UNITED LITHUANIAN RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA, INC.

MEMBER AGENCY
OF THE
NATIONAL WAR FUND

19 WEST 44th STREET
NEW YORK 16, N. Y.
Tel. Murray Hill 2-8052

July 30, 1945

Miss Florence Hodel, Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Dept., Room 4415
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

A letter sent to our office by Dr. Eduard Turauskas
through the United States Legation in Bern, has been received.

We express to you our sincere gratitude and kindly ask
that you convey to the Legation in Bern, our deep appreciation
for forwarding Dr. Turauskas' letter to us.

Very sincerely yours,

Joseph B. Kunclaus
President

JBK/sm
Dear Dr. Koncius:

There are enclosed a number of documents which were received for you from Dr. Edward Tarauskas through the United States Legation in Bern, Switzerland.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Dr. Koncius,
President,
United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America,
19 West 44th Street,
New York, New York.

Enclosures.

EBTrnp 7/28/45
Dear Miss Hodel:

You will recall that we have had some contact with Dr. Edward Turauskas, representative in Switzerland of Lithuanian organizations in the United States. I see him from time to time and have always been glad to help him in any way possible (his people are in a particularly unhappy state having suffered two occupations and wanting to live under neither group!), although his work was not directly connected with that of the Board. I saw him again this morning and he left with me a sheaf of letters and reports concerning his activities, proposed budget, etc. particularly as concerns Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland, for his people in the United States. They are for the Reverend Dr. Koncius, President of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, 19 West 44th. Street, New York, N. Y. I take the liberty of enclosing them and should be most appreciative if you could forward them to the above-named gentleman.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Enclosures - as stated

Miss Florence Hodel
Office of the Executive Director
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972
UNITED LITHUANIAN RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA, INC.

MEMBER AGENCY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

10 WEST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.
Tel. Murray Hill 2-8062

June 1, 1945

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

Dear Miss Hodel:

I wish to acknowledge with thanks, your letter of May 31st.

We are very grateful to Mr. Roswell D. McClelland for his investigation of the Lithuanian relief problem in Switzerland and for his information on this matter. His help will be of great value in our relief work.

Very sincerely yours,

Joseph T. Lamata
Executive Director

JBL/sm
Dear Mr. Laucka:

The following message for you from Roswell D. McClelland, Special Representative of the War Refugee Board in Bern, Switzerland, was received through the United States Legation in Bern under date of May 24, 1945:

"In response to your various requests concerning relief distributed to Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland through Dr. Edward Turauskas and particularly to your letter of Feb. addressed to the American Minister at Bern, an investigation has been made Turauskas monthly budgetary needs in Swiss francs amount to about 18,500 distributed as follows: 6000 for support and study fees some 20 students; 6000 for support 20 stranded former Lithuanian officials (both students and officials receiving 300 francs per person); 15000 for office overhead and 5000 for relief payments of varying nature to remaining Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland since April 17; some 300 new Lithuanians from Germany have been granted asylum in Switzerland since they are all virtually destitute without proper clothing undernourished at others. Dr. Turauskas estimates that an initial contribution for each of at least 300 francs will be needed making 90,000 Swiss francs after consultation with the competent Swiss authorities and with a certain number of Lithuanian refugees here. The Legation has uncovered no evidence to indicate that Dr. Turauskas has not (repeat not) distributed all funds sent to him by the United Lithuanian Relief Fund conscientiously and impartially."

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Mr. Joseph Laucka,
Executive Director,
United Lithuanian Relief Fund,
19 West 44th Street,
New York, New York.
INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington

2876, Twentyfourth

WRB FROM MCCLELLAND FOR JOSEPH LUCK, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR UNITED LITHUANIAN RELIEF FUND 19 WEST 44TH NYC.

"In response to your various requests concerning

relief distributed to Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland

through Dr. Edward Turauskas and particularly to your

letter of ?7 addressed to the American Minister at

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and 5000 for relief payments of varying nature to re-

maining Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland since April 17;

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tivated as refugees in Switzerland since they are all virtually desti-

tute without proper clothing undernourished at best.

