

Young Women's CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF THE U.S.A.

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204

World's Young Women's Christian Association
Alliance Universelle des Unions Chrétiennes de Jeunes Filles
Christlicher Weltbund Weiblicher Jugend

President: Miss Ruth Rouse
General Secretary: Miss Ruth F. Woodsmall
Assistant General Secretary: Miss M. Marianne Mills

Headquarters:
37, Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland

Telegrams: Soramundi, Washington
Telephone: REpublic 6272

Please address correspondence to the
temporary office:

1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

September 7, 1944

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

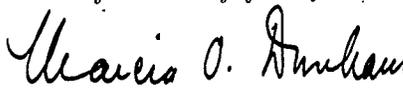
Dear Mr. Pehle:

In Miss Mills' absence I wish to acknowledge and thank you very much for the documents from Mrs. Cedergren forwarded in your letter of September 4. This material is very important to the program on which we are just now working.

We had hoped very much that the messenger might be bringing us also a recording of a talk which Mrs. Cedergren has made to be part of a radio rebroadcast for the World's Y.W.C.A. Jubilee celebration, but your office has informed me that this was not received.

Again thanking you for your kind help,

Very sincerely yours,



Marcia O. Dunham

MOD/mh

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Y W C A

SEP 4 1944

Dear Miss Mills:

It is our pleasure to forward to you a letter and accompanying documents from Mrs. Hugo Gedergrén, received by us through our Stockholm representative.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Miss M. Marianne Mills,
World's Y. W. C. A.,
1166 Sixteenth Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

FH:dg 9/4/44

del —

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

843/ICC/MET

AMERICAN LEGATION
Stockholm, Sweden
August 22, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have been again requested by Mrs. Hugo Cedergren to see that the enclosed material is forwarded to Miss M. Marianne Mills, World's Y.W.C.A., 1155 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, D. C. It will be greatly appreciated if you will arrange to have this material delivered to Miss Mills.

Sincerely yours,

Iver C. Olsen
Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosures - 3

000408

JUL 27 1944

Dear Mrs. Ingraham:

The War Refugee Board is deeply appreciative of your letter of July 20 with attached suggestions. Your letter and that of Miss Habel Brown Ellis indicate that your organization is most generous in your desire to be of service in the carrying out of the program for refugees soon to be inaugurated at Fort Ontario, New York.

The War Relocation Authority is responsible for the operation of the Emergency Refugee Shelter. In your letter you indicate that you have also written Mr. Dillon Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority, and you, no doubt, will hear from him.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Henry A. Ingraham
President, National Board
Young Women's Christian Assn.
600 Lexington Avenue
New York 22, New York

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7/26/44

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JUL 27 1944

Dear Miss Ellis:

The War Refugee Board is deeply appreciative of the valuable suggestions offered in your letter of July 20 and of the generous offer of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Associations to assist with the project soon to be in operation at Fort Ontario, New York.

The War Relocation Authority is responsible for the operation of the Emergency Refugee Shelter. Your letter will be referred to Mr. Dillon Myer, Director, War Relocation Authority. They will, no doubt, contact you in regard to your proposed visit to Fort Ontario on July 29, 30, and 31.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Miss Mabel Brown Ellis
Secretary
Committee on Refugees
The National Board of the
Young Women's Christian Assn.
600 Lexington Avenue
New York 22, New York

Alaughlin:mm

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7/26/44 *JW*

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MRS. ROBERT E. SPEER
Honorary President
MRS. HENRY A. INGRAHAM
President
MISS MARGARET P. MEAD
First Vice-President
MRS. JOHN FRENCH
Second Vice-President
MRS. ARTHUR FORREST ANDERSON
Third Vice-President
MRS. C. DOUGLAS MERCER
Fourth Vice-President

The National Board
of the
Young Womens Christian Associations
of the United States of America



MRS. WILLIAM CRAWFORD WHITE
Secretary
MISS MAY B. VAN ARSDALE
Treasurer
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Assistant Treasurer
MRS. EDWIN P. MAYNARD, JR.
Assistant Treasurer
MRS. HARRISON S. ELLIOTT
General Secretary

600 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: PLAZA 3-4700

CABLE ADDRESS: EMISSARIUS, NEW YORK

July 20, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

On behalf of the National Board of the Young Womens Christian Associations of the United States, I am writing to offer you the co-operation of our organization in work with the women and girls soon to reach the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego and in efforts to encourage public opinion favorable to the policy our government has followed in this matter. We believe that President Roosevelt's action in thus opening the doors of our country to these tragic victims of war, demonstrates the continuing influence of the tradition of asylum so dear to Americans, and we hope that the establishment of this first Shelter will set a precedent for similar undertakings elsewhere in the United States if the need arises.

