

War Refugee Board, Volume 3
(Folder 2 of 4)

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1. 1. 1. War Refugee Board

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE February 19, 1945

TO : The Executive Director
FROM : P. J. McCormack
Re : Number of Persons Rescued Since the Establishment of the War Refugee Board.

I. Movements to Neutral and Allied Areas

Roumania to Turkey	6,527	
Bulgaria to Turkey	448	
To North Africa	906	(Fedhala)
	400	(Phillipville)
To Middle East	45,000	
To Palestine	10,000	
Italy to United States	985	(Ft. Ontario)
Within Yugoslavia	4,840	
To Switzerland	9,172	plus several thousand in early 1944
Hungary to Roumania	2,000	
Occupied to liberated Slovakia	250	
Greece via Turkey to Middle East	900	
Transnistria to Roumania	48,000	
Spain to Portugal	1,532	
France to Spain	2,638	
Norway, Finland, and Baltic Areas to Sweden	4,770	
Yugoslavia to Italy	11,229	
Protective Documents in Hungary	14,000	
Latin American Passport Recognition	1,000	
Spanish Sephardic Recognition	555	
Portuguese Sephardic Recognition	400	
Restoration Turkish Citizenship certain Jews	700	
Exchange (actual and/or lot improved)	1,000	
United States Visas	4,350	
	<u>126,604</u>	

II. Situation in Liberated Areas

(See Attachments 1, 2, and 3.)

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Attachment 1

Source: Bern's 7616, November 18, 1944

(Cable from Lichtheim and Reigner, WJC Representatives in Switzerland,
to Nahum Goldman, New York.)

I.

Estimated
Deported, Killed, Starved

150,000	France
27,000	Belgium
140,000	Holland
2,000	Denmark
10,000	Italy
160,000	Germany
80,000	Austria
70,000	Protectorate
80,000	Slovakia
65,000	Yugoslavia
450,000	Hungary
200,000	Rumania (Bukovina, Bessarabia)
55,000	Greece (mainly Salonika)
220,000	Baltic States
<u>2,800,000</u>	Poland
4,509,000	TOTAL*

380
405
413
104

* To this must be added 1,000,000 (probably more) killed in Russia during German occupation of Ukraine and White Russia.

II A. Estimated Living
(Exclusive of Concentration Camps)

120,000	France
20,000	Belgium
15,000	Holland
25,000	Italy
15,000	Sweden*
43,000	Switzerland**
3,000	Spain and Portugal
10,000	Germany and Austria
2,000	Czechoslovakia
250,000	Hungary
300,000	Rumania
45,000	Bulgaria
12,000	Greece
<u>50,000</u>	Poland
910,000	TOTAL

II B. Labor and Concentration
Camp Estimate

36,000	Theresienstadt
20,000	Bergen Belsen and similar camps
200,000	Various labor camps in Poland, Silesia, Germany and Austria
<u>256,000</u>	TOTAL

Total Estimated Living: 1,166,000

* Including 5,000 refugees from Denmark and Norway

** Including 26,000 refugees

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Attachment 2

Source: New York Times 2/11/45 Edition (Palestine 2/6/45 delayed)

by Julian Louis Meltzer

Eliahu Dobkin, Immigration Department Head, Jewish Agency, estimates 1,200,000 Jews survive of Europe's 6,000,000 pre-war population.

Of these survivors 300,000 are in German control, and 900,000 are in liberated, allied and neutral territory.

Pre-war (1939) Estimate

Present Population Estimate

360,000	France	180,000
900,000	Roumania	300,000
3,500,000	Poland	350,000*
	Bulgaria	45,000
	Greece	10,000
	Belgium	18,000
	Italy (liberated)	30,000
	Switzerland	27,000 refugees
	Hungary	100,000
	Middle East (exclusive of Palestine)	800,000
	Norway	**
	Denmark	***

* Of above figure 50,000 are in liberated portions of Poland, while 200,000 are in Russia.

** Except for those resident in Sweden, balance are in Theresienstadt.

*** Idem.

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Attachment 3

Source: New York Times 2/17/45 Edition (Paris, Feb. 16)

Quoting Dr. Jos. Schwartz, JHC.

Estimated 500,000 of Europe's (not including Russia, but including Russian-controlled Europe) 6,000,000 Jews had escaped destruction by emigration.

Estimated 1,000,000 (same sectors) - 1,500,000 were left on the continent as follows:

<u>Pre-war (1939) Estimate</u>		<u>Present Population Estimate</u>
340,000	France	170,000
3,500,000	Poland (Incomplete)	100,000 - 200,000
600,000	Germany	Almost no German Jews left
50,000	Italy	20,000
90,000	Belgium	20 - 30,000
140,000	Netherlands	10 - 15,000
360,000	Czechoslovakia	45 - 50,000*
180,000	Austria	200

* Includes Theresienstadt population made up of Jews from all or many continental European countries.

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THE PRINCIPAL REMAINING WORK FOR WAR REFUGEE BOARD

I. WAR REFUGEE BOARD MANDATE

The War Refugee Board is charged with the overall responsibility of carrying out the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.

II. THE TASK REMAINING TO BE DONE

- A. The rescue or saving of some 300,000 to 500,000 Jews still in Nazi-occupied territory. These Jews are located in concentration camps, labor camps, or are in hiding. Several thousand are known to possess ad hoc Latin American passports and almost 5,000 are entitled, because of relationship to U. S. citizens or U. S. residents, to non-quota or preference quota U. S. immigration visas.
- B. Switzerland is the principal place from which these activities may now take place. Pending projects in Switzerland are as follows:
 1. Secret negotiations being conducted by Saly Mayer, a Swiss Jew, with the Gestapo for the lives of the Jews remaining in Nazi-controlled Europe.
 2. Small scale rescue operations conducted by the representatives of fourteen private American relief organizations under U. S. Treasury licenses and under the guidance and supervision of McClelland.
 3. Evacuation of refugees from Switzerland in order to facilitate the entry of more refugees into Switzerland.
 - a. As early as March 1944, this Government assured the Swiss that we would arrange for maintenance and find havens for refugees admitted to Switzerland. The Swiss have now requested that 1672 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August and December, 1944, be evacuated from Switzerland as soon as possible. We are now working out the details of this evacuation with the War Department and UNRRA.
 - b. Should the flow of refugees from Germany into Switzerland become substantial, the Swiss Government may request both supplies and assistance in removing numbers of refugees from Switzerland. If such a request is made by Switzerland, we would be faced with the following problems:
 - (1) Getting supplies into Switzerland;

- (ii) Arranging with the Army and the Swiss Government for transportation out of Switzerland
 - a. Adequate directives from Washington to theater commanders must be issued on this;
- (iii) Arranging with the Army and UNRRA for screening, reception and maintenance of refugees in camps in Italy or Philippeville.
 - a. Appropriate instructions must be issued by Washington to the field;
 - b. Supplies and personnel must be arranged for.
- 4. Assimilation of Jews to prisoner of war status. Repeated attempts by this Government to have the Germans recognize Jews as entitled to the privileges and protection of the provisions of the Geneva Convention have been unavailing to date. Since such assimilation to the status of prisoners of war would grant both protection and relief in the form of prisoner of war food parcels, our efforts to attain this goal should continue. Short of reaching this maximum protection, we are continuing to pursue the measures outlined in 5 and 6 below designed to bring some protection and special relief.
- 5. Protective Measures Designed to Save Lives While Inside Enemy Territory.
 - a. Exchange. As the result of the Board's efforts, the following categories of Jews are recognized as exchangeable and the Germans have been so notified:
 - (i) Ad hoc Latin American passport holders;
 - (ii) Close relatives of American citizens or residents who are entitled to non-quota or preference quota U. S. immigration visas.
 - b. Increasing Swiss diplomatic and InterCross personnel. The mere presence of such neutral observers serves to protect the internees.
- 6. War Refugee Board feeding programs.
 - a. Switzerland is the center for all activities concerning the delivery of the War Refugee Board food parcels sent from the United States via American Red Cross shipping facilities to the International Red Cross for distribution to persons in concentration camps in German-occupied areas. About 250,000

of these packages are now in the process of delivery.

- b. Because of transportation difficulties in Germany, consideration is now being given to the acquisition of 5 to 7 trucks to be used solely for the delivery of these packages and in order to get more International Red Cross personnel into the Jewish concentrations.

7. Psychological Pressures. With the cooperation of C.W.I., efforts are continually being made to impress on the German people the desirability of ceasing to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities. At the present time, this pressure is being directed to the low-level camp commanders, in view of the present indication that camp commanders and other isolated groups are becoming increasingly independent.

C. Other Areas of Operation

1. Sweden

- a. Continuation of rescue operations from Norway under Olsen's direction. 1500 a month are now being brought to Sweden by boat and across the Norwegian forests.

- b. Feeding programs

- (i) Food packages for inmates at Bergen Belsen;

- (ii) Food packages for needy victims still in Norway.

- 2. London. Relations with the British, and in particular problems concerning havens and Palestine certificates, are being handled by the Board's representative in London.

D. Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego. The War Refugee Board has overall responsibility for the Shelter where approximately 1,000 refugees are being maintained. The problem of liquidation of the camp may be expected to arise in the near future.

E. Refugees in Shanghai

- 1. Release of 500 Rabbis and students on ecclesiastical basis. Vatican help to be solicited.

- 2. Relief to 18,000 Jewish and stateless refugees in Shanghai. Through War Refugee Board intervention and under program developed by the Board, funds are being remitted regularly from the United States via Switzerland for the relief of these people.

JH. 2/8/45

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GENERAL O'DWYER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

2:30 p.m., January 31, 1945

GEN. O'DWYER: I am just starting in here on this job, and I thought it might be nice if I could meet the ladies and gentlemen of the press so that we might begin by knowing one another. Of course, there isn't too much about the work of the War Refugee Board that I can tell you, but from what I see, a magnificent job has been done. There is a lot of work still to be done. The staff here seems to be well on its toes. My job beginning today is to learn the details and find out what the orders are and what there is to be done and get into it as soon as I can. I also thought, while I couldn't answer any questions of any consequence with respect to the work, at least I could help you out this way, in that if there are questions that you have in mind I will do the best I can with them. Where I can't give you the answer, I will find out what the answer is and whether or not it is in keeping with the powers of

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release, and that is the main purpose of asking to meet you today.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, shoot!

Q Will you remain in uniform, General O'Dwyer?

A No, Miss, I take it off tonight at midnight.

Q Are you going to spend most of your time down here, or up in New York, sir?

A Well, I will spend a good deal of time here, as much as this job will require; and from what I can see now, there is considerable work that can be done in New York, too.

Q General, there was a story in the New York Times this morning that you were going to be able to devote some time to the business in the District Attorney's Office in New York, too. Does that mean this will be a part-time job?

A In the sense that I will have two jobs, I suppose you might use the term, but it won't be quite accurate. In the first place, I have a staff running the District Attorney's Office of Kings County, New York that has done a mighty good job since I went into the Army June 1, 1942, and I think that is all right.

Now, the staff here has been getting along without me from the time it began, about a year ago, and I think I will have plenty of time with the aid of the two staffs to handle both jobs.

The direction I was pointing at was not to evaluate your relative work between here and the District Attorney's Office, but is the job of the War Refugee Board slacking off to any extent?

No. On the contrary, I think we are going at it with new vigor.

Can you tell us something of how that fits into the allied picture? Is the War Refugee Board's work to be handled with headquarters here, or with headquarters elsewhere as an allied job, or where it is as an American job?

From what I see and from the directives, it is absolutely an American job with headquarters right here where you are now--this room, as a matter of fact.

Have the British said that they wish to contribute to the work of the War Refugee Board?

A That is a question I could answer, but I don't think I will answer it at the moment. Let me say that everyone within the scope of this work-- the President of the United States, the three major Secretaries that he appointed to the Board, the Executive Director, which I am, and all the people throughout our organization--is one hundred percent American

Q General, may I go back to the political question once more? Are you going to assume active direction of the District Attorney's Office?

A Yes, tomorrow morning --12:01 tomorrow.

Q How long will you be District Attorney up there?

A It will run for two years from December 31 of this year.

Q Who has been running that office in your absence?

A The Chief Assistant, Thomas Craddock Hughes.

Q Can you tell us, sir, how the work of the War Refugee Board will be coordinated with UNRRA's?

A As I see the picture today, you have hundreds of thousands of unfortunate people within the enemy lines whose lives are in grave danger. That has been the condition before this organization was

set up, and the immediate and direct job is to get them out from that dangerous position and take care of them. That is what our job is, and I believe--and, Miss Hodel, you can help me with this, please--that once they are out of this dangerous position they are temporarily housed and fed and taken care of by UNRRA.

MISS HODEL: After they are brought out of enemy territory.

GEN. O'DWYER: That is, once they are outside.

MISS HODEL: Then it is our job to find havens for them, and provide maintenance and care. In some of those cases we would have to, and have gone to UNRRA.

GEN. O'DWYER: That was my understanding.

Q There are cases where they have not been brought out, but are in a dangerous position. What do you do in such cases?

A That is a question now that would not be good for anybody if I were to answer it. That would be getting into methods of getting them out. Isn't that what you mean?

Q I meant two things: Would you try to get them out, or improve the status and their conditions where they are?

A I would prefer not to answer that.

Q Then I want to ask you another question. The last report spoke of the accomplishments, but also stated that there was yet much to be done. A great deal has been done because certain pledges and promises have been made by the governments concerned. What happens if in the course of events those promises are not kept-- you discover they are not kept?

A That is assuming they haven't been kept.

Q I am asking that because of this. That was in the Times this morning. I don't know whether that is up your alley or not, but that is what would be in line if such a thing didn't develop.

A This goes into the question of discrimination, doesn't it?

Q I am not quite sure what it goes into. It seems to imply that certain promises were made and are not being kept, and that applies to your work, too, if such a thing should happen.

A I think I have to follow the basic order, the basic mandate the President laid down, and that is to concern myself with the condition of those

persons inside the enemy lines whose lives are in danger and to try and use every means to get them out from that dangerous position. This statement of Judge Prokauer's refers to something else which--

That is what I wasn't quite sure of.

A We will limit our work to the mandate.

Q I wasn't sure if that would come within the scope of your activities.

A I would say offhand that those people involved are not within the enemy lines, and the immediate purpose, as I see it now, is to concentrate on those people who are within the enemy lines who are headed for death, destruction, manslaughter, or a thousand and one horrible things that have been going on inside the enemy lines.

Q When the board was set up we spoke of enemy lines and meant Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, but the enemy lines are quite different today.

A The order says, "People within the enemy lines," and they are the ones we are concerned about.

Q Do you think the failure of the War Crimes Commission to take any stand on the punishment

of the Germans for crimes committed against Jews within Germany--their own nationals--is an important psychological factor?

A

You are assuming something there that I am not in a position to concede. As far as the psychological effect on the Germans is concerned--speaking now not as an officer of the War Refugee Board, because I am not in it long enough to speak as that--but my personal reaction would be that if these people within the lines felt that they could commit mass murders and never be brought to answer for them, the effect would not be as good from the victim's standpoint as it would if these people were reminded of what our President has already said, that they will be brought to answer for their crimes.

Sir, we understand that Mr. Pehle has been working for months on the idea that the War Crimes Commission put on the agenda war crimes against Axis nationals and that the United States come out with a clear-cut statement for the help that it would give to the War Refugee Board in its work. How do you feel about that, and do you intend to take

up the cudgels?

A I certainly do.

