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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I enclose for the information of the Board two letters from the Stateless Jewish Committee in Finland addressed to the War Refugee Board.

This group is for the most part among the 113 presently being evacuated to Sweden. There remain approximately 40 Stateless Jews except they are not "refugees" in the true sense of the word since many of them have been living in Finland for as long as 40 years. However, they are very anxious to leave and we are having active discussions with several local Jewish organizations in their behalf. Prospects seem favorable.

Sincerely yours,

Iver C. Olsen  
Special Attaché for  
War Refugee Board.

Enclosures - 2
To the
Office of war-refugees,
Washington.

Dear sir,

We ask you to excuse us for bothering you once again, but we
have to do it now as long as we are able to, say be politically or indi-
vidually circumstances make it impossible for us to reach you later on.

As we told in our letter of the 3.3.1944 our situation gets
now rapidly worse in proportion to the increasing political and military
situation of the country.

But the Swedish government can not decide yet to give the visa
for this about 100 Jewish refugees. The 10 of March it was decided in the
Cabinet council that our case was not actual and urgent. Some days later
the reporter of the Foreign office, Legationrådet Ovante Nellstedt,
declared this:

"Since some time ago it was told us that the situation of the
refugees in Finland was dangerous. During this time nothing happened there.
This demonstrates that there can not be any dangerousness for them."

From this one can conclude that only if something extraordinary
happens a part of us, the rest that still are alive perhaps will be helped.

The events in Hungary shows again how quickly it can happen
something in every belligerent country in Europe, that makes every help to
late. If something would happen here in Finland in one or other way, we would
be the first victims, because just we, through the nazi-propaganda, has been
mostly exposed in this country.
When the danger is already over us we have no more opportunity to escape. We are now looking for a hiding-place, to conceal us for the threatening danger, but we have already now the sorry experience that it is nearly impossible. We are the whole time controlled. As soon we try to speak a word in the for us quite impossible finnish language, everybody knows we are foreigners. Amongst us there are small children, old people until 60 years and even sick people. The feeling of the population is very hostile just against us refugees. All those circumstances makes our hiding quite in vain. The few friends we have are just now powerless and can not help us with the best intentions. Therefore we are quite helpless and unprotected.

In this desperate situation we got an idea to submit you:

Because the swedish government will not see the really fact, we are asking you to propose to the government of the U.S.A. to give us U.S.A.-passports as long it is technically possible. If then, because of the passports of the U.S.A. the swedish government is being asked for visa, they can not refuse.

I really know that this our request means something quite exceptional but it also arised from a very exceptional situation. We do hope the government of the U.S.A. understands it and in this emergency will use the liberal measure. Therefore we dare to come to you with our request.

We thank you in anticipation for all your comprehension and hope to get your help in time and decisive.

Yours respectfully

[Signatures]

and the same names as in the last letter.
To the Office of war refugees, Washington.

Dear sirs,

We undersigned, belonging to the about hundred Jewish refugees from whole Europe, at present living in Finland, beg you as soon as possible to give us the chance of coming to Sweden.

Without being visible to the outer-world, are we in the same situation as in the desolate years 1938-1939, when we left Austria, Germany and Poland. We don't see any chance of escaping the same inevitable fate that has touched hundreds thousands of Jews in different countries of Europe, if not this our request will help us in time to go to the neutral Sweden.

The experiences of the latest 2 1/2 years, that nearly broke us physically and psychically, will we touch only in short words. It contains everything of the known treatment of the Jews in the different countries of Europe: Internierung in quite impossible predicaments without any consideration to women, children and old people. Many were taken to Konzentrationslager, many were threatened with deportation to places occupied by the Germans. As known this threat was partly executed. How great the number is, we don't know exactly, but it is only verified being greater as it was admitted by the official refutation which was given at that time. Examinations by the state-police after Gestapomethods, promises or threats of sent to Germany to extort spy services for the state-police a.o. As all those circum-
stances are known from many other countries of Europe we will avoid the details.

The present situation we will mention only in short words, because the general knowledge of Your Office are sufficient.

Through the official and semi-official explanations of the reputed improvement of our position the outer-world got the impression we are living now in a surer situation. The case is quite contrary to the real fact. The nearer the political and military complications approached this country the more dangerous gets our situation.

Earlier we were surrendered to the will of the higher authorities, but now our situation has changed catastrophically. Through the nazi-propaganda of the last 2 1/2 years, a part of the population so set against us that we fear it comes any minute to an outbreak. Lately this bitter propaganda, above all against us Jewish refugees, got greater than ever. Aggressions of the subordinated authorities and the threatening of the population are increasing. Even if the higher authorities would have the best intentions towards us, they would not have the possibility of effectively protecting us. The more critical the political situation of the country, the greater the danger for us.

The Jewish community in Finland has simply no chance to help us. Seeing in a mental pressure they never dared to intercede for us, on the contrary, they did their best to support the official declarations and contradictions.

As in November 1942 the director of the Jewish community was asked about the Konzentrationslager for the Jewish refugees, he disclaimed emphatically its existence and explained that everything was quite all right with us. Only 14 days later the world got to know about the Konzentrationslager as well as about a part of the deportations.