Dr. Turauskas

SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington

2876, Twentyfourth
Dr. Turnuskes estimates that an initial contribution for each of at least 300 francs will be needed making 90,000 Swiss francs after consultation with the competent Swiss authorities and with a certain number of Lithuanian refugees here. The Legation has uncovered no evidence to indicate that Dr. Turnuskes has not (repeat not) distributed all funds sent to him by the United Lithuanian Relief Fund conscientiously and impartially.
March 10, 1945

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

At the March 7th meeting of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service in New York, Mr. Fred Hoehler, Director of Displaced Persons Division of UNRRA, gave an interesting talk on displaced persons in Europe. His figures, he said, were prepared by Allied Army Headquarters. Neither in his talk nor in the chart was there any mention of Lithuanians.

I approached Mr. Hoehler after the meeting and asked him about the lack of figures relative to displaced Lithuanians in Germany, especially since we do know there are in Germany alone 300,000 or more Lithuanians who have been deported from Lithuania by the Germans; some of them are in concentration camps, others are used as slave labor in the most dangerous tasks. Mr. Hoehler was unable to give me any information other than that Lithuanians are classified as Russians and that such classification was made by SHAEF.

We now have information from France, including letters from American soldiers, which reveals instances where Lithuanians were banded together with Russians and forcibly taken from France to Russia. If such a situation really exists, it is most deplorable and unjust to the Lithuanian nation. Furthermore, the policy of SHAEF of lumping the Lithuanians together with Russians or anybody else is at direct variance with the policy of our State Department, for as recently as March 3, as reported by Associated Press, Mr. Joseph C. Grew, Under-Secretary of State, stated that the United States continues to recognize Lithuania as an independent State.

We can be sure that any forcible imprinting of foreign nationality labels upon Lithuanians will be followed only by deprivation of all their human rights.

Is it possible, therefore, for your office to take the necessary steps to insure correct classification?
of displaced and refugee Lithuanians who are now found in practically every country in Europe? The correction of the SHAEP procedure as outlined by Mr. Roehler recently will not only rectify a grave moral and legal injustice to the Lithuanians, but will prevent much human suffering in the future.

Hoping that you will give this matter your kind and sympathetic consideration, I remain

Very respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Joseph S. Blauka
Executive Director

JBL/sm
January 5, 1945

Dr. Benjamin Akvin,
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Akvin:

In his interview on December 13th, Dr. Joseph B. Koncius informed me that you gave him a verbal report on the Lithuanian deportees and refugees in Germany and Austria which you had received via Switzerland.

We will appreciate it greatly, if you will find it convenient to give us a written report of this for our official purposes.

We are very grateful to you for your cooperation in this regard.

Very truly yours,

Joseph B. Koncius
Executive Director

[Handwritten note: "Showed Mr. Lauke and told him that we cannot give them any written information on the subject (cleaned with this today). Jan. 5, 1945, 134."]
President, Unit. Lit. Rel.

Dr. Joseph B. Kaucius
Mt. Carmel, Penn.
December 14, 1944

With reference to your letter of November 13th, we respectfully wish to state the following:

Some time ago, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society released a list of names of refugees of a number of countries who are at present in Switzerland. Among these refugees, we were informed, there were some of Lithuania.

Our organization made a telegraphic inquiry and the reply from Switzerland stated that the number of Lithuanian subjects there is thirty-three and that they are in need of material help. We immediately applied to the Joint Distribution Committee asking them to include these families in their relief program carried on in Switzerland.

While our financial means are limited, we nevertheless dispatched, through the medium of the Hias, the sum of $300.00. We received a communication from the United Relief Fund of America regarding this matter. We are confident that the United Relief Fund of America will do its utmost toward the support of the above mentioned Lithuanian refugees.

The American Federation for Lithuanian Jews recognizes with much appreciation your deep concern over the fate of these refugees for which we express our thanks.