Q Would it be correct then to say that the War Refugee Board's job ends where the job of UNRRA's repatriation begins, in other words, getting these people--

A As it is presently set up, I would say that was so.

Q In that case, sir, will the people who can be gotten out of the Eastern Front--Russian Front--also come under the jurisdiction of the Refugee Board, or will the War Refugee Board--

A You see, the jurisdiction of the War Refugee Board presents a question that is very involved. After all, we are not a joint outfit; we are purely an American outfit directly concerned with getting those who are in danger and inside the lines out into a place where they are not in that kind of danger, and doing everything we can, using every possible means to see that their health is not impaired, that they are housed, and that they get the needed food and clothing and shelter. Now, naturally, the

Refugee Board has been taking them out and has been responsible for them until such time as they have been given that protection. But as you know, we haven't been taking them out through the Eastern Borders, so I wouldn't know. We haven't been doing that.

Q General, is there a time limit on the War Refugee Board's activities? For instance, if the war in Germany should end, would the activities of the War Refugee Board cease?

A I have asked that question, too, and I haven't received an answer.

Q Is there a deficiency appropriation that would carry the Board until, say, six months after the war is over?

A I don't know. A little later on I will be able to tell you that. I will stay here until the job is done or until I am otherwise requested to leave.

Q Would you consider a popular demand for you to become the Democratic nominee for Mayor a sufficient request, sir?

A The answer to that is simple; it is no.

Q Does that mean you will not be drafted for the job--you will not run for Mayor?

A That is correct.

Q You will refuse to run, sir?

A I haven't been asked to run.

Q Do you choose not to run?

A I am a Democrat; I would rather use another term.

Q Have you said that publicly before?

A They haven't found another term quite as effective; had I found one I would have used it.

Q Have you said publicly before you would not be a candidate?

A Nobody has asked me publicly. All parties concerned understand that.

Q Notwithstanding that, rumors have been quite persistent.

A Well, you know what rumors are; you can't stop them.

Q Is this an unpaid job?

A Yes.

Q Where does your money come from, the D. A.'s job?

A It has to come from somewhere. I, too, have to eat. The refugee problem applies to Brooklyn, too.

Q Has the Board done any work at all in the Far East, sir?

A Well, I would rather not answer that question. There has been something done.

Q But it is pretty much on a very limited basis?

A It is something I wouldn't like to comment on at this time.

Q Can you estimate, sir, how many people are involved in the war refugee Board's immediate job?

A That, I don't know, I haven't met them yet. I was supposed to meet them this morning in this office, and, of course, the overseas outfit--I know who they are.

Q I meant the people in dangerous positions?

A Oh, according to the information that I have, it runs anywhere above five hundred thousand. Isn't that true?

MISS HOWEL: Yes.

Q Where are they located mostly?

SEN. O'BRYEN: Within the enemy lines.

Q Does that refer to people who have been helped, or an estimate of the people who need to be helped?

A It means the people who have to be helped.

Q How many have been helped?

A We have some figures on that.

MISS HOBBS: It is very difficult to give you an accurate figure.

GEN. O'NEAL: So please don't press that question any more. A little later on we will give you the answer. Your activities are devoted not only to the saving of lives, but the restoration of property if any? Lots of them are not poor; they had property, and that is one reason why many of them were put in concentration camps? Do your activities concern trying to get back any of the property for them, or just charitable help for them as they come out?

A I think there is no question about where we fit in; it is to save their lives.

Q Well, the more of their own property you can get back, the less they will be objects of charity.

A There will be other agencies to take care of that. Q Would you mind telling us how this figure of five hundred thousand was arrived at, sir?

A Perhaps if I did it might get down into our methods of operation, which might again lead to future embarrassment. I think I had better not answer that question.

Q General, in regard to the effectiveness of the work of the War Refugee Board, to avoid confusion, is it correct to say that the five hundred thousand people are within the shrinking borders of Germany?

A That is true.

Q What nationality are these five hundred thousand.

A Well, I think unquestionably as far as nationality is concerned they are all Europeans; there is no question about that.

Q I mean, they are all people who are fleeing from the Germans, and none of them are Germans themselves?

A I wouldn't say they weren't Germans.

Q What was that, sir?

A I wouldn't say they weren't Germans.

Q As a matter of fact, aren't they practically all Germans? When the last report came out, it indicated that they were the people within the enemy lines, with the exception of Hungary, which was then at war. Are any of these five hundred

thousand in Hungary, which was then the enemy line?

A When the line passed over them, they were then in Hungary--they were outside the lines. We are concerned with the ones who are still within those shrinking lines.

Q I wasn't quite clear in my mind whether it was people who were trying to get away from the Nazis, or Nazi people.

A Victims, people who know and feel and have good reason to feel that their lives are endangered just because of who they are.

Q I knew that was the chief purpose, but I wondered if your Board was doing anything to help these Nazis as far as German towns are concerned.

A No, we are not concerned with that; that is somebody else's job.

Q General, wouldn't you say for the most part that those five hundred thousand are German Jews?

A Mostly Jewish.

Q What is your criteria for selecting people who are to be aided by the War Refugee Board?

A We know that they are endangered, and if we knew someone else was in danger, we wouldn't

leave them there. We are realistic about that. Are there any areas where you can tell us about the work that has been accomplished?

Suppose you leave that for a little later until I am more familiar with it. I do know of certain accomplishments, but at the moment it might not be wise to talk about them. I want to be sure it is safe to talk about these things. You might show your hand.

Could you tell us anything about the Turkish setup, whether Turkey has been closed? They won't allow transit visas through Turkey.

It isn't closed as of today.

MR. HOEL: Are you talking about our office being closed there?

No, not the office; I was talking about the flow of refugees.

I don't think we have reports to the effect that it has actually been closed; it is apparently now being carried on under certain restrictions which you all know about.

General, could you tell us the background of how you happen to turn up in this job? Was it

your idea, the President's idea, or Morgenthau's idea? It is certainly a long jump from feeding people in Italy to this job. Was it your idea, sir?

GEN. O'DAYER: It wasn't mine.

Q If you hadn't been appointed, General, would you have gone ahead and accepted the Democratic nomination for the Mayor of New York that had been offered you? It was offered to you, wasn't it?

A No.

Q Why don't you like that job? LaGuardia likes it.

A Oh! (Laughter)

Q Did you visit any camps in Italy? Were there any war refugee camps in Italy?

A No, I didn't visit any camps. I was on another angle there.

Q Can't we get back to whose idea it was?

A Why don't you ask the Secretary?

Q He would think up somebody else for us to ask.

Q He will pass the buck to the White House, sir.

A I hardly think so.

Q There is no secret about it, is there?

A No.

Q General, your report of what was needed to re-habilitate Italy--was anything started on that?

A I am out of that now, and I wouldn't like to discuss it.

Q What is your Army status as of today? You are in an inactive status right now, and you are retiring from the Army tonight--is that the idea?

A The papers haven't gone through, but the orders are that I am relieved from duty as of tonight, active duty.

Q You go on an inactive status as of tonight? I thought you were already on an inactive status.

A I was, but the Army has some regulations about making you take a vacation, and my time over the two and a half years that I was in the Army computed so that I would be in an inactive status until some time in April. I didn't want it that way, so I waived everything else, and that gets me out tonight at midnight so I can begin in Brooklyn tomorrow.

Q General, can you tell us something of what the Board has in the field to accomplish this job?

A I am not familiar enough with that. The Board

has been using a number of people that have been in the field for other agencies, and they have invited them to stay on with the Board. I wish I could tell you about them, but I can't. There are reasons why it wouldn't be wise to mention who they are.

Q Can you give us an estimate as to how many people it will take to do this job--how many Americans?

A Well--

Q You couldn't give us any rough estimate of how many have been helped up to now, just some faint idea?

A I haven't any accurate figures on that, but I think in two weeks time I will have them. This is going on all the time; you take them out of a temporary station and you get them from there to some more permanent station, so these reports are changing from day to day as we get them in. In two weeks time we will have a pretty fair report.

Q General, can you elaborate on your statement that you intend to undertake the work of the Board with renewed vigor? Do you have a

specific program or any specific undertakings that the Board has in mind that you intend to step up particularly?

A No, I wouldn't elaborate on that. The test on that is, how many do we get out from under? That is the test of the work.

Q You do not want to tell us in general terms how many you have gotten out?

A I would prefer not to give those figures out now, but I will a little later.

Q Part of Mr. Pehle's original plan was to carry on psychological warfare against the Germans. Do you have any other ideas along that line?

A No.

Q Will the sphere of work extend to the Pacific theater, to Japan?

A Well, as of today there is nothing in the Presidential order that would prevent it, but I don't know of any such problem in the Pacific theater yet.

Q Is there any activity going on with refugees in Northern Italy? That comes within the lines, doesn't it? You have some, haven't you?

MISS HOEDEL: Yes.

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- Q Is the amount sizable?
- A We have more accurate figures on the number there, but you asked if we were doing anything for the refugees there. That is part of our job.
- Q There have been reports that the Nazis may try to wind up this war in a terrific blood bath. Are you anticipating they may do that?
- GEN. O'DWYER: That estimate of mine was perhaps born out of some of the reports that I read of what actually happened. Knowing what did happen, and knowing what the danger still is, this is not the time to lie down, but we should keep on doing what has been done and increase it if we can.
- Q Were the reports pretty gruesome?
- A They left nothing to the imagination. Yes, they are gruesome.
- Q General, is your salary as District Attorney a matter of public record? Do you mind my asking what that is?
- A Twenty thousand a year.
- Q Thank you, General. Congratulations.
- A Thank you very much.

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DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF
CENTRAL SERVICES
TELEGRAPH SECTION

MF-1953 FEB 1 PM 1 59

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

PLAIN
Bern

Dated January 31, 1945

Rec'd 11:59 p.m.

Am Ref Est
Huddle

Secretary of State
Washington

CONTROL COPY

687, Thirty-one.

PERSONAL FOR PEHLE OF WRB FROM MCCLELLAND.

"Sorry to learn of your leaving WRB which under your energetic direction has been able to take action through many channels which otherwise would probably have remained closed. Allow me express my sincere appreciation for continued confidence placed in me throughout past many trying months, by you and board.

Please accept my personal wishes for successful service in your new job and kindly assure General O'Dwyer that I shall be glad to continue serving Board to extent my ability as long as it is felt effective aid can be rendered."

Above refers to Department's 467, January 27.

HUDDLE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

PEM

Quarkef 731 Pehle

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 28 1945
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

PLAIN

January 27, 1945

AMLEGATION

CONTROL COPY

BERN
487, Twenty-seventh

The cable below is for McClelland from War Refugee Board.
The following is text of press release ^{to be} issued by Board on January 28, 1945, announcing Mr. Pehle's resignation as Executive Director of the Board and the appointment of Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer as his successor:

"The War Refugee Board announced today that John W. Pehle has resigned as Executive Director of the Board. The Board made public Mr. Pehle's letter of resignation and the Board's acceptance.

Mr. Pehle was designated Acting Executive Director of the Board shortly after its creation on January 22, 1944. Later, on March 24, 1944, the Board, with the approval of the President, designated him permanent Executive Director.

As explained in the letter of resignation, Mr. Pehle resigned because of the increasing burden of new duties which have been assigned to him as Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury.

At the same time the Board announced the selection of Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer as the new Executive Director. General O'Dwyer is being returned to inactive

status

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-2- #457, Twenty-seventh, to Bern.

status by the War Department to handle this assignment. General O'Dwyer is District Attorney for Kings County, New York, on leave, and recently returned to the United States from Italy where he served as Vice President of the Economic Section of the Allied Control Commission for Italy, with the personal rank of Minister."

Following is personal from Peble:

I wish to take this opportunity to express to you again my personal appreciation for the excellent work you have done for the Board during the period I served as Executive Director. I am confident that General O'Dwyer can rely on your continued service and devotion to the work of the Board. Sent to Bern, re: Bern, London, Stockholm and Ankara.

GREY
(Acting)

CODE ROOM:

Repeat to: London for Mann #564^X

Stockholm for Olsen #152^X

Ankara for Katski #132^X

WRB:MMV:KG
1/27/48

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NOE

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CABLE TO AMLEGATION, BERN, FOR MCCLELLAND, FROM WAR REFUGEE BOARD

The following is text of press release issued by Board on January 28, 1945, announcing Mr. Pehle's resignation as Executive Director of the Board and the appointment of Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer as his successor:

"The War Refugee Board announced today that John W. Pehle has resigned as Executive Director of the Board. The Board made public Mr. Pehle's letter of resignation and the Board's acceptance.

"Mr. Pehle was designated Acting Executive Director of the Board shortly after its creation on January 22, 1944. Later, on March 24, 1944, the Board, with the approval of the President, designated him permanent Executive Director.

"As explained in the letter of resignation, Mr. Pehle resigned because of the increasing burden of new duties which have been assigned to him as Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury.

"At the same time the Board announced the selection of Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer as the new Executive Director. General O'Dwyer is being returned to inactive status by the War Department to handle this assignment. General O'Dwyer is District Attorney for Kings County, New York, on leave, and recently returned to the United States from Italy where he served as Vice President of the Economic Section of the Allied Control Commission for Italy, with the personal rank of Minister."

Following is personal from Pehle:

I wish to take this opportunity to express to you again my personal appreciation for the excellent work you have done for the Board during

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the period I served as Executive Director. I am confident that General O'Dwyer can rely on your continued service and devotion to the work of the Board.

THIS IS WRB BERN CABLE NO. 388.

Same cable should be sent to: **Mann, London** (WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 40.) ×
Olsen, Stockholm (WRB STOCKHOLM CABLE NO. 300) ×
Kataki, Ankara (WRB ANKARA CABLE NO. 140) ×

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Ackermann, Akzin, Cohn, Drury, DuBois, Gaston, Hodel, McCormack, Pehle, Files

*JH. Cleared
with Mr. Pehle*
FH:hd 1/27/45

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE January 29, 1945

TO General O'Dwyer

FROM Miss Hodel

Re: Board Relations with International and United States Government Agencies

I. International Agencies

A. Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees

Membership of this Committee comprises some 33 governments, including the United States, Great Britain and Russia. Sir Herbert Emerson is the Director and Patrick Malin, an American, is the Vice Director. Until recently, Byron Taylor was the American member on the Committee. Ambassador Winant as Mr. Taylor's alternate has been representing this Government for the past few months. The mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee was changed at the ill-fated Bermuda Conference in the Spring of 1943 to cover assistance to Jews and other persons displaced or persecuted because of race, religion or political belief. Because of the international membership, the Committee's operations are exceedingly cumbersome and to date it appears to have done very little. Shortly after the setting up of the War Refugee Board, Sir Herbert Emerson and Mr. Malin came to this country for discussions with Mr. Pehle and members of the Board. We service the Committee with copies of our reports and we are constantly pressing them for action in certain programs. The State Department is presently working on a new American personnel on the Committee with a view to vitalizing the intergovernmental Committee for the big job ahead in rehabilitation and relief to displaced peoples in Europe.

B. UNRRA

The Board has solicited and obtained the cooperation of UNRRA in caring for refugees brought out of Europe to camps in North Africa and Italy. The Board was not invited to send a representative to the Montreal Conference of UNRRA. Because of the Board's satisfactory relations with private relief organization interested in the problem of rehabilitation and relief to displaced people in Europe, the Board is constantly receiving complaints concerning UNRRA's lack of action to date.