Obeying a wish of higher authorities the Jewish community of Helsing-
For only about two months ago, explained to Sweden that we are treated exactly in the same way as all the other foreigners here. This attitude of the community supports the official opinion and deprives us of the chance to be helped.

More than a year we are desperately struggling to get visa to Sweden. Many politician and prominent personages of the country, who have the right view of our situation and who wants to rescue us, are struggling for us. More than once the Swedish Foreign-Department nearly promised to give the visa but every time it has been delayed. Always when they were asked about it the Swedish Foreign-Department officially answered they got no time yet to process the applications, but unofficially it is known, that they will not give us the visa, because they will guard the good will of Finland abroad. They find that we could escape to Sweden if the situation gets to dangerous for us here. In spite of all our explanations that in our case it's also technically impossible, the Swedish Foreign-Department finds, that the good reputation of Finland means more than our security and keeps to the various Finnish official explanations.

If some real authority would use their influence on Swedish Foreign-Department there would perhaps be a possibility of getting visa at the right time. Otherwise it can be too late. The history of the latest years has to often verified that effective actions in order to rescue the Jews were undertaken too late.

Through the radio and press we got to know that the new office for refugees of the war has as its aim to help where it's yet possible. Therefore we send as our last hope this urgent request.

At last one request. Please, don't use this letter in such a way that could make our position worse, if it will be known we have written it.
Mr. John W. Pehle  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

As of possible interest to the War Refugee Board, I enclose several translations from the local press as well as other matters relating to the refugee problem.

Sincerely yours,

Iver C. Olsen  
Special Attaché for War Refugee Board.

Enclosures - 15
ALL JEWISH DWELLINGS IN HUNGARY CONFISCATED.

Budapest, April 28, 1944

The Hungarian Government has now issued a law entitling the municipal officials to dispose of all Jewish dwellings. These can be confiscated partly to make room for public institutions, partly for the benefit of private. In societies larger than with a population of 10,000 inhabitants, the Jews will be gathered in special ghettos.
Alla judiska bostäder
i Ungern beslagtas

BUDAPEST, fredag. (STR) Den ungerska regeringen
har en utförut en lag, som berättar de kommunala
förvaltningsorganen i Ungern att färdga över alla judi-
ska bostäder. Dessa bostäder kallas beslagtagas dels för
att bevara plats åt offentliga institutioner, dels också för
privatägare onas räkning. I samhällen med över 10,000
invånare skola judarna sammansättas i ett särskilt ghetto.
BELGIAN JEWS TRANSPORTED TO POLAND.

Bern, April 28, 1944

A traveller just arrived from Belgium, reports that while the Germans deported all foreign Jews in Belgium, they let those Jews who carried the David Star in peace. Lately, however, systematical Jew razzias have been started at night. These Belgian Jews are sent to Malines, from where they in groups of 500-600 are transported to Poland. They are sent in cattle wagons, with 60 in each. The death percentage during these transports are fearfully high.
Belgiska judar fraktas till Polen
Från Dagens Nyheters Bern-korrespondent.

En resande som anlände hit från Belgien berättar att under detta torkvarn deporterat allt urländska judar i Belgien har de hittills lämnat de belgiska judar som här Davidsstjärnan i fred. På nästa tiden har man emellertid börjat systematiskt juderazzier nattetid. De belgiska judarna förs till Malmös, varifrån de i grupper på 500–600 transporteras till Polen. De transporteras i trevagnar – med 60 personer i varje vagn. Dödsprocenten under dessa transporter är fruktansvärt låg. C.-A. B.
GERMANS FIND TOO MANY JEWS IN THE HUNGARIAN TOWNS.

Berlin, April 28, 1944

From the Hungarian towns Munkács, Kaschua and Ungvar, all Jews have been transferred to concentration camps. The measure is motivated by the fact that the towns lie too near the war zone and that the recently opened spy processes show that an especially large percentage of those who have been in contact with the foreign spy work, prove to be Jews. It is remarkable that in those towns where the Jews now have been arrested, it appears that there are about twice as many of them as there should be according to the latest census.
Tyskarna finner för många judar i Ungerns städer

Från St.-T.s Berlindaf.berigon.

BERLIN den 28 april.

Från de ungarska städerna Mün-
hausen, Kassau och Ungvar här
alle judar transporterats bort och
forts till koncentrationssäger. Åg-
ården motiveras med att dessa
ståder fyller för sina stridssoner
samt till de stora spionagepro-
cessers som påbörjats utöver att
just juderna i särskilt stort om-
fang ställt i förhållande med det ut-
landska spionaget. Möjligt är att
ståder man i Ungern nu tagit fast
judor, har man konstaterat att det
finns upptäckt dubbel så många
som den senaste folkräkningen an-
gavs.
SOURCE: Svenska Dagbladet, May 4, 1944

Mobilization in Lithuania.

Berlin, May 3, 1944

The order of mobilization, issued in Estonia and Latvia some time ago, has now also been extended to Lithuania, where several classes of the Lithuanian male youth have been drafted for participation in the fight against the Russians.
Mobilisering
i Litauen. 4.5.44.