Respectfully yours,

I. Rozowsky,
Executive Director
The following for McClelland is WRB 304.

Reference your No. 7722 of November 24th.

Board wishes to call your attention to certain difficulties (including those of a political nature) encountered in Stockholm in connection with aid to refugees from the Baltic countries. It should constantly be borne in mind that the War Refugee Board was established to save persons who are victims of enemy oppression and that we are in no way concerned with helping persons fleeing from our Allies.

It is suggested that you advise Dr. Turauskas to communicate directly with the United Lithuanian Relief Fund concerning relief to Lithuanian refugees.

The Department concurs in the foregoing.

STEPHINUS
(Acting)

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972
CABLE TO HARRISON, BERN, FOR MCLELLAND FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Reference your No. 7722 of November 24th. Board wishes to call your attention to certain difficulties (including those of a political nature) encountered in Stockholm in connection with aid to refugees from the Baltic countries. It should constantly be borne in mind that the War Refugee Board was established to save persons who are victims of enemy oppression and that we are in no way concerned with helping persons fleeing from our allies.

It is suggested that you advise Dr. Turauskas to communicate directly with the United Lithuanian Relief Fund concerning relief to Lithuanian refugees.

The Department concurs in the foregoing.

This is WRB BERN Cable No. 304.

3:45 p.m.
November 29, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Ackermann, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Isser, Mannion, McCormack, Files
Dr. Eioguird Turauskas, permanent Lithuanian delegate to League of Nations, with whom situation of comparatively small number of Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland was discussed, Legation's 7362, November 6, has expressed his grave concern over lot of around 400,000 Lithuanian civilian refugees who have fled into Germany and German-controlled territories during past months before Russian advance into their country.

Dr. Turauskas is most anxious to have funds available in Switzerland for two purposes: (One) to be able guarantee maintenance for certain number of worthy young Lithuanian particularly students at present in Germany in order prevail upon Swiss authorities grant them entry visas. He has reason to believe
November 21, noon. from Bern

to believe that Germans would allow them to depart;
(two) finance relief shipments from Switzerland under
IRRC control to concentration of several thousands
of Lithuanian refugees in Vienna area.

Dr. Tūkuska makes impression as serious and
capable men and I feel confident that any funds which
could be sent to him for uses above proposed by United
Lithuanian Relief Fund would be well spent.

HUDDLE  

RB
November 16, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle, Executive Director
Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you for your letter of November 15.

For your information, we are enclosing a copy of our letter to
Mr. Razovsky.

We appreciate your cooperation in our work to provide assistance to all Lithuanian refugees in any country in which they may be found.

Very sincerely yours,

John M. Gyorda
Executive Director.

JMG:va
enc.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. Joseph A. Kaselos, President; Anthony A. Cilia, Vice President; John Salis, Secretary; Dr. Levickaie, Treasurer; Mr. Joseph B. Greene, Executive Secretary; Miss Helen Espelin, Assistant Executive Secretary; Miss Elizabeth Shevchuk; Miss Elizabeth Shevchuk; Miss Elizabeth Shevchuk; Miss Elizabeth Shevchuk; Mr. David J. Wark; Board of Directors: Mr. J. C. Smith, Chairman; Mr. Harry A. Waring, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mrs. J. C. Smith; Mrs. J. C. Smith; Mrs. J. C. Smith; Mrs. J. C. Smith.

President's War Relief Control Board Registration No. 178.
Upon receipt of Mr. Pohle's letter of November 15, a similar communication having been sent to you, regarding the Refugees and Students in Switzerland, please be advised that our organization is very willing to accept the responsibility for the care of the Refugees and Students who have been assisted by the "Verband Juedischer Fluchtlingshilfen" and other private relief agencies in Zurich.

Our representative in Switzerland is Dr. Eduardas Turauskas, Lithuanian Relief Association, 97 Monbijonstrasse, Bern. We are sending him a cable today advising him to expect a visit from your representative and instructing him to work out a satisfactory program for the care of all Lithuanian Refugees and Students in that country.

We are sure that an amicable working relationship will result.

Very sincerely yours,

John M. Gyorda
Executive Director

November 16, 1944

Mr. Izayeh Razovsky
American Federation for Lithuanian Jews
1155 Broadway
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Razovsky:

...
Gentlemen:

The following is the substance of a communication received by the Board from its special representative in Switzerland:

As a result of a preliminary investigation, it appears that about 60 indigent Lithuanian civilian refugees are at present in Switzerland. Of this number, about 30 are interned in labor camps and homes for refugees. The total is composed of 25 women, 24 men, and 11 children. About 95% of the total are Jewish. It is thought likely that further inquiry will reveal the presence in Switzerland of some 10 or 20 additional Lithuanian refugees.

The "Verband Juedischer Fluchtlingshilfen" in Zurich is fully supporting about 5 Lithuanian invalids at the cost of about 1200 Swiss francs per month. It also grants partial assistance to about 20 more Lithuanian refugees at the cost of 300 francs monthly. About 3 Lithuanian students are being aided by other private relief agencies at the cost of about 1400 francs per month.

It would be of great help to the organisations now paying for this relief if the United Lithuanian Relief Fund could make a contribution toward defraying these expenditures.

The "Verband Juedischer Fluchtlingshilfen" cabled Mr. Hasevsky of the American Federation for Lithuanian Jews in September asking for assistance. No such assistance has materialized as yet.

The above is being communicated to you since it may be of interest to your organization. A similar communication is being sent to the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pohle,
Executive Director.

Federation for Lithuanian Jews,
1133 Broadway,
New York, New York.

[Signature] 11-13-44
The following is the substance of a communication received by the Board from its special representative in Switzerland:

As a result of a preliminary investigation, it appears that about 60 indigent Lithuanian civilian refugees are at present in Switzerland. Of this number, about 30 are interned in labor camps and homes for refugees. The total is composed of 26 women, 24 men, and 11 children. About 30% of the total are Jewish. It is thought likely that further inquiry will reveal the presence in Switzerland of some 10 or 20 additional Lithuanian refugees.

The "Verband Juedischer Fluchtingshilfen" in Zurich is fully supporting about 5 Lithuanian invalids at the cost of about 1200 Swiss francs per month. It also grants partial assistance to about 20 more Lithuanian refugees at the cost of 500 francs monthly. About 8 Lithuanian students are being aided by other private relief agencies at the cost of about 1500 francs per month.

It would be of great help to the organizations now paying for this relief if the United Lithuanian Relief Fund could make a contribution toward defraying these expenditures.

The "Verband Juedischer Fluchtingshilfen" cabled Mr. Barovsky of the American Federation for Lithuanian Jews in September asking for assistance. No such assistance has materialized as yet.

The above is being communicated to you since it may be of interest to your organization. A similar communication is being sent to the Federation for Lithuanian Jews.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director.

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc.,
19 West 44th Street,
New York, N. Y., New York.

Rakovishnikov 11-13-44
L. S. C. 74—
Preliminary investigation has yielded information concerning some 60 more or less indigent Lithuanian civilian refugees at present in Switzerland of whom about 30 are interned in refugee homes and work camps. These 60 comprise 24 men, 25 women and 11 children about 95 percent of whom Jews. Further inquiry will probably turn up 10 or 20 additional Lithuanian refugees of whom there are relatively few in Switzerland.

The Swiss "Verband Juedischer Fluchtlingshilfen" in Zurich is fully supporting some 5 Lithuanian cases all invalids costing around 1200 Swiss francs monthly and granting partial aid to about 20 more to extent of another 800 francs per month.

Some 8 Lithuanian
Sixth, 11 a.m. from Bern

Some 8 Lithuanian students are being assisted by other private relief agencies at an outlay of about 1500 francs monthly.

Any contribution which the United Lithuanian Relief Fund could make toward defraying these expenditures would be of great help to the organizations now paying this relief and be warmly appreciated.

The "Verband" cabled Mr. Razovsky of American Federation for Lithuanian Jews, New York, early in September requesting assistance which, however, has not yet materialized.

HARRISON
Distribution of true reading only by special arrangement (W).

C.X-299

Secretary of State,
Washington,

4453, November 2, 11 a.m.

We have discussed with former Lithuanian Minister to Sweden (Gylys) his financial requirements of supplying necessary assistance to the 325 Lithuanian refugees presently in Sweden. This is our 98 for WRB in reply to WRB 109 (Department's 2069 of October 14 midnight). Please consult in this connection Legation's 4455, November 1, 8 p.m.

For the time being it would appear that 7500 monthly should be ample to take care of the current needs of this group. This amount may be decreased as the refugees get settled down and find employment, but may be increased if more find their way to Sweden, which is extremely improbable. With the exception of 36 Lithuanians who were held by the Germans in Finland for forced labor and who escaped on foot to Sweden in September, and two Lithuanians who escaped from a German labor camp in Norway, no Lithuanians have been able to escape.

DECLASSEIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date: SEP 12 1972
November 2, 11 --- from Stockholm.

able to escape to Sweden in past 2 or 3 years other than those brought over through Olson's arrangements. As previously reported, these operations were stopped in September, largely as a result of the physical impossibility of getting a boat anywhere near the Lithuanian coast.

JOHNSON
AIRGRAM

FROM

RIO DE JANEIRO

REG'D: October 28, 5 p.m.

DATED: October 24, 1944

To the Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

A-2086, October 24, 12 noon

For War Refugee Board

Preliminary and informal information made available to the Embassy by the Lithuanian Chargé here indicates that number of Lithuanian refugees in Brazil (see Department's telegram no. 3139 of October 14, 9 p.m.) probably does not number more than 20 - 30, and that none at the moment appear in need of support. More definite advice will be transmitted as information becomes available.

Dunneelly

VC: sp

000209
The Following for Olsen is WAB 109.

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc., is desirous of being of assistance to such Lithuanian refugees in Sweden as may need help. Please advise the Board of the number of such Lithuanians and the amount per month that you believe would be necessary to sustain them.

HULL

(CONTROL COPY)

WRITING ON CHN
10/14/44

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-73

By R. H. Parks Date

SEPI 13 1973

For security reasons the text of this message must not be released.
CABLE TO MINISTER JOHNSON FOR CLASE, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. is desirous of being of assistance to such Lithuanian refugees in Sweden as may need help. Please advise the Board of the number of such Lithuanians and the amount per month that you believe would be necessary to maintain them.

THIS IS YOUR STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 109.

10:45 a.m.
October 14, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Coln, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

L:Lesser:10-11-44 Y.S.Y.
The cable below for McClelland is WRB 216.

In view of desire of United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. to help such Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland as may need assistance please inform Board of the number of such Lithuanians and the monthly amount that you consider needed for their maintenance.

HULL
(GHW)

CONTROL COPY
CABLE TO MINISTER HARRISON AT BERN FOR NCOHLAND

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. is desirous of being of assistance to such Lithuanian refugees in Switzerland as may need help. Please advise the Board of the number of such Lithuanians and the amount per month that you believe would be necessary to sustain them.

THIS IS WIEB BERN CABLE NO. 276

10:45 a.m.,
October 14, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

LS Lesser:tab 10-12-44
The following is from War Refugee Board.

In view of desire of United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. to help such Lithuanian refugees in Brazil as may need assistance please inform Board of the number of such Lithuanians and the monthly amount that you consider needed for their maintenance.

Hull
(OHW)
CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. is desirous of being of assistance to such Lithuanian refugees in Brazil as may need help. Please advise the Board of the number of such Lithuanians and the amount per month that you believe would be necessary to sustain them.

10:45 a.m.
October 14, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamsen, Cohn, Dubois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

LdLesser:tab 10-13-44 J.S.