

VAAD HAHATZALA Emergency Committee  
(Folder 2 of 2)

000491

NOV 27 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

I am pleased to forward herewith photostatic copies of a report made by your Istanbul committee to the American Embassy, Ankara, Turkey.

Very truly yours,

(SIGNED) S. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

FH:hd 11/25/44

200492

NOV 27 1944

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of  
November 19, 1944, enclosing a copy of your financial  
statement for the period of January 1 to October 31,  
1944.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

*JWA*

*KSL*

FH:hd 11/24/44

000493

ועד ההצלה  
**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

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

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
RABBI A. KALMANOWITZ

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

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

000494

**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 .....\$811,164.56

**RESCUE AID PAID:**

Remitted to Switzerland .....	\$422,224.60
Remitted to Shanghai.....	110,100.00
Remitted to Palestine.....	38,402.93
Remitted to U. S. S. R. ....	30,357.06
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 .....	53,683.32
Remitted to Tehran for parcels to Russia ..	41,032.11
Remitted to Palestine for parcels to Russia	29,843.88
Remitted to Tangair 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

**800,876.99**

**\$ 19,287.57**

**Less Expenses of Fund Raising & Administration:**

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

**49,642.67**

**Excess Payments over Receipts .....** \$ 39,355.10

**\$ 39,355.10**

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 *Cecil Septimus*

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 610)  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.  
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

*Also letter  
explains why  
we are moving  
to New York City*

November 24, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss F. Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel:

We have written Mr. John W. Pehle and forwarded to him an audited statement of the Vaad Hahatzala for the period January 1st to October 31st. We are enclosing a copy for you.

In our letter we requested Mr. Pehle to voice the approval and satisfaction of the War Refugee Board with the work of the Vaad Hahatzala.

It has also been in your province to note, at close hand, our effort at rescue.

May we ask you to call to Mr. Pehle's attention our request, and to ask you to lend also your support to it.

With our deepest 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  
(Yeshivot, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

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

000496

**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 .....\$811,164.56

**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. ....	30,357.06
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Remitted to Canada .....	680.00
Remitted to London.....	400.00
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Rescue Aid through other organizations ....	7,750.00
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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 ..... 42,642.67  
 Excess Payments over Receipts ..... \$ 39,355.10

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*

October 28, 1944

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to the request contained in your letter of October 27, 1944, there are enclosed herewith duplicate originals of two letters which the War Refugee Board addressed to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis under date of October 24, 1944.

Very truly yours,

*(s) Florence Hodel*

Florence Hodel  
Special Assistant to the Executive Director

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

Enclosures.

✓  
*K. W. W. W.*

*Messages referred to -  
6941, 10/19/44 for Ben  
6951, 10/20/44 "*

000498

ועד ההצלה  
**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

October 27, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss Florence Hodel

Dear Miss Hodel,

May we express our most grateful thanks and appreciation for your indulgence in making the changes in the four messages which I left with the War Refugee Board for transmission.

We enclose herewith copies of two messages which the Board sent to us. However, they are addressed to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, and inasmuch as all of our accounts are carried in the name of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, we would be grateful, if you could send us the same copies addressed to us.

If it is possible, we would gratefully appreciate that all communications from the War Refugee Board be addressed to the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee.

With our most grateful 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  
(Yesbivoh, Rabbis, Scholars and Communal Leaders)*

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

000499

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 24, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Mr. Sternbuch was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of October 19, 1944:

" To date (October 6) we have disbursed in Swiss francs equivalents: for Slovakia 305.000; for Poland, Hungary and Rumania 435.000; for Italy 30.000; and for Holland, Belgium and France 140.000.

"Through Intercross there was recently dispatched a carload which included 5000 kilos sugar and 5000 kilos of macaroni, to the Resienstadt. Distribution of this food will be undertaken by our people."

Very truly yours,

J.W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Union of Orthodox Rabbis  
132 Nassau Street  
New York 7, N.Y.

100500

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25 , D.C.

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

October 24, 1944

Dear Sirs:

The following message for you from Mr. Sternbuch was received through the American Legation in Bern under date of October 20, 1944:

" Trustworthy information from France has been received by us to the effect that internees who were removed from Vittel during this spring were later deported to the east from France in two groups which departed about the middle and the end of May respectively. It will be appreciated if you will ask the Government of Paraguay to take necessary steps, through the Spanish Embassy in Berlin, to ascertain if it is possible the location and fate of these people at the present time."

" At our request former Swiss Federal Councillor Musy has announced his readiness to visit Berlin and try to find and rescue these deportees from Vittel."

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

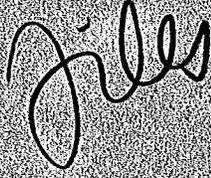
Union of Orthodox Rabbis  
132 Nassau Street  
New York 7, N.Y.

000501

TO:

- Mr. Lester 2030
- Mr. Friedman
- Mr. Stewart
- Miss Hodel
- Mr. DuBois
- Mr. Luxford
- Mrs. Taylor

Suggest you discuss informally  
with Rabbis.



J. W. Pehle  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

100502

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

October 13, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

I hasten to enclose draft of the cable which I brought to your attention during our recent conference.

In this we find further concrete proof that the judicious disposition of larger sums has resulted in saving many unfortunates otherwise doomed to death. We must respectfully urge you to instruct Mr. McClelland to make available the larger sums needed for further rescue.

I desired to see you after our conference in the War Department. In your absence, I advised Mr. Lesser of our conferences and he undoubtedly has detailed the results thereof to you. May I again urge you to support our contention in the matter of the declaration as prisoners of War. Mr. Lesser has undoubtedly advised you that Mr. Long has prepared a memorandum on the subject.

May I expect to hear from you at the earliest moment in these matters?

With deepest appreciation for your graciousness and courtesy during the past several days and for your deep concern in the many problems which we presented to you,

Very sincerely 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  
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000503

CABLE FROM BERN OCTOBER 7th

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- 1) In Hungary a promise has tentatively been given for cessation of deportations. After negotiation, agents are preparing evacuation remainder of Jews in Belsen Bergen to Switzerland. (This we presume is the remainder of the 1694).
- 2) Rabbi Ungar still under arrest in Slovakia. His son in law Per is freed stop 4000 Jews remained with Partisan stop People who didn't cooperate in uprising may not be deported stop A larger sum has been deposited.
- 3) We continue to search for deportation Camp in Lithuania.
- 4) We have already reported through McClelland to what countries our funds have been directed.

000504

ועד ההצלה  
**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 519)  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.  
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

*Jiles*

October 6, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

I refer to the telegram which we dispatched to you yesterday and in which we respectfully called your attention to the brutal tendency of the Germans on evacuation of any territory, to destroy with utter bestiality thousands of innocent inhabitants. In most cases, the majority of these victims are Jews.

An outstanding example, as reported in the New York Times and other newspapers was the group destroyed in a camp in Estonia.

In the conference held with the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury and with you in which Rabbi I. Miller, Mr. Rosenheim and myself took part, we endeavored to make clear that the urgency of the situation made vital dealing directly with the agents for the ransom of the unfortunates held in the concentration camps. As the days pass, and the brutality of the Germans is outlined in clearer detail, this action becomes more imperative.

We would appeal to you once more, to consider that the shadow is fast falling on the pitiful remnants still in the enemy's hands and to take the drastic but vitally necessary action which we discussed.

We anxiously await your action in this most urgent matter.