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II. Departments and Agencies of the United States Government

A. Treasury Department

Because all of the operations of private American relief organizations must be licensed under Section 5b of the Trading with the enemy Act, we have worked out a close liaison with the Foreign Funds Control of the Treasury Department for the licensing of rescue and relief operations in which the Board is interested. The organizations apply for their licenses through the Board which sends its recommendation to the Treasury and works out with Foreign Funds Control the details of the necessary licenses.

B. State Department

The Board's liaison with the State Department is through Mr. George Warren who is Advisor on Refugees to the Secretary of State.

C. War Department

Our main contact with the War Department is with Assistant Secretary McCloy's office. We also have some dealing with General Hildring's office.

D. FEA

Our main contact here is with the Blockade Division which is particularly concerned with cur feeding and other relief programs.

E. Department of the Interior

Our principal relation here is with the War Relocation Authority of which Dillon Myer is the Director. Under Secretary, Abe Fortas, is personally interested in our work and receives copies of our weekly reports.

F. O.S.S.

Aside from the fact that the War Refugee Board is presently covering certain O.S.S. personnel abroad, our main relationship with O.S.S. is in connection with the exchange of special information relating to refugees.

G. Censorship

All private messages on refugee matters, whether sent by commercial channels or through the Board's special facilities, must be cleared with Censorship. Censorship calls on us frequently for advice and information concerning these messages.

JH

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE January 29, 1945

TO General C. Wyer

FROM Miss Model

Re: Special Services available to the War Refugee Board

1. Administrative Services of the Foreign Assets Control of the Treasury Department now handles all of our budget, payroll and personnel problems.
2. Legal services - Josiah W. Dulcis, now Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, is the General Counsel for the Board. Personnel of the Office of the General Counsel of the Treasury are available from time to time for special legal problems.
3. Press Service - the Treasury Public Relations Office services the Board on the issuance of Board press releases and news clippings relating to matters of interest to the Board.
4. Public Relations - No one is available to us at the present time for special public relations matters such as relations with the press, speech writing, greetings to meetings, etc.

Jed

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE January 29, 1945

TO General O'Dwyer

FROM Miss Rodal

The following is a brief summary of the pending projects and operations of the Board:

J. Rescue Operations

1. Switzerland

1. Secret negotiations - Since last August a series of meetings have been held on the Swiss-German border between Saly Mayer, a Swiss citizen, and members of the German Gestapo. Mayer is negotiating for the lives of the Jews still remaining in Nazi-controlled Europe. The discussions which originally involved ransom have now been swung around to consideration of a proposal whereby, in return for the halting of the extermination of the Jews in German hands, Mayer would undertake to send the necessary relief supplies to keep the Jews alive, provided the supplies are distributed by the International Red Cross. While the terms of this proposal are still very vague (in order that valuable time might be gained by their clarification), Mayer recently concluded that in order to hold open the negotiations he must have something tangible with which to bait the Nazis. He asked for the transfer of 20,000,000 Swiss francs from the JDC in the United States (which he also represents in Switzerland). The Board's representative strongly supported this request. After clearance with State and War, the Board arranged with Treasury for the issuance of the necessary license and the JDC made the remittance on January 26, 1945. Since the sole purpose of the transfer is to enable Mayer to continue his negotiations, the license provides that no expenditure or commitment for expenditure from the fund may be made without the prior express approval of this Government. The fund will be held in a joint account in the names of Saly Mayer and Roswell McClelland, the Board's representative. The British and Russian Governments have been kept advised of these negotiations.

2. Special rescue operations being conducted by representatives of private American organizations under the control of the Board's representative. These operations are all authorized by special licenses issued by the U. S. Treasury and involve dealings with the enemy through channels available in Switzerland.

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3. Evacuation of refugees from Switzerland. The Swiss have recently pressed us for the removal of some of the refugees who have come to Switzerland as the result of our operations. In order that the Swiss will continue to be willing to accept more refugees and to meet assurances we have given Switzerland many times, we are now arranging for the movement of 1672 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August and December, 1944. Transportation for this group will be handled by the War Department and housing and maintenance of the group will be handled by UNRRA at one of the refugee camps in North Africa or Italy.

4. We are continuing to press the Swiss Government and the International Red Cross for assistance in various measures which we have developed for the protection of persons in enemy territory.

B. Sweden

1. Rescue operations from Baltic countries by boat across the Baltic Sea have now stopped.

2. Rescue from Norway, mainly by land through northern forests, is continuing at the rate of 1500 a month.

C. Turkey

The rescue of Jews to Turkey from enemy-controlled areas has now become impractical and unfeasible in view of the liberation of Rumania, Bulgaria and part of Hungary by the Russian army. It is contemplated that the Board's office in Turkey will close very shortly. Our request to have our representative in Ankara go into Bulgaria and Rumania was turned down by the Soviet authorities in Moscow.

D. London

The Board's representative in London is handling relations with the British concerning various phases of our program and, in particular, the problem of Palestine certificates for Jewish refugees rescued from enemy territory. He also handles relations with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees which has its main office in London. The Board's representative in London supervises certain rescue and relief programs of private American relief organizations backed by the CIO and AFL and financed by remittances from this country to representatives operating out of London.

E. Rescue by Means of Exchange

As the result of measures developed by the Board, persons who are close relatives of citizens or residents of the United States are

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entitled, under our statutes, to non-quota or preference quota immigration visas and have been declared eligible for exchange, if they are in enemy-controlled territory, and are victims of enemy oppression. Lists of such persons are continuously being supplied to the Board's representatives in Switzerland and Sweden for transmission to the German authorities.

2. Many Jews in enemy territory hold "ad hoc" Latin American passports which were purchased from various Latin American Consuls in Europe. Since these documents serve to protect the holders as "nationals" of the Western Hemisphere and hence subject to exchange, we prevailed upon the Latin American countries involved to agree not to question the validity of the passports until after the war. We also agreed that the persons holding the documents would not be sent to the South American countries but to other havens of safety.

Two exchange projects involving this category of persons are now being developed: (1) 150 of this category are being exchanged in Switzerland now as part of the present German-American exchange; (2) about 300 of this category are involved in an exchange now being planned to follow the foregoing exchange.

3. Under pressure from the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, the Board and the Department of State are now investigating the possibility of arranging for the exchange of 500 Rabbinical leaders and scholars in Shanghai for Japanese nationals in the Western Hemisphere. As an alternative, the Department and the Board are investigating the possibility of the Japanese releasing this group, solely because of their ecclesiastical status, for transportation across Russia to a neutral country. The Vatican has been very active in this project.

II. Relief Operations

A. War Refugee Board Feeding Programs.

In June, 1944, after personal discussions with Mr. Dingle-Foote of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, we obtained permission from the British and American Blockade Authorities to ship 300,000 food packages from the United States to the International Red Cross for delivery by the latter organization to unassimilated persons in concentration camps in Germany and German-occupied areas. These packages were financed by an allocation from the President's Foreign Relief Fund and were made up by the American Red Cross which arranged for shipping along with prisoner of war supplies.

Recently, the British and American Blockade Authorities agreed to an extension of this program which is about to get under way. It will also be financed from an allocation of \$1,125,000 made by the

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President. Because of the limited packing facilities of the American Red Cross, this second batch of packages will be procured commercially for the Board by Treasury Procurement. The shipping will be handled by the American Red Cross as in the past.

B. Private Relief Programs

General food package programs have been developed under which private American organizations obtain food in neutral countries for delivery to persons in Nazi territory. The most important programs are now centering in Sweden where a fairly large-scale operation is now under way for internees at Bergen Belsen, a German concentration camp near Hanover, Germany. The World Jewish Congress is particularly interested in this program and has recently asked the Board to consider its expansion to be financed with U. S. Government funds. Food packages are also sent to Norway from Sweden.

III. Psychological Warfare Program

- A. With the cooperation of OWI, we have recently stepped up our psychological pressures on German areas in the hope that a last minute orgy of brutality against Jews by the Germans may be forestalled.
- B. Our representatives in Switzerland and Sweden are now pushing ahead on this program through channels available to them.

IV. Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego

War Refugee Board has overall responsibility for some 982 refugees brought from Italy last August to Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York. The War Relocation Authority administers the camp. All important policy questions concerning these refugees are raised with the Board. (Mrs. Roosevelt visited the camp with Mrs. Morgenthau last fall.)

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Principal Private Organizations working with War Refugee Board

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee,
270 Madison Avenue,
New York, N. Y.
Paul Baerwald, Chairman
Moses A. Leavitt, Secretary

Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox
Rabbis of the United States and Canada,
132 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz

Agudas Israel World Organization,
226 West 97th Street,
New York 25, N. Y.
Mr. Jacob Rosenheim, President
Michael Tress

World Jewish Congress,
1834 Broadway,
New York 23, N. Y.
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise
Dr. Nahum Goldmann

Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe,
25 West 45th Street,
New York, 19, N. Y.
Judge Bennett

Hebrew Committee for National Liberation,
2315 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 8, D. C.
Peter H. Bergson, Chairman

Jewish Labor Committee,
175 East Broadway,
New York 2, N. Y.
Jacob Pat, Executive Secretary
Adolph Held, Chairman

Zionist Organization of America,
41 East 42nd Street,
New York 17, N. Y.
Dr. S. Bernstein

Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS),
425 Lafayette Street,
New York, N. Y.
Isaac L. Asofsky, Executive Director

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General Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine,
510 West 112th Street,
New York, N. Y.
Israel Mereminski

Self-Help of Emigres from Central Europe, Inc.,
139 Centre Street,
New York 13, N. Y.
Dr. Fred S. Weissman, Executive Secretary

American Jewish Committee,
386 Fourth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.
Judge Proskauer

Save the Children Federation,
One Madison Avenue,
New York 10, N. Y.
Nicholas Lentugov, Associate Executive Director

American Friends Service Committee,
20 South 12th Street,
Philadelphia 7, Pa.
Clarence Fickett

International Rescue and Relief Committee,
Suite 902,
103 Park Avenue,
New York 17, N. Y.
Dr. Frank Kingdon
Miss Sheba Strunsky

Unitarian Service Committee,
25 Beacon Street,
Boston 8, Mass.
Edward Cahill, Assistant Director
Dr. Charles Joy

American ~~Christian~~ Committee for Refugees,
139 Centre Street,
New York 13, N. Y.
Dr. Leland Rex Robinson

War Relief Services,
National Catholic Welfare Conference,
350 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.
The Very Reverend Patrick A. O'Boyle

Christie

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Labor League for Human Rights -
United Nations Relief - AFL,
10 East 40th Street,
New York 16, N. Y.
Miss Suzanne LaFollette

National CIO War Relief Committee,
1776 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.
Leo Perlis, National Director

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



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JAN 27 1945

MEMORANDUM TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM O'DWYER

You are hereby appointed Executive Director of the War Refugee Board effective immediately.

We are sure we can rely on you to carry on the important task assigned to this Board by the President.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George C. Marshall".

Acting Secretary of State

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William D. Phillips".

Secretary of the Treasury

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry L. Stimson".

Secretary of War

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



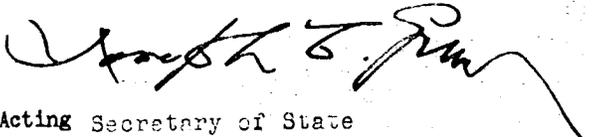
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

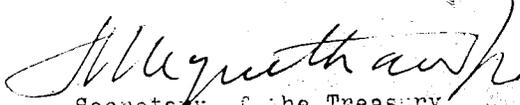
JAN 27 1945

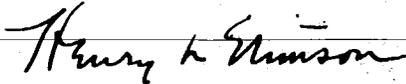
MEMORANDUM TO JOHN W. BEHLE

We have received your letter of resignation dated January 27, 1945.

In view of your request and the pressure of your other duties, your resignation is hereby accepted. The Board appreciates the services you have rendered and your devotion to the great and important task assigned to this Board by the President.


Acting Secretary of State


Secretary of the Treasury


Secretary of War

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 21 1945

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM TO THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

I hereby submit to you my resignation as Executive Director of the War Refugee Board effective immediately. As Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury there has recently been assigned to me the supervision of the operations of the Treasury Procurement Division, which includes the difficult task of disposing of the surplus consumer goods turned over to the Treasury Department by the Army and the Navy. In view of the increasingly heavy burdens imposed on me by this new assignment, I have found it necessary to resign as Executive Director.

It has given me deep personal satisfaction to have been a part of the vital work undertaken by this Government to save and protect the innocent victims of Nazi persecution. While many lives have been saved as the result of our efforts, we have not, of course, met with complete success. However, I am proud of our achievements in the face of the difficulties encountered.

I have been reluctant to take this action and leave the Board because of the important work which remains to be done. I no longer have this reluctance, however, in view of Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer's willingness to assume the responsibilities of Executive Director.


J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: Mr. Frank Hatchell
(1) (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

This draft, after clearance with Hoffman and Chas. Bell, was sent to Budget for consideration and action.

Would you please call me re the property angle?

From: J. H. [Signature] (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Termination of the War Refugee Board

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The War Refugee Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board), established by Executive Order No. 9417 of January 22, 1944, is terminated. The functions of the Board and of the Executive Director thereof are abolished, except to the extent that they are transferred by this order. The property, funds, records and personnel of the Board are transferred as hereinafter indicated.

2. The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Foreign Funds Control of the Treasury Department, which has been handling administrative services for the Board, shall wind up the affairs of the Board. This shall include, but not be limited to, the separation of any excess personnel of the Board from the service; the liquidation of obligations incurred by the Board; the maintenance of appropriation and other accounts of the Board; the handling of residual pay-roll matters of the Board, including final payments to employees and action required with respect to bonds under the pay-roll deduction plan, withheld taxes, and retirement accounts; the effecting of collections and disposition of accounts relating to the Board; the clearance of post-audit exceptions and claims of the Board; and the disposition of the records of the Board. All functions of the Board and of the Executive Director thereof which are

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necessary to the effectuation of the provisions of this paragraph are transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury. The funds, property, records and personnel of the Board shall be transferred to the Treasury Department for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this paragraph.

3. Such further measures and dispositions as may be determined by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget to be necessary to effectuate the purposes and provisions of this order shall be carried out in such manner as the Director may direct and by such agencies as he may designate.

4. All prior Executive Orders which are in conflict with this order are superseded to the extent of such conflict.

5. This order shall become effective at the close of business September 16, 1948.

The White House,

, 1948.

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September 23, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Certain problems in connection with the winding up of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. White, Mr. Dent, and myself conferred informally with Mr. Thomas, an attorney-conferree, at the General Accounting Office in connection with the above matter.

We raised with Mr. Thomas the question of how to make provision so that those employees on the rolls of the War Refugee Board at the time of its abolition would not lose any credit for their unused annual leave. According to certain decisions rendered by the Comptroller General it appeared that upon the termination of an agency its personnel were considered automatically separated from the Federal Service and could not be paid for any unused annual leave existing at the date of the termination of the agency.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that under the new time and leave regulations (Executive Order No. 9414, dated January 13, 1944), section 2.4 directs that an employee who is to be separated from the service shall be entitled to the unused annual leave standing to his credit, that the date of his separation shall be so fixed as to permit him to take such leave and that in no case shall the separation become effective on a date prior to the date of termination of such leave, unless the employee forfeits such leave in writing. Mr. Thomas felt that in view of the above regulation, the War Refugee Board had, at the least, a moral obligation to see to it that none of its employees lost their unused annual leave upon the termination of the agency. One way to provide therefore, he pointed out, would be to postpone the date of abolition of the agency until the annual leave of its employees had expired. I suggested as an alternative a provision in the Executive Order for the transfer of all personnel carried on the rolls of the War Refugee Board on the date of its abolition to the Treasury Department, which as liquidating agent could make provision for the separation of the personnel from the Federal Service (that is, if they could not obtain new Federal jobs within thirty days from the date of the Board's abolition) and in doing so pay them in full for their unused annual leave. Mr. Thomas saw no reason why this couldn't be done and thought it would be more effective if, in the Executive Order, we made a specific reference to section 2.4 so that there would be no question of what it was intended to accomplish. Accordingly, I have prepared such a provision in a draft of an Executive Order terminating the War Refugee Board.