Dr. Emily Hickman, Chairman of our Committee on Refugees, and Miss Mabel Ellis, Secretary of that Committee, tell me that they have already discussed with you and with Mr. Dillon Myer, the policy of the War Refugee Board and the War Relocation Authority with reference to the cooperation of voluntary social agencies, like ours, in the program of the Emergency Refugee Shelter and found that you both welcomed it. A statement outlining

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Mr. John W. Pehle

- 2 -

July 20, 1944

the kind of service which seems likely to be needed and which is within the competence of the Y.W.C.A., has been prepared by Miss Ellis and is enclosed. A similar letter and a copy of the statement goes today to Mr. Dillon Myer of the War Relocation Authority.

Miss Ellis will carry the responsibility for liaison relationships between the National Board and the War Refugee Board.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary S. Ingraham

Mrs. Henry A. Ingraham
President, National Board

000412

Tentative Listing of Services
Which Might Be Offered By The Y.W.C.A.
On Request of the War Refugee Board
And The War Relocation Authority

I. Service to Women and Girls in the Emergency Refugee Shelter.

A. Recreational

Leadership to organize group recreation, games, singing, folk dancing, etc. can be provided for short periods of time by nearby Y.W.C.A.'s or friends of our organization.

Plans can be made for some intensive leadership within the refugee group for recreational activities. Simple gymnastics and health drills can be taught and instruction for swimming and other outdoor sports can probably be provided, again with the expectation that leadership for these activities can be developed later within the group.

Equipment for games and sports can be solicited from nearby Associations.

Books can be collected in English or foreign languages for the use of children and adults.

Instruction in certain handicrafts can be provided and the necessary equipment and tools supplied.

Special programs can probably be offered on special occasions by Y.W.C.A. membership groups from nearby cities. For instance, the celebration of American holidays or the national holidays of people among the refugee groups might be the occasion of a series of projects for Y.W.C.A. members.

When the time comes hospitality can probably be arranged for individuals or groups among the refugees, and perhaps excursions to points of historical interest near the Shelter can be arranged.

B. Educational and Vocational Activities.

Help in locating people familiar with the languages spoken by the refugees and acquainted with the educational systems of their countries of origin can be a means of assisting the Administration in setting up schools for refugee children of school age. There may be qualified teachers or professional people among the refugees themselves who can help with the teaching, but books will have to be found or mimeographed in the children's native languages and an effort must be made to give at least elementary training similar in content to that provided in countries of origin. The Y.W.C.A. has many contacts with people of foreign birth who can be helpful at this point.

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Other school equipment will be needed of the sort which makes school rooms attractive such as pictures, story books, posters, etc. Clubs in nearby Y.W.C.A.'s would enjoy helping to provide some of these things.

Help in organizing clubs for the teaching of English to both old and young can be given by Y.W.C.A. workers with long experience in that field. If there are many illiterates among the adults help can also be given in teaching them to read and write their own language. Community Y.W.C.A.'s can assemble material for visual education of the illiterate.

If there are university or college students among the refugees who wish to continue their studies, the Student Division of the National Board might interest students in New York colleges in providing books and other supplies and could arrange personal contacts of value.

Vocational training of genuine worth can be provided by giving the refugee girls and women first hand experience in American methods as used in the Shelter in nursing the sick, caring for young children, sewing, preparing food, etc. The Y.W.C.A. might help by providing some of the materials and equipment needed, as for instance, scissors, needles, thread, wool, sewing machines, materials for clothing, etc. It is probable that among the women there may be some who do beautiful embroidery or make lace fine enough to sell. Perhaps a work project could be developed which might bring some small income to the Shelter. The Y.W.C.A. could advise on what is saleable in this country and could help market the finished product, as has been done for interned women.