With deepest 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  
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

000505

WU30 76 2 EXTRA

PXXECW NEWYORK NY OCT 6 1944 358P

*Files*

HON JOHN W PEHLE EXECUTIVE DIR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD TREAS BLDG

1944 OCT 6 PM 4 44

APPALLED AT BRUTAL DESTRUCTION OF BALTIC INHABITANTS MOSTLY  
JEWS DETAILED IN NEW YORK TIMES TODAY. SITUATION MAKES  
IMPERATIVE TAKING THE ACTION DISCUSSED IN CONFIDENTIAL  
CONFERENCE HELD WITH MR AN HONORABLE SECRETARY MR  
MORGENTHAU BY RABBI MILLER, MR ROSENHEIM AND MYSELF APPEAL  
TO YOU RESPECTFULLY INSTRUCT WAR REFUGEE BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVES TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE ACTION DISCUSSED  
SINCE THE TENDENCY OF THE GERMANS TO DESTROY EVERYONE BEFORE  
EVACUATION LEAVES ONLY HOURS IN WHICH TO ACCOMPLISH RESCUE  
VZAD HAHATZALA ~~SECRET~~ EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ.

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000506

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTER OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE September 29, 1944

TO Miss Hodel

FROM R. B. Parke

Subject: Request for Blanket License by Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, covering transmission of messages to areas liberated by Russia.

In accordance with your request, I informed Mr. Schoen of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee that no Treasury license is required with respect to the transmission of the type of messages to which reference was made in the letter addressed to the War Refugee Board on September 14, 1944, by the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee. That no Treasury license is required in such cases has been agreed by the Legal Division and by the Censorship Relations Section of Foreign Funds Control.

Mr. Schoen was advised, however, that a Censorship license is required with respect to each message of the type in question. It was suggested to Mr. Schoen that application for Censorship licenses might be made to Captain F. H. Creech, Office of Censorship, Apex Building, 6th and 7th Streets and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C. This information was obtained from the Office of Censorship by the Censorship Relations Section of Foreign Funds Control.

In view of the foregoing, there is returned for such disposition as you may deem appropriate your memorandum of September 20, 1944, in connection with the request for a blanket license made by the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee.



000507

MEMORANDUM

For attachment to:

FFC Letter No:

Date: September 20, 1944

TO: Liaison Officer, Foreign Funds Control  
FROM: War Refugee Board  
Subject: Communication with areas liberated by Russia.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of a letter dated September 14, 1944, from the Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee dealing with communication with persons in Polish, Lithuanian, and other Baltic areas liberated by Russia. Text of proposed communications is quoted in attached letter.

The War Refugee Board recommends that appropriate Treasury licenses and other necessary documents be issued permitting the execution of the project contemplated in the letter described above.

Remarks: Blanket license as requested.

F. Hodel *F. Hodel*

For the War Refugee Board

Action:

Basic license No. W-	issued
Remittance license No.	issued
Other:	

Liaison Officer  
Foreign Funds Control

Date:

000508

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

*Miss Tolson*

(Room) (Bldg.)

(Room) (Bldg.)

(Room) (Bldg.)

As per our conversation  
I have more or less agreed to  
get them a license. My  
only question is whether the  
attached recite enough facts  
to draw one up. If it doesn't  
let me know and I'll get  
whatever way is needed  
on the telephone

From: *Leason*

(Date)

(Room) (Bldg.)

000509

ועד ההצלה  
**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 619)  
NEW YORK 7, N. Y.  
PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

September 14, 1944

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

Honorable Sir:

We refer to the conference which Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz had with you today and in which you expressed yourself that a license could issue permitting us to send cables to those cities of Poland, Lithuania, and the other Baltic States freed by the U. S. S. R.

We would, therefore, respectfully ask you to please arrange for the issuance of such license permitting us to send cables to Kaunas, Vilnius, Grodno, Bialystok, Lemberg, Baranowitz, and other cities of Poland, Lithuania and other Baltic States freed by the U. S. S. R.

The text of each message would be as follows:

"Advise if - - - and members of his family are alive and their present address."

Permit us to express our deep appreciation for your deep concern in this and the many other problems which we had occasion to present before you since the War Refugee Board was created. You were always ready and willing to listen to every proposed plan for the rescue of the unfortunates.

We are certain that you will expedite the license requested in this communication.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*Jacob Karlinsky*  
Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky  
Executive Secretary

*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 h a t z a l a program is especially needed.*

000510

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

- TO: Mr. Parks 600 SLOAN  
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)  
(2) *File 4405-A* (Room) (Bldg.)  
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

Mr. Parks-  
Miss Hodel would like to  
discuss with you by telephone as  
soon as you have had an opportunity  
to look this over.

HDrury 9/20

From: *367 9/* (Date)  
(Room) (Bldg.)

000511

To: *Mr. Rappaport* *718* *DWB*  
 (1) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)  
 (2) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)  
 (3) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)

*Herewith copy of letter from  
 Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee  
 to U. R. B, re: blanket license  
 to transmit welfare and  
 whereabouts messages to  
 certain areas liberated by  
 U.S.S.R.*

*Mr. Lohle, Miss Hadd informed  
 me strongly recommends Vaad  
 be licensed to transmit such  
 messages.*

From: *What are your views?* *9/22*  
*H. Lohle* *608* *Albany*  
 (Room) (Bldg.)

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

132 Nassau Street  
New York 7, New York

September 14, 1944

Hon. John W. Fehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We refer to the conference which Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz had with you today and in which you expressed yourself that a license could issue permitting us to send cables to those cities of Poland, Lithuania, and the other Baltic States freed by the U.S.S.R.

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We are certain that you will expedite the license requested in this communication.

Very respectfully yours,  
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
/s/ Jacob Karlinsky  
Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky  
Executive Secretary

C o p y

*9/25/44*  
*Tras. Lember*  
*unnecessary*  
*membership Lember*  
*required*  
*[Signature]*

000513

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Emergency Fund for the Pres.  
Nat'l. Defense 1942-44, Allotment to  
War Refugee Board.

SEP 13 1944

RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ  
VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE  
132 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK 7, NEW YORK

REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR RECENT LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO ME IN SECRETARY WORGENTHAU'S ABSENCE FROM THE CITY. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU AGAIN THAT THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD IS TAKING EVERY ACTION KNOWN TO BE POSSIBLE AND PRACTICABLE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF ALL JEWS STILL IN ENEMY-OCCUPIED TERRITORY. THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE IN SWITZERLAND HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT AGAIN WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND TO ASSIST IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE IN ANY RESCUE PLAN WHICH IN HIS JUDGMENT HOLDS ANY REAL PROMISE OF SUCCESS. OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN SWITZERLAND HAS ALSO BEEN REQUESTED TO ADVISE US IF FUNDS ARE NEEDED FOR RESCUE PURPOSES IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLACED AT HIS DISPOSAL.

(Initialed) J. W. P.

JOHN W. PEHLE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

*JWP*  
JWP:dg 9/13/44

000514

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

September 10, 1944.

Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington, D.C.

Honorable Sir:

We take the liberty to again refer to our conference of September sixth, and our memorandum of September eighth, and we enclose the text of an additional cable from Switzerland which has been received by our office. This cable definitely shows how very vital it is for the committee in Switzerland to have the necessary funds for rescue.

Text of cable: "In consequence of urgent please of Rabbi from Neutra Slovakia we sent him 200,000 Swiss francs. He pleads for large sums for effective rescue action. We beg you for immediate further transfers".

We wish to reiterate to you and respectfully ask the Secretary to place the necessary funds for this vital rescue work at the disposal of our committee in Switzerland as outlined in our memorandum of September 8th.

In referring also to the matter of the group deported from Vittel and now in the much feared camp at Oswiecim, Poland, we would respectfully suggest that in addition to the hastening of exchanges for this group, public warning be given the Germans that they will be held responsible for this group unless immediately returned to a camp for civilian internees to which the Red Cross would have access.

May we again express deepest gratitude for your fine aid in the rescue of the destitute Jewish people, and we ask you to be gracious enough to reply to the several matters contained in our memorandum of Friday September the eighth.