We also had occasion to discuss with Mr. Thomas the effect of the Russell amendment on the payment by the Treasury Department, as liquidating agent, from the Board's funds of obligations incurred by the Board prior to its termination. Mr. Thomas was of the opinion that the Russell amendment did not forbid the liquidation of such obligations by their payment after

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January 22, 1945. This agrees with the conclusion heretofore reached by Mr. Friedman and Mr. Marks. When I questioned Mr. Thomas further as to whether he thought that the Board's funds could be used by the Treasury Department to pay the Board's former personnel after January 22, 1945, Mr. Thomas apparently didn't wish to commit himself because he avoided a direct answer.

/s/ Milton Sargoy .

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D R A F T

EXECUTIVE ORDER

TERMINATING THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WHEREAS the War Refugee Board was established in the Executive Office of the President by Executive Order 9417, dated January 22, 1944, to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war; and

WHEREAS the victories of the United States and the other United Nations by crushing Nazi tyranny and aggression have halted the further murder, torture and oppression of innocent victims by the Nazis, their functionaries, subordinates and satellites and have made possible the punishment of those guilty of these abominable crimes;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The War Refugee Board is abolished.
2. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is charged with War Relocation Authority

the over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. The Immigration and Naturalization Service War Relocation Authority shall also have joint responsibility with the Department of State and the War Relocation Authority Department of Justice for formulating plans pursuant to which the refugees in the Emergency Refugee Shelter shall be returned to their homelands after the war or admitted to such countries as may be willing to accept them as immigrants.

3. The American National Red Cross is charged with the over-all responsibility for the project of procuring, packing, and shipping 285,000 food parcels to the International Committee of the Red Cross for distribution to unassimilated persons in concentration and refugee camps located in enemy or enemy-occupied territory in Europe. If in the opinion of the American National Red Cross changing circumstances render the continuance of such project infeasible or undesirable, that agency is authorized to dispose of the balance of such food parcels in any manner it sees fit, provided that such disposition shall be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the appropriation for Foreign War Relief, Second Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1944 (Public Law 375 - 78th Congress).

4. The Foreign Funds Control, Treasury Department, is designated the liquidating agent to wind up the affairs of the War Refugee Board. For this purpose, there shall be transferred to the Foreign Funds Control, Treasury Department, the War Refugee Board's property, records, equipment, funds (including all unexpended balances of allocations or other funds available) assets, obligations and liabilities of every kind. Upon the completion of the liquidation of the Board, all remaining funds shall be transferred to the Emergency Fund for the President.

5. To permit compliance with section 2.4 of Executive Order No. 9414, dated January 13, 1944, all personnel carried on the rolls of the War Refugee Board as of _____, 1944, including those on terminal leave, shall be transferred to the Treasury Department where provision may be made for their separation from the service, provided that such separation shall not become effective prior to the date of termination of any unused annual leave standing to the credit of such personnel.

6. Any provision of any prior Executive Order or memorandum of the President in conflict with this order is superseded to the extent of such conflict.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

1944

D R A F T

EXECUTIVE ORDER

TERMINATING THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WHEREAS the War Refugee Board was established in the Executive Office of the President by Executive Order 9417, dated January 22, 1944, to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war; and

WHEREAS the victories of the United States and the other United Nations by crushing Nazi tyranny and aggression have halted the further murder, torture and oppression of innocent victims by the Nazis, their functionaries, subordinates and satellites and have made possible the punishment of those guilty of these abominable crimes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, particularly the Act of December 18, 1941, entitled "First War Powers Act, 1941" (Public Law 354 - 77th Congress), as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The War Refugee Board is abolished.
2. The War Relocation Authority shall be charged with the over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. The War Relocation Authority shall also have joint responsibility with the Department of State and the Department of Justice for formulating plans pursuant to which the refugees in the Emergency Refugee Shelter shall be

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returned to their homelands after the war or admitted to such countries as may be willing to accept them as immigrants.

3. The Treasury Department, Division of Foreign Funds Control, shall wind up the affairs of the War Refugee Board. For this purpose, there shall be transferred to the Treasury Department, Division of Foreign Funds Control, the War Refugee Board's property, records, equipment, funds (including all unexpended balances or allocations of other funds) assets, obligations and liabilities of every kind. Upon the completion of the liquidation of the Board, all ^{of its} remaining funds shall be transferred to the Emergency Fund for the President.

4. ~~5.~~ Any provision of any prior Executive Order or memorandum of the President, including the memorandum dated June 8, 1944, to the Secretaries of War, Navy and Interior, the Director of the Budget and Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, in conflict with this order is superseded to the extent of such conflict.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE
1944

and the memorandum dated Sept. 12, 1944 to the War Food Administrator, Secretary of the Treasury, Chairman of the American National Red Cross and the Executive Director of the W.R.B.,

MJMark: hmd 9/12/44

100456

D R A F T

EXECUTIVE ORDER

TERMINATING THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

WHEREAS the War Refugee Board was established in the Executive Office of the President by Executive Order 9417, dated January 22, 1944, to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war; and

WHEREAS the victories of the United States and the other United Nations by crushing Nazi tyranny and aggression have halted the further murder, torture and oppression of innocent victims by the Nazis, their functionaries, subordinates and satellites and have made possible the punishment of those guilty of these abominable crimes;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, particularly the Act of December 18, 1941, entitled "First War Powers Act, 1941" (Public Law 354 - 77th Congress), as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. The War Refugee Board is abolished.
2. The War Relocation Authority shall be charged with the over-all responsibility for the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York. The War Relocation Authority shall also have joint responsibility with the Department of State and the Department of Justice for formulating plans pursuant to which the refugees in the Emergency Refugee Shelter shall be

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returned to their homelands after the war or admitted to such countries as may be willing to accept them as immigrants.

3. The Treasury Department, Division of Foreign Funds Control, shall wind up the affairs of the War Refugee Board. For this purpose, there shall be transferred to the Treasury Department, Division of Foreign Funds Control, the War Refugee Board's property, records, equipment, funds (including all unexpended balances of allocations or other funds available), assets, obligations and liabilities of every kind. Upon the completion of the liquidation of the Board, all remaining funds shall be transferred to the Emergency Fund for the President.

4. Any provision of any prior Executive Order or memorandum of the President, including the memorandum dated June 8, 1944, to the Secretaries of War, Navy and Interior, the Director of the Budget and Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, in conflict with this order is superseded to the extent of such conflict.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE

1944

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE October 31, 1944

TO : Mr. Fehle

FROM : Mr. White

Re: Liquidation of the War Refugee Board

Conference held in Mr. Marks' office on October 31, 1944, at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Messrs. Anthony Bryan and Clyde Dunn, Bureau of the Budget; Messrs. James Dent and Frank Gatchell of the Budget and Finance Section of Foreign Funds Control; and Messrs. White and Marks of the War Refugee Board.

Mr. Dunn, Liaison Officer between the Bureau of the Budget and the War Refugee Board from its inception, is resigning from the Bureau. He requested that this meeting be held in order that Mr. Bryan, his successor, obtain first-hand knowledge of the problems involved in the contemplated liquidation of the Board.

The representatives of the Bureau of the Budget stated that if the War Refugee Board were to remain in operation after January 21, 1945, it would be necessary under the Russell Amendment as they interpreted it, to obtain either a Congressional appropriation or an authorization from Congress permitting the expenditure of funds by the Board. Any such request would, in the opinion of Messrs. Dunn and Bryan, have to be presented before December 1 of this year. They emphasized, therefore, the necessity for determination by the Board whether it intends to request a Congressional appropriation or authorization for the expenditure of funds. Both representatives of the Bureau of the Budget were in agreement that no appropriation or authorization from Congress was necessary if the Board's activities, after January 21, 1945, were restricted to the liquidation of obligations incurred previous to that date.

I have since received a telephone call from Mr. Bryan who stated that he raised the above question with Mr. Carr, one of the members of the Legal Division of the Bureau of the Budget. Mr. Carr advised Bryan that the Bureau of the Budget is now preparing the various appropriation bills and intends to have them before the Congressional Committees by November 14, in order that Congress may have time to consider and act on these bills before December 15. Mr. Carr seemed to be of the opinion, according to Bryan, that unless requests for a Congressional appropriation or authorization were presented to the Bureau of the Budget before November 14, it would be extremely difficult to obtain favorable Congressional action in time. Mr. Bryan urged, therefore,

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that the Board come to a decision within the next two weeks.

Mr. Bryan also raised with Mr. Carr the question of liquidation of obligations incurred previous to January 21. Although Mr. Carr was not too certain on this point, he was inclined to divide previously incurred obligations into two categories:

- (1) An obligation such as an agreement to purchase a typewriter, which is concluded before January 21, but which cannot be executed until after January 21;
- (2) An obligation such as a promise to a foreign government to reimburse it for expenses incurred in the care of refugees admitted into that country.

Carr apparently felt that in order to liquidate obligations of the second type after January 21, it might be necessary to obtain a Congressional appropriation or authorization, as such obligations might take years to liquidate and might therefore be used as a means of circumventing the Russell Amendment.

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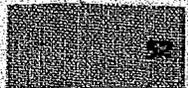
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MJMarks:DWhite:agr 10/31/44

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE December 22, 1944

TO Miss Hodel

FROM B. Akzin (by request)

Re: What further can be done to save the Jews remaining in
Axis territory

(1) Further emphasis could be placed on Red Cross and neutral help to, and supervision of, Hungarian Jews deported to German-held areas. This is essential, since such deported Hungarian Jews, numbering well over 100,000, represent the largest numerical group of Jews still living in Axis territory.

(2) Insistence could be placed on Red Cross and neutral supervision of the Ghettos of Lodz and Theresienstadt. In these two localities there are to be found the largest numerical concentrations of Jews in Axis territory, and the survival or extermination of their inmates involves the lives of about 100,000 persons.

(3) Insistence could be placed on speedy and determined pressure by the Department of State for an unequivocal declaration of the War Crimes Commission that extermination and cruelties against Jews of whatever nationality by Axis agents are punishable as war crimes. To be effective, such pressure would have to be undertaken simultaneously by instructions to the United States delegate on the Commission and by representations to other governments participating in the Commission asking them to instruct their delegates similarly. The significance of this step lies in its possible preventive effect.

(4) The food package program could be continued and - if possible - further expanded. This is important not only in view of its effect on the survival of the under-nourished inmates of various detention and labor camps, but also as a means of maintaining, however incompletely and indirectly, the Red Cross contact with, and supervision of, such camps.

(5) The device of "eligibility for exchange" could be fully utilized for all nationals and claimants to the nationalities of American republics and for persons who have a right to admission to such republics, as well as their immediate relatives. This applies to the so-called "Latin American passport holders" - seemingly numbering a few thousand, as well as to our own "lapsed visas" and non-quota and preference-quota cases. From recent Bern dispatches

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it appears that eligibility for exchange is the main, perhaps the only, aspect which the Germans are prepared to consider in connection with all these cases. The basis for such action is fully furnished by Department's 3082 of September 6 and A-540 of November 9 to Bern.

(6) Representations could be made to the British Government with a view to get it similarly to emphasize the eligibility for exchange of Palestine certificate holders and of close relatives of subjects and residents of the various parts of the British Empire and its mandated territories.

(7) The Swedish, Swiss, Spanish, Portuguese, and Turkish Governments could be encouraged to continue actively intervening on behalf of persons with protective papers and visas issued by these countries, and to continue interceding more generally on behalf of all other Jews in Axis territory. Contact could be maintained with the Vatican with a view to encouraging it to continue its own intercessions.

(8) Since the situation clearly points to growing confusion and diversity of views with respect to the Jewish question within the ranks of Axis officialdom, all channels could be utilized to approach, formally or informally, local as well as central Axis officials. To this effect, unofficial contacts through neutral sources, which have already proven its worth in many cases, could be continued on a broad scale, especially in Sweden and Switzerland. In addition, radio and pamphlet channels, which have lately been neglected, could again be utilized, and, to make this possible, our contacts with the O.W.I. which, it would seem, have been allowed recently to lapse, could be vigorously renewed.

Basis

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE JAN 16 1945

TO Mr. Pehle
FROM Miss Hodel
Re: Pending Projects and Operations of War Refugee Board

I. Operations in Switzerland

- a. Saly Mayer negotiations to save Jews surviving in German-controlled areas.
- b. Small, specific rescue programs of private organizations - coordinated through Board Representative McClelland.
- c. Continual representations to and pressure on Swiss Government and International Red Cross for assistance in various measures designed to protect persons in enemy territory.
- d. Evacuation of refugees from Switzerland in order that more refugees may enter Switzerland from enemy territory. Movement of 1672 Hungarian Jews who arrived in Switzerland in August and December 1944 now being worked out with War Department and UNRRA.
- e. Relief projects - extension of private feeding and clothing programs.

II. Operations in Sweden

- a. Rescue from Baltic areas
- b. Rescue from Norway
- c. Pressure on Swedish Government for assistance in our various "protective" programs.
- d. Relief programs
 1. Food packages to Norway
 2. Development of fairly large-scale package program for internees at Bergen Belsen.
 3. Importance of Sweden as forwarding depot for large part of first War Refugee Board food package program.

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III. Operations in Turkey

The rescue of Jews to Turkey from enemy-controlled areas has now become impractical and unfeasible in view of the liberation of Rumania, Bulgaria and part of Hungary by the Russian army. It is contemplated that the Board's office in Turkey will close very shortly.

IV. Operations in London

The Board's representative in London is handling relations with the British concerning various phases of our programs and, in particular, the problem of Palestine certificates for refugees. The rescue and relief programs of Polish War Relief, Czechoslovak Relief and several other labor projects are coordinated under the Board's representative.

V. Rescue by means of Exchange

- a. Persons in enemy territory who are close relatives of citizens or residents of the United States. As the result of measures developed by the Board, persons who under our statutes are entitled to non-quota or preference quota immigration visas have been declared eligible for exchange, if they are in enemy-controlled territory and are victims of enemy oppression. Lists of such persons are continuously being supplied to the Board's representatives in Switzerland and Sweden for transmission to the German authorities.
- b. Jews holding "ad hoc" Latin American passports. Two exchange projects are now being developed: (1) 50-75 of this category are expected to be exchanged as part of a large exchange in Switzerland in January 1945; (2) about 300 of this category (including the Vittel group) are involved in an exchange now being planned to follow the foregoing exchange.
- c. Exchange of Jews in enemy territory for German nationals in Rumania. Project still under study.
- d. 500 Rabbinical leaders and scholars in Shanghai. Possible exchange of this group for 500 Japanese in Peru now under study.

VI. War Refugee Board Feeding Programs

- a. Europe - extension of first project to send 300,000 packages to un-assimilated persons in German concentration camps.
- b. Far East - In view of the reported success of the American Red Cross project to send food to American civilian and military prisoners in the Far East, we are now exploring possibilities of sending packages to some 20,000 refugees in Shanghai.

