

SUSMAN, LAUOSLAV

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In reply please
refer to: 225

Dear Mr. Blecher:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 1944, concerning Mr. Lavoslav Susman of 9 West 97th Street, New York, New York.

I shall appreciate it if you will ask Mr. Susman to call my office for an appointment with me or one of my staff when he is in Washington.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Max Blecher, Jr.,
Suite 1904,
1501 Broadway,
New York 18, New York.

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ASSOCIATE
MORRIS J. FELLNER

February 24, 1944

Miss Hodell
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Pennsylvania Avenue & 15th Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodell:

In 1943 a Yugoslavian attorney by the name of Lavoslav Susman of 9 West 97th Street, New York, N. Y., arrived in this country from Venezuela, having left Europe in the latter part of 1942.

Mr. Susman has been assisting the Association of Yugoslavian Jews in American with his knowledge obtained through his long study in Yugoslavia, his service in the Yugoslavian Army and his contact with the Yugoslavian underground movement. He is in an ideal position to assist any group in establishing proper contacts for the rescue of refugees from axis-occupied territories.

He has discussed the general situation of refugees with the undersigned and it is my opinion that this gentleman would be of great value to you, if you would be good enough to invite him to your office for such further discussion. Mr. Susman is exceptionally well known by the Yugoslavian Embassy in Washington and you could check with them regarding his background.

I have also been informed by this individual that it is possible at the present time to save individuals from occupied territories through the representatives of such countries as the United States, or neutral countries such as Switzerland, Spain, Turkey and Italy. Mr. Susman would be able to make the contact with the underground and even the Nazi officers, who are always susceptible to bribery, and persons of the Catholic Church throughout the occupied territory who have been most helpful in saving refugees, whatever their motive should be.

According to Mr. Susman, even in Italy and Spain there are travel bureaus that could arrange for the release

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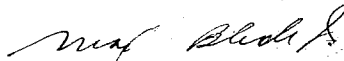
of individuals from occupied territories. Mr. Susman hesitated giving the undersigned names and addresses of such travel agencies, but I am quite sure he will be only too happy to give the information to your office in complete detail.

I feel certain that Mr. Susman could submit to you definite plans of operation for the saving of many lives. Therefore, I would appreciate it exceedingly if you could arrange for a personal interview with this gentleman.

I am

Thanking you for your attention and cooperation,

Very truly yours,



MB:PGS

MAX BLECHER, Jr.

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