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

EBT HBTowler:agr 5-12-44

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 MAY 4 1944
 Chicago 37, Ill.
 30 April 1944

W. R. B. _____
 To: Files _____
 Ans. Req. _____
 Initial _____
 Date _____

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1944 MAY 3 AM 10 34

Hon. Cordell Hull
 Department of State
 Washington, D. C.
 DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS
 AND RECORDS

Dear Mr. Hull:

I am concerned to know what the War Refugee Board is doing. Since it was set up in January I have heard very little about its activities, although the matters with which it is concerned are of the utmost importance.

In particular, what is being done by the Board and by the State Department with regard to the Jewish rescue problem? I realize that many problems of diplomacy are pressing at the moment, but there is hardly one with more chance of immediate solution--if we have the courage to act.

I urge upon you and, through you, upon the Board the tremendous need and urgency of this situation.

Sincerely yours,
Curtis W. Smith
 Curtis W. Smith

DIVISION OF PUBLIC LIAISON
 MAY 3 1944
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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