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VII. Psychological Warfare Program

- a. With the cooperation of OWI, we are again stepping up our psychological pressures on German areas in the hope that a last minute orgy of brutality against Jews by the Germans may be forestalled.
- b. Our representatives in Switzerland and Sweden are now pushing ahead on this program through channels available to them.

VIII. Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego

War Refugee Board has overall responsibility for Shelter at Oswego, New York. Close cooperation with War Relocation Authority who administers the Shelter.

IX. Service to Private American Relief Agencies

- a. Development of private rescue and relief programs and the facilitating of the issuance of the necessary licenses.
- b. The furnishing of various reports and information received from abroad to the agencies here.
- c. The sending and receiving of messages ~~sent~~ through War Refugee Board facilities on behalf of the private agencies.

X. Service to Other Government Agencies Interested in Refugee Matters.

- a. Copies of weekly reports of the Board are furnished State, War, Treasury, FEA and Interior.
- b. OSS and other agencies frequently call on us for information in our files.
- c. We are now preparing a summary report of all War Refugee Board activities.

JH

JAN 16 1945

Mr. Pehle

Miss Hodel

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FH:hd 1/16/45

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OCT 17 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

For your information:

You may not have noticed that Governor Dewey, in his speech last night, included the "WRB" in his listing of agencies of the Administration "now operating wholly or partly all over the world." This afternoon Jonathan Daniels called me from the White House and asked me how many representatives we had abroad. The score is five professional people and three secretaries.

Daniels told me that he was getting material for a reply to Dewey, who had singled out several agencies which had little or no personnel abroad.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

JWP
JWP:dg 10/17/44

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GOP Candidate Says President Released Delano Report Containing Same Ideas Advanced by Gen. Hershey

By the Associated Press.
ST. LOUIS, Oct. 17.—Following is the prepared text of a campaign address here last night by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, the Republican presidential candidate.

Fellow Americans: I am happy to come to Missouri tonight to carry on the battle for honest and competent government. I am happy also to salute your distinguished Republican Governor, who, next January, will become United States Senator. Forrest C. Donnell, and your next Governor, Jean Paul Bradshaw.

It is clear by now that the New Deal has been taken over by the combination of corrupt big city bosses, Communists and fellow travelers. The people of Missouri have shown their independence before by throwing off the rule of the corrupt Fendegast machine. In the light of that record, I am sure they will never permit men who are products of that machine to succeed in their current attempt to take over our National Government.

Face Mighty Decision. The war in Europe is drawing to a close. But hard tasks remain. We must speed the drive for final victory. We must put behind our fighting men the backing of competent effective government at home. We must make sure that when total victory is won, those fighting men are brought home promptly. We must take the leadership in bringing about effective international co-operation to prevent a future war.

We in America face a mighty decision. Ten million heroes will be coming home, entitled to the fruits of victory—a prospering country with security and opportunity to get ahead. Millions of workers in war plants will demand their right to a good job in peace industry at good wages with security and stable employment. The farmers of America have a right to know that their tremendous efforts in the face of inadequate help and machinery will be rewarded by a new future of freedom from regimentation with stable and good prices for the fruits of their labor.

If the tired and quarrelsome New Deal all America has to offer? Must we go back to leaf raking and doles? Must our returning heroes go on the same old WPA? Must our farmers go back to detailed control by a host of New Deal agents, with falling prices to boot? Election Will Decide.

These questions will all be decided in this election. The freedom and future of our country are at stake. Never in history was it so important that we have a Government which will be respected at home and respected abroad. Never was it so important that we choose a Government which can restore our job-



ST. LOUIS.—EMPHASIZING THE POINT—Gov. Dewey is shown pointing to one of his audience in agreement during his address here last night. In the background, spectators on the speakers' stand listen with close attention.—A. P. Wirephoto.

making machinery. Jobs and opportunity for every American, and our chance for a lasting peace—all depend on this election.

Now, what kind of administration do we need for the mighty problems we shall face after the war? As never before we shall need a Government that meets these simple tests:

1. Is it honest?
2. Are the people who run it trained and competent for their jobs?
3. Is it a Government with faith in the future of America and a wholehearted determination to make our system work?

Some Simple Tests. Let us apply these simple tests to what we now have so that we can find out whether it's time for a change.

For 12 years the New Deal has treated us to constant bickering, quarreling and back-biting by the most spectacular collection of incompetent people who ever held public office. We must not trust our future to such people as Harry Hopkins, Madame Perkins and Harold Ickes. Certainly America can do better. I propose that we will do better.

But we can never do better under the New Deal. The scars of its own failures, and its own quarrels, are too deep. Going right back to its beginning, if it wasn't a free-for-all fight in the NRA, it was Messers. Ickes and Hopkins' fighting over dollars to spend on FWA or WPA. It was Henderson and Ickes squabbling over the right to be gasoline czar or a fight between the rubber director and the Undersecretary of War.

Disgraceful Performance. If it wasn't the OPA fighting with itself, it was Mr. Ickes denouncing the War Labor Board for its part in what he called a "black-and-stupid-chapter in the history of the home front."

The most disgraceful performance came when Vice President Wallace accused Secretary of Commerce Jones of having "done much to harass the effort to help shorten

this war . . ." and Mr. Jones charged the Vice President with "malice, innuendo, half truths and no truths at all."

What kind of Government is this that even a year cannot make it sober down and go to work? Little men rattling around in big jobs. Our country cannot afford the wasteful luxury of incompetent people in high places who spend their time fighting each other.

Cites Roosevelt Remark. Even Mr. Roosevelt publicly confessed on August 21, 1942, that these conflicts within his administration have been a "direct and serious handicap to the prosecution of the war." How costly they have been we will never know. But we do know one thing: Twelve years of this kind of Government are too long. Sixteen years of it would be intolerable.

This administration has lived on conflict. They plan it that way. Listen to the President's executive order No. 9543. It says in part: "The Secretary of Agriculture and the War Food Administrator . . . shall each have authority to exercise any and all of the powers vested in the other."

In other words, Mr. Roosevelt gives two men the same powers and then turns them loose to fight about it. He has been doing that for 12 straight years and it is one of the major reasons the New Deal failed in peace-time and would fail again if it got a chance. We can't afford this kind of planned, noisy chaos and bungling in the days ahead. That's why it's time for a change.

Evide Responsibility. Now there is another important reason why the New Deal administration has become a long chapter of quarreling and confusion. That reason is the consistent practice of evading responsibility. High officials issue statements. Nobody rebukes or removes them. But when the statements later prove embarrassing they are lightly disavowed or turned aside as unauthoritative.

Last month I challenged a statement by the national director of selective service in which he said, "We can keep people in the Army

Part of His Duty. Now, is Mr. Roosevelt quite accurate when he calls Gen. Hershey his own appointee, unauthoritative? The fact is that the director of selective service is charged by law with the duty of helping to get jobs for returning veterans. If anybody in the country is authorized on that subject, he is the man.

Now, where did Gen. Hershey get this idea Mr. Roosevelt calls "unauthoritative"? I'll tell you. He got it from another one of those "White House" releases put out by Mr. Roosevelt himself. Moreover, it was submitted by Mr. Roosevelt's own uncle, Frederic A. Delano, chairman of the National Resources Planning Board. It was the report of the conference on postwar readjustment of civilian and military personnel, appointed by the President.

This discussed the pros and cons of speedy demobilization. After saying that good reasons exist for desiring a rapid rate of military demobilization, the report goes on to say that "despite . . . compelling reasons for rapid military demobilization, the prospects of economic and industrial dislocation at the close of the war are so grave and the social consequences are so far-reaching that a policy of orderly, gradual, and, if necessary, delayed military demobilization has been strongly advocated. The following reasons," it goes on to say, "have been advanced."

Fared Depression. "Rapid demobilization might throw into the labor market large numbers of men just at the time when the industries might be least able to absorb them. It might create unemployment and depression. Those in the services," this report continues, "will constitute the only large group of persons over whom the Nation could in the event of economic crisis, exercise any degree of direct control." Then it says: "The economic and social costs of retaining men in the services would be less than those involved in doing with an unemployment, depression through civilian relief."

So this idea of keeping men in the Army for fear that they won't get jobs after the war was in a report made public last year by Mr. Roosevelt himself. The New Deal has had it in mind right along.

Now let my opponent try to pass the buck to one of his assistants. They can slip and squirm in this way. But when my opponent uses the word "falsification," as he did on the radio in the teamsters' speech, it comes home to haunt him.

Remained Silent. And let me add that as long ago as last April, Mr. Roosevelt remained silent while his director of selective service in a public speech in New York said he saw no purpose in letting men out of the Army "into some kind of a WPA." I do not see any such purpose either. Our fighting men ought to be brought home from the armed services at the earliest possible moment after victory and to jobs and opportunity. And that will be done when we get a new, honest and a responsible administration in Washington.

The truth is that the New Deal has been afraid all along that when the time came to let men out of the Army there would be no jobs for them—that it would be a case of back to normalcy under the New Deal with 10,000,000 unemployed.

When the New Deal took office on March 4, 1933, the world which depression was already nearly four years old. In its first seven years it had more power than any Government in our history. It spent nearly \$8 billion dollars. Yet the official figures of the League of Nations prior to the outbreak of the World War show that among the major nations of the world the United States had almost the poor-

est years to come. We can never achieve our objectives under an administration too tired and worn out to bring order out of its own chaos either at home or abroad.

Quotes Churchill. It was Winston Churchill who, late in 1937, said: "The Washington administration has waged so ruthless a war on private enterprise that the United States . . . is actually at the present moment leading the world back into the trough of depression."

Then he added: "Those who are keeping the flag of peace and free world almost flying in the Old World should . . . set an example of strength and stability." But Mr. Roosevelt ignored the warning. He went on with his war on business and employment, his experimentation—his quarrels and his chaos.

One Long Failure. The New Deal's record at home is one long chapter of failure. But some people still tell us "We agree that the New Deal is a failure at home, but its foreign policies are very good." Let me ask you: Can an administration which is so disunited and unsuccessful at home be any better abroad? Can an administration which is filled with quarreling and back-biting where we can see it be any better abroad where we cannot see it? Well, the answer to that seeps through the brick-wall of censorship.

For example, on February 11, 1943, while we were seeking vital war materials in Brazil, an article in the New York Times told how the conflict between Mr. Wallace and Mr. Jones was being echoed among our representatives in Brazil. It went on to say that dissension among the scores of agency representatives had actually "led the Americans to participate in departmental rows among agencies of the Brazilian government itself."

Last year a special committee of United States Senators was sent to our war theaters overseas. Read what a Democratic Senator, Richard B. Russell, said in a report to the Senate on October 28, 1943. These are his words: "Our civil agencies abroad are numerous, but too often they are either working at cross-purposes, or worse, to retaliate, in some cases have no apparent purpose."

Our Agencies Abroad. Here is a report from the July 30, 1943, issue of the United States News. It says: ". . . in North Africa . . . field agents of half a dozen agencies—the Treasury, BEW, Lease-Lend, State Department and others—are reported to have brought confusion to the brink of chaos."

Why is it that our representation in the vital areas abroad is on the brink of chaos? The answer is exactly the same as at home.

In addition to the duly constituted officers of the State Department and the Army and Navy, there are now operating wholly or partly all over the world the following agencies of this administration: The OPA, BEW, WPA, OMAA, OSS, OWI, WSA, WRB, QAPC, OC

An administration free from the influence of Communists and the domination of corrupt big city machines.

An administration in which the liberties of our people shall again be secure.

An administration which will devote itself to the single-minded purpose of jobs and opportunity for all.

My distinguished associate John W. Backer and I are united in our determination to these ends. We know that they can be achieved.

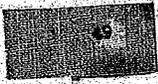
We are united by these objectives and a firm determination under God to achieve them. America must never go back to the insecurity, unemployment, and chaos of the New Deal. Because she must, America can and will go forward once again.

An administration in which you will not have to support three men to do one man's job.

An administration which will root out waste and bring order out of chaos.

An administration which will give

BEST AVAILABLE COPY



000476

112-50006(18)
Emergency Fund for the Pre-
dent. (Allotment to War
Refugee Board)

Sept 28, 1944

MISS ANNE LAUGHLIN
PONTIAC HOTEL
OSWEGO, NEW YORK

In creating WRB President declared: "It is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war."

With small staff in Washington, handful of able representatives in strategic neutral countries, Board has carried on a host of activities in relief, rescue and psychological warfare -- all designed to save lives of persecuted people. Hirschmann, McClelland, Olsen, Dexter, Ackermann.

Life-saving in an occupied country during a war not simple matter. All over Europe Board has carried on its work with the great care necessary in complex operations. It has participated in rescue of thousands from Balkans across the Black Sea to Palestine, in rescue of many over the pyrennees to and through Spain and Portugal, in relief of many weary victims of Hitler's persecution who had found sanctuary in Sweden and Switzerland. Rumania induced to permit return of Transnistrian exiles. Board has cooperated in establishing refugee camps in Africa and, through President's leadership, one here. It has taken the lead in sending food packages from this country to helpless internees in European camps. In Hungarian crisis it took many steps which undoubtedly helped stay deportation of Jews and relieve their condition. It has used all the old techniques and invented some new ones. Applied all of them to the saving of human life.

With cooperation of other American republics, Board has made strenuous efforts to safeguard lives of several thousands who by one means or another had secured passports

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and other documents issued in the names of a number of Latin-American countries. With cooperation of State Department programs devised and set in operation calculated to facilitate rescue of husbands, wives, children and parents of American citizens and wives and children of aliens resident in this country. Similar program devised for protection of those to whom American immigration visas had been issued after July 1, 1941 but who, because of war conditions have been unable to come to this country.

Aid brought to Sephardic Jews through cooperation of Spanish and Portuguese Governments which, through intercession of Vatican, were persuaded to recognize responsibility for these exiles of 450 years standing.

Shipping. Efforts to secure safe-conduct from Germans for ships on Black Sea failed. However, on April 7 Maritza arrived in Istanbul carrying 244 Jewish refugees from Constanza. Commencement of rescue traffic which was interrupted through May and June by sinking of rescue ship. Revived in August after Turks permitted five small ships to be used in refugee service. In August one of these, the Melkora, went down under German shell-fire and more than 250 passengers perished.

Since decision to bring refugees to Ft. Ontario some countries in position to care for refugees opening their doors. British agreed to open camp in Tripolitania in Libya capable of accommodating several thousand. French agreed to establish large camp near Philippeville in Algeria. Mexico agreed to establish temporary havens for Jewish refugees.

Greatest single problem confronting WJH in Hungary. Policy of vicious persecution followed by Hungarian puppet government since it came into power in March unparalleled by anything except anti-Semitism of Nazis themselves. 800,000 Jews in Hungary faced

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annihilation, Hungary which had been a temporary sanctuary for many refugees from Poland and other countries became murder chamber overnight.

Opposing this cruelty WRB set in motion diplomatic operations. March 24, less than a week after Nazis marched into Hungary, the President warned Germany and the satellites of consequences of further persecutions of Jews and other minorities. House Foreign Affairs Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee condemned Hungarian cruelties. U. S. forwarded warning to Hungarian government. Secretary Hill and Anthony Eden denounced Hungary's brutal program. Vatican used its power and prestige fully. Archbishop Spellman. King of Sweden personally interceded with Horthy.

Perhaps some of you heard radio program dedicating three powerful new radio transmitters in Cincinnati last Saturday night. From them Voice of America will ring around the world. I want to tell you that the Voice of America has been beamed steadily at Hungary since March 24 in Hungarian language short-wave broadcasts through the radio facilities of ONI, BBC, and Radio Algiers.

Hungarian people called upon to save their Jewish brothers, hide them, nourish them, help them reach Yugoslav territory where their escape might be facilitated. Warned that those responsible for or taking part in atrocities, massacres or executions would be punished. Told how French aided Jewish refugees in France. Urged to emulate Greeks who assisted 15,000 to hide and remain hidden. Told how to preserve evidence against war criminals, to note names of all who took part in persecutions, to photograph what they could and preserve incriminating documents. Told Nazi ship was sinking. Leaflets also dropped.

000479

On July 29 came word that murders and deportations had mercifully halted. IRC received from Horthy assurances that transportation of Jews beyond Hungarian frontiers had ceased and permission to furnish relief to Jews in Hungary. IRC further empowered to cooperate in evacuation of all Jewish children under ten who could obtain foreign visas and all adults with Palestine visas. WRB had its fingers crossed.

On August 18 U. S. and British replied: "Because of the desperate plight of the Jews in Hungary and the overwhelming humanitarian considerations involved the two governments are informing the Government of Hungary through the International Red Cross that, despite the heavy difficulties and responsibilities involved, they have accepted the offer of the Hungarian Government for the release of Jews and will make arrangements for the care of such Jews leaving Hungary who reach neutral or United Nations territory, and also that they will find temporary havens of refuge where such people may live in safety. Notification of these assurances is being given to the governments of neutral countries who are being requested to permit the entry of Jews who reach their frontiers from Hungary. The Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States emphasize that, in accepting the offer which has been made, they do not in any way condone the action of the Hungarian Government in forcing the emigration of Jews as an alternative to persecution and death."

Nothing came of it because the Germans refused to allow these people to go.

Virginia M. Mannon

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000481

March 2, 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the sixth meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the seventh meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury

Enclosure.

EBTowler:rh 3/2/45

*Original signed
by Wm O'Dwyer*

000482

March 2, 1945

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William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

EBTowler:rh 3/2/45

*Original signed
by W. O'Dwyer*

700483

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Held in the Office of the Secretary of War, 3:15 P.M., Wednesday,
February 28, 1945.

Present: Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau (acted as
Chairman)
Secretary of War Stimson
Acting Secretary of State Grew
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
William O'Dwyer, Executive Director, War Refugee
Board
John Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary of the
Treasury
George Warren, Special Advisor on Refugees to
the Secretary of State
Florence Hodel, Assistant Executive Director, War
Refugee Board

At the request of the Acting Chairman, the Executive Director explained that this special meeting had been called in order that the members of the Board might consider, in the light of all available facts, an application of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada to remit \$937,000 to its representative in Switzerland, Isaac Sternbuch.

The facts of the case were stated as follows: on February 7, there arrived in Switzerland 1210 Jews from the German concentration camp at Theresienstadt. The Swiss press carried notices that these refugees had been released as the result of personal negotiations with Himmler conducted by former Swiss Federal Councillor, Musy, at the request of the European executive council of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. The latter organization is well known to the Board and the State Department and has carried on certain rescue and relief work under license of this Government through its representative in Switzerland, Isaac Sternbuch. The Musy negotiations, however, were carried on without the full knowledge or approval either of the Board or the State Department. The Executive Director explained that this Government's facilities had not been used for the transmission of messages on these negotiations between the group in the United States and its Swiss representatives. It is possible that these negotiations were carried on through Polish channels. He stated he had asked the American group to furnish the Board with copies of all of these messages but to date this request had

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not been met. He also stated that he had requested the group to cease using communication channels other than those of this Government.

Roswell McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, has reported that Musy's reputation is that of a Naziphile on anti-communist grounds and that he is interested in obtaining a compromise peace for Germany. Musy is also concerned over the rehabilitation of his personal political reputation in Switzerland. He claims to have arranged for the release of the 1210 Jews with Himmler personally, supported by General Schellenberg, one of the top triumvirate under Himmler. Musy has stated that the group of 1210 is the first of a series of like convoys to follow at intervals of one week.

Further arrivals, however, were said to be conditioned on the deposit of 5,000,000 Swiss francs to an account in Musy's name at the Swiss National Bank, the funds to be supplied by Sternbuch, the Swiss representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. The reason for this payment is not at all clear. Musy has stated that the money would remain in Switzerland. The Board's representative, McClelland, has reported, however, that Musy's acceptance of money for himself would not be consistent with his desire to play the role of heroic rescuer and great humanitarian. Sternbuch claims that the funds must be sent to him in order that the further release of Jews in Germany will not be forestalled.

The Executive Director explained that, while the information available does not clearly indicate the reason the funds are desired in Switzerland, it is conceivable that legitimate expenditures, such as transportation charges, maintenance and care of refugees, etc., might be involved in connection with the release of detainees from German territory. In view of the fact that there is no clear information concerning the desired use of the funds and since the failure to send the money to Switzerland might operate to interfere with the further release of Jews from German-controlled territory, the Executive Director recommended that the Board approve the issuance of a Treasury Department license permitting the remittance to be made to a joint account in a Swiss bank in the names of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, provided that no expenditure or commitment for expenditure be made without the prior authorization of the War Refugee Board. It was also recommended that the Board be prepared to give consideration to requests for its approval of any payment for legitimate expenses involved in the release of detainees in the present case, provided, of course, detailed

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information were presented to the Board concerning the purposes for which such expenditures were desired to be made.

Secretary Stimson, stating that he was sure no one present wanted to benefit the enemy, raised the question as to whether or not this money might be desired for a ransom payment. He also inquired whether the Treasury Department under any circumstances would issue a license for the payment of ransom. The Secretary of the Treasury stated that the Treasury would not issue any license permitting a ransom payment.

Mr. Grew then raised the question as to whether or not the sending of the money from this country, even under the restrictions suggested, might in any way be misleading to the negotiators in Switzerland or to the Germans. The Executive Director explained that, since we have not been informed that the money is desired for ransom and since it is intended that conditions be attached by the Board absolutely forbidding its use for that purpose, the negotiators in Switzerland would be the misleaders if they had ransom in mind. In any event, he added that it is still desirable to permit the remittance because of the possibility that the mere presence of the money in Switzerland might facilitate further negotiations and might be needed for legitimate expenses.

It was then pointed out that our best information indicates that the Germans do not appear to be primarily interested in ransom now; that, in fact, a payment of \$1,000,000 would not appear to be of sufficient interest to one in Himmler's position. The real motive behind the release of these refugees appeared from recent cables read by Acting Secretary Grew to be a desire on the part of the Germans to gain favor in the eyes of the Allies.

After thorough consideration of all the facts in the case, Acting Secretary of State Grew moved that the Board approve the issuance by the Treasury Department of a license permitting the desired remittance to a joint account in the names of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, provided that no expenditures or commitment for expenditure be made without the prior specific action of the War Refugee Board and provided that under no circumstances could any part of the money in question be used for the payment of ransom. Secretary Stimson agreed and Secretary Morgenthau, as chairman, stated his concurrence.

24. Cleared with
O'Doggs & Lister

000486

TO:

Miss Adell
W. R. Payne Bld
Room 2410

I am suggesting
some minor
changes



FROM: MR. GASTON

000487

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: *Mr. Gaston* 3312 (Room) (Bldg.)
(1) *Mr. Hadel* 2410 (Room) (Bldg.)
(2) (Room) (Bldg.)
(3) (Room) (Bldg.)

*For your approval - minutes
of the last meeting of the
War Refugee Board which have
been cleared with General
O'Neige*

From: *J. Hadel* (Date)
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

000488

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Held in the Office of the Secretary of War, 3:15 P.M., Wednesday,
February 28, 1945.

Present: Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau (acted as
Chairman)
Secretary of War Stimson
Acting Secretary of State Grew
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
William O'Dwyer, Executive Director, War Refugee
Board
John Pehle, Assistant to the Secretary of the
Treasury
George Warren, Special Advisor on Refugees to
the Secretary of State
Florence Hodel, Assistant Executive Director, War
Refugee Board

*at the request of
The Acting Chairman*
The Executive Director explained that this special meeting
had been called in order that the members of the Board might
consider, in the light of all available facts, an application
of the Vaad Hahatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Ortho-
dox Rabbis of the United States and Canada to remit \$937,000 to
its representative in Switzerland, Isaac Sternbuch.

The facts of the case were stated as follows: on February 7,
there arrived in Switzerland 1210 Jews from the German concentra-
tion camp at Theresienstadt. The Swiss press carried notices
that these refugees had been released as the result of personal
negotiations with Himmler conducted by former Swiss Federal
Councillor, Musy, at the request of the European executive council
of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.
The latter organization is well known to the Board and the State
Department and has carried on certain rescue and relief work under
license of this Government through its representative in Switzer-
land, Isaac Sternbuch. The Musy negotiations, however, were
carried on without the full knowledge or approval either of the
Board or the State Department. The Executive Director explained
that this Government's facilities had not been used for the trans-
mission of messages on these negotiations between the group in
the United States and its Swiss representatives. It is possible
that these negotiations were carried on through Polish channels.
He stated he had asked the American group to furnish the Board
with copies of all of these messages but to date this request had

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not been met. He also stated that he had requested the group to cease using communication channels other than those of this Government.

Roswell McClelland, the Board's representative in Bern, has reported that Musy's reputation is that of a Naziphile on anti-communist grounds and that he is interested in obtaining a compromise peace for Germany. Musy is also concerned over the rehabilitation of his personal political reputation in Switzerland. He claims to have arranged for the release of the 1210 Jews with Himmler personally, supported by General Schellenberg, one of the top triumvirate under Himmler. Musy has stated that the group of 1210 is the first of a series of like convoys to follow at intervals of one week.

Handwritten note: The only string attached to the negotiations was the deposit of 5,000,000 Swiss francs to an account in Musy's name at the Swiss National Bank, the funds to be supplied by Sternbuch, the Swiss representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

~~The only string attached to the negotiations was the deposit of 5,000,000 Swiss francs to an account in Musy's name at the Swiss National Bank, the funds to be supplied by Sternbuch, the Swiss representative of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis. The reason for this payment is not at all clear. Musy has stated that the money would remain in Switzerland. The Board's representative, McClelland, has reported, however, that Musy's acceptance of money for himself would not be consistent with his desire to play the role of heroic rescuer and great humanitarian. Sternbuch claims that the funds must be sent to him in order that the further release of Jews in Germany will not be forestalled.~~

The Executive Director explained that, while the information available does not clearly indicate the reason the funds are desired in Switzerland, it is conceivable that legitimate expenditures, such as transportation charges, maintenance and care of refugees, etc., might be involved in connection with the release of detainees from German territory. In view of the fact that there is no clear information concerning the desired use of the funds and since the failure to send the money to Switzerland might operate to interfere with the further release of Jews from German-controlled territory, the Executive Director recommended that the Board approve the issuance of a Treasury Department license permitting the remittance to be made to a joint account in a Swiss bank in the names of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, provided that no expenditure or commitment for expenditure be made without the prior authorization of the War Refugee Board. It was also recommended that the Board be prepared to give consideration to requests for its approval of any payment for legitimate expenses involved in the release of detainees in the present case, provided, of course, detailed

and since it was the purpose of the Board to pay the money to the Board for the purpose of the Board

information were presented to the Board concerning the purposes for which such expenditures were desired to be made.

Secretary Stimson, stating that he was sure no one present wanted to benefit the enemy, raised the question as to whether or not this money might be desired for a ransom payment. He also inquired whether the Treasury Department under any circumstances would issue a license for the payment of ransom. The Secretary of the Treasury stated that the Treasury would not issue any license permitting a ransom payment.

Mr. Grew then raised the question as to whether or not the sending of the money from this country, even under the restrictions suggested, might in any way be misleading to the negotiators in Switzerland or to the Germans. The Executive Director explained that, since we have not been informed that the money is desired for ransom, the negotiators in Switzerland would be the misleaders if they had ransom in mind. In any event, he added that it is still desirable to permit the remittance because of the possibility that the mere presence of the money in Switzerland might facilitate further negotiations and might be needed for legitimate expenses.

It was then pointed out that our best information indicates that the Germans do not appear to be primarily interested in ransom now; that, in fact, a payment of \$1,000,000 would not appear to be of sufficient interest to ~~anyone like~~ Himmler, who is claimed to be involved in the present case. The real motive behind the release of these refugees appears from recent cables to be a desire on the part of the Germans to gain favor in the eyes of the Allies.

After thorough consideration of all the facts in the case, Acting Secretary of State Grew moved that the Board approve the issuance by the Treasury Department of a license permitting the desired remittance to a joint account in the names of Isaac Sternbuch and Roswell McClelland, provided that no expenditure or commitment for expenditure be made without the prior specific action of the War Refugee Board and provided that under no circumstances could any part of the money in question be used for the payment of ransom. Secretary Stimson agreed and Secretary Morgenthau, as chairman, concurred.

stated in concurrence
Read by Acting Secretary Grew

AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD
FEBRUARY 28, 1945

- (1) Minutes of last meeting will be sent to Board members and will be submitted for approval at next meeting.
- (2) Request for approval of issuance of a license to the Vaad Hanatzala Emergency Committee of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000492

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Held in the Office of the Secretary of War, 11 A.M., Tuesday,
February 20, 1946.

Present: Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau (acted as
Chairman)
Secretary of War Stinson
Acting Secretary of State Grew
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
Assistant Secretary of State Dunn
William O'Dwyer, Executive Director, War Refugee
Board
George Warren, Special Advisor on Refugees to
Secretary of State
Florence Hodel, Assistant Executive Director, War
Refugee Board

The Board took the following action:

The minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Board, held on
April 20, 1945, were approved.

The Executive Director outlined to the Board the new situa-
tion which has developed inside Germany as it appears from the
best information available. He pointed out that, while the Ger-
mans have abandoned the wholesale extermination of detainees as
a general policy, large numbers of physically unfit detainees
face imminent death from starvation, exposure or deliberate
neglect. To be saved, these people must receive food and medi-
cines and be removed, if possible, to Switzerland without delay.
It was pointed out that the International Red Cross is the only
channel through which any relief and rescue work for these de-
tainees could be accomplished and that operations could best be
conducted from Switzerland at this stage of the war.

The Board was requested to authorize the Executive Director
to proceed to Switzerland and to obtain the necessary cooperation
of the International Red Cross and the Swiss Government for such
a program. It was pointed out that the necessary food, medicines
and other relief supplies and transportation equipment could be
made available either by the Swiss Government against a promise
of repayment or replacement after the war or, if this is impossi-
ble, by this Government from existing stocks. The financing of
such a program would be from private funds provided by private
organizations, particularly the JDC.

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The Board agreed that the action proposed by the Executive Director be taken and that the Executive Director should proceed to Switzerland to undertake the necessary negotiations. It was agreed that the requisite supplies and transportation equipment be made available to the International Red Cross by the Swiss Government against repayment or replenishment after the war. Careful consideration was given to the problem of providing such supplies and equipment from existing stocks of this Government, but it was decided that no commitment on this point could be made by the Board at this time.

The Board also approved the immediate acquisition in Switzerland of an adequate number of trucks for the delivery of the War Refugee Board food parcels now in the hands of the International Red Cross, distribution of which has been delayed several months because of lack of transportation facilities. Secretary Stimson asked Mr. McCloy to arrange for Mr. Patterson's clearance on this matter.

Information Bearing on the Director's Memorandum

f. S. C. Bd Meeting

The clearest picture is given in 455 from Bern, of January 22, 1945:

In view rapid deterioration internal rail transport in Germany I am becoming increasingly concerned about dwindling possibilities of getting our WRB parcels to men and women in German concentration camps.

Germans are progressively more disinclined to make RR freight cars available to ICRC for all parcel services into Germany even that for POWS. Amcross representative Geneva tells me our Army officials plan induce Germans under Geneva Convention supply transport for POW parcels; but we can hope for no such leverage in case of shipments to unassimilated persons for whom Nazis only tolerate parcel distributions. I should therefore like to submit to Board's serious consideration proposition that four or five five to seven ton trucks be made available to me which could in turn be lent to ICRC Division of Special Relief for delivery WRB parcels to accessible camps.

Recently for instance ICRC delegate working out of their headquarters at Uffing near Munich obtained admission to hitherto unvisited and unknown camp of Landsberg-am-lech in Eastern Bavaria. This camp housed some fifteen thousand internees eighty percent Jewish deportees. Commander was unusually accommodating and if ICRC man had had any means of transportation or supply of parcels available at Uffing there would have been no difficulty about delivering them personally directly to this camp.

The same applies to Dachau which is just outside Munich.

Situation regarding accessibility all camps particularly Jewish in Vienna area to ICRC is developing most favorably.

SS group there in charge of these camps is headed by an Austrian Nazi named Ebner and includes a German SS named Krumej who is specifically in charge of all Hungarian Jewish deportees in Austria and is man directly responsible for physical delivery of two groups from Bergen Belsen to Switzerland. These two are displaying all signs of willingness to collaborate certainly in any relief activities if not in more interesting work.

This situation was first mentioned in Legation 7575 November 16, 1944, and was discussed at length about two weeks ago with Dr. Tudicum, ICRC delegate in Vienna. If trucks were available this area great deal of good work could be accomplished.

I cite these two examples of Landsberg and Vienna to show that as Germany internally becomes more disorganized transportation breaks down but also camp commanders and isolated SS groups become increasingly

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independent and open to making of valuable local working arrangements.

Availability of trucks to ICRC delegates for actual delivery of parcels to camps has further important advantage of offering far superior control possibilities as to safe reception by intended beneficiaries than obtainable via German railroads when it is frequently most difficult trace freight cars which may be held up for weeks and even months on sidings completely unknown to ICRC as recently occurred in Warnemuende affair.

It may be possible rent buy or otherwise acquire trucks here in Switzerland although Swiss Army is very strict about any transport equipment leaving country. In event trucks could be acquired provision would doubtless have to be made supply fuel and perhaps tires from outside.

I should most welcome expression Board's opinion this proposition as I would conservatively estimate time still available to us for this invaluable work at not more than four to five months.

The picture is supplemented by 416 from Bern, of January 20, 1945 as follows:

Based on a great deal of fragmentary information collected during past several months regarding course of Nazi policy toward Jewish deportees in camps and more particularly on very recent statements of two intelligent Jewish women who reached Switzerland during late December having spent three months in Auschwitz (Oswiecim) August through October 1944 where they were deported from Drancy late July 1944 I think it can be reliably stated that Nazis have abandoned extermination of Jews as a general policy and certainly of those capable of working. On other hand they show tendency continue doing away on small scale with elderly people and children.

An effort was obviously made to evacuate people in Eastern concentration camps to Central Germany:

Women from Auschwitz reported that sizeable convoys (from three to six thousand souls each) of Jewish women - they were unable to observe movements in men's camps - were transferred from Warsaw, Radom, Lodz and Kielce to Auschwitz and thence on to Germany proper as labor during early fall of 1944 in apparent effort on part of Germans to remove them from chance of capture in case of Russian advance.

These women themselves were transferred along with some 200 other Hungarian and 300 French and Dutch Jewish women from Auschwitz on October 31 to a work camp at Weisskirchen near Kratzay, Sudenland. This camp was part of

000496

another complex of Jewish work camps administered from concentration camp of Grossrosen near Breslau.

Transfer of similar group of 3500 Hungarian and Slovak Jewish women from Auschwitz to Bergenbeisen (reported Legation's 223, January 12) during late September 1944 constitutes further fragmentary evidence of this movement of Jewish deportees into Germany as labor.

(416 from Bern, of January 20, 1945)

This information is confirmed by 744 from Bern, of February 2, 1945:

Reported that upwards of 25,000 men and women (Jewish) deportees arrived in BB early in January from Auschwitz and adjoining upper Silesian camps. They were "housed" under most primitive conditions in tents in BB and will, it appears, be transferred progressively to other parts of Germany as labor.

The same cable confirms, with reference to Belsenbergen, earlier information regarding the insufficient supplies reaching people in camps:

Exchangees from BB were in state of acute undernourishment, three having died during their stay here. I have every reason to believe this situation is far from confined to BB but common to all German concentration camps and deportee work companies. Fact that tens of thousands of internees in similar or worse physical condition are liable to be found as Germany is occupied by Allied forces should be drawn to attention of competent military authorities and UNRRA anew.

BB exchanges further reported although parcels reaching camp were properly delivered to them number was pitifully inadequate to need. According to all available information this due to deterioration in land transport in Germany rather than to any withholding of packages, which are generally distributed if they actually reach a camp.

The possibility of further release of Jews by Germany to Switzerland is indicated in 881 from Bern, of February 8, stating, with reference to the recent arrival of 1200 refugees, that

"this was to be the first of a series of like convoys."

507 from Stockholm, of February 9, 1945; states that Swedish Foreign Office

"considers news of these releases through private efforts of significance and indicates possibility for release of others."

100497

This brings up the question of our commitments to Switzerland regarding maintenance and evacuation of such refugees. The scope of such commitments was recently defined in two cables:

*Jews
Assurances
to Swiss*

You are authorized to emphasize to Swiss officials that previous assurances given by this Government concerning the maintenance and evacuation of refugees from enemy persecution who would be admitted to Switzerland were not restricted to any particular number of persons and that this Government would deeply appreciate continued Swiss cooperation in this humanitarian endeavor by admitting all such refugees who may be able to reach Switzerland, without regard to numbers.

(240 to Bern, of January 16, 1945)

With respect to this Government's assurances to Swiss please note that in Department's 240 of January 16, 1945, the assurances given therein are not limited to refugees coming from any specific enemy or enemy controlled territory.

(686 to Bern, of February 13, 1945)

Several recent cables from Switzerland indicate that Switzerland is mainly interested in our implementing the undertaking regarding evacuation:

November 1 conversations with Chief of Federal Police and with representative for relief and refugee affairs of the Political Department reveal that the Swiss are concerned seriously regarding the practical difficulties which are involved in receiving and housing a group of this size, even temporarily, at such short notice. Switzerland has received more than 25,000 new refugees during the past six weeks, they pointed out, (chiefly women and children from Valdossola in Italy and from the combat zones in France) while, on the other hand, only 8,000 people have departed:- 2000 French civilians and 6000 military escapees. It would be difficult to solve the problem of fuel, blankets, and housing sufficient to properly take care of 8,000 people in winter; in addition, many of the refugees may be clothed inadequately. Accordingly, the Swiss are anxious that steps be taken as soon as possible for the evacuation of such Hungarian refugees. The practicability of furnishing Swiss trains for the transportation at once to Marseilles or to some other French seaport of all those who are eligible for emigration to Palestine is being looked into by the Swiss. Therefore, it would be wise if the Board at once could study the problem of obtaining one or more ships for Palestine; in addition, the Swiss would appreciate any efforts which could be made toward evacuation to.

North Africa or some other territory of Allied choice of all or a part of those who are not destined for Palestine.

(7269 from Bern, of November 1, 1944)

A lengthy communication from the Chief of the Swiss Federal Police transmitted to us by 8380 from Bern of December 28 deals with the possible evacuation of a group of 1672 refugees released from Belsenbergen and concludes:

I should be extremely grateful if you would use your influence to assure an early departure of these refugees. It is particularly important to know whether they can leave within the next few weeks. If this is the case we will leave them together. If on the other hand their departure must be postponed for a certain time another solution must be found. In any event I should appreciate your letting me know as soon as possible whether their departure can take place in near future.

In 8379 from Bern, of December 28, McClelland states:

It is imperative that serious consideration be given at once to the practical task of evacuating these refugees from Swiss territory in view of this communication and with reference to paragraph four of our 7269. Accordingly I should appreciate data as to the plans of the Board in respect to this matter and naturally stand ready to aid in any way possible on this side.

With regard to the Palestine angle of evacuation of this group it might be wise to have Beard's representative Mannin London consult with British officials to determine whether the group can actually be admitted to Palestine.

In 881 from Bern, of February 8, 1945, McClelland again cables:

Would be grateful for your advice concerning evacuation of this convey of 1210 individuals, and later groups which may arrive, to Allied territory.

As yet Embassy has heard nothing from SHAEF in Paris relating to evacuation of 1672 Hungarian Jews.

[REDACTED]

AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD
FEBRUARY 23, 1945

- (1) Approval of minutes of fourth meeting held on April 28, 1944.
- (2) Report from Executive Director and presentation of program of action for approval.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

000500

WPK 24 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the fourth meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the fifth meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure

aa JWP:mgt 4/21/44

000501

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 9:30 A. M.,
Thursday, April 20, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Special Assistant to the Secretary of War
Bundy (for Mr. Stimson)
Byron Taylor, American Representative on
the Inter-Governmental Committee
Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Inter-
Governmental Committee
Robert Fell, Special Assistant to the Director
of European Affairs, State Department
John E. Fehle, Executive Director, War Refugee
Board.

The fourth meeting of the War Refugee Board was an
extraordinary one called on the occasion of Sir Herbert
Emerson's visit to the United States.

Mr. Taylor explained the circumstances under which
Sir Herbert Emerson had been invited to come to the United
States to confer with the War Refugee Board on our mutual
spheres of influence. Sir Herbert made a statement indi-
cating that he had had very friendly and helpful discus-
sions with Fehle and his staff and had arrived at mutually
satisfactory arrangements. Fehle endorsed this statement
and stated that Sir Herbert and he were prepared to agree
in writing on the respective areas of operation of the
two organizations. The board was pleased that the matters
had been satisfactorily adjusted.

Mr. Taylor raised the matter of the financing of ICC
operations. He explained that the United States was com-
mitted to provide \$2,000,000 to the Inter-Governmental
Committee of which only some \$200,000 had been called for
and provided to date. He also explained that in addition
the British Government had recently offered to cut up one
and one-half million pounds if this Government provided an
equivalent amount; these funds would be used for operations

100502

in enemy and enemy-occupied territory on a "credit" basis. It was agreed that this Government ought to provide the additional amount still owing under our \$2,000,000 commitment as promptly as needed by the ICG, and perhaps at the same time indicate that, if needed, additional funds equivalent to that furnished by the British would be forthcoming.

APR 24 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the fourth meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the fifth meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable
The Secretary of State

Enclosure

aa
JWP:mgt 4/21/44

000504

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 9:30 A. M.,
Thursday, April 20, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Special Assistant to the Secretary of War
Bundy (for Mr. Stinson)
Myron Taylor, American Representative on
the Inter-Governmental Committee
Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Inter-
Governmental Committee
Robert Fell, Special Assistant to the Director
of European Affairs, State Department
John W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee
Board.

The fourth meeting of the War Refugee Board was an
extraordinary one called on the occasion of Sir Herbert
Emerson's visit to the United States.

Mr. Taylor explained the circumstances under which
Sir Herbert Emerson had been invited to come to the United
States to confer with the War Refugee Board on our mutual
spheres of influence. Sir Herbert made a statement indi-
cating that he had had very friendly and helpful discus-
sions with Pehle and his staff and had arrived at mutually
satisfactory arrangements. Pehle endorsed this statement
and stated that Sir Herbert and he were prepared to agree
in writing on the respective areas of operation of the
two organizations. The Board was pleased that the matters
had been satisfactorily adjusted.

Mr. Taylor raised the matter of the financing of IGO
operations. He explained that the United States was com-
mitted to provide \$2,000,000 to the Inter-Governmental
Committee of which only some \$200,000 had been called for
and provided to date. He also explained that in addition
the British Government had recently offered to put up one
and one-half million pounds if this Government provided an
equivalent amount; these funds would be used for operations

000505

in enemy and enemy-occupied territory on a "credit" basis. It was agreed that this Government ought to provide the additional amount still owing under our \$2,000,000 commitment as promptly as needed by the ICG, and perhaps at the same time indicate that, if needed, additional funds equivalent to that furnished by the British would be forthcoming.

000506

MAR 29 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith
the proposed minutes of the third meeting of
the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will
be on the agenda for the fourth meeting of
the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

Enclosure

JW
JWPehle:lhk 3/28/44

100507

MAR 29 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith
the proposed minutes of the third meeting of
the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will
be on the agenda for the fourth meeting of
the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure

JWP
JWPehle:1hh 3/28/44

000508

MAR 29 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the third meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the fourth meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury

JWP
JWP:mgt 3/28/44

000509

Minutes of the Third Meeting of the
War Refugee Board

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 10:15 A.M., Tuesday,
March 21, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Secretary of War Stimson
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
Acting Executive Director, War Refugee Board,
John W. Pehle.

The Board took the following action:

- (1) The minutes of the second meeting of the Board, held on February 4, 1944, were approved.
- (2) The Acting Executive Director summarized the developments since the last meeting, including the following:
 - (a) Rescue activities through Turkey, especially the work of Ira Hirschmann, representative of the War Refugee Board in Ankara. Mr. Hirschmann has succeeded in evacuating children and some adults from Bulgaria through Turkey to Palestine and in obtaining Turkish Government's permission for the use of Turkish boat to evacuate refugees from Constanza to Istanbul.
 - (b) Rescue activities through Spain, including the efforts of the War Refugee Board to remove from Spain the refugees now in Spain so that the Spanish Government will be more helpful in permitting refugees from France to enter Spain. Pehle reported that the Board had been unable to get any real measure of cooperation from Ambassador Hayes in Madrid and consideration was being given to the steps which could be taken to solve this problem.
 - (c) The psychological warfare program, including cooperation of OWI, the warning to the satellite governments made through various neutral governments, and the proposed statement by the President. Secretary Hull indicated that the British Government has asked for two days in which to consider the statement.

000510

- (d) Cooperation of Russia. The State Department has sent a strong cable to Harrison at the Board's request soliciting the assistance of the Soviet Government in the work of the Board.
 - (e) Financing of the War Refugee Board's operations. It was made clear to the Board that no projects are being refused because of lack of finances and adequate financial assistance is available from private agencies. As recommended by the Acting Executive Director, the Board took the position that it was not necessary to ask Congress for an appropriation at this time, but that if, at a later date, private finances were not adequate an appropriation could be requested. The Board was advised that the sum of \$100,000 in private funds was available to the Board for financing confidential activities and that the \$1,000,000 obtained from the President's funds was largely being used for payment of the salaries and other administrative expenses of the Board. \$200,000 of this amount is being made available to the Intergovernmental Committee as this Government's contribution to the Intergovernmental Committee's work.
- (3) Secretary Morgenthau reported that at the President's request he had had a conference with Myron Taylor, American Delegate to the Intergovernmental Committee, and had explained to Mr. Taylor the accomplishments of the War Refugee Board in the short time it has been in existence. Mr. Taylor has invited Sir Herbert Emerson and Patrick Malin to come to the United States to confer with the War Refugee Board concerning mutual problems.
 - (4) The Executive Order establishing the War Refugee Board provides that the Board shall make frequent reports to the President. Pehle indicated that a report to the President was being prepared and that it would be circulated to the Board members for approval in the near future.
 - (5) The Board then gave careful consideration to a recommendation by Pehle that temporary havens of refuge be provided in the United States for all oppressed peoples escaping from Hitler. Under this suggestion these people would be placed in camps established in this country and remain there until the termination of the war at which time they would be returned to their homelands. Pehle urged that

000511

the Board recommend to the President that he announce publicly that the United States was willing to take these people for the duration of the war in order to save their lives, and pointed out the many advantages inherent in such action. There was a general discussion of the proposal and it was agreed that the matter should be placed before the President.