C. Miscellaneous Services.

There will be great need for careful interpretation for the non-English speaking refugees, particularly during their first few weeks in the Shelter. At that time they will presumably be interviewed about place of birth, health, whereabouts of other members of the family, etc., and errors in spelling or geography may be serious. Also, adjustment to an unfamiliar environment can be greatly expedited by explanations given in a language women understand. An interpreter who knows the cultural backgrounds of any given country can explain to the Administration the reasons for attitudes which will otherwise baffle the staff and may arouse antagonism. The Y.W.C.A. has had long experience in work with women and girls of foreign background and can recommend people who are capable of interpreting both language and attitudes.

If refugees arrive with little or no suitable clothing and it proves difficult for the Administration to buy new clothes for them, nearby Y.W.C.A.'s can help get donations of used clothing for remodeling.

If there is to be a children's ward in the children's hospital, some Y.W.C.A. club might like to equip the ward with gay posters or picture books or scrapbooks or quiet games.

II. Work in the Field of Public Opinion.

The Committee on Refugees plans to send out late in August to each Community and Student Y.W.C.A. in the United States, information about the Emergency Refugee Shelter and the work the National Board hopes to do there, together with a copy of the statement made by President Roosevelt to Congress on June 12, and a copy of the pamphlet, "The Voice of Thy Brother's Blood," published by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. In the accompanying letter we will ask each Association to study this material and if they approve the action taken by the President, to write their representatives in Congress saying so and expressing their interest in the Emergency Refugee Shelter.

A news item reporting the offer of services by the National Board will appear in the September Woman's Press and as quickly as possible, perhaps in the same number, an article describing the Shelter which will emphasize the significance of this project and express the hope that it may be only the first of many similar undertakings.

A series of short articles will appear in other publications of the National Board from time to time and our constituency will be kept up to date on any changes in policy or program of the War Refugee Board and the War Relocation Authority.

Through the National Board Public Affairs Committee consideration will be given to any legislative proposals which would affect our immigration policies and advice will be sent to our constituency on any legislation which seems dangerous or ill-advised in the refugee field.

JUL 26 1944

Dear Mr. Myer:

The attached letter from Miss Mabel
Brown Ellis, Secretary of the Committee on
Refugees, is being referred to your office
for reply.

Sincerely yours,

W. Anne Laughlin

Anne Laughlin
Special Assistant
to the Executive Director

Mr. Dillon Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

ALaughlin:mm 7/26/44
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000416

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Miss Kaugle
(Room) (Side)

(Room) (Side)

(Room) (Side)

This seems to be
yours
JW

Get this one
out first

From: (Date)
(Room) (Side)

000417

716

MRS. ROBERT E. SPEER
Honorary President

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President

MISS MARGARET P. MEAD
First Vice-President

MRS. JOHN FRENCH
Second Vice-President

MRS. ARTHUR FORREST ANDERSON
Third Vice-President

MRS. C. DOUGLAS MERCER
Fourth Vice-President

The National Board
of the
Young Womens Christian Associations
of the United States of America



MRS. WILLIAM CRAWFORD WHITE
Secretary

MISS MAY B. VAN ARSDALE
Treasurer

MRS. WILLIAM SPENCER DOWNEN
Assistant Treasurer

MRS. EDWIN P. MAYNARD, JR.
Assistant Treasurer

MRS. HARRISON S. ELLIOTT
General Secretary

600 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: PLAZA 3-4700

CABLE ADDRESS: EMISSARIUS, NEW YORK

July 20, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I have necessarily delayed sending you the statement of service which the Y.W.C.A. is prepared to offer the War Refugee Board, if requested to do so, until formal action could be taken by the National Board upon the recommendation of the Committee on Refugees that these services be made available. Favorable action was taken by the Board at its meeting of July 19 and we are now free to go ahead with plans.

As you requested, I have drawn up a brief statement of services within the competence of the Y.W.C.A. which seem likely to be needed at the (Refugee) Emergency Shelter, over and above what the Administration will probably be able to provide from public funds. As Dr. Hickman and I told you in our interview on June 15, these services will, of course, be on a non-sectarian basis and we would expect to develop our plans for work with women and girls in close cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women and any other voluntary agencies which would wish to work on educational and recreational program at the Shelter. The present plan is for me to carry responsibility for liaison relationships between the National Board and the War Refugee Board, and between the Administration of the Shelter and Young Womens Christian Associations in nearby cities. We hope to get help from these Associations by loans of staff and by gifts of supplies.

I have also outlined plans for work in the field of public opinion, developed in accordance with your suggestions so far as immediate needs are concerned, and looking toward a continuing effort on our part to develop attitudes favorable to a liberal post-war immigration policy.

The story which appeared in yesterday's Times indicates that the arrival of the refugees is imminent. I have been planning for an August vacation this year and have hoped to visit the Shelter on my way to Michigan. Would it be possible for you to get whatever official approval

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Mr. John Pehle

- 2 -

July 20, 1944

and introductions to admit me to the Shelter on July 29, 30 and 31.² I am planning to leave New York on the night of July 28 and will be staying at the Pontiac Hotel in Oswego.

Very sincerely yours,

Mabel Brown Ellis

Mabel Brown Ellis
Secretary
Committee on Refugees

MBE:s

000419



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

848/ICO/MET

AMERICAN LEGATION
Stockholm, Sweden
July 19, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I have been asked by Mrs. Hugo Cedergren, who you met in Washington, to forward the enclosed material to Miss Ruth F. Woodsmall, World's Y.W.C.A. Office, 1155 Sixteenth Street, Washington, D. C. It seems that there is to be some sort of an international roundup week of the Y.W.C.A. in the Fall, and Mrs. Cedergren was requested to have recorded a talk on Y.W.C.A. activities in Europe. Accordingly, the package contains a recording of such talk. There is also enclosed a typewritten version of the talk in case there should develop any censorship complications.

Except for the great prominence of the Cedergrens in humanitarian affairs, as well as their helpfulness to this Office, we would not undertake to make our mail facilities available for such purposes. Due to Mrs. Cedergren's great anxiety in the matter, however, as well as the special nature of the circumstances involved, it would be greatly appreciated if you would arrange to have this material and the covering letter delivered to Miss Woodsmall.

Sincerely yours,

Iver C. Olsen
Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board

Enclosures as stated.

Miss L. Willis received
record and letter 9/20/44.

World's YWCA per Miss Willis

*no enclosure when
received in file*

000420

MRS. ROBERT E. SPEER
Honorary President
MRS. HENRY A. INGRAHAM
President
MISS MARGARET P. MEAD
First Vice-President
MRS. EDWARD W. MACY
Second Vice-President
MRS. JOHN FRENCH
Third Vice-President
MRS. C. DOUGLAS MERCER
Fourth Vice-President

The National Board
of the
Young Womens Christian Associations
of the United States of America



MRS. WILLIAM CRAWFORD WHITE
Secretary
MISS MAY B. VAN ARSDALE
Treasurer
MRS. WILLIAM S. BOWEN
Assistant Treasurer
MRS. WILLIAM WALKER KENNEDY
Assistant Treasurer

MRS. HARRISON S. ELLIOTT
General Secretary

600 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: PLAZA 3-4700

CABLE ADDRESS: ENISSARIUS, NEW YORK

June 12, 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you for your telegram. Dr.
Hickman and I will plan to be at your office
at 2:30 promptly on the afternoon of Thursday,
June 15.

Very sincerely yours,

Mabel Brown Ellis

Mabel Brown Ellis
Secretary
Committee on Refugees

MBE:gf

000421

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

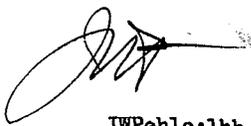
June 9, 1944

MABEL B. ELLIS, SECRETARY,
YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
600 LEXINGTON AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK.

RETEL JUNE NINE GLAD TO SEE YOU TWO-THIRTY P.M. JUNE FIFTEEN.

(Initialed) J. W. P.

J. W. PEHLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD.



JWPehle:lh 6/9/44

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WUX NEWYORK NY JUNE 9 1944 933A

JOHN W PEHLE

WAR REFUGEE BOARD

CAN YOU GIVE APPOINTMENT ANYTIME AFTERNOON JUNE FIFTEEN TO
EMILY HICKMAN CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, NATIONAL BOARD
YOUNG WOMENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION AND MABEL ELLIS SECRETARY?
EAGER TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT PLANS FOR FREE PORTS AND WAYS IN
WHICH OUR COMMITTEE MIGHT PERHAPS BE OF SERVICE TO YOU, PLEASE
WIRE COLLECT SETTING HOUR. ADDRESS SIX HUNDRED LEXINGTON
AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

MABEL B ELLIS.

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1944 JUN 9 AM 9 59

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In reply please
refer to: 581

MAY 6 1944

Dear Mrs. Ingraham:

Thank you for your letter of April 20,
1944, concerning the possibility of establishing
"free ports" for refugees.

Your interest is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Mrs. Henry A. Ingraham,
President,
The National Board of the Young
Womens Christian Associations
of the United States of America,
600 Lexington Avenue,
New York, New York.

EBT
EBTowler:agr 4-29-44

000424

Secretary Morgenthau

Mr. Gaston

Mr. Paul

Mr. White

Mr. E. M. Bernatein

Mr. DuBois

Mr. Friedman

Miss Hodel

Mr. Lesser

Mr. Luxford

Mr. Stewart

Mrs. Taylor

Files

PLEASE REGARD THIS AS THE
CONTROL COPY AND PREPARE
REPLY.

JWPhle

J. W. Phle

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000425

THE NATIONAL BOARD
of the
YOUNG WOMENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CONTROL COPY

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W. R. B. _____
Filing Authority _____
To: Files/ _____
Ans. 5/6/44 _____
No. Ans. Req. _____
Initial _____
Date _____

600 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

April 20, 1944

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

My dear Mr. Pehle:

I am writing on behalf of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association to express the deep interest of our organization in the possibility of setting up "free ports" for refugees in this country, and our hope that such action may be taken soon.

Through our Public Affairs Committee and our Committee on Refugees, the National Board has for the past five years kept our constituency in all parts of the country, numbering some 3,000,000 girls and women, informed about the needs of refugees and ready to act on their behalf, either locally or nationally, when the occasion has arisen. Last April, the National Board took action associating itself with the Federal Council of Churches in an appeal to the President of the United States to see that full consideration was given at the Bermuda Conference to proposals for providing "places of temporary asylum to which refugees whom it may be possible to evacuate from European countries may be removed, these refugees to be supported in camps for the duration of the war with the understanding that they will then be repatriated or be provided with permanent homes in other ways."

We shall be delighted to see our own Government take steps to implement this recommendation by action for we know that the need is great and we believe that only as we assume our share of responsibility can we expect others of the United Nations to do likewise.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Mary S. Ingraham
Mrs. Henry A. Ingraham
President

000426

World's Young Women's Christian Association
Alliance Universelle des Unions Chrétiennes de Jeunes Filles
Christlicher Weltbund Weiblicher Jugend

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FILING AUTHORITY
TO: Mail & Files
ANS.
NO ANS. REQ. *JH*

President: Miss Ruth Rouse
General Secretary: Miss Ruth F. Woodsmall
Assistant General Secretary: Miss M. Marianne Mills

Headquarters: INITIAL
37, Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland

Telegrams: Soromundi, Washington
Telephone: REpublic 6272

Please address correspondence to the
temporary office:
1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C., U. S. A.

February 14, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle: re: 54

I have your letter of February 10, asking me to
arrange to have Mrs. Hugo Cedergren talk with you on her return
to Washington.

According to the present schedule Mrs. Cedergren
will be here for two or three days after March 7. I shall be
glad to arrange the appointment at that time.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth F. Woodsmall
Ruth F. Woodsmall
General Secretary

RFW:ra

000427

FEB 10 1944

In reply please
refer to: 54

Dear Miss Woodsmall:

It will be appreciated if you will arrange to have Mrs. Hugo Cedergren talk to me upon her return to Washington.

I suggest that you telephone Miss Hodel at Executive 6400, Extension 5675 to arrange for a definite appointment.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Miss Ruth Woodsmall,
World's Y.W.C.A.,
1155 16th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

EBT *JW* ✓
EBTowler:hd 2/10/44

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