With deepest appreciation ,

Very respectfully yours

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
RABBI ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ

*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.*

000515

WU 13 110 7 EXTRA

ND NEWYORK NY SEPT 12 946A

JOHN PEHLE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD US TREASURY BLDG

1944 SEP 12 AM 10 32

WE SENT SECRETARY MORGENTHAU FOLLOWING TLEXXX TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE  
QUOTE: RECEIVED LAST NIGHT CABLE FROM SWITZERLAND STATING  
IN THE NAME OF CHIEF RABBI UNGAR OF NEUTRA THAT THE HUNGARIAN  
TRAIN WITH 1696 RABBIS AND LEADERS WOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT  
TO NEUTRAL COUNTRY IF THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS THAT HAD BEEN  
XX UNDERTAKEN WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN DUE TIME STOP IT  
APPEARS THAT THIS REPORT THAT IT WILL PERHAPS STILL NOW BE  
POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE REMNANT OF 1376 PERSONS FROM DEATH BY  
OFFERING THE REST OF THE DEMANDED RANSOM STOP WE FEEL IT  
OUR HOLY DUTY TO STRESS THIS FACT TXX AND TO URGE IMMEDIATE  
ACTION UNQUOTE:

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RABBI A KALMANOWITZ  
XX AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANIZATION JACOB ROSENHEXXX  
ROSENHIEM PRESIDENT

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000516

ועד ההצלה

**VAA D HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

September 8th, 1944

Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.  
Secretary of Treasury,  
Treasury Building,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

I am taking this means of expressing my sincerest thanks for the interview you granted us and for your warm interest in Jewish distress.

We trust that you will do your utmost to have the proposals of the enclosed memorandum considered and materialized as soon as possible.

With many thanks and best wishes for a Happy and Victorious New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi A. Kalmanowitz

sk:jt

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.

September 8th, 1944

Honorable Sir:

(1) Fully confident in Mr. Pehle's sincerity to rescue European Jewry as expressed in his discussion with us on September 6th, we still cannot restrain our fears that the extensive project as contemplated by the War Refugee Board will not provide immediate aid to those in dire need of it.

The unfortunate victims are dispersed throughout so large an area where conditions and problems are varied, that it is imperative each be dealt with accordingly and by those familiar with the necessary steps to be taken.

Our committee in Switzerland - from time to time-- through its representatives in occupied areas, has the opportunity to affect the rescue of groups of Jews by bribing certain German officials. We are vitally interested in having the committee provided with such funds as will enable it to take advantage of these opportunities whenever the occasion arises.

The time taken for the transmission of cables regarding such events and requests for funds can easily lead to the complete loss of such opportunities. Too, it must be emphasized that in spite of our activities, the funds at our disposal are limited and not commensurate with the needs presented by such problems.

We have cabled several hundred thousands of dollars to our Committee in Switzerland under Federal license, but the amounts needed for this purpose are very large, especially now when the last remnants of European Jewry are confronted with extermination due to the retreat of Nazi armies from occupied territories in Europe.

We, therefore, respectfully urge the Honorable Secretary to place such funds as are necessary for this type of rescue work at the disposal of our committee, thus permitting the carrying out of rescue activities in the maximum number of points possible. It is understood, of course, that the expenditures of such funds would be under the supervision of the War Refugee Board representative in Switzerland.

(2) Cables just received from Switzerland (accompanying this memo) inform us of the mortal danger facing the group of 163 Jews in Vittel, who have now been deported to the concentration camp in Oswiecim, Poland. It is obvious that most energetic measures are necessary to save them.

The Honorable Secretary was most helpful in the month of April in helping save them. We respectfully urge him, therefore, to save them now and thereby earn the eternal gratitude of the Jewish people.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

132 Nassau Street  
New York, N.Y.

Cables received from our committee in Switzerland

September 6, 1944

(1) From Slovakia and Hungary come pressing requests for passports from American countries. The Spanish and the Swiss Embassies in Budapest successfully protect the possessors of such passports. Please request authorizations be given respective consulates in Switzerland. Should the representatives of Peru and Chile receive such authorizations they are willing to help.

Since there is no Consul of San Domingo here, please request that someone should receive the authority to issue passports of this country. We obligate ourselves to return these passports after the war.

(2) Please request the governments of Paraguay and others to intervene with Berlin that South American citizens in Belsen-Bergen should be separated, otherwise the Germans do not permit any help from the Red Cross to be extended to them.

ISAAC STERNBUCH

September 8, 1944

On May 11th, the German Foreign Ministry advised the Swiss Embassy that the bearers of American passports who are still found in special camps will be recognized. However, the 163 who have been deported from Vittel are under the jurisdiction of the Gestapo.

A similar fate has struck the other people regarding whom the Swiss Embassy had received instructions, unfortunately, too late. 28 have remained in Vittel because of illness and are still there. According to their information the others were deported to Oswiecim.

Perhaps there exists a chance for rescue, if the United States, in negotiations through the Swiss Embassy in Berlin, should threaten with reprisals or to withhold any further information regarding German prisoners. Please try to secure such instructions.

ISAAC STERNBUCH

WU 15 104 7 EXTRA

*Mr. Peple*  
1944 SEP 12 AM 10 40

NND NEWYORK NY SEPT 12 950A

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR SEC OF ~~THE~~ THE TREAS

5326

RECEIVED LAST NIGHT CABLE FROM SWITZERLAND STATION IN THE  
NAME OF CHIEF RABBI UNGAR OF NEUTRA THAT THE HUNGARIAN  
TRAIN WITH 1696 RABBIS AND LEADERS WOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT  
TO NEUTRAL COUNTRY IF THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS THAT HAD  
BEEN UNDERTAKEN WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN DUE TIME  
STOP IT APPEARS FROM THIS REPORT FROM THIS REPORT THAT IT  
WILL PERHAPS STILL NOW BE POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE REMNANT OF  
1376 PERSONS FROM DEATH BY OFFERING THE REST OF THE DEMANDED  
RANSOME STOP WE FEEL IT OUR ~~HOLY~~ HOLY DUTY TO STRESS THIS  
FACT AND TO URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION

~~RE~~ VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE RABBI A KALMANOWITZ  
AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANIZATION JACOB ROSENHEIM PRESIDENT

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000520

MORANDUM TO THE HONORABLE JOHN PHELPS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAR REFUGEE BOARD

August 30, 1944

Honorable Sir:

The recent confidential report from the War Refugee Board, dated August 26, details the safe arrival in Basle of some 320 persons and the expected arrival of 200 more, all part of a group of 1695 distinguished persons including several renowned persons.

This group was deported from Hungary to the Camp at Bergen-Belsen, notorious as a camp from whence the next stop was the death chamber in Poland.

Their rescue proves the point, and clearly outlines that by judicious use of funds placed at the disposal of our Committees the unfortunates can be saved.

We therefore, respectfully, call the attention of the Honorable Secretary to the continued deportations from Hungary and to the urgent need for effective action to save the remaining 300,000 in Hungary, those in the labor camps of Poland and Lithuania; in the concentration camp of Thiersenstat, Birkenau and others, and those deported to East Prussia, these groups being the remnant of Jewry in Europe. We respectfully suggest that a large sum of money be placed at the joint disposal of our Committee in Switzerland and the representative of the War Refugee Board to be used specifically for the rescue of this remnant.

It is known that in the blackmail imposed by the Germans for the release of Jews, they have requested in exchange certain merchandise. While we are agreed that there can be no barter where the merchandise demanded can be used for war purposes, gold or other merchandise not allied to the war effort can be offered.

Our Committee in Switzerland in close contact with every phase of the rescue work is especially adapted to carry on such negotiations and should be enabled to do so by placing the necessary funds at their disposal.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

132 Nassau Street  
New York, 7, New York

*A. Rabinowitz*

ועד ההצלה

Files

# VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

August 28, 1944

Hon. John W. Pehle, Exec. Dir.  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We are indeed grateful for your letter of August 26th in which you detail the report of Mr. McClelland in Switzerland in re the arrival in Switzerland of a group of 320 Hungarian Jews, and the expected arrival of 200 more.