- (6) The Board discussed naming Pehle as permanent Executive Director and Pehle's designation was agreed upon subject to the President's concurrence. (The Acting Executive Director was not present during the discussion of this item.)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

O.K. - W.M.F.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE Mar. 25, 1944

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM J. W. Pehle

If you agree, I propose to have the following minute inserted in the Minutes of the Third Meeting of the War Refugee Board:

- "5. The Board discussed naming Pehle as permanent Executive Director and it was agreed that provided the President concurred Pehle should be so designated. (The Acting Executive Director was not present during the discussion of this item.)

J.W. Pehle

100513

OK
(2) W.M.G.

Mar. 25, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

If you agree, I propose to have the following minute inserted in the Minutes of the Third Meeting of the War Refugee Board:

- "5. The Board discussed naming Pehle as permanent Executive Director and it was agreed that provided the President concurred Pehle should be so designated. (The Acting Executive Director was not present during the discussion of this item.)

(Signed J. W. Pehle

JWP:lh 3/25/44

JWP

000514

APR 24 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the fourth meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the fifth meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Treasury

Enclosure

aa
JWP:mgt 4/21/44

000515

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 9:30 A. M.,
Thursday, April 20, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Special Assistant to the Secretary of War
Bundy (for Mr. Stimson)
Myron Taylor, American Representative on
the Inter-Governmental Committee
Sir Herbert Emerson, Director of the Inter-
Governmental Committee
Robert Pell, Special Assistant to the Director
of European Affairs, State Department
John W. Pehle, Executive Director, War Refugee
Board.

The fourth meeting of the War Refugee Board was an extraordinary one called on the occasion of Sir Herbert Emerson's visit to the United States.

Mr. Taylor explained the circumstances under which Sir Herbert Emerson had been invited to come to the United States to confer with the War Refugee Board on our mutual spheres of influence. Sir Herbert made a statement indicating that he had had very friendly and helpful discussions with Pehle and his staff and had arrived at mutually satisfactory arrangements. Pehle endorsed this statement and stated that Sir Herbert and he were prepared to agree in writing on the respective areas of operation of the two organizations. The Board was pleased that the matters had been satisfactorily adjusted.

Mr. Taylor raised the matter of the financing of IGO operations. He explained that the United States was committed to provide \$2,000,000 to the Inter-Governmental Committee of which only some \$200,000 had been called for and provided to date. He also explained that in addition the British Government had recently offered to put up one and one-half million pounds if this Government provided an equivalent amount; these funds would be used for operations

000516

in enemy and enemy-occupied territory on a "credit" basis. It was agreed that this Government ought to provide the additional amount still owing under our \$2,000,000 commitment as promptly as needed by the IGC, and perhaps at the same time indicate that, if needed, additional funds equivalent to that furnished by the British would be forthcoming.

aa JWP

000517

Agenda actually used at third meeting.

Official File Copy

Agenda for the Third Meeting of the War Refugee Board.
March 21, 1944.

- (1) Approval of minutes of second meeting held on February 4, 1944.
- (2) Report of Acting Executive Director on accomplishments and developments since last meeting, including the following:
 - (a) Rescue through Turkey.
 - (b) Rescue through Spain.
 - (c) Psychological warfare program including cooperation of OWI, proposed statement by the President, and the warning to the satellite governments.
 - (d) Cooperation of Russia.
 - (e) Cooperation by the British and relations with the Intergovernmental Committee. Proposed visit of Sir Herbert Emerson.
 - (f) Licensing of remittances of funds to enemy territory to assist in rescue and emergency relief operations.
 - (g) Financing of War Refugee Board's operations.
 - (h) Staff of War Refugee Board.
- (3) Approval of preparation of report to the President.
- (4) Consideration of recommendation by Mr. Penle that temporary havens of refuge be provided in this country for all oppressed peoples escaping from Hitler -- these people to be placed in camps established in this country and to remain there until the termination of the war at which time they will be returned to their homelands.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 12 1972

000518

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

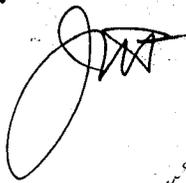
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE Mar. 13, 1944

TO Secretary Morgenthau
FROM J. W. Pehle

*Called
Pehle
3-14-44
JWP*

If you agree I will ask Mr. Hull
to call a meeting of the War Refugee Board
for the latter part of this week.



I agree *JWP*

*10:15 Times
3/21*

000519

March 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM:

I am to call Stimson the first thing in the morning and advise him that we would like to have a meeting of the War Refugee Board on Friday or Saturday of this week to be held, in Mr. Hull's absence, either in Secretary Morgenthau's office or in Secretary Stimson's office, whichever Stimson prefers. Morgenthau would prefer to have the meeting at 9 or 9:30 a.m., on either Friday or Saturday.

*Cancel
3-7-43
JTB/hc*

000520

Herbert Gaston

by messenger.

000521

FEB 16 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the second meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the third meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Jr.,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Enclosure.

*original signed
by Mr Pehle*

EBT

EBTowler:hd 2/15/44

100522

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
War Refugee Board

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 10:30 A.M.,
Friday, February 4, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
John W. Pehle (after designation as Acting
Executive Director)

The Board took the following action:

- (1) John W. Pehle was appointed Acting Executive Director.
- (2) The Board approved the proposal that the Acting Executive Director should send letters to all interested private agencies asking for their concrete suggestions on action to be taken by the Board to carry out the President's policy as enunciated in the Executive Order creating the Board.
- (3) The Board approved the policy of refraining from dealing with cases involving the rescue of specific individuals.
- (4) The Board was advised that the President had allocated \$1,000,000 to the Board out of his Emergency Fund, and that the Treasury Department has received for the purposes of the War Refugee Board \$100,000 from HIAS and \$10 from an individual refugee. The Board approved the suggestion that private contributions not be used for administrative expenses, but should be used for appropriate projects.
- (5) The Board instructed the Acting Executive Director to request the Bureau of the Budget to hold in abeyance action on a submission by the State Department of an estimate in the sum of \$5,000,000 for the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

100523

Following action on the above items the Acting Executive Director reported to the Board on accomplishments to date. The Acting Executive Director also indicated that he would proceed promptly to establish a small professional staff in Washington, handling as little of actual operations as possible, and with the prompt designation of representatives to serve abroad. He also indicated that he would discuss promptly with private groups the raising of private funds for the purposes of the War Refugee Board.

000524

FEB 16 1944

My dear Mr. McCloy:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the second meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the third meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Honorable John McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

EST

EBTowler:hd 2/15/44

Original signed by J. W. Pehle

000525

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
War Refugee Board

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 10:30 A.M.,
Friday, February 4, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
John W. Pehle (after designation as Acting
Executive Director)

The Board took the following action:

- (1) John W. Pehle was appointed Acting Executive Director.
- (2) The Board approved the proposal that the Acting Executive Director should send letters to all interested private agencies asking for their concrete suggestions on action to be taken by the Board to carry out the President's policy as enunciated in the Executive Order creating the Board.
- (3) The Board approved the policy of refraining from dealing with cases involving the rescue of specific individuals.
- (4) The Board was advised that the President had allocated \$1,000,000 to the Board out of his Emergency Fund, and that the Treasury Department has received for the purposes of the War Refugee Board \$100,000 from HIAS and \$10 from an individual refugee. The Board approved the suggestion that private contributions not be used for administrative expenses, but should be used for appropriate projects.
- (5) The Board instructed the Acting Executive Director to request the Bureau of the Budget to hold in abeyance action on a submission by the State Department of an estimate in the sum of \$5,000,000 for the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

100526

Following action on the above items the Acting Executive Director reported to the Board on accomplishments to date. The Acting Executive Director also indicated that he would proceed promptly to establish a small professional staff in Washington, handling as little of actual operations as possible, and with the prompt designation of representatives to serve abroad. He also indicated that he would discuss promptly with private groups the raising of private funds for the purposes of the War Refugee Board.

JWP

000527

FEB 16 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am forwarding to you herewith the proposed minutes of the second meeting of the War Refugee Board.

The approval of these minutes will be on the agenda for the third meeting of the Board.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

The Honorable Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

EBT

EBTowler:hd 2/15/44

*Original signed
by Mr Pehle*

000528

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
War Refugee Board

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 10:30 A.M.,
Friday, February 4, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
John W. Pehle (after designation as Acting
Executive Director)

The Board took the following action:

- (1) John W. Pehle was appointed Acting Executive Director.
- (2) The Board approved the proposal that the Acting Executive Director should send letters to all interested private agencies asking for their concrete suggestions on action to be taken by the Board to carry out the President's policy as enunciated in the Executive Order creating the Board.
- (3) The Board approved the policy of refraining from dealing with cases involving the rescue of specific individuals.
- (4) The Board was advised that the President had allocated \$1,000,000 to the Board out of his Emergency Fund, and that the Treasury Department has received for the purposes of the War Refugee Board \$100,000 from HIAS and \$10 from an individual refugee. The Board approved the suggestion that private contributions not be used for administrative expenses, but should be used for appropriate projects.
- (5) The Board instructed the Acting Executive Director to request the Bureau of the Budget to hold in abeyance action on a submission by the State Department of an estimate in the sum of \$5,000,000 for the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

100529

Following action on the above items the Acting Executive Director reported to the Board on accomplishments to date. The Acting Executive Director also indicated that he would proceed promptly to establish a small professional staff in Washington, handling as little of actual operations as possible, and with the prompt designation of representatives to serve abroad. He also indicated that he would discuss promptly with private groups the raising of private funds for the purposes of the War Refugee Board.

2

Draft

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the
War Refugee Board

Held in the Office of the Secretary of State, 10:30 A.M.,
Friday, February 4, 1944.

Present: Secretary of State Hull (acted as Chairman)
Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Gaston
Assistant Secretary of War McCloy
John W. Pehle (after designation as Acting
Executive Director)

The Board took the following action:

- (1) John W. Pehle was appointed Acting Executive Director.
- (2) The Board approved the proposal that the Acting Executive Director should send letters to all interested private agencies asking for their concrete suggestions on action to be taken by the Board to carry out the President's policy as enunciated in the Executive Order creating the Board.
- (3) The Board approved the policy of refraining from dealing with cases involving the rescue of specific individuals.
- (4) The Board was advised that the President had allocated \$1,000,000 to the Board out of his Emergency Fund, and that the Treasury Department has received for the purposes of the War Refugee Board \$100,000 from HIAS and \$10 from an individual refugee. The Board approved the suggestion that private contributions not be used for administrative expenses, but should be used ~~by the Acting Executive Director~~ for appropriate projects.
- (5) The Board instructed the Acting Executive Director to request the Bureau of the Budget to hold in abeyance action on a submission by the State Department of an estimate in the sum of \$5,000,000 for the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. ~~This action was taken at the suggestion of Secretary Hull.~~

100531

Following action on the above items the Acting Executive Director reported to the Board on accomplishments to date. The Acting Executive Director also indicated that he would proceed promptly to establish a small professional staff in Washington, handling as little of the actual operating problems as possible, and with the prompt designation of representatives to serve abroad. He also indicated that he would discuss promptly with private groups the raising of private funds for the purposes of the War Refugee Board.

SEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
154-111111



February 4, 1944

ITEMS FOR PEHLE TO RAISE AT SECOND MEETING
OF WAR REFUGEE BOARD.

1. Plans for operation.
 - (a) Small professional staff in Washington handling as little of actual operations as possible.
 - (b) Prompt designation of representatives abroad.
 - (c) Use of private funds to fullest extent possible; discuss with private groups raising of adequate funds.
2. Report on accomplishments to date.
3. Emphasize cooperation already being received from State Department and the War Department and desire of private agencies to be helpful.

JWA

000533

AGENDA FOR FIRST BOARD MEETING

1. Select an Executive Director.
2. Authorize Executive Director
 - (a) to act on behalf of the Board, with periodic reports to the Board;
 - (b) immediately to employ the necessary personnel (including a secretary for the Board) for Washington and the field;
 1. the appointments for the field may be made even on a tentative basis.
 - (c) to disburse funds for operating expenses;
 - (d) to arrange with State, Treasury and War for the designation of liaison officers for each Department to work with the Executive Director at a staff level and with whom special questions involving the particular Department may be cleared.
3. Arrange for next meeting of the Board.

000534

AGENDA FOR FIRST BOARD MEETING

1. Select an Executive Director.
2. Authorize Executive Director
 - (a) to act on behalf of the Board, with periodic reports to the Board;
 - (b) immediately to employ the necessary personnel (including a secretary for the Board) for Washington and the field;
 1. the appointments for the field may be made even on a tentative basis.
 - (c) to disburse funds for operating expenses;
 - (d) to arrange with State, Treasury and War for the designation of liaison officers for each Department to work with the Executive Director at a staff level and with whom special questions involving the particular Department may be cleared.
3. Arrange for next meeting of the Board.

000535

MEMORANDUM

January 20, 1944

My view is that the first meeting of the Board ought to be short and sweet and deal only with the following matters:

- (1) Selection of the Executive Director or the Acting Executive Director.
- (2) Formal adoption and approval by the Board of the statement of policy contained in the preamble of the Executive Order. This statement, possibly somewhat reworded, ought to be issued in the form of a press release, together with the name of the Executive Director or the Acting Executive Director.
- (3) Authority to the Executive Director to proceed to carry out the policy thus enunciated, to set up without any delay the necessary staff, and to report to the Board at its meetings on the action taken, the progress being made, and the obstacles encountered.

The question of getting the Departments represented on the Board, as well as War Shipping, FEA, etc., to designate liaison officers with the Board should not be taken up at the first meeting, but should be handled informally or await subsequent meetings.

J. P. [Signature]

*Minutes
not in files
154 Board meeting*

000536

AK
Attached is the agenda prepared within
the State Department and used by Mr. Hull
at the first meeting of the War Refugee
Board.

000537

COPY

1. Announce that general instructions have gone to our representatives abroad advising them of the President's action and directing pertinent action in their respective fields.
2. Move for the immediate appointment of an Executive Director charged with the responsibility of formulating specific proposals and directing action for the rescue and preservation of refugees to be submitted for the consideration of the Board.
3. State that full cooperation with the Executive Director will be given by all officers of the Department of State. The Executive Director shall obtain such information or assistance as he may require from the Chiefs of Divisions of the Department. The files on refugee matters in the custody of the Visa Division will be available for consultation by the Executive Director and will provide full information of the past and present activities here and situations abroad.
4. Notify the Board that the following Departmental Order is being issued:

"The Executive Director and his officers shall have the right of direct access to the Chiefs of the appropriate Divisions of the Department of State in order to obtain such information or assistance as he may require in formulating his plans."
5. The Department will act as transmitting agent for the Board in correspondence with the Intergovernmental Committee and American Missions abroad.
6. Questions relating to the assignment of special attaches to American Missions will be considered at once by the Department and will consider recommendations from the Board.
7. Announce that you have designated Mr. Stettinius as your alternate on the Board.
8. Suggest the Board approach the Congress for adequate appropriations for the administrative expenses and for its operating costs unless there are funds available in either War or Treasury Departments.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 13 1972

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