BERLIN, 3 maj. (Sv. Dru Berliner.) Sedan någon tid
sedan en del åtgärder i Estland
och Lettland inkallats till militär-
hjälp, har man nu även i Litauen
utfört mobiliseringsorder för fle-
ra åtgärder av den unga litauiska
ungdomen för deltagande i striden
mot rysarna.
HELP TO JEWISH CHILDREN.

The committee for racepersecuted children, which started last spring, renders an account of 23,268 kronor for the past year. 10,000 kronor have been given to Professor Ehrenpreis for his activity with transports of children between Iran and Palestine.

The relief committee in Sweden for Jewish children from Denmark and other Scandinavian countries has received the same sum. The authoress Mariika Stiernstedt is the head of the committee and members of the working committee are countess Bonde, the secretary Lva. Blanche Johanson-Gilert and the authoress Gurli Hertzson-Ericson.

As the need of help is still great, the commissioners calls attention to the postal cheque account number 3664. It is hoped that it will be possible to take part in the work of reconstruction when it starts after the war.
Hjälp åt judiska barn.

Kommittén för rasförstörda barn, som bildades först våren, redovisar under det gångna året inkomna belopp med 23.268 kr. Därav har 10.000 överlämnats till professor Ehrenpreis för hans verksamhet med transporter av barn från Iran till Palestina. Samma summa har sedan tilldelats hjälpverksamheten i Sverige för judiska flyktingar från Danmark och andra nordiska länder. Överförande i kommittén är författaren Maria Stornes och reklamörer i arbetssocialstiftet grundare Bond, fru Blanche Johanne-Oliva sekreterare samt författaren Gyll Hartman-Eklund.

Kommitténs påminner om pantgrimmnet 1934, då hjälpbehovet förbiseende först start. När återupptagandet efter krigen kommer i gång behöver man så detta.
HUNGARIAN JEWS HAVE ONLY THE RIGHT TO KEEP 3000 PENGŐ.

Bern, May 4, 1944

There are reports from Budapest on the tragic fate under which the Jews in Hungary suffer under the Sztoja Government, which seems to go even further than the anti Jewish decree in the third Reich. The Jews have only the right to keep 3000 pengő.

Authorities had originally the intention to reserve six cafés for the Jews, to which Aryans should have no entrance. But this plan seems to have been dropped since the owners of the cafés proposed to open a special room with following poster on the door: "Only for Jews". This room is not supposed to look on the street, to prevent people passing by from seeing the Jews.
Ungernjudar får
endast behålla
tre tusen pengö.

Från Dagens Nyheters Bern-
korrespondent.

BERN, torsdag.

Från Budapest meddelas om att det alltmera tragiska utsöndrings- och avseende fjadda av judarna i Ungern under Sztojayregimets ära. Sådana för judarna endast behålla 3 tusen pengö i reda pengar av sina tillgängar.

Ungernjudar får endast behålla tre tusen pengö.

Ungernjudarna är inte rädda från en sådan behandling. De är inte rädda från att ha en speciell lokal i sina kaféer med ett anslag ovanför dörren: "Endast för judar." Denna lokal får dock inte vara tillgänglig, då de förbättrande skall besparas möjligheten av att behålla deras anseende.
ESTONIAN SHIP ON ADVENTUROUS TRIP BETWEEN DALARÖ AND UTO.

A ship with Estonian refugees on board arrived 3 weeks ago near Dalarö. They were being transferred to the refugee camp on Kummelnäs, but had to leave the boat behind. Two of the refugees got on May 4 permission to fetch the boat at Dalarö and bring it to Kummelnäs. The two Estonians were alone in the boat.

A military ship took the two Estonians and their boat on board near Utö. They had gone in the directly opposite direction from Kummelnäs. It is not known if the reason was the storm, or if they tried to do it on purpose, but the latter seems more likely. Their intention would in this case have been to cross the Baltic again, perhaps to be able to help people at home to come over to Sweden.

Another boat with 8 Estonian refugees arrived at Utö during Thursday night. They had had hard weather during the last part of the trip.
Estbåt på äventyr mellan Dalarö och Utö


SOURCE: Aftonbladet, May 5, 1944

WAR WEARY MEN ESCAPE TO SWEDEN
FINNS FEAR NEW CIVIL WAR.

Umeå, May 5, 1944

4 sergeants and 9 soldiers of the Finish army arrived the other day at the lighthouse of "Stora Fjäderågg. The police took them to Umeå, where they will have to stay waiting for decision of whether they are to be interned or sent back.

Among other things they told the police, that the reason for their escape was war weariness. They emphasised that the war had been a hard strain on them, and that the situation in Finland was very difficult. The supplies of food and specially shoes had become smaller and in some cases there was famine.

They feared an eventual civil war for the country. The differences of view among the people were not specially big, even if one often met very different opinions about certain things. But the situation between Germans and Finns has become much more tense and real battles are to be feared.

