

VAAD HAHATZALA Emergency Committee
(Folder 1 of 2)

000422

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Berle
FROM: J. W. Pehle

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of 132 Nassau Street, New York 7, New York, has informed the War Refugee Board of its desire to send Dr. Henry Shoskes to Portugal, Spain, North Africa, Palestine and Turkey, to work as representative of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee in connection with that organization's action to rescue Jews from German occupied areas in Europe. I understand that Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, has already discussed this matter with you and has requested that the Department of State facilitate the proposed journey.

As you know, the War Refugee Board is desirous of using the services of any private agency which can assist it in rescuing Jews of Europe who are in danger of imminent death. Accordingly, the Board wishes to register its approval of the proposed journey of Dr. Henry Shoskes and would appreciate anything that could be done to facilitate this journey.

The Board is particularly anxious to render possible the proposed journey since it understands that Dr. Shoskes, a prominent leader of the pre-war Jewish community in Poland, is a man of widely known excellent reputation and possessing a detailed knowledge of the Jewish refugee problem. We are told, moreover, that he is well and favorably known to the Polish government. It can be expected, therefore, that Dr. Shoskes' journey will be of great value in furthering refugee rescue work.

000423

Dr. Shoskes is a Polish citizen admitted for permanent residence in the United States. He has filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, and, naturally, would not like to have his re-admission and naturalization in this country complicated by the important humanitarian mission which he is willing to undertake. The Board would appreciate, therefore, the Department's cooperation in obtaining for Dr. Shoskes the papers needed for assuring his re-admission to this country.

You are aware, of course, of the extreme urgency of rescuing European Jews in German-controlled territory, and of the key position played in this respect by the countries which Dr. Shoskes intends to visit. I trust, therefore, that you will find it possible to enable him to depart on his mission with the least possible delay.

000424

SEP 2 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

As you may know, the War Refugee Board will be dissolved on September 15th. Because of your deep interest in the work of the Board, I am sending you herewith for your confidential information a copy of the summary report of its activities.

It was only through the cooperation of the private agencies that it was possible for the Board to bring some measure of relief and hope to the suffering victims of Nazi oppression. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Board for the support and assistance rendered by your organization to this unique humanitarian undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM O'DWYER

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency
Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 9/5/45

000425

Vaad Mahatzala - Reg file

JUL 6 1945

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter of July 5, 1945, and enclosures, requesting that messages be sent to Isaac Sternbuch, Montreux, Switzerland, and Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe, Stockholm, Sweden. This is to advise you that the above-mentioned letter has been transmitted to the Department of State for consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Vaad Mahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, N. Y.

EBT ✓ EBT:hd 7/6/45

000426

July 6, 1945

TO: Mr. Warren

FROM: Miss Hodel

There is attached hereto for your consideration a letter from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee requesting that messages be sent to Isaac Sternbuch, Montreux, Switzerland, and to Raabi Wilhelm Wolbe, Stockholm, Sweden. The Vaad Hahatzala has been advised of this reference.

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Attachment.

EBT ✓ EBT:hd 7/6/45

000427

COPY

VAAD HAHATZALA

COPY

(Emergency Committee)
132 Nassau Street
Room 919

New York, N.Y.

July 5, 1945

Miss Florence Hodell
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodell:

May we ask you to please send the enclosed messages
through the facilities of the War Refugee Board.

With our deepest appreciation.

Very respectfully yours,

Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee,
Inc.

/s/ Abraham Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:Q
encl.

100428

COPY

COPY

MESSAGE TO ISAAC STERNBUCH C/O HIJEES, MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND,
THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION IN BERNE, JULY 5, 1945.

WORRIED ABOUT RABBINICAL COLLEGE IN SHANGHAI STOP. CABLE
US IF EXIT PERMISSION DEFINITELY CONFIRMED AND IF TRANSIT
VIS RUSSIA ASSURED. RABBINICAL GROUP INQUIRED WHETHER
EVACUATION TO TIENSIN ADVISABLE. WE CANNOT DECIDE STOP.
URGE YOU INTERCEDE WITH SWISS GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR CONSUL
IN SHANGHAI GIVE FULLEST CONSIDERATION AND PROTECTION TO
THE RABBINICAL GROUP.

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBIS ARON KOTLER

ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
MR. IRVING BUNIM

000429

COPY

COPY

MESSAGE TO RABBI WILHELM WOLBE, 11 OLEFSGOTTEN, STOCKHOLM,
SWEDEN THROUGH AMERICAN LEGATION IN STOCKHOLM.
JULY 5, 1945.

WORRIED ABOUT RABBINICAL COLLEGE IN SHANGHAI STOP. CABLE US
IF EXIT PERMISSION DEFINITELY CONFIRMED AND IF TRANSIT VIA
RUSSIA ASSURED. RABBINICAL GROUP INQUIRED WHETHER EVACUATION
TO TIENSIN ADVISABLE. WE CANNOT DECIDE STOP. URGE YOU INTER-
CEDE WITH SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THAT THEIR CONSUL IN SHANGAI
GIVE FULLEST CONSIDERATION AND PROTECTION TO THE RABBINICAL
GROUP.

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBIS ARON KOTLER
ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ
MR. IRVING BUNIM

000430

JUN 26 1945

Dear Sirs:

For your information and that of other interested persons, this is to advise you that, in view of the early termination of the War Refugee Board, over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York, has been transferred from the War Refugee Board to the Department of the Interior.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, New York.

EBT EBT:inp 6/26/45

000431

June 5, 1945.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brig. General William O'Dwyer,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

We wish to respectfully submit the following memorandum concerning various vital problems affecting the Jewish people. We know that these problems will receive the earnest and humanitarian consideration and study of the War Refugee Board and we are deeply grateful for every aid given:

- I. We feel it is the utmost importance for a mission of our Committee in Switzerland HIJEFS (Union of Orthodox Rabbis) be granted the possibility of entering liberated territory. The purpose of the mission is to establish contact with the Jews who have survived and to bring the necessary food, medicaments and religious articles that are so vital for their existence. That permission should be granted without delay because daily reports reveal that the people are starving and suffering great need.
- II. It is essential that a mission representing the Vaad Habatzalah in the United States be given the permission to visit liberated areas. The purpose of this mission is to coordinate the activities of our various committees in Europe and of primary concern to bring aid to the Jewish children that are alive. This committee plans to establish orphan homes and religious schools for the physical and spiritual maintenance of the children. We recommend Rabbi S. P. Wehlgelernter and Mr. Fress as our representatives.
- III. There have been disturbing reports in the Jewish press that the Allied officials in liberated territory are giving over the surviving Jewish children into the hands of German Gentiles for upbringing and maintenance. If this be the fact, we strongly condemn this action and urge that these children be given over to responsible Jewish organizations including ours who are anxious and desirous of taking full care of them. We stress the importance of this problem because the Jewish populace is deeply aroused over this reported action.

For another memo on this subject see Reg. file War Dept

000432

- IV. A problem of deep concern is the Jewish people who have been liberated and found alive in liberated areas. Many of these people have no desire and will not return to their native countries. We feel that they should not be forced to return against their will, and, instead they should be brought to UNRRA Camps until they can arrange migration to some other country.
- V. Concerning the problem of Oswego, we feel that under no condition should these refugees be obligated to return to their native countries. A method should be found where they should be permitted to enter the United States under existing immigration laws. It would indeed be a blow to the democratic principles of our nation if these unfortunate souls were not given the possibility to reestablish their lives.
- VI. We urge that the problem of Shanghai be given earnest consideration. We ask that every aid be extended to help us bring to Sweden the group of 500 Rabbis and Talmudic scholars that are at the present time in Shanghai. We are doing all possible to effect their rescue but we must be aided in the technical details. Japan is ready to grant the group the right to leave and Sweden is ready to admit them, but the technical details of arranging this is beyond our efforts. We must have the aid of the War Refugee Board and other government agencies to make the transportation feasible. If possible, a ship or planes should be arranged for. This problem is a very earnest one because of the imminent danger existing in Shanghai.

We respectfully submit this memorandum and know that everything possible will be done to find a solution to the stated problems. We wish to express our fullest appreciation and gratefulness to the very courageous work of the War Refugee Board in its efforts to save the Jewish people.

VAAD HAHATZALAH EMERGENCY COMMITTEE,

A. Kalmanovitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanovitz.

MAY 19 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I wish to thank you for your letter of May 14, 1945, and for your very kind expression of appreciation to me.

With respect to your inquiry concerning the refugees at Oswego, the Board is advised that the House Committee on Immigration plans to conduct a series of investigations, including an investigation of the Oswego project, commencing in June. For your information, no order has been issued for the return of the refugees at Oswego to Europe and no such order has been recommended to the Board.

Very truly yours,

Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel
Assistant Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency
Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

FH:hd 5/19/45 

000434

ועד הצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

May 14, 1946

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington D.C.

Att: Miss Florence Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell:

This is the first opportunity we have had since V-Day to express our deepfelt and warm appreciation of the very noble and sincere encouragement which you, at all times, were ready to give the Vaad Hatzala.

We know that the task which you had was not so easy, and that the path paved with good intentions oftimes was beset with many road blocks. In you, we always saw a great humanitarian and one who felt a warmth and sympathetic understanding of our many problems. May the Almighty bless you for what you have done.

Recently we had occasion to confer with the Honorable Congressman Samuel Dickstein who advised us that some legislation is intended which would permit the Oswego group to find a permanent refuge in this country. We would appreciate your advice on the subject and also any information which you may have in this matter.

With our sincerest best wishes,

Very cordially yours,

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE INC

A. Kalmanowitz
Eabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hatzala program is especially needed.*

000435

APR 12 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

The enclosed letter from your representative in Sweden was received for you through the United States Legation in Stockholm.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Mahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

EBT

EBT:inp 4/11/45

24 -

000436



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICO/MET

Stockholm, Sweden
February 22, 1945

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

Dear General O'Dwyer:

Your assistance in the delivery of the following letters will be greatly appreciated:

- (1) Letter from Rabbi S. Wolbe, representative of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, to Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz, attaching list of deportees in Bergen Belsen who are in possession of Ecuadorian passports which expire the beginning of 1945.
- (2) Letter from local World Jewish Congress to Rabbi Stephen Wise, World Jewish Congress, New York.

Sincerely yours,

Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosures - 2

*No attachments when received
in files
NW*

100437

Vaad Hahatzala
(reg file)

APR 6 - 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I have received your telegram of April 3, 1945, concerning the reports that the Germans threaten the extermination of all war and civilian prisoners under their control.

You may be assured of the Board's continued vigorous action in all phases of safeguarding the lives of the victims of enemy oppression, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, N. Y.

*copy signed by
Sen. O'Dwyer*

FH:hd 4/6/45

Vaad Hahatzala program

000438

WU9 DL PD

WUX NEWYORK NY APR 3 1945 453P

GENERAL WILLIAM DYWER

1945 APR 4 AM 8 42

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY DEPT

GREATLY APPALLED AT REPORTS HITLER THREATENS EXTERMINATION
ALL WAR AND CIVILIAN PRISONERS STOP EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE
BY ALLIED NATIONS AND EVERY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY TO FORESTALL
THIS OUTRIGHT MURDER STOP EVERY RUSE OR METHOD USED COMPLETELY
JUSTIFIABLE AND MUST UTILIZE AT EARLIEST MOMENT STOP WE BLESS
THE HUMANE ACTION WHICH YOU WILL MOST CERTAINLY TAKE STOP YOU
MUST ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND EXERCISE THE INITIATIVE IN
AROUSING OUR LEADERS TO TAKE THE STEPS VITAL TO SAVE THESE
LIVES

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RABBI ABRAHAM KALMONOWITZ.

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000439

Vaad Hatzala
(reg. file)

APR 4 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowits:

I have received your letter of March 26, 1945, inviting me to attend a meeting of your Executive Committee some time in April.

I deeply appreciate your kind invitation and regret exceedingly that, according to my present plans, I shall not be in New York during the month of April.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend to you my sincere good wishes for the holiday season you are now observing. I wish also to express my appreciation for the splendid work of your organization and the cooperation given to the Board in its vital task.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

EBT:inp 4/4/45

000440

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I have received your letter of March 26, 1945,
inviting me to attend a meeting of your Executive Committee
some time in April.

I deeply appreciate your kind invitation and
regret exceedingly that, according to my present plans,
I ~~do not plan~~ to be in New York during the month of April.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend to
you my sincere good wishes for the holiday season you
are now observing.

*I wish also to express my
appreciation for the splendid work of your organization
and the cooperation given to the Board in its vital task.*

Very truly yours,
William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

000441

Dear Raab Kalmanowitz:

I have received your letter of March 26, 1945, inviting me to attend a meeting of your Executive Committee some time in April.

I deeply appreciate your kind invitation and regret exceedingly that, according to my present plans, I do not plan to be in New York during the month of April.

~~(Appropriate holiday greetings).~~

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

4/3

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to
convey to you my sincere good wishes
for the holiday season you are now
celebrating.

000442

ועד הצלה

VAAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

March 26, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

We are contemplating a meeting of our Executive Committee for an evening in April at which time we will submit a complete report on the activities of the Vaad Hatzala.

We are most anxious to have you, as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, and as one who has been very close to our effort during the past several months, honor us with your presence at this Conference.

Will you please advise us which evening in April is most convenient for you.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:Q

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hatzala program is especially needed.

200443

MAR 21 1945

Gentlemen:

I have received your telegram of March 16, 1945, informing me of the news report that the Germans in their hour of defeat threaten to exterminate all Jews remaining in concentration and labor camps.

I assure you that this Government is doing everything, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, to save as many as possible of the innocent victims still under German control

Very truly yours,

~~William O'Dwyer~~
William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi Israel Rosenberg
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Aron Kotler
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency
Committee,
132 Nassau Street
New York, N. Y.

*Off signed by
Wm O Dwyer*

FH:hd 3/19/45

000444

[Handwritten signature]

1945 MAR 16 PM 5 14

WU84 DL PD

WUX NEWYORK NY MAR 16 1945 354P

GEN WM ODWYER,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAR ~~RECOMM~~ REFUGEE BOARD

WE ARE GRAVELY DISTURBED AND SHOCKED OVER THE DNB REPORT THAT GERMANS IN LAST HOURS THREATENED COMPLETE EXTERMINATION OF ALL JEWS REMAINING IN CONCENTRATION AND LABOR CAMPS STOP. WE APPEAL TO YOU AND TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO DO ALL THAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE AND TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PREVENT THE ANNIHILATION OF LAST REMNANT OF JEWISH PEOPLE. A DIRECT WARNING SHOULD ALSO IMMEDIATELY BE ISSUED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY WILL BE HELD ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ TO STRICTEST ACCOUNTABILITY. WE PLEAD TO YOU AS A SORELY STRICKEN PEOPLE WHO HAS ALREADY LOST FIVE MILLION VICTIMS AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS TO DO ALL IN YOUR POWER TO SAVE THESE INNOCENT SOULS. EVERY LAW AND CONSIDERATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO RESCUE THIS REMAINDER OF EUROPEAN JEWS. WE IN THE FREE COUNTRIES MUST BEAR THE HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE LIVES. WE PRAY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN AND ACTION

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL JEWISH ORTHODOX RABBINICAL AND LAY ORGANIZATIONS RABBIS ISRAEL ROSNBERG ABRAHAM KAMANOWITZ AKXXX ARON KOTLER.

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000445

Vaod Hatzala (file)

MAR 17 1945

Let 1748-11

Gentlemen:

I have received your telegram of March 16, 1945, informing me of the news report that the Germans in their hour of defeat threaten to exterminate all Jews remaining in concentration and labor camps.

As you know, I share with you the great sorrow which Nazi terrorism has brought to the Jews of the world.

I again assure you that, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war, this Government is doing and will continue to do everything in its power to save the innocent victims still in the hands of the Germans.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. Morgenthau, Jr.

Secretary of the Treasury

Rabbi Israel Rosenberg ✓
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz ✓
Rabbi Aron Kotler ✓
Vaod Hatzala Emergency
Committee
132 Nassau Street
New York, New York

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FH

FH:hd 3/17/45

000446

WU85 DL PD

WUX NEWYORK NY MAR 16 1945 354P

1945 MAR 16 PM 5 14

SECRETARY OF TREASURY

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR

WE ARE GRAVELY DISTURBED AND SHOCKED OVER THE DNB REPORT THAT GERMANS IN LAST HOURS THREATENED COMPLETE EXTERMINATION OF ALL JEWS REMAINING IN CONCENTRATION AND LABOR CAMPS STOP. WE APPEAL TO YOU AND TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO DO ALL THAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE AND TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PREVENT THE ANNIHILATION OF LAST REMNANT OF JEWISH PEOPLE. A DIRECT WARNING SHOULD ALSO IMMEDIATELY BE ISSUED THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY WILL BE HELD TO STRICTEST ACCOUNTABILITY. WE PLEAD WXX TO YOU AS A SORELY STRICKEN PEOPLE WHO HAS ALREADY LOST FIVE MILLION VICTIMS AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS TO DO ALL IN YOUR POWER TO SAVE THESE INNOCENT SOULS. EVERY LAW AND CONSIDERATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO RESCUE THIS REMAINDER OF EUROPEAN JEWS. WE IN THE FREE COUNTRIES MUST BEAR THE HISTORIC ~~REXX~~ RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE LIVES. WE PRAY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN AND ACTION

VAAD HATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL JEWISH
ORTHODOX RABBINICAL AND LAY ORGANIZATIONS RABBIS ISRAEL
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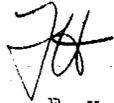
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March 7, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

General O'Dwyer advised me that he had informed the Vaad
Hahatzala that he would not reply to the attached letter.



F. Hodel



000448

ועד הצלה
VAA D HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

3/6/45
Solomon called
to request that
my letter be
addressed to
Mr. Boardman
132 Nassau Street

March 1, 1945

General William O'Dwyer
Executive Director, War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

You are most certainly aware of the extensive rescue work being done by our committee, and we would greatly appreciate receiving from you, as the newly appointed director, a letter appraising our work and lending the endorsement of the War Refugee Board to the Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee.

Permit us to express our deepfelt appreciation and gratitude for your graciousness in receiving our delegations during the recent difficult weeks, and for your concern in the problems presented.

We have every hope that your humanitarian approach will bring the only possible result.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,



Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

RAK:ETL

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hatzala program is especially needed.

000449

Vaad Hahatzala - Reg. file

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 910)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

File
AK

February 23, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

As per your request, I am sending you herewith an article and translation referring to the radio broadcast in Bern.
With kindest personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK/K
Enc.

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000450

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 910)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT IN JEWISH MORNING JOURNAL
DATED FEB. 21, 1945

HIMMLER STATES IN BERLIN THAT 700,000 JEWS ARE STILL IN THE HANDS
OF THE NAZIS

Bern, Switzerland, Monday, (Ita) The Swiss radio reported yesterday that Henrich Himmler Gestapo chief issued a statement in Berlin that 700,000 Jews are alive in the various Nazi occupied section of Europe. The statement did not declare if Himmler includes in this number "half" and "quarter" Jews which the Gestapo considers as Jews. The broadcast indicated that the Swiss Government had in a great measure helped influence the Gestapo to release 1200 Jews from the concentration camps in Theresienstadt.

The Jews arrived in Switzerland a short time ago. The radio also advised that additional Jews who were freed from Nazi concentration camps are expected in Switzerland.

"The Swiss Government is willing to give a haven to the Jewish refugees until they shall find homes in other lands". declared the Swiss Radio.

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

000451

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FEB 22 1945

TO: Mr. Warren
FROM: Miss Hodel

There is referred to you herewith for consideration and appropriate action a message which we received from the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee for the Swiss Federal Government.

Attachment.

000452

February 21, 1945

Message to Swiss Federal Government
Through American Legation in Bern

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA FUNCTIONING SINCE 1904 COMPOSED OF 500 RABBIS HEADING 500 COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUES ESTABLISHED THE VAAD HAHATZALA IN 1939, WHICH REPRESENTS ~~THE~~ RABBINICAL RELIGIOUS SOCIAL AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS OF ORTHODOX JEWRY IN AMERICA FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESCUE AND RELIEF STOP ISAAC STERNBUCH ~~MEMBER~~ IN MONTREUX AND HIS COMMITTEE HIJEFS IN SWITZERLAND ARE THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VAAD HAHATZALA.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND
UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF UNITED STATES
AND CANADA

RABBIS ISRAEL ROSENBERG, EL SILVER, ARON
KOTLER, ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

000453

ועד ההצלה

VAAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

File

February 6, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss Florence Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell:

We are indeed grateful to you for arranging the conference with General O'Dwyer, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board. It was a pleasure to meet with you and to discuss at length the many problems on which we worked together during the past year or so. We are sure that you will follow through on the matters we discussed at this conference, and that the necessary action will ensue.

We would again ask you to please contact Miss Shipley of the Passport Division to ascertain the delay in the issuance of the passport for our delegate, Rabbi S.P. Wohl-gelernter.

If possible, we would also appreciate receiving from you an abstract of the cable which Mr. McClelland sent to you referring to the manner of improving conditions, and treatment in the Concentration Camps. We feel that this greatly improved condition is a direct result of the many interventions made by the War Refugee Board and the State Department and also the work carried on by our Swiss Committee.

With our sincerest appreciation.

Very respectfully yours,

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

Handwritten notes:
Miss Hodell
7/1/45

000454

February 5, 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

Thank you for your letter of February 1 and your generous comments regarding my services as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

I am confident that General O'Dwyer can rely on your continued support and cooperation in the important work still to be done.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Assistant to the Secretary

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, New York.

000455

ועד ההצלה
VAAH HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

February 1, 1945

Honorable John W. Pehle
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

It was indeed a distinct surprise for us to learn that you were leaving the War Refugee Board.

During the year or more that we had such close and cordial relationship with you in the many problems which we together tried to solve in effecting the rescue of the many unfortunate in the enemy-occupied territory, we found in you a true humanitarian and one who was ready to risk almost all to faithfully carry out the Executive Order of our President and to really and actually rescue human beings.

We are aware of the many and difficult obstacles which always stood in your path. The Vaad Hahatzala feels that you personally did marvelous, and at times extremely remarkable work. In our opinion however, the work that was done was only a fraction of what could have been done and what should have been done by the War Refugee Board. The fault however does not lie with you. You did everything humanly possible and for which we express our deepest appreciation and blessings. The sincerest thanks of our committee is extended to you together with our best wishes for success in any service you may undertake whether it is for our Government or in private life.

We shall continue to look forward to your guidance and counsel which we value so heartily.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAH HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000456

FEB 3 1945

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I have received your telegram of February 2, 1945, and I wish to assure you that this Government will continue to do everything in its power consistent with the successful prosecution of the war to save the remaining Jews in German-controlled Europe.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz,
Vlad Mahatsala Emergency
Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York, N. Y.

EH:hd 2/3/45 *PH*

000457

WU39 LG PAID

1945 FEB 2 PM 5 51

NEWYORK NY FEB 2 1945 1945

GENERAL WILLIAM O'DWYER EXEC DIR

2426

WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREASURY DEPT

GREATLY CONCERNED FATE REMAINING JEWS IN GERMANY. CONSTRUCTING FRONT
POSES GREATEST DANGER TO THEM. RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT COMING CONFERENCE
OF OUR PRESIDENT PREMIER CHURCHILL AND MARSHAL STALIN CONSIDER ~~RESCUE~~
RESCUE BY FIRSTLY ISSUING STRONGEST WARNING THAT ALL IN
CONCENTRATION AND LABOR CAMPS AND 148,000 RECENTLY TAKEN FROM
TRANSYLVANIA AND 16,000 FROM LITHUANIA MUST BE TREATED AS CIVILIAN
INTERNEES OR AS PRISONERS OF WAR ² SECONDLY THAT EXCHANGE FOR ALL
INTERNEES ~~BRX~~ WITH GERMANS BE EFFECTED AT SPEEDIEST MOMENT.
THESE MEASURES VITAL FOR LIVES OF INTERNEES. WE APPEAL YOU
BRING THIS URGENT MATTER TO OUR PRESIDENTS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE IN NAME ALL JEWISH ORTHODOX
ORGANIZATIONS 132 NASSAU ST RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ..

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000458

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

February 2, 1945

*Delivered to
O'Dwyer
2/5/45
JH*

Honorable William O'Dwyer
District Attorney's Office
Brooklyn, New York

Honorable Sir:

Allow us to express in the name of our organization sincerest congratulations on your designation as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board.

For the past year we have had a very close contact with the War Refugee Board and have cooperated with them in following through the Executive Order of our President, which was issued in January of 1944, and which had as its specific motive the rescue of the maximum number of unfortunate from the hands of the enemy.

We read with deep satisfaction your statement that the immediate and direct position of the War Refugee Board is to get hundreds of thousands of unfortunate people out from under. We extend to you our deepest best wishes for every success in your humanitarian undertaking and we pledge our continued cooperation.

Enclosed for your information is a short memorandum which outlines the work of our organization and our association with the War Refugee Board during the past year.

We look forward to an early meeting with you

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000459

Honorable William O'Dwyer

February 2, 1945

- 2 -

at which time we can discuss in greater detail the problems which are of deep concern to you and to us.

Very respectfully yours,

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee



Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:R

000460

February 5, 1945

appeared.

3. Every attempt was made to rescue through ransom any and all who could be reached and saved by this procedure.
4. Our Committees in the European areas also arranged to smuggle across borders thousands for whom such method of rescue could be arranged.
5. The Vaad Hahatzala, through its Committees in Europe, and by close cooperation with the International Red Cross and the War Refugee Board arranged for the transfer of food and clothing parcels to thousands held in concentration camps. It also provided food and subsistence to thousands who were hidden and whose whereabouts could be made known.
6. The Committee in Tangiers was especially active in supplying food parcels to the concentration camps of Teherstadt and Birkenau *Bergen-Belsen*. The last report stated that close to 15,000 parcels are being sent to those camps every month.
7. The Vaad Hahatzala carried on a vigorous intervention with our Government, and through the intermediary of the War Refugee Board and the State Department, endeavored to reach many of our Allied countries and the Vatican and to urge their strong protest against the program of extermination which was being carried out by the German Government. Many direct warnings followed as the direct result of the pleas interposed by the Vaad Hahatzala.
8. Aside from its program of rescue the Vaad Hahatzala, during 1944, sent relief to the group of Rabbis and Scholars who were in Shanghai and also to those in the USSR. We are attaching, and making part of this memorandum, a copy of our audited statement for 1944.

We wish to point with gratitude to the very cordial relationship which the Vaad Hahatzala had with the War Refugee Board since its creation. The entire staff was most cooperative and endeavored to follow through the Executive Order of our President when he created this Board with the specific purpose of making possible the rescue of the maximum number from the hands of the enemy. We desire to continue this relationship with you and we shall look forward to extending to you every cooperation.

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

000462

LOUIS J. SEPTIMUS & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

VAAD HATZOLO - EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE
NEW YORK CITY

Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments
January 1, 1944 to December 31, 1944

INCOME: From Appeals, Campaigns and Welfare Funds \$1,135,452.87

RESCUE AID PAID:

Remitted to our Committees in the Following Countries:

Switzerland	\$622,679.21	
Shanghai	150,100.00	
Palestine	35,402.93	
U. S. S. R. (Russia)	31,104.06	
Turkey	25,908.75	
Sweden	12,218.34	
Ecuador	3,000.00	
Santo Domingo	3,101.40	
Lithuania	6,867.50	
Canada	680.00	
London	400.00	
Cuba	250.00	
Rescue Aid through Other Organizations	8,089.50	
Parcels sent from U. S. to U.S.S.R. (Russia)	63,229.75	
Remitted to Tehran for Parcels to Russia	56,032.11	
Remitted to Palestine for Parcels to Russia	49,343.88	
Remitted to Tangeir for Parcels	8,000.00	
Cables via War Refugee Board, State Department, and via other Agencies	5,498.88	
Miscellaneous Rescue Aid Paid, including expenditures to Washington re Rescue Aid	5,984.30	
Total Rescue Aid Paid		<u>1,087,890.61</u>

\$ 47,562.26

Less Expenses of Fund Raising and Administration:

Salaries	\$ 19,556.78	
Postage, Printing and Stationery	4,909.26	
Advertising and Publicity	9,990.05	
Traveling, Hotel Accommodations, Secretarial and other Campaign Costs	19,771.08	
Telephones	2,384.39	
Rent	1,580.00	
Office Equipment	848.48	
Miscellaneous Expenses	560.92	
Total Expenses Paid		<u>59,620.96</u>
Excess Payments Over Receipts		<u>\$ 12,058.70</u>

We have made a detailed audit of the books and records of account of the Vaad Hatzolo for the year ending December 31, 1944, and WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY that in our opinion the above Statement correctly reflects its summary of Cash Receipts and Cash Payments for the year ending December 31, 1944.

LOUIS J. SEPTIMUS & COMPANY

by Boyd Eastman

000463

Nov. 19, 1944.

Honorable John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:-

We enclose a copy of our financial statement which covers the period of January 1st to October 31st, 1944.

You are intimately aware of all the effort, blood, sweat and tears that is contained in the Vaad Hahatzala work.

From the very inception of the War Refugee Board, the Vaad Hahatzala has stood in the vanguard of the rescue work, and such rescue measures as procurement of passports, crossing refugees from one border to another, the ransom of many held by the enemy, were initiated by the Vaad Hahatzala and carried through by its committees in the neutral lands. The War Refugee Board recognized the need for the above measures and gave its cooperation to making these measures actual rescue mediums.

We would respectfully ask you, to please acknowledge receipt of the enclosed statement and to include also an approval by the War Refugee Board of the work done by the Vaad Hahatzala.

With deepest appreciation,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

RABBI A. KALMANOWITZ

000465

**VAAD HATZOLO-EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR RESCUE
NEW YORK CITY**

**Statement of Cash Receipts & Payments
January 1, 1944 to October 31, 1944**

INCOME: From Appeals, Campaigns & Welfare Funds\$811,164.58

RESCUE AID PAID:

Remitted to Switzerland	\$422,224.60
Remitted to Shanghai.....	110,100.00
Remitted to Palestine.....	35,402.93
Remitted to U. S. S. R.	30,357.08
Remitted to Turkey	25,908.75
Remitted to Sweden	12,218.34
Remitted to Ecuador.....	3,000.00
Remitted to Santo Domingo	3,101.40
Remitted to Lithuania	6,811.00
Remitted to Canada	680.00
Remitted to London.....	400.00
Remitted to Cuba.....	250.00
Rescue Aid through other organizations	7,750.00
Parcels sent from U. S. to Russia	53,883.32
Remitted to Tehran for parcels to Russia ..	41,032.11
Remitted to Palestine for parcels to Russia ..	29,843.88
Remitted to Tangeir for parcels	8,000.00
Cables via War Refugee Board, State Dept. and other Agencies	4,861.78
Miscellaneous Rescue Aid Paid	<u>5,251.82</u>

Total Rescue Aid Paid 800,876.99
 \$ 19,287.57

Less Expenses of Fund Raising & Administrations:

Salaries	15,951.17
Postage, printing, stationery	5,381.74
Advertising & Publicity	9,407.45
Traveling, Hotel Accomodations	
Secretarial and other Costs	14,679.54
Telephone	2,103.88
Rent	1,180.00
Office Equipment	307.50
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>631.39</u>

Total Expenses Paid 49,642.67
 Excess Payments over Receipts \$ 39,592.10

We have made a detailed audit of the books and records of account of the Vaad Hatzolo for the ten month period ended October 31, 1944, and WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY that in our opinion the above statement correctly reflects its summary of Cash Receipts and Payments for the period above stated.

LOUIS J. SEPTIMUS & COMPANY
By *Louis J. Septimus*

000466

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

Miss Hodel talked to
Schoen 2/1/45 and advised
him matter is pending at
State in Warren's hands.
Nothing further we can do.

EST

January 29, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We are most anxious to know whether Miss Shipley of the Passport Division has advised you whether there have been any further developments on the passport to be issued to Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgernter whom we have selected as our delegate to Switzerland.

I trust I will hear from you shortly.

Very respectfully yours,

Abraham Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

K:Q

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000467

ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7. N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

*File
1/26/45
Discussed
with Warren, who
is working on this
AM*

January 23, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We enclose herewith a copy of the letter which we sent to Mr. George Warren and Miss Ruth Shipley in reference to the passport application of Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelernter.

May we also ask you to give it the approval and assistance of the War Refugee Board.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000468

January 23, 1945

Mr. George L. Warren
Special Adviser
Department of State
1712 G Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Warren:

The State Department and the War Refugee Board have advised us that approval has been given to our Committee to send a delegate overseas to contact and confer with our European Committees in the matter of the rescue of Rabbis, scholars and distinguished laymen. Our Board has chosen Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelemer to be our delegate.

We understand that Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelemer has already submitted a formal application for his passport to Miss Ruth Shipley of the Passport Division. May we therefore respectfully urge you to expedite the issuance of this passport.

If the war situation makes temporarily impossible his entry into Switzerland, he would first visit England, Spain, France, Portugal and Sweden and would confer with our Swiss Committee by phone.

The Rabbi is one of the most distinguished religious leaders in the country, and has been highly recommended by Senator Magnusson of the State of Washington. His selection has been approved by all the religious orthodox organizations in this country.

May we again urge your kind intervention in the issuance of his passport.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

000469

JAN 18 1945

Dear Rabbi Tabak:

Enclosed is a letter dated January 12, 1945, from
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz which was apparently delivered to the
War Refugee Board in error.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Israel Tabak,
Shaarei Zion Congregation,
Park Heights Avenue at Hilldale,
Baltimore 15, Maryland.

Enclosure.

EB *Reh* RBHutchison:inp 1/17/45 *PZ*

000470

JAN 18 1945

Dear Rabbi Tabak:

Enclosed is a letter dated January 12, 1945, from
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz which was apparently delivered to the
War Refugee Board in error.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi Israel Tabak,
Shaarei Zion Congregation,
Park Heights Avenue at Hilldale,
Baltimore 15, Maryland.

Enclosure.

EWB *Reh* RBHutchison:inp 1/17/45 *Reh*

000470

*Said Kahilzler
(Reg. file)*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

*1/19/45
Kahilzler with T. H. S.
Kahilzler to day to
request that the
Board deliver the
attached memorandum
to the President as
soon as possible.*

DATE January 19, 1945

TO Miss Model
FROM B. Akzin

*1/22/45 - Kahlzler
Kahilzler with T. H. S.
discussed, after discussion
with Mr. Pahl, that
we would
not
transmit
this
to the
Pres.
JHT*

Attached hereto is the Rabbis' memorandum to the President together with a draft of a letter of transmittal.

Formally speaking, WRB would seem to be the correct channel through which a private organization should, or at least may, address a memorandum to the President on matters relating to the rescue of Nazi victims, and I think that transmission of such a memorandum by us is quite unobjectionable.

You will notice that the draft letter does not contain any approval or expression of our opinion regarding the contents of the memo.

It is true that we have been advised by the Rabbis that they have requested Governor Lehman to hand to the President, in person, an identically worded memorandum; but we understand that Governor Lehman is not certain whether he will be able to see the President previous to his departure from the country. In the circumstances, this need not stop us from transmitting the memorandum as requested.

BA

Attachment

art - 1/19/45

My dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a memorandum handed to the War Refugee Board by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of United States and Canada and the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, addressed to the President of the United States.

Respectfully,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM TO HIS EXCELLENCY
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The zero hour fast approaches for the pitiful remnant of European Jewry, butchered and ruthlessly destroyed by history's most bestial murderer. The complete and final annihilation of this remnant has become the particular objective and frenzy of the hangmen.

May we respectfully submit the following proposals for the gracious consideration of the President:

1) That a warning issue from the President, Premier Churchill and Marshal Stalin, to the German Government and to the German people that the murders must cease and that the fullest punishment will be exacted for the exterminations and tortures inflicted on the helpless unfortunate victims.

2) That all Jews and others held by the Germans be declared and considered prisoners of war, and as such entitled to the protection of such status.

3) That inasmuch as the judicious use of funds has made possible and resulted in the rescue of many unfortunates, additional and larger sums be made available to the proper agency for continued and further negotiation for the release and rescue of those still held.

4) May we also respectfully call the attention of the President to the only remaining Rabbinical College of Poland. This College comprising some 505 persons and including Deans, Rabbis, faculty members and scholars, escaped Poland, and after wandering through Siberia and China, eventually reached Shanghai. Reports received through the International Red Cross, emphasize their danger and urge their immediate evacuation. The developing war situation further aggravates this danger. The rescue of this group is the deep concern of religious Jewry throughout the world. The Vatican was recently informed that the Japanese Government was willing to negotiate for the exchange of this group. May we therefore, respectfully call the attention of the President to the universally recognized exceptional religious status of this Rabbinical group in Shanghai, and to request the consideration of the President for their exchange.

Respectfully submitted:

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF UNITED STATES AND
CANADA

VAAD HAHITZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Representing all Orthodox Jewish Organizations
132 Nassau Street
New York, 7, New York

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

January 15, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO HIS EXCELLENCY FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The zero hour fast approaches for the pitiful remnant of European Jewry, butchered and ruthlessly destroyed by history's most bestial murderer. The complete and final annihilation of this remnant has become the particular objective and frenzy of the hangmen.

May we respectfully submit the following proposals for the gracious consideration of the President:

1) That a warning issue from the President, Premier Churchill and Marshal Stalin, to the German Government and to the German people that the murders must cease and that the fullest punishment will be exacted for the exterminations and tortures inflicted on the helpless unfortunate victims.

2) That all Jews and others held by the Germans be declared and considered prisoners of war, and as such entitled to the protection of such status.

3) That inasmuch as the judicious use of funds has made possible and resulted in the rescue of many unfortunates, additional and larger sums be made available to the proper agency for continued and further negotiation for the release and rescue of those still held.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF UNITED STATES & CANADA

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
Representing all Orthodox Jewish Organizations
132 Nassau Street
New York City
N.Y.

By

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

January 15, 1945.

O. K. Hoover

May we respectfully submit to the State Department the following vital matters for the consideration of the Department and for the necessary action which we petition herewith;

1. Switzerland - During the past year our Emergency Committee, through its rescue committee in Switzerland, has received the fullest cooperation of the Swiss Government in the admission of the refugees, who through the aid of our Committees, were fortunate enough to be rescued from the hands of the enemy and given haven in Switzerland. Switzerland has manifested on every occasion its great humane and democratic ideals and has kept its doors open to these refugees. We understand that the country, as small as it is, already holds close to 100,000 such refugees. We can readily appreciate and understand the burden that is imposed upon this country. We would therefore respectfully request:

(a) that the Government of the United States together with the other Allied Nations take immediate steps to arrange for the removal from Switzerland of the maximum number of these refugees and the placing of them into a temporary camp until their permanent re-establishment. This would clearly emphasize to the Government of Switzerland that the refugees are being provided for and would give the Swiss Government the added impetus to continue to keep its doors open to the many who can still be rescued. In conjunction with the removal of these refugees we would respectfully suggest that provisions be made for the admission of food, clothing and medicaments to those already there to relieve the situation which has been imposed upon Switzerland by the admission of these refugees.

(b) We would also respectfully request that U. S. and other Allied Nations intervene with the Government of Switzerland to continue to keep its doors open. The success of all present and future rescue measures involving hundreds of thousands of lives, is entirely and directly dependent on the certainty that the admission of those rescued, will be assured. The action which Switzerland has taken heretofore in the admission of refugees was done so at the suggestion of the Government of the United States.

II. We have been advised ^{an} that exchange is imminent between the Governments of Paraguay and Germany. We would therefore respectfully again call the attention of the State Department to the two groups of persons formerly held in Camp Vitell, France. One group of 163 was deported in April 1944 and the second group of 51 in May 1944. These 214 persons include many great rabbis, scholars and leaders and their fate is of great concern to us. So much so that we have made several interventions with the State Department concerning them. We anxiously fear for their safety.

Inasmuch as most of these persons possess Paraguayan documentation with particular validity for exchange, we would respectfully request our State Department which has evidenced such deep concern in the fate of this group to make every effort to discover their whereabouts and to have them exchanged.

III. Delegation to Switzerland - We would respectfully request the assistance of the State Department in the matter of enabling our organization to send a delegate to Switzerland that it may work in closest harmony with our existing Rescue Committee therein and assist that Committee in strengthening and expanding the rescue work and program which the committee

has outlined for the future. This delegate would of course report to the Representative of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland and would parallel and coordinate his work and program with that of the Refugee Board representative. In this manner we feel that a closer contact would be established between our Committee here and the Committee operating in Switzerland and would accelerate the rescue program.

IV. Delegation to Poland - We would also respectfully request the good offices of our State Department for an intervention with the Government of the USSR to permit and enable the entry of a delegation of our Committee into free Poland. This Committee would have as its main purposes,-

- (a) To discover and trace the whereabouts of the many thousands of great Rabbis and leaders of the religious communities which existed prior to the war in Poland.
- (b) To endeavor to reunite uprooted and war-torn families.
- (c) To assist in the problem of giving direct relief to the many hundreds of thousands of persons who are in dire need of such a relief program.

V. We would also respectfully request the State Department to intercede with the Government of the USSR for the release of the Rabbis and Rabbinical Scholars who are now in the USSR in the provinces of; Turkenstan, Bukhara, etc. These scholars and rabbis are formerly in the great Yeshivath of Poland and in the religious communities of that country. They represent an element most vitally necessary for the future religious life of the Jewish people and we are most anxious to arrange for their release from the USSR via Iran. This matter has been presented on several occasions to the State Department and has been taken up by the Ambassador of our

country to the Government of Russia.

VI. Shanghai - On several occasions we have presented to the State Department memoranda concerning the release of the group of Rabbis and Rabbin^{ical}/scholars in Shanghai. This group comprises some 500 persons in which is included in entirety the Rabbinical College of Mir, one of the most outstanding Rabbinical schools in Poland. We have interceded with the Vatican, the Government of Spain and the Government of Sweden for the unilateral release of this group from Japan and also for their inclusion in whatever exchanges there are to be made. We stressed to the Vatican and to the Governments of Sweden and Spain the outstanding and exceptional religious status of this group and requested that they be specially considered in the matter of exchange or release. We were recently informed that the Japanese Government was ready to consider the exchange of these persons. We would therefore respectfully request our State Department to give immediate consideration to the matter of their exchange and to express a willingness to the Government of Japan that our country was ready to consider the exchange of these persons.

VII. Our organization has worked in closest harmony with the War Refugee Board and clearly recognizes the tremendous task which faced the War Refugee Board during 1944 in carrying out the Executive Order of our President which created the Board with the express purpose of making possible the rescue of the maximum number of the Hitler victims and enable their escape to safe territory. Our Committee expended over \$1,100,000 which it made available under Government license to committees which operated in the European theatre. Thousands of persons owe their lives to the functioning of the War Refugee Board and the closest harmony with which our committee worked with the Board in Switzerland.

We would therefore respectfully urge that the province of the

War Refugee Board be expanded and that it be given greater means to effectively carry out its humane program. It has been proven that rescue can be effected by the judicious use of larger sums of money. We feel therefore that larger sums should be placed at the disposal of the War Refugee Board to be used for the rescue of unfortunate victims. It becomes apparent as time passes that literally only days remain that can still be utilized for the rescue of as many victims as possible who may still be snatched from the hands of the enemy. We are certain that it is the desire and will of our State Department to make possible this rescue work.

Respectfully Submitted

VAAD HANATZALA EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE

132 Nassau Street
New York, N. Y.

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

January 10, 1945

January 9, 1945

Miss Hodel

Mr. Arzin

On Monday, January 8, I received a telephone call from Rabbi Irving Miller of the American Jewish Congress in New York. Rabbi Miller stated that the Vaad Hahatzala is conducting a campaign in which it is requesting contributions for the purpose of rescuing Jews and is informing the public that rescue could be effected at so much per head. He further stated that several people who were considering the advisability of making large contributions to the Vaad Hahatzala have approached him to ask whether such contributions should be made or not. Before giving such advice, Rabbi Miller wanted to inquire if I could confirm that such rescue operations are possible and whether the Vaad Hahatzala is justified in conducting such a campaign.

I refused to commit myself and stated that I could not comment on the merits of any campaign by any relief organization, and that if a comment of the Board is desired, the American Jewish Congress could send us any material regarding which they wish to have our opinion. Rabbi Miller stated thereupon that he does not ask for any expression of opinion of the Board but wishes to have my personal views on the subject. I answered that, personally, I believe that the Vaad Hahatzala has done very useful work in connection with the rescue of individuals, but that I have nothing to say regarding the alleged specific campaign of the Vaad Hahatzala. I added that he certainly would not want me to make any comments regarding any campaign conducted by Congress if a representative of the Vaad Hahatzala had asked me for such comments.

Rabbi Miller said that he, too, is convinced of the good work of the Vaad Hahatzala but finds himself at a loss as to the specific advice he should give to potential contributors.

I repeated that I could not be of any help to him in this respect, and he rang off with every evidence of being disappointed.

On Tuesday, January 9, Mr. Grossman, of the World Jewish Congress, phoned me from New York. He stated that there are rumors going around in New York that the Vaad Hahatzala is conducting a campaign for the purpose of rescuing 300,000 Jews at so much per head, with the consent of the Government. He asked me whether these rumors are true or not.

I answered that I have no comment to offer with regard to any unsubstantiated rumors and inquired whether anything has been published

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anywhere. He said that nothing has been published and that there are only rumors to that effect. I said that if anything should be published on the subject and he would like to have the Board's opinion, he could send us the material and formulate his question, but that as long as he merely speaks of rumors without indicating their source, there is nothing I could do to help him.

On its face, the purpose of Rabbi Miller's and Mr. Grossman's calls was to obtain some statement from a member of the Board's staff which could be quoted to discourage contributors to a rival organization from contributing to it and to encourage them to devote their contributions to the organizations in which these gentlemen are interested--a practice which, unfortunately, is very frequent among Jewish relief organizations. This is why I was particularly careful not to give either of the gentlemen any answer of which they could make use for their own ends.

At the same time, and without necessarily placing reliance on their version of the Vaad Hahatzala's slogans, it may be useful to inquire what it is that the Vaad Hahatzala is saying to induce contributions to its current campaign. Should it appear that the Vaad Hahatzala goes too far in claiming the feasibility of certain impossible operations or in claiming U. S. Government support for operations to which no such support is being given, it may be useful to administer a healthy rebuke.

BAKZINAR 1/9/45 BG.

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ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 919)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

File

January 4, 1945

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We refer to the telephone conversation of Tuesday afternoon and we thank you for arranging the conference to be held Thursday, January 11 at 5:00 P.M.

Our Committee headed by Rabbi Kalmanowitz will be present.

Inasmuch as we have written to the Honorable Mr. Dunn requesting a conference with him, may we ask you whether it would be possible for the War Refugee Board to so arrange the matter that the outstanding officials of the State Department, with Mr. Dunn at its head, be present at the conference arranged for next Thursday.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Pincus Schoen
Pincus Schoen

PS:r

*Warren B. ...
See ...
Mr. ...*

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

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ועד ההצלה

V A A D H A H A T Z A L A

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

December 29, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We thank you very much for your letter of December 28, in which you advise us of the continued interest and the concern of the War Refugee Board in the rescue of the unfortunate victims in the enemy occupied territories.

In several conferences held with you, you gave us every assurance that Switzerland would be ready to receive those who would escape and seek refuge there.

After a conference with Ambassador Harris^{on} and in interviews held with prominent persons recently arrived from Switzerland, we are led to believe that only after a continued and persistent intervention with the Swiss Government, could we hope for further cooperation in the admission of those fortunate to escape.

The recent escape and admission of a larger number, gives us the hope that many more may be rescued and on their way.

May we therefore, ask you to lend the influence of the War Refugee Board and the State Department that continued appeal be made to the Swiss Government to pursue its humane policy and to hold its doors open for those who will escape persecution.

Perhaps a conference could be arranged with the Honorable Secretary of State or with some other official of the State Department at which we can discuss the matter further.

I shall look forward to your early advice and could inform you that Wednesday or Thursday of next week would be most suited for this conference.

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Habatzala program is especially needed.*

1/2/44
Called Mr. Pehle
re Swiss Govt
(Jewish Refugees)
(Jan 1944) etc
J. P. M. - a.k.
the Swiss Govt
of Vaad Habatzala
JH

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ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

December 29, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle

- 2 -

With our devoted appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A. Kalmanowitz
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoth, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
V a a d H a b a t z a l a program is especially needed.*

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DEC 21 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 15, 1944, concerning certain problems you have encountered in obtaining funds from your committee in Brasil.

I regret that the War Refugee Board is not in a position to be of assistance to you in this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

WJP - Cleared
With Mr. Pehle
12/20/44

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ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 818)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

December 15, 1944.

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Att: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:-

May we ask you to please have the enclosed message dispatched through the facilities of the War Refugee Board?

We would also ask the assistance of the War Refugee Board in another matter. A committee raising funds for the Vaad Hahatzala in Brazil wishes to transmit to us the funds they have in hand, but are having difficulty in getting the funds to us. In a communication which we received from them today, they suggest that should the American Consul in Sao Paulo be advised of the Vaad Hahatzala, he would be willing to accept the funds for transmission to us.

May we respectfully ask you to advise us whether the War Refugee Board can advise the American Consul in Sao Paulo, Brazil of the Vaad Hahatzala and that he may accept the funds from the head of the committee, Mr. Z. Zingerowitz, for us.

With our sincerest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
A. Kalmanowitz
RABBI A. KALMANOWITZ

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoh, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

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DEC 19 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I have received your letter of December 11, 1944, in which you express your joy over the news of the safe arrival in Switzerland of 1355 Jews from Bergenbelsen. News of this kind brings hope to all of us who are working unremittingly to save the oppressed Jews remaining in enemy territory.

The tremendous humanitarian undertaking assigned to the War Refugee Board has been fraught with many obstacles and disappointments but the fact that thousands of lives have been saved through its efforts and those of private organizations such as the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee has brought hope to the unfortunate people in Europe and encouragement to those who continue to work for their rescue and relief. Your Committee is to be congratulated for the contribution it has made to this great life-saving project.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

FH:hd 12/15/44

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ועד ההצלה
VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

December 11, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We are indeed grateful for the joyous news you transmitted to us that an additional group of 1356 Jews reached Switzerland safely. Please accept our thanks also for making this very vital message available to us by special delivery.

Words cannot express our feeling of deep appreciation to you for your most humane and deep understanding of our earnest efforts during the recent many trying months. We are sure that you clearly understand and truly evaluate the Vaad Hahatzala and its sincere unselfish desire to rescue the maximum number of our unfortunate brethren. May we respectfully ask you, since the year is at its close, to endeavor to have the War Refugee Board issue a statement on the Vaad Hahatzala and its contributions to the overall picture of rescue and relief.

*OK with
Belle*

With our deepest and devoted appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

A. Kalmanowitz

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

P.S.:— May we ask you to please transmit the enclosed message through the facilities of the War Refugee Board.

*To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values
(Yeshivoh, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

*To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

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ועד ההצלה

VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET
(ROOM 819)
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

File

December 14, 1944

War Refugee Board
Treasury Building
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We have been advised that Mr. Olsen is presently in Washington.

You understand that we are most anxious to confer with Mr. Olsen and to get from him a first-hand report on rescue efforts in Switzerland.

Sweden

May we therefore ask you to please arrange a conference for us with Mr. Olsen at which we would greatly appreciate your presence.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

A. Kalmanowitz

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

As covered with Olsen & Abrahams Rabbis to write to the Board for a meeting with them when they see in Wash.
AK

To rescue, save and preserve from war destruction the Torah values (Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)

To utilize the possibilities for rescue of European Jewry where the Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

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Handwritten notes at top left, possibly including "(leg. file.)"

DEC 8 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I am happy to be able to report to you that we have just been advised that approximately 1,355 Hungarian Jews have arrived in Switzerland from Camp Bergenbelsen. They arrived during the night of December 6th to 7th and are temporarily housed near St. Gall.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz,
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

Sent to his home
address
540 Bedford Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

FH:hd 12/8/44

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