It is evident that these are part of the 1200 (later known to be 1695) who were made the especial concern of our Committee in Switzerland headed by Mr. Sternbuch. We firmly believe that these were rescued through the judicious use of funds placed at the disposal of Mr. Sternbuch.

Under the circumstances, and taking into consideration the reported continued deportations from Hungary and the vital need for immediate action, we would respectfully urge you to arrange an early conference with the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury and yourself, to discuss the measures to be taken, to place sufficient funds at the joint disposal of our Committee, and the War Refugee Board's representative, for the immediate rescue of the Jews remaining in Hungary. We are convinced that this rescue measure has proven successful and must be exploited immediately for the rescue of those remaining.

May we respectfully urge you to arrange such conference and to advise us by telegraph or telephone.

With sincerest 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 h a t z a l a program is especially needed.

*Answered by telephone 8/30/44 L.S.L.*  
*Meeting set for 9/1/44 8 AM L.S.L.*

000522

ועד ההצלה

# VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

August 18, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle, Exec. Dir.  
War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Honorable Sir:

We are writing in reference to our discussion on Wednesday August 16th and wish to respectfully state the following:

1) It is reported that 7000 Lithuanian Jews were evacuated from Kaunas to the East Prussian border and it is feared that extermination will follow. We feel it is essential for the War Refugee Board to a- contact the International Red Cross to establish contact with this group and provide food and medicaments for their sustenance. b- procure documents or passports from any country to negotiate exchange c- that the representatives of the War Refugee Board in Europe, particularly in Sweden, shall attempt to establish contact with this group.

2) Beside the general problem of the rescue of children, there is the specific one of the group of 500 children which our committee, headed by Renee Reichman in Tangiers, has been working upon. A copy of her cable is with Mr. Laurence Lesser.

We ask the War Refugee Board to facilitate the technical details of realizing the project of bringing this group of 500 children to Spain which has promised visas. It will be necessary to contact the International Red Cross to organize and carry out this project, and that the representatives of the War Refugee Board in Tangiers work together with Mrs. R. Reichman in affecting the rescue of this group.

*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 Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

000523

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

- 2 -

We are deeply appreciative of your fine efforts and truly trust that our proposal will be carried through.

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  
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

000524

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE August 16, 1944

TO Miss Hodel

FROM Mr. Akzin

Rabbi Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Habatzala requests that letters and copies of cables addressed to his organization be sent on to Vaad Habatzala, without mentioning his name in connection therewith. The reason for this request is to avoid creating the impression that the letters and cable copies are sent to him personally.

*Bauer*

000525

*Vaad Nahatzala - neg. file*

*Did this ever  
?? go out?*

CABLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, MOSCOW, U.S.S.R.

The War Refugee Board requests that you deliver the following message to Samuel Chobrutsky, Spasoglinistchevsky, 8, Moscow:

QUOTE In conjunction with joyous news of freeing White Russian and Lithuanian territories we together with American Jewry deeply concerned in welfare and whereabouts Jews in freed territories. We would be thankful to receive the necessary detailed reports from you concerning these Jews and also information about Rabbis and Yeshiva scholars. If possible we would request you to visit these territories to discover for us the names of those remaining alive and their addresses. We are ready to advance all costs. Please give us all information about these Jews you now have.

VAAD NAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE UNQUOTE

5:20 p.m.  
August 3, 1944

*Bk. 2-5-2*  
Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Laughlin, Lesser, Mann, Mannon, McCormack, Cable Control Files

BAkzin:ar 7/31/44

*Confirmed cable received  
see in files*

000526

ועד הצלה  
**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

July 24, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

ATT: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell,

We enclose a copy of a cable to Samuel Chobrutsky in the USSR which we would respectfully ask you to have the Board dispatch as requested.

We await most anxiously your word that the Swiss francs are available for transfer to our Committee under the license granted to us by the Treasury Department to send \$100,000 to the Committee.

With deepest appreciation,

Very truly yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

  
Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky  
Executive Secretary

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 Hahatzala program is especially needed.

000527

ועד הצלה  
**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

July 24, 1944

MESSAGE TO SAMUEL CHOBRUTSKY  
SPASOGLINISTCHEVSKY 8 MOSCOW  
THROUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY  
MOSCOW U.S.S.R.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH JOYOUS NEWS OF FREEING WHITE RUSSIAN  
AND LITHUANIAN TERRITORIES WE TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN  
JEWRY DEEPLY CONCERNED IN WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS JEWS  
IN FREED TERRITORIES STOP WE WOULD BE THANKFUL TO RECEIVE  
THE NECESSARY DETAILED REPORTS FROM YOU CONCERNING THESE  
JEWS AND ALSO INFORMATION ABOUT RABBIS AND YESHIVA SCHOLARS  
STOP IF POSSIBLE WE WOULD REQUEST YOU TO VISIT THESE  
TERRITORIES TO DISCOVER FOR US THE NAMES OF THOSE REMAINING  
ALIVE AND THEIR ADDRESSES STOP WE ARE READY TO ADVANCE ALL  
COSTS. PLEASE GIVE US ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THESE JEWS YOU  
NOW HAVE

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

ISRAEL ROSENBERG  
EL SILVER  
ARON KOTLER  
ABRAHAM KALMANOWITZ  
RUVEN GROSOWSKI  
JACOB ROSENHEIM  
LEON GELMAN  
IRVING BUNIM

*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.*

000528

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Under Secretary

July 14, 1944.

WRB  
Mr. Warren:

Subject: Attached Memoranda left  
with me by Rabbi Baruch Korff

I enclose herewith two memoranda left  
with me on July 12 by Rabbi Baruch Korff,  
together with a copy of my reply.

I shall appreciate it if you will  
take these documents up with Mr. Pehle  
and ask him to give them his attention.

E S

*ready*

000529

COPY

July 14, 1944

Dear Rabbi Korff:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your two memoranda dated July 12 which you left with me yesterday. One deals with the welfare of Jews in former Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The other is concerned with the condition of Jews in Hungary and requests that the President, Prime Minister Churchill, and Marshal Stalin issue a joint warning to the Hungarian Government and people and to other enemy countries regarding continued persecution of the Jewish populace, and that this Government negotiate for the release of Jews from Hungary.

As I indicated to you, I am passing these documents along to the War Refugee Board where I am sure they will receive every consideration.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

E. R. STETTINIUS, JR.

Rabbi Baruch Korff,  
Essex House,  
New York, New York.

000530

July 12, 1944

## MEMORANDUM

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius  
 Department of State  
 Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In view of the fact that the Soviet Government has within the last few weeks liberated many areas of former Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, etc., and in view of the fact that American Jewry is concerned over the plight and welfare of the Jewish people in these areas, we feel it essential for the Jewish populace of the United States to have the following information:

- a. Reports of Jews who are still alive and their present whereabouts in the liberated area.
- b. The possibility of bringing relief and aid to the Jewish people in these stricken areas because their very lives are dependant upon it.

We therefore respectfully request the following:

- a. That the government of the United States intervene with the Soviet Government to make it possible to receive reports of the Jewish people in the liberated areas and the possibility to establish contact through cable as to those who are still alive and their present whereabouts.
- b. We will submit several central offices in New York and Washington for the sole purpose of receiving the above reports.
- c. That arrangements be made for the Central Soviet Press to accept and print reports as to those who are still alive and their whereabouts.
- d. That correspondents of the American press be permitted to cable reports as to those still alive, in particular outstanding spiritual leaders.

We respectfully submit the above requests and earnestly hope that they will be fulfilled, and may we express our deep gratitude to the government of the United States for its humanitarian efforts in behalf of the Jewish people.

Respectfully submitted  
 V A A D H A H A T Z A L A

Rabbi Aron Kotler  
 Chairman

RABBI ISRAEL ROSENBERG

RABBI BARUCH KORFF

MICHAEL Q. TRESS

000531

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

In view of the fact that reports are constantly received that the Hungarian Government and other enemy countries do not take seriously and question the earnestness of the warnings of the Allied officials that all those who aid in the persecution and murder of the Jewish populace will be meted out their full share of punishment, we feel that the following is absolutely essential:

That President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin issue a joint statement to the Hungarian Government officials, military leaders and the Hungarian people and all other enemy countries, that all who aid in the persecution, deportation and murder of the Jewish populace will be fully responsible for their heinous crime and will be dealt with accordingly.

We further understand from various reports that the Hungarian Government is inclined to permit 500,000 Jews to leave Hungary via Turkey, and we respectfully urge that the American Government, through its representative power, negotiate to realize this project. It would be necessary for the Allied Nations to open temporary camps in Africa, Libya, or any area to receive these Jews, and in this respect we wish to state that these destitute people would be willing to go to the desert and the farthest isles so that their lives might be saved. They could be interned in these temporary camps until the war would be over.

We wish to further state that it is vital that this request be fulfilled quickly, because the position of the Jews is critical and it is only a question of time before they will be sent to certain death. We know that this project can only be carried out over a period of time, but if the Allied Governments would begin by taking out several thousand weekly it would save the lives of those temporarily remaining in these areas and in the interval we hope for the complete surrender of the enemy.

In the name of humanity, we respectfully appeal to and plead with our great Democratic Government to come to the rescue of the remaining Jewish populace and save it while there is yet time.

Respectfully submitted,

Vaad Hahatzala, Emergency Committee,  
Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the  
United States and Canada,  
Agudas Israel of America,  
Rabbinical Council of America,  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congrega-  
tions of America,  
Young Israel of America,  
Emergency Committee to Save the  
Jewish People of Europe.

Presented by,

Rabbi Aaron Kotler,  
Rabbi Baruch Korff,  
Michael G. Tress.

July 12, 1944.

000532

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288 1/2

NLT JOHN PEHLE

DIRECTOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD WASHDC

1944 JUL 14 AM 10 36

REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE TO PALESTINE RABBINICAL RESCUE COMMITTEE  
 JERUSALEM DELIVERED TO SECRETARY RABBI ABRAHAM MISHKOVSKY  
 JERUSALEM THROUGH JERUSALEM AMERICAN CONSULATE STATING DESIRE  
 AMERICAN RABBIS THAT LOCAL DELEGATES PROCEED TO TURKEY  
 UNDERTAKE PARTICULAR RESCUE WORK OF RABBIS AND THEOLOGICAL  
 STUDENTS WHO IN SPECIAL DANGER WISH INFORM OUR COMMITTEE  
 JERUSALEM WHICH AT ONE WITH AMERICAN RABBIS VITAL NEED SUCH  
 MISSION CHOSEN MOSHE DOFF JERUSALEM AND RABBI SHIMON KORNITZER  
 JERUSALEM THIS PURPOSE PLEASE GIVE US YOUR ASSISTANCE  
 ARRANGEMENT TURKISH VISAS RECOMMEND THEM TO AMERICAN  
 REPRESENTATIVE IN TURKEY MANY THANKS BLESSINGS FROM JERUSALEM  
 ISAAC HERZOG CHIEFRABBI OF PALESTINE.

1037A JUL 14.

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# VAAD HAHATZALA

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

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

*File  
pt*

July 5, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell,

In reference to our telephone conversation, may we advise you that the license for the \$1500.00 mentioned in our cable to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe in Stockholm was issued to the League for Religious Labor under License Number N.Y. 625833R. The actual remittance was made by them.

You may make the necessary changes in our cable, should you find it necessary.

With our deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*P. J. Schoen*  
P. J. Schoen

PJS: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  
Vaad Hahatzala program is especially needed.*

000534

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 819)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

June 30, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Dr. Azzin

Dear Dr. Azzin,

We enclose several messages which we would respectfully request the Board to dispatch at the earliest possible moment.

May we again express our sincerest appreciation for the courtesies extended by the officers of the Board.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

PS:r

2341-7/8  
2318-7/6  
Baron

000535

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington  
TO: AMCONSUL, Jerusalem  
DATED: April 27, 1948  
NUMBER: 00

FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD FOR CONSUL GENERAL

Please deliver the following message from War  
Refugee Board to Rabbi Joseph Nickowski, Waker Chaim,  
Jerusalem:

QUOTE Necessary you immediately send influential  
outstanding delegate to Istanbul to cooperate with  
Griffel. Remitted 25,000 dollars under license 6174E1-R  
to Jacob Griffel, Hotel Continental, Beyoglu for  
rescue. Sternbuch also remitted to him 25,000 francs.  
Sternbuch cables urgency procuring unlimited number  
of veteran certificates for Rabbis and religious  
leaders in grave danger in Hungary and Rumania.  
Sternbuch reports these certificates useful for  
internment privileges in occupied territories and for  
possibilities of exchange. Necessary you inform  
American Consulate names of your Vaad Hatzalah Committee  
and your activities to enable consulate to lend you  
every support possible. Vaad Hatzalah Emergency  
Committee, Rabbi Rosenberg, Silver, Levinson,  
Kotler, Kalmanowitz UNQUOTE

HULL

CC: Sec'y, Abrahamson, Aron, Bernstein, Cohn, DeBols, Friedman, Ganton, Hodel, Laughlin, Lasser,  
Luford, Mann, Mennen, Marks, McCormack, Pellak, Rahn, Sargoy, Smith, Stanshah, Stewart, Central  
Files, Cable Control/Files.

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000536

RABBI BARUCH KORFF

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY  
CENTRAL PARK SOUTH  
NEW YORK

June 20, 1944

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

Gentlemen:

It is with deep regret and sorrow that I am, due to a turn of events, compelled to submit my resignation as your political adviser.

The circumstances which prompted my decision are apparent. Recent developments lead me to believe that I cannot be of further service to you due to difference of opinion with existing government agencies whose motives are beyond reproach.

Unless I can be productive in the field of rescue, I have no moral right to represent your interests in Washington.

Respectfully yours,

*Baruch Korff*

000537

M E M O R A N D U M

It is understood that the Turkish government, acting pursuant to the best humanitarian traditions, permits sea-borne refugees arriving in Turkish waters to remain in Turkey while transit facilities are procured to take them to appropriate havens. This generosity we further understand is not part of any overall program of the Turkish government, but is extended as required upon specific suggestions or requests made in each case by representatives of interested governments or private organizations addressed to the Turkish Foreign Office. It has been suggested that a similar procedure can be employed in connection with refugees arriving by land from Bulgaria, and that for that reason it is not necessary for the Turkish government to consider other means of alleviating their plight. The fallacy of this position seems clear.

Refugees who wish to depart by sea from Greece, Rumania or elsewhere are not in danger of having their departure from such countries effectively stopped by Turkish border guards. They can reach the high seas without any fear of interference from that quarter, and when they arrive in or near Turkish waters, they may safely await, aboard ship, the outcome of the representations made to the Turkish Foreign Office on their behalf.

Refugees by land, however, cannot cross the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier, if they have no entry permits, unless the Turkish border guards have received instructions not to interfere with their egress from Bulgaria. Obviously refugees seeking egress at the Turkish-Bulgarian border cannot safely await on the Bulgarian side of the frontier the outcome of any specific representations or suggestions that may be made on their behalf at Ankara. For this reason, it is essential that Turkish border guards at the Bulgarian frontier be instructed not to interfere with the entry of refugees. Other neutral countries contiguous to enemy territory have taken this most humanitarian course, although it is not uncommon for them to place such refugees under technical arrest for unlawful entry. The latter affords ample opportunity for security checks and a determination as to the authenticity of the entrant's claim to being a refugee. If Turkish border guards were instructed not to interfere with refugees until they have crossed the border even though they were to be arrested thereafter, it would seem that many additional lives would be saved.

For the foregoing reasons, and in the interests of a suffering humanity, the undersigned most respectfully requests that Your Excellency suggest to the government of Turkey that its border

*copy in  
Waco to + thru  
Tulsa*  
(1)

000538

guards at the Bulgarian frontier be instructed not to interfere with the egress from Bulgaria of refugees, even though they be without entry permits, and although they may be subject to arrest for unlawful entry the moment they step on Turkish soil. The urgency of this matter is self-evident.

Dr. Baruch Korff, 160 Central Park South, N.Y.C.  
Political Adviser of  
The VAAD HANATZALA Emergency Committee

Affiliated organizations:

Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and Canada  
Rabbinical Council of America  
Mizrachi Organization of America  
World Agudas Israel  
Union of Orthodox Congregations of America  
National Council of Young Israel  
Agudas Israel Young Council

June 16, 1944

000539

JUN 6 1944

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 1944, in which you ask the Board to state its position with respect to the part played by private agencies in the relief and rescue of the victims of enemy persecution.

Private organizations, such as yours, are making a significant contribution to such work. As you know, it is not the intention of the Board to supplant such agencies. On the contrary, I assure you that it is the Board's policy to aid and facilitate their work in every possible way.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Vaad Habatzala Emergency Committee  
132 Nassau Street  
New York 7, N. Y.

X.S.P.  
AA:JWP:LSL:als 6/3/44

000540

JUN 6 1944

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 1944, in which you ask the Board to state its position with respect to the part played by private agencies in the relief and rescue of the victims of enemy persecution.

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Executive Director

Vaad Hatzala Emergency Committee  
132 Nassau Street  
New York 7, N. Y.

X.S.R.  
AA:JWP:LSL:als 6/3/44

000540

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

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

June 2, 1944

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

Att: Mr. L. Lesser

Dear Mr. Lesser,

We enclose the copies of cables from our Committee in Turkey. We are sure it will aid you to clearly understand the views held by our committee.

We have also sent you today our letter to Mr. Pehle, as you requested from Rabbi Metz and we would ask you to please urge Mr. Pehle to forward us his letter at the earliest convenience.

With deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

000541

COPY

1944 JUNE 1 AM 2:13

TAG BX TY 245 BEYOGLU VIA RCA 8027 63/61 24 2225  
ROSEINHEIM 226 WEST 97 ST NEWYORK CITY

REGARDING SHIFPLACES FOR AGUDISTS IN ROUMANIA JEWISH AGENCY  
REPRESENTATIVES PROMISED ORDER TO GIVE SIX PERCENT FOR AGUDISTS  
STOP AS TILL NOW SHIPS NOT TRANSPORTED AGUDISTS WE CLAIM  
ADDITIONAL NUMBER STOP THIS CLAIM JEW REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED  
STOP UNDERLINE TILL NOW EVEN MENTIONED ORDER UNOBSERVED BY  
EXECUTIVE ORGANS STOP ALTHOUGH JEW REPRESENTATIVES PROMISE  
SETTLEMENT BUT THIS UNSURE PLEASE URGE JUST SETTLEMENT WIRD

KASTNER GRIFFEL

000542

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM  
**WESTERN  
UNION**

1223

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

- DL - Day Letter
- NT - Overnight Telegram
- LC - Deferred Cable
- NLT - Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

TAG BX TY 244 BEYOGLU VIA ROA 35/33 24 2405

VAADHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE 132 NASSAUSTREET NEWYORK

REFUGEES BEING ROUMANIA URGREQUIRE SHIPTRANSPORTPLACES DESPITE PROMISES

JEWISHAGENCUSREPRESENTATIVES REFUGEES CLAIM THAT UNCONSIDERATED STOP

URG JUST SETTLEMENT BY COMPETENT INSTITUTIONS STOP CONCERNING AGUDISTS WE

CABLED RODENHEIM

KASTNER GRIFFEL

000543

*Wad  
Kalmowitz*

*764*

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1944 MAY 31 PM 12 21

PXXECW NEWYORK NY MAY 31 1944 1054A

MR L LESSER, TREASURY DEPT

RABBI KALMANOWITZ WILL BE AT YOUR OFFICE AT 2:00 PM

MR P SCHOEN.

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2:00 PM

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ועד הצלה

# VAAD HAHATZALA

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

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

June 2, 1944

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

Att: Mr. L. S. Lesser

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Since the inception and organization of your Board, our organization has had the pleasure of placing itself and its personnel at the service of the War Refugee Board in its rescue program. The contact has been most cordial, and the courtesy, understanding and complete cooperation of your staff manifest on every occasion.

The Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, incorporating all Jewish Orthodox organizations, accept as its philosophy of action the premise that rescue work such as is necessary to save the unfortunates in Europe, must be characterized with a complete devotion, boundless energy and superhuman effort.

The War Refugee Board, we are indeed happy to say, has recognized this premise and has also aided our efforts on behalf of the many great scholars and Rabbis who have been the concern of our Committee.

In representing our program to the Jewish public, however, we have been surprised to find that an opinion exists that private organizations are not necessary, since the War Refugee Board, as a governmental agency, can completely cover every phase of the problem. While we know that this is not so, we would appreciate your assurances that private organizations such as ours play and can continue to play, an important part in the relief and rescue of the victims of enemy persecution.

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

000546

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE May 26, 1944

TO Mr. Lesser  
FROM Mr. Akzin

Rabbi Kalmanowitz called from New York on May 26 at 5:15. He asked me to give you the following information:

(1) Dr. Levine has received a letter from the Dominican Embassy dated May 18 in which the Embassy informs him that the Dominican Republic is ready to grant 2,000 passports provided necessary communications are sent to the Embassy by the Department and the War Refugee Board. - Dr. Kalmanowitz implores that you see to it that the necessary letters be sent right away.

(2) The Vaad Hahatzala received a <sup>commercial</sup> ~~commensurate~~ cable from Griffel, Istanbul, informing it that he had a meeting with Barlas about his earlier request for \$200,000. for a Vaad Hahatzala rescue program in Turkey. According to the cable, Barlas notified Griffel that, after hearing Griffel's arguments, he, Barlas, has withdrawn his objections against Griffel's request and has cabled to Dr. Goldmann to that effect.--(This, of course, does not coincide with the Barlas cable to Goldmann of which you told me earlier today.)

B. G.

000547

*Orshod or*

May 26, 1944

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Akzin

Rabbi Kalmanowitz called from New York on May 26 at 5:15. He asked me to give you the following information:

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*Spoke to L. same day.  
see memo to you - (1) not  
correct*

000548

Vaad Hahatzala

File

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

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

May 19, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. L. Lesser

Dear Sir:

In the list of twelve greatest Rabbis and religious leaders submitted to the Board on May 5th, an error appears in the heading marked (1). Instead of daughter Ittamar, it should read son Ittamar.

We are sure you will make the necessary correction.

With expressions of deepest appreciation,

Very sincerely yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

000549

File

Spoke to  
Press

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

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

5-15-44  
no reg  
yet

May 10, 1944

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

Att: Mr. L. Lesser

Dear Mr. Lesser,

At a recent conference of Rabbi Kalmanowitz with officials of the War Refugee Board, we discussed the matter of a statement by the Honorable John W. Pehle concerning the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee. We were advised that such statement could be issued after the President's War Relief Control Board would register our organization.

The said Board has advised us that their Committee is favorable disposed and would grant such registration.

Inasmuch as the Jewish Journal, one of the leaders of the Jewish press, has commenced a national campaign for the Vaad Hahatzala we would respectfully request that such statement by the Honorable John W. Pehle be given us at the earliest convenience.

With our expressions of deepest appreciation,

Very respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

  
Rabbi Jacob Karlinsky  
Executive Secretary

JK:r

100550

Dear Rabbi Kalmanowitz:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 21st addressed to Mr. Lesser. I am glad to inform you that your messages to Sternbuch in Switzerland, to Rabbi Mishkofski in Palestine, and to Wolbe in Sweden have been forwarded by us to the Department of State for transmission abroad.

Your message to Chobrutsky in Moscow, edited by us as per enclosed copy, is presently being forwarded by us to the Department of State.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

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

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*Copy to: - Mr. Skjinn*

L.S.L.  
BAkain:jp

4/26/44

000551

*Delivered  
by Peter Korman  
3/29/44*

Presented by:  
Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee  
132 Nassau St., New York City

I. HUNGARY:

The Nazi occupation of Hungary, has once again clearly and most emphatically, brought before us the tragic picture of European Jewry. Hungary, in which close to one million Jews had existed, has also fallen, and these Jews are in imminent danger of the fate which had overtaken millions of their brethren in the execution chambers of Poland and elsewhere.

We have been profoundly impressed by the earnest desire of our government to effect measures for the rescue of the Jewish victims of Nazi barbarity. We have seen on many occasions, definite action by the War Refugee Board resulting in actual rescue.

The problem of Hungary, however, by its very urgency and specific nature, calls for exceptional action. The relief necessary, cannot be accomplished through individuals, organizations or agencies. We would respectfully suggest the following, perhaps drastic, but nevertheless, vitally and imperatively necessary action. Our government must, if success is to be achieved and rescue effected, react to this problem, and utilize measures, which it would use in matters pertinent to our own national interest.

a) Every effort should be made for agents well supplied with necessary funds and preferably of Magyar and Aryan extraction to be sent secretly into Hungary. Their entry could be made through Yugoslavia and through the cooperation of the Allied military forces. These agents by taking full advantage of the animosity of

000552

the Hungarian populace to the Nazis and their friendly disposition to the Jews would arrange 1- for the hiding of Jews among the friendly populace in cities, villages and hamlets. These agents, by a judicious use of funds, could save the lives of thousands, as was done in Poland, where for sums of 5,000 Zlotys, (equivalent to \$55.00), a Jew would be kept in hiding; for larger sums Jews would be rescued from concentration camps. This has been factually reported by the Polish government. The agents should further be instructed to utilize their funds wherever it would help in the saving or rescue of Jews, and, if necessary, to bribe, that the desired result be secured. 2) The agents should also endeavor the escape of the Hungarian Jews via Roumania and Bulgaria into Turkey. The matter of a friendly disposition by Turkey to the entry of escaping Jews, has already been presented by the State Department, and we were advised that Turkey has expressed her willingness to cooperate. This problem, however, may be of such mass proportions, that a special presentation should be made to Turkey and every assurance given that they would be taken out immediately and brought to temporary camps in North Africa and elsewhere. 3) That these agents be instructed to help the escape of the Hungarian Jews towards that part of Yugoslavia which is under Marshal Tito's control; that these agents contact and urge the cooperation of Marshal Tito and his partisans in the rescue of these Jews. Lest these Jews become a burden to the partisans, they should be helped to Adriatic shores from whence they could be brought to allied held territory. 4) Since the wrath of the Nazis would first be visited upon the Rabbis and religious leaders of the Jews, the agents sent in should be instructed to give especial concern to the rescue of these.

b) That the War Refugee Board present the problem of the Hungarian Jews to the Hungarian National Committee, headed by Tibor Eckert, in this country; that the Committee bring to the attention of their adherents in Hungary, by whatever means at its

000553

disposal, the urgent necessity for the rescue of Hungarian Jews,  
and to urge every Hungarian to hide and help in escape of Jews.  
The Council should be advised that their aid in the rescue of  
Hungarian Jews would be given friendly consideration at the peace

It is that only effort be  
made to rescue the great  
numbers of Jews of the  
Balkans, but it is impossible  
for the rescue of the  
survivors of the Balkans, the  
of the

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disposal, the urgent necessity for the rescue of Hungarian Jews, and to urge every Hungarian to hide and help in escape of Jews. The Council should be advised that their aid in the rescue of Hungarian Jews would be given friendly consideration at the peace negotiations.

c) That a presentation be made to the Vatican that instructions issue to all dignitaries calling particular attention to the plight of the Hungarian Jews and requesting fullest cooperation in their rescue; that the population be awakened to this rescue necessity and urge all to hide and help in the escape of Jews. A request should be made that especial consideration be shown the Rabbis and religious leaders, who are in greater danger.

## II. LITHUANIA:

a) That a presentation be made to the Vatican that instructions issue to all dignitaries calling particular attention to the plight of the Lithuanian Jews and requesting fullest cooperation in their rescue; that the population be awakened to this rescue necessity and urge all to hide and help in the escape of Jews. A request should be made that especial consideration be shown the Rabbis and religious leaders, who are in greater danger.

b) We would suggest the possibility of an attache to Sweden, whose specific functions would be the rescue of Jews in Lithuania and other Baltic States.

## III. PASSPORTS and CITIZENSHIPS:

a) We again present the matter of securing passports and citizenships of neutral countries for the maximum possible number of Jews in Nazi-occupied lands. We cannot over-emphasize this phase of rescue action, which has proven so successful in saving lives.

### b) SAN SALVADOR:

Since an investigation is now in progress by the Swiss government, we again call attention to the matter of the documents issued by the Consul of San Salvador, which were instrumental in saving many lives and we repeat our request that the War Refugee Board, by intervention with San Salvador urge the

000555

recognition of these documents, and that Switzerland be assured that these documents have been recognized by the San Salvador government.

c) HONDURAS:

A similar situation exists with reference to documents issued to Jews by Honduras representatives. May we urge a presentation to the Republic of Honduras to give recognition to these documents that their validity may save the lives of many Jews, who sought the protection of these documents.

Presented by:

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

000556

MAR 25 1944

Dear Mr. Stettinius:

The War Refugee Board has been approached by the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, concerning the possible rescue of some 200 leading Jewish Rabbis and scholars in Lithuania.

It has been suggested by the Vaad Hahatzala that this Government intercede with the Government of Sweden to grant Swedish citizenship to these Jews in Lithuania, in order to forestall their deportation. We have been advised that this matter has been discussed with representatives of the State Department who indicated general approval of the proposed action. While such an approach to the Swedish Government would appear to involve most serious and delicate problems, the War Refugee Board would appreciate the views of the Department of State concerning the matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable Edward R. Stettinius,

Under Secretary of State.

*Original signed  
by Mr. Pehle.*

~~PH~~  
PH:lab 3/25/44

000557



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

March 29, 1944

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W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_  
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To: Files \_\_\_\_\_  
Ans. 325/44 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Dear John:

In Mr. Stettinius' absence this will  
acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 25  
concerning the possible rescue of some 200  
leading Jewish Rabbis and scholars in Lithuania.  
I am turning this over to George Warrem for  
prompt consideration in the Department.

Sincerely yours,

*Hayden Raynor*

Hayden Raynor,  
Special Assistant to  
the Under Secretary

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



000558

I- LITHUANIA

As the war front approaches the Baltic States, it carries with it added danger to the lives of the Jews in Lithuania. The proclivity of the Nazis to exterminate all Jews on evacuating lost territories, is, most regretfully, too well-known. It is understood that it is most improbable that any rescue measure to save all can be undertaken. We would, therefore, urgently request that steps be taken for the rescue of a minimum of two hundred of the leading Rabbis, religious leaders and scholars in Lithuania. We respectfully suggest that the State Department intercede with the Government of Sweden to grant citizenships to these two hundred. These documents would serve to immediately change their status and therewith save their lives. Sweden should be further requested to give temporary refuge to these two hundred great spiritual leaders, and a guarantee given that they would be transferred at the earliest moment to places of permanent refuge. (We would appreciate the instructions of the State Department as to the advisability of submitting a request to the Vatican that a presentation be made by the Vatican to the German government for the release of 200 of the Jewish spiritual leaders now in Lithuania).

II- That the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee be granted permission to send a delegate or a committee of two to Lisbon, Portugal which would 1) endeavor to investigate and make an accurate record of all Rabbis, scholars, religious leaders and communal heads presently in Europe with a view to explore the existent rescue possibilities and to extend necessary relief to them. 2) To establish contact with those in neutral countries and if possible with those in countries liberated by the armed forces of the United States and those of the Allied nations. 3) To accumulate the necessary data for the reconstruction of the Jewish communal and religious life in Europe.

This work may necessitate extension of the delegates activities to include visits to Turkey, Palestine and Switzerland. We would, therefore, request the State Department to respectfully grant diplomatic passports to these delegates and to facilitate the arrangements for the journey.

III - SWITZERLAND and TURKEY

The State Department has informed us of a diplomatic dispatch transmitted through the Legation in Bern from our Mr. Isaac Sternbuch in Switzerland in which it is confidentially reported that rescue possibilities from France, Belgium and Holland are greatly limited because of difficulties encountered in their entry into Switzerland. A similar situation exists in the rescue of Jews from Hungary and Slovakia, who, though possessing certificates to Palestine, cannot secure transit through Turkey.

We would, therefore, respectfully request that a strong intervention be made to the Government of Switzerland and Turkey to permit entry to those fleeing the Nazis and to give them temporary refuge until their evacuation, guarantee for which would be given.

IV - SHANGHAI

We again respectfully present the matter of the Rabbinical group in Shanghai. A Treasury Department License has been granted and a cable dispatched which gives Rabbi Ch. Szmulewicz in Shanghai borrowing power to the extent of fifty thousand dollars. This measure is deeply appreciated by our Committee. However, to insure the safety of this group, it is deemed highly advisable that this group receive monies from a neutral country. This fact would prove to the Japanese government, in military control of Japan, that this group is being maintained by interested parties in neutral countries. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that permission be granted and a Federal License issued to transfer the sum of \$25,000.00 to Isaac Sternbuch in St. Gallen, Switzerland and by him transferred to Rabbi Szmulewicz in Shanghai for distribution among the Rabbis and scholars.

100560

May we further advise the Department of State, that many American relatives of these internees in Shanghai are anxious to designate a monthly sum for their relatives in need. Our request is respectfully submitted for the State Department to arrange for the transfer of such aid through a neutral agency in the same manner as it is now made available to the American citizens in Shanghai.

V - SAN SALVADOR

Informations have been received that the consul of San Salvador has been instrumental in the rescue of many Jews in occupied countries of Europe; and that by making available San Salvador citizenships, many lives have been saved. However, the Government of San Salvador may invalidate these life-saving documents. It is requested that a friendly intercession be made to the Government of San Salvador to give due recognition to the documents being issued by her consuls - and to request that this procedure continue.

Presented by:

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*  
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz  
132 Nassau St. New York, N.Y.

March 15, 1944

I- LITHUANIA

As the war front approaches the Baltic States, it carries with it added danger to the lives of the Jews in Lithuania. The proclivity of the Nazis to exterminate all Jews on evacuating lost territories, is, most regretfully, too well-known. It is understood that it is most improbable that any rescue measure to save all can be undertaken. We would, therefore, urgently request that steps be taken for the rescue of a minimum of two hundred of the leading Rabbis, religious leaders and scholars in Lithuania. We respectfully suggest that the State Department intercede with the Government of Sweden to grant citizenships to these two hundred. These documents would serve to immediately change their status and therewith save their lives. Sweden should be further requested to give temporary refuge to these two hundred great spiritual leaders, and a guarantee given that they would be transferred at the earliest moment to places of permanent refuge. (We would appreciate the instructions of the State Department as to the advisability of submitting a request to the Vatican that a presentation be made by the Vatican to the German government for the release of 200 of the Jewish spiritual leaders now in Lithuania).

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000562

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We again respectfully present the matter of the Rabbinical group in Shanghai. A Treasury Department License has been granted and a cable dispatched which gives Rabbi Ch. Szmulowicz in Shanghai borrowing power to the extent of fifty thousand dollars. This measure is deeply appreciated by our Committee. However, to insure the safety of this group, it is deemed highly advisable that this group receive monies from a neutral country. This fact would prove to the Japanese government, in military control of Japan, that this group is being maintained by interested parties in neutral countries. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that permission be granted and a Federal License issue to transfer the sum of \$25,000.00 to Isaac Sternbach in St. Gallen, Switzerland

and by him transferred to Rabbi Szmulowicz in Shanghai for distribution among the Rabbis and scholars.

May we further advise the Department of State, that many American relatives of these internees in Shanghai are anxious to designate a monthly sum for their relatives in need. Our request is respectfully submitted for the State Department to arrange for the transfer of such aid through a neutral agency in the same manner as it is now made available to the American citizens Shanghai.

V- SAN SALVATOR

Information has been received that the consul of San Salvador has been instrumental in the rescue of many Jews in occupied countries of Europe; and that by making available San Salvador citizenships, many lives have been saved. However, the Government of San Salvador may invalidate these life-saving documents. It is requested that a friendly intercession be made to the Government of San Salvador to give due recognition to the documents being issued by her consuls- and to request that this procedure continue.

Presented by:

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

000564

March 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Rabbis Kalmanowitz and Metz of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis called today and requested help from the War Refugee Board in saving about 100 Jewish Rabbis and scholars now in imminent danger in Lithuania. They stated they had asked the Swedish Minister to approach his Government on the question of granting honorary citizenship to these people in order to forestall their deportation as stateless individuals. The Swedish Minister agreed to send a message along these lines to his Government in Stockholm.

The Rabbis requested that the War Refugee Board take steps to have a formal request made to Sweden with respect to these people. They also request that the War Refugee Board work out a program to get food to this group, and, as a third request, they asked us to approach the Vatican to ask the Catholic leaders in Lithuania to help the Jewish groups in danger in that country.

*The rabbis agreed to submit this proposal in writing, giving us the information they have read.*

F. Hodel

000565

March 8, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

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M. Hedel

FH:lab 3/11/44

000566

ועד ההצלה

**VAAAD HAHATZALA**

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoh, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

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

W. R. B. \_\_\_\_\_

Filing No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

3/29/44  
Advised Rebn  
Responsibility of  
action taken

March 17, 1944

War Refugee Board  
Treasury Department  
Washington, D. C.

Att: Miss F. Hodell

Dear Miss Hodell,

May I express my sincere thanks for your courtesies during our conference on Wednesday.

We enclose our application for the license to Tangiers and also our messages to Mr. Sternbuch and to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe in Stockholm, Sweden. We are certain that you will give these matters your earnest and immediate attention.

May we ask you also to give your early attention to the matter of the license for the \$100,000 for which we made application. It should be made in the name of Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee, 132 Nassau St.

Will you please advise us if we can send a message to Rabbi Wilhelm Wolbe in the same text as the cable which you permitted us to send to Isaac Sternbuch about the \$50,000 to Shanghai?

The matter of San Salvador is so vital that we allow ourselves to again broach the subject to inquire if the San Salvador government has already informed the Swiss government that it recognizes the documents issued. May we ask whether it is

①

② Jane

③ sent

④

000567

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(Emergency Committee for Refugee Scholars,  
Yeshivoth, Rabbis and Communal Leaders)

132 NASSAU STREET  
(ROOM 819)  
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PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

- 2 -

possible for our government to advise the Swiss government that assurances have been received from the San Salvador government in this respect.

May I again assure you that it is with every feeling of thankfulness and deep appreciation that we receive every offer of cooperation given by you.

Very sincerely yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

*A. Kalmanowitz*

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

AK:r

000568