The refugees did not know so much about the peace conferences with the Soviet. But they were convinced that the future fate of Finland would be very hard. A Finland, loaded with war debts would mean that the people would become slaves.

Two of the refugees are married and they have not
only left their country, but also their wives and children. It is not the first time that Finish soldiers have escaped to Sweden over Holmö. The last ones came about New Year, and they were interned.
Elva krigströtta
rymde till Sverige.

Finnar fruktar för nytt inbördeskrig.

UMEDA, fredag. 1944

I ett par malmkarakt saledes huvudens delen till Sveriges flygfält vid en utseenden med nionde av finska armén. De införande av polismyndigheterna och fördes till Umeå, där de kommer att behållas i avvakta på beslut om internering eller återkommande.

De berättade bland annat att polisen a. f. genom en avståndning till flygden var krigströtthet. De framhöll att krigets brudd begick mycket hårt på dem, och förhållandena i Finland i övrigt var svåra. Sjukmar beitreddes på kran och bleder och fördes allt snabbare till internationella och på sina händer hann ingen.

De var vidare rädda för att hela skölja till en inbördeskrig. Sjukmar de med andra meningslighetsförhållanden mellan den brinnande befolkningen inte var det stora även om de skildra upptäckningar i dagens stora allvarliga. Frågor göra sig plötsligt. Mellan finnar och tyskare har de som förbättrade om och mer tillförandet och det finns anledning att fruktas att det kan komma till reglerade störningar.

Flyktingarna kände inte att det enligt till osäkerhetsförhållanden med början. De ville snabbt övergå till att Finland fick komma att bli yttre huvud. Det skulle dock Finland skulle ha behöva allvar for folket.

Av flyktingarna är två gifta, och dessa har alltså inte bara kommit till land utan även hustru och barn. Det är tanke för att finnas flykta till Sverige över Finland. Huvudet vid skottfallet kom det finnas ej vägen, vilken internationell.
SOURCE: Stockholms Tidningen, May 6, 1944

500 BELGIAN JEWS TO POLAND EVERY DAY.

Berlin, May 5, 1944

A large group of Poles and Jews who have been arrested in Hungary and transported to Poland, has now been transferred to the wellknown concentration camp Oswiecim in Poland.

The deportation of Jews from Western Europe to Poland are still going on, in spite of the latest development. Between 500 and 600 Jews arrive from Belgium every day.
500 belgiska judar
till Polen pr dag

HEZLIN den 3 maj

TB, INS). Till det började sektionen
koncentrationärgt Och en 
nyligen förts en större gruppen belgiska 
judar som hittills i Och en 
och sedan transporterats till Polen.

Trots de senaste utvecklingen fortsätter 
judensikt, juden deporterar sina från Vost-
europea till Polen.

Tyra Belgien kommer varje dag 
mellan 500 och 600 judar.
Jews HAVE BEEN STATIONED NEAR "NO-ENTER" CALLS.

Berlin, May 5, 1944

The telegram from Budapest reports that it is
impossible to keep all Jews in the town in one single
ghetto. The authorities have ordered the ghettos to
be built close to the big factories. But ghettos and
Jew quarters are in fact to be seen over the whole
town. It has been so arranged, that the Jewish population
cannot be spared in case of an arraid against Budapest.
Judar placeras nära bombmal.

BERLIN, 5 maj. (Sv. D:n Berlinred.) Budapesttelegram till tyska tidningar omtalade en förordning, enligt vilken varje arv, som söker motverka den nu igångnatta aktionen mot judarna, själva kommer att bli behandlad som judar samt interneras. Samma öde väntar den, som skyddar judar mot att bli interneras.

Vad i övrigt interneringen av Budapestats judar angår, meddelas i telegrammen, att det är omöjligt att isolera huvudstadenens judar i ett enda ghetto. Myndigheterna har näp för att judarnas ghettoanläggning i närhet av de stora fabriksområdena. Men även i andra delar av Budapest har vita kvarters utrymsta och avanstas till judares. Över hela Budapestats stadsmråde lägges ett nät av ghettos och intekvarter. Sådana ha sådana nuvarit träffats, bör det skrivas i telegrammen, att den judiska befolkningen i händelse av större felstiga händelser mot Budapestats judar inte kommer att sköna.
Dagens Nyheter, May 7, 1944

SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR ALL FOREIGNER AFFAIRS.

The minister for Social Affairs proposes a special commission to handle foreigners affairs. The commission will have to include representatives of the more important interests, which will have to be taken account of when judging the foreigners affairs. It is important for the chairman to get such a right of decision that the organisation can work quick enough. Mr. Koller, Social Minister, after having consulted the Foreign Minister, recommends the transference of matters concerning entering of the country to the foreigners commission. The Foreign Minister will still have the right to decide cases he finds necessary from a foreign political point of view.

Mr. Koller also recommends that the commission shall specially take care of the working permission for foreigners. The Social Minister proposes that the commission should be organised in three offices, the passport office, the control office and the social office. A chairman, who can devote all his time to the activity will be the head of the commission. The salary account of the commission is estimated to 700,000 kronor, and the expenditure account to 150,000 kronor.
Särskild kommission för hand om alla utlänningsärenden.

Socialministern föreslår i en prövisorium och inte, såsom de så betecknar under en överdirektion.

I kommissionen bör finnas repres­sen­tanter för de viktigare intressen som är att beskriva tidigare av utlännings­ärendena. Det är viktigt att ordföranden får alla beslutsande ställen inom organisationen kan ackurcha tillräckligt snabbt. Efter samtal med utrikesministerns tillstånd för statens del av utlänningsärendena flyt­tas från utrikesdepartementet till utlänningskommissionen, varvid det däremot ska vara utrikesministerns obelgget att bestämma i de fall han finner påfallande ur utrikes­politiska synpunkt. Statens del avkom­mande vidare att kommissionen i princip skall omfatta också arbetstillstånd ogivningen för utlänningsärenden.

Socialministern föreslår att kommissionen tillståndligt organiseras på tre byråer, pausbyrå, kontrollbyrå och ovrids­byrå. I etappen för kommissionens ställer en ordförande som kan bilda båda sina tid vid de enskilda av handlingarna. Det är inte meningen att några nya ordinarie eller o. o. tjän­ster ska innefatta kommissionens, utan personal från socialstyrelsen flyttes över dito. Kommisionens avkostningskonto be­räknas till 700,000 kr. och dess omkost­ningskonto till 180,000 kr.
Harder treatment of Hungarian Jews.

Berlin, May 9th, 1944

Berlin's evening papers prominently publish information from Budapest, which seems to indicate a more extensive sharpening of the new Hungarian harsher policy against the Jews.

Thus it is stated that it was announced during a meeting, arranged by Budapest's municipal administration yesterday, that parts of bombs had been found in Jewish hands in the Hungarian capital. Furthermore new secret wireless transmitters had been found in Jewish homes. Budapest's municipal administration therefore demands the severest possible treatment of the Jews. This shows that new methods in Hungary's anti-semitic policy are being prepared.

SOURCE: Svenska Dagbladet, May 10, 1944
Beijing, 9 maj. (Sv. D:a Berlinred.) På framträdande plats återger Berlins kvällstidningar i dag ett meddelande från Budapest, som synes tyda på en ytterligare och förmodligen vittgivande skärpning av den nya ungarska politiken mot judarna.

Det heter sådana, att vid ett möte arrangerat av Budapests kommunala förvaltning i går tillkännagivits, att man under de senaste dagarna ha hittat delar av homma i den ungarska huvudstaden funnit delar av homma. Dessutom har man vid flera tillfällen uppvisat nya bevis på radikala förändringar i judiska befolkningens förhållanden. Budapests kommunala förvaltning har i betrosta hänvisning framställt krafter på pronomförsöde av största smärta. Denna extra framträdande har stundom återställt hår över de konstillhirka de stora smärta i judarne under fördröjande.

K-a.
50 refugees from Finland.

Umeå, May 11, 1944

The stream of refugees from Finland across the Bay of Bothnia to the coast of Västerbotten continues, and further one boat with four people arrived on Tuesday evening. They landed 5 miles (Swedish) North of Umeå. Altogether 51 Finish refugees have lately been taken care of.
Femtio flyktingar från Finland.

UMESÅ, onsdag (TT) Flyktingströmmen från Finland över Bottenviken till Västerbottens kustland fortsätter, och på tisdagkvällen kom ytterligare en båt med fyra personer. De gick i land från mellan om Umeå. Sammanlagt har på senare tiden och 203 flyktingar.
The government has issued the decree that all Jewish books are to be regarded as "trashes", and the price 15 pengő for 100 kilogram has been put on them. All publishing-houses, booksellers and public libraries are obliged to sell all these works for that price to the official collecting places.

SOURCE: Hya Dagligt Allehanda, May 11, 1944

JEWISH BOOKS "TRASHES", ARE SOLD BY THE KILOGRAM.

Budapest, May 10, 1944
Judiska böcker

"lump", säljas kilovis

BUDAPEST, torsdag. (STB). Regeringen har uttänt en förordning, enligt vilken böcker av judiska författare ska bli betraktas som "lump" och försäljas ett pris av 28 pengar per 100 kg. Alla förlag, bokhandlare och åknebibliotek är skyldiga att till detta pris sälja samtliga sådana verk till de offentliga insamlingsställena.
Tallinn, May 11, 1944

The newspaper Eesti Sõna reports that the Estonian Gestapo has arrested a great number of people for preliminary examination, whose activity had been aimed against the national defence of the Estonian people and their will to join the battle determining the fate of Europe.
Nya massanhällanden
i Estland

TALLINN den 12 maj

(TT) Tidningen återställer offentliggöra ett meddelande, enligt vilket den estniska
sicherheitspolisen för preliminära förhör
anhållit en stor del personer, vilka verk-
ade som rikstävande mot det estniska för-
vaktnedreformen och anhört till
den europeiska ledarstriden.

Stockholms Tidningen,
May 12, 1944
American Legation
Stockholm, Sweden,
May 3, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I attach translations of items appearing recently in the local press, as well as other material, relating to the refugee problem:

(a) Translation of a rather critical editorial appearing in the syndicalist Arbetaren regarding U.S. Refugee Policy.

(b) Translation of certain material from the Annual Report of the Israel Mission, concerning its activities in Europe. Incidentally, I am having active discussions with this group on the question as to what extent their current organization in Europe can be used to further the U.S. refugee program.

(c) Local press comment regarding refugee situation in Sweden.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Iver C. Olsen
Special Attaché for
War Refugee Board.

Enclosures as stated
UNITED STATES' REFUGEE POLICY.

According to a T.T.-message from Washington, found in the daily press of January the 29th, the Government of the United States has formed a War Refugee Committee, the task of which it shall be to find out if war refugees also in other countries have been denied visas. The question seems to be found very important, the committee holding such prominent members as the Foreign Minister Mr. Hull, the Minister of War, Mr. Stimson, and the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau. The case will be investigated by help of the American diplomatic and consular representatives.

The undersigned, who himself is a Jewish refugee, allows himself to beg for column space for the following open letter to the representatives of the United States here:

During the years 1940 and 1941, as long as we refugees had an opportunity of getting overseas (through Russia and later on by way of the safe conduct boats via Gothenburg) U.S.A. always layed the greatest obstacles in our way. In those years reigned, as everyone knows, a not unfounded feeling of panic among us refugees, for Sweden's situation then seemed precarious, and many were afraid that we at any time would have to share the fate the Germans prepared for other Jews in Europe. We had gladly left for the end of the world could we only escape the Nazi Damocle's sword, for in the "European Fortress" we felt as if in a trap. In this connection I should like to make the following statements:

1) In this emergency USA in no way abstained from applying her half a century old Immigration law, which was created to stop the increasing immigration stream of "lower" races from East- and Southern Europe to the Anglosaxon "God's Own Country". Numerous refugees were at the beginning of the war rejected by USA, that is they were not rejected formally, of course, they were only told to wait for their turn to come in about 5 - 6 years, which at the time was tantamount to the worst scorn. To this one might object that such was the law, but what did USA in the hour of need, do to have it changed - this Immigration law, the father of all race laws.

2) Several of the small middle-American states granted visas in the beginning, but Uncle Sam was the prey of app­ar­e­nce, and due to pressure from Washington, Panama, Costa­ri­ca, Cuba and others were obliged to shut their doors to the suffering in Europe (such was the answer from the respective countries' consulates, also confirmed in news bul­letins). Refugees who already had been given their visas, and such as even were on their way, were thanks to the Yankee pressure, not permitted to go ashore. In one particularly shocking case, a refugee was sent back to Sweden from Japan, because the country of destination had withdrawn its visa. The cost of this treatment so shocking to all written and humane laws, had to be paid by Sweden.
3) Those refugees, who for various reasons, were lucky enough not to have to wait for 5 or 6 years, but were allowed to go straight away, were during the summer 1940 told by the USA-legation here, to state whether they had relatives in "Germany, Russia or other occupied territories". Those who had such relatives were not permitted to go, in some cases tickets had already been ordered. Everyone should understand that also we refugees usually have relatives, and these mostly live in exactly those countries from which we have had the luck to escape. Thus this American measure was a cunning way of preventing the departure of exactly those desperate people who were trying to escape from the great trip for Jews, Europe, without annoying business- and other travellers of neutral countries' citizenship. So those refugees had to stay in spite of their expectancy - number. In this case it was evident that even the restrictions of the ill-famed immigration law, were too wide and had to be filled in.

4) Later on the refugees were told that the Legations had been deprived of their right to grant visas for USA, these must for the future be provided by the State Department in Washington itself. Two wealthy American citizens should first have to go between and deliver an application. There are not many of us who have connection with wealthy citizens on the other side of the ocean, but some even overcame this difficulty. When his affidavit (guarantee) at last reached Stockholm, the "lucky one" was examined about whether he really had any connection with the concerned good citizens, or not. When it however was shown that the two Americans had given their affidavit for humanitarian reasons, the refugee was refused a visa because the guarantee "was not seriously meant!" the humanitarian reasons were thus simply written off by these knights of humanity from USA.

5) I therefore think I have good reasons to state that the United States' refugee policy during this war, mainly has consisted in the filling in of gaps in the immigration law. But it was not enough that USA shut her own door. Those refugees who had visas to go to some South- or Middle-American country in 1940, and who wanted to go there over Petsamo-New York, were denied transit visa by the USA Legation who demanded that they should prove that they did not plan to run away in the New York harbour. How can a man prove that he is not planning to do something? Every man in his senses in Sweden in 1940 knew that a refugee would rather go Tierra Del Fuego than stay on in the "Fortress of Europe". But such reasoning did not impress the Yankees. Just as it should be impossible for the USA-police to see that a few refugees really continued their trip from New York to their places of destination.

6) A special case deserves to be mentioned in this connection, as characteristic for the Yankee-Diplomats outlook on refugees, even if it has no direct connection with the USA-immigration policy. On the 9th of April 1940 and the following day, Jews in Oslo went to the American Legation to ask protection under the aegis of the Exterritorial Rights, while the Germans were masters of the town and Gestapo might grab them at any time. These people were
in deadly despair, and some of them had looked Death in
the eyes in a similar way in Vienna or Prague, but they
were shamefully turned back by the USA Legation's officials. It
is generally known how hundreds of Spanish fascists for
2½ years were fed and looked after in all possible lega-
tions in Madrid, but then they were not Jews.

7) In pro-allied circles (and we refugees all belong
to them) one often hears that Sweden could have saved so
and so many of those now lying in the massgraves somewhere
in Europe, if they had granted visas. Sweden is a small
country, and was herself for a long time in immediate
danger. Certainly there have also here been flaws, but
what of the allied countries can show up a more liberal
refugee policy? Not USA at least. How many practically
death-sentenced people did not in their desperation turn
to the USA-Consulat in Germany, and there met, firstly a
more or less friendly "what can I do for you" and then with
a more or less felt regret: I am really very sorry, but ac-
cording to american law you must wait for 5 or 6 years. And
the Jews waited, what else could they do, and now they are
waiting under the soil because Gestapo did not wait as long
as required by the Immigration law.

At least two open questions:

1) USA evidently intends to demand an answer from those
countries who usually reject or used to reject war refugees.
These countries' (Ala-drabante) refugee policy has certain-
ly been bad, but has not the policy of our friends the
Americans been worse than that of these our enemies? As
long as there is a war on it is hardly within human power
to rescue those still surviving Jews from the Germans.
Therefore one can easily suspect that the creation of the
War Refugee Board and its statements are mere empty words,
and perhaps only election tricks, which after the election
will be forgotten.

2) Hitherto the only allied step toward the solution
of the refugee problem has been the conference in the Bahamas,
which the Swedish press were right to make fun of. In this
conference it was only stated that USA and England were un-
able to do anything, for lack of space in both the empires.
(USA is as thinly populated as the thinnest populated coun-
try in Europe, Norway!) Is this a token of poverty, or
does the raceghost also exist in the minds of the Anglo-
Saxons? A great part of the European Jews were extinguished,
who is the present allied people watched the macabre play. Now
it is too late, and they play shocked with no or at least
small costs. Has the new Refugee Board in USA at least some
plans for a quick solution of the refugee problems—after the
war, and if any, which?
Activity Abroad

Vienna.

Of the once so numerous and prominent Jewish world in this city there remains at the most 7,000 people. These are either Jews that are "arisch versippt", i.e. married to so-called Arians and therefore so far free from deportation, or so-called "Mischlinge", i.e. half-Jews, who due to this their extraction are spared. But all of them live in a constant and anxious expectancy of any time having to share the fate of the other Jews.

Also in the past year we have had the possibility of helping many of the surviving, especially members of our old Vienna Community, but also many others who have been in need of help. Most of our old members have utterly been dependent on this support, and to many others who have to work hard getting only 15-20 kr. a week, the small contribution is a great help. During the past year about 7,000 kr. have been distributed in cash, and besides this we also have sent several hundred parcels of food to Vienna, especially for Christmas.

Also a limited spiritual activity has been possible. The Christians have in every way tried to keep contact with each other, and special services have been given for them in an almshouse, at which two of the city's priests have changed in preaching. Also the surviving youths have gathered for common edification as often as they have been able to. From the short messages we get, we learn that they courageously are carrying on the good struggle for the Faith.

Berlin.

During the last year the distress among the small number of people of Jewish extraction still remaining in the German capital, became especially great. This contingent consists as in Vienna mainly of such as live in mixed marriages and "Mischlinge". But besides there are also such as should have been deported, but have succeeded in keeping hidden. These have to obtain from all rationing-cards and every form of earning, wherefore they are quite dependent on charitable help. Also here we have tried to bring help as far as it has been allowed and possible.

Poland and Theresienstadt.

Our thoughts go especially to the unfortunate who have been deported to the afflicted Poland. News has come that incontroversibly states, that during 1943 hundreds of thousands of deported Jews and Christians of Jewish extraction, have been "liquidated". As we stated in the Mission's paper, our connection with the General government was broken in 1942. Then followed a disheartening silence, and those were unhappy days and weeks, when the one sum after the other, which we had sent to Kielce, Warszawa, Lublin, Opole etc., returned with the business-like message: "Addressee dead". Still
In some miraculous way the little orphanage for Jewish children, which we for some years have had the opportunity of supporting, has been preserved. Besides these there are still a few of our previous community-members from Vienna in the actual General government, probably because they work in the armament factories.

The last deportations, however, were not directed to Poland, but to a previous fortress in the protectorate of Böhmen-Mähren, Theresienstadt. Here the Danish Jews were also deported. At the present more than 50,000, mainly Germans and Austrians, and among the latter several of our old people from Vienna, are living there. With many of these we have connection, and may every month send them help in form of small packages of food and small sums of money, for which they are allowed to receipt in their own handwriting. These receipts are generally the only signs of life they can send, since there go months, and even years between the scant postcards the relatives in Sweden get from their parents or children in Theresienstadt. A returned or intransferrable sum of money is the modern Jewish obituary.

During 1943 we were allowed to send 1,558 foodpackages from Portugal to Theresienstadt, chiefly containing sardines and figs, i.e. provisions containing fat and sugar, which are of infinite value to starving people. Besides this cash sums of money were sent through a bank.

Southern Europe.

Switzerland houses, as it is generally known, a great number of refugees and is now the only country on the European continent, where persecuted Jews can find an asylum. Among these there are many Christian Jews, and even some of our previous community-members from Vienna, plus others that have been in contact with our Mission. By and by we are now getting their addresses, and seek to support and help them as best we can.

France.

In France there were before the outbreak of the war about 250,000 Jews, many of which were refugees. As the country was occupied by the enemy, they were crammed together in Southern France, where the surviving have been interned. Many have succeeded in fleeing across to Switzerland and Spain. Also to these internees we have succeeded in sending help in form of money and foodpackages.

Italy.

In the later part of the Fascist regime, attempts were made to apply the Aryan paragraph. Many Jews lost their public services, but the majority which was employed in the liberal occupations, were unafflicted. Even the Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria lived in relatively great freedom. They were generally directed to special places to live in, and the only restraint was the regular duty of report. Many of these got support from us. But disaster came after the capitulation. Connection with those in
Southern Italy has been broken, and now only small and few sums of money are allowed to be sent to the intern­ing camps in the North Italian areas occupied by the Germans. Yugoslavia.

A small amount of money is also allowed to be sent to Yugoslavia. All the Jewish population in this country, ca. 80,000 people, are now almost completely liquidated. At the present we only have connection with a single member of our community in Vienna.

Hungary and Rumania.

The only organized missionary activity on the European Continent outside Switzerland, is the Norwegian Mission in these countries, which since 1941 completely has been taken over by Sweden.

In Hungary the Jewish situation is fundamentally better than in other countries allied to Germany, mainly due to the fact that the Hungarian population, especially the Protestant section surrounding Admiral Horthy, are against the racial persecutions. Another peculiarity is that the authorities and the population differ between the Christians of Jewish extraction and the Mosaic Jews. Thus these Christians to a large extent were allowed to stay in their public offices and other positions. This caused that a great many Jews wanted to be christened in order to get the privileges of the Christians. Many Catholic priests in Hungary performed a great number of christenings without any examination, during the first relatively slight persecu­tions. The Norwegian missionary in Budapest, parson Gisle Johnson, has always been very much against this light­heated practice of christening, and has often expressed him­self sharply against it. In spite of the fact that the privileges of the Christian Jews have been reduced the last two years, there are still many Jews who want to be christened. Thus the situation now has been changed so that there are two groups of Jews wanting to be christened, partly such as seriously seek Christ, partly such as mean they are safer with a christening-certificate in the pocket. Parson Johnson writes the following on the problem..........

In Rumania the sufferings of the Jews have been so great that they are only surpassed in Poland. The fact that it has been possible and still is possible to carry on the mission work is a moving proof of God's protection and sustaining power, and the heroic courage of the mission­aries. God has in a strange way approved of their work and confession, and has changed times of disaster into times of harvest. ".................."

The distress has become still worse due to the fact that a great number of the deportees who are alive, now try to flee from the approaching armies. These desperate people look like live skeletons, many of them are absolutely naked, others are dressed in rags and walk barefoot in the middle of the winter. In this calamity the help we can render seems like a drop of water in the ocean.

* * * * *
One Hundred Thousand Crowns to the Prosecuted Jews

On Sunday's 69th annual meeting of the Swedish Israel Mission - it was stated that the Mission was practically the only Christian Mission, which still succeeds in reaching Europe's prosecuted Jews with help.

Last year no less than about 100,000 crowns in form of money and provision gifts was sent out through the Mission to the still living Jews in Germany and Austria, to French and Italian concentration camps, to the Ghetto in Theresienstadt in Bohmen to Yugoslav and other places. Also in Sweden there is an extensive refugee activity, especially among the youths that have succeeded in escaping here.

In Germany there were about 600,000 Jews before the prosecutions, now there remains about 10,000. In Austria 6,000 have survived of the 200,000 Jews that lived there before 1937. In the Theresienstadt Ghetto 60,000 people are living in the utmost distress.

It is generally known that 3½ million Jews have perished in Europe these last years. The Jew situation in Rumania is terrible. Previously there was a great Norwegian Jew Mission, this has now since 1941 been taken over by the Swedish Israel Mission - which also has taken over responsibility for the previous Norwegian Mission in Hungary and its one million Jews.

Never before has the annual meeting been confronted with such enormous problems of help, and the means which until now have been sent out are like a drop of water in the ocean. The annual meeting was opened with a high mass in the Messiah Chapel, at which the chairman of the Committee, Bishop Torsten Ysander preached. A collection for the mission brought in more than 2,000 crowns. In the following gathering missionary Mr. Abraham Scheradaski related memories from his 30 year activity among the Copenhagen Jews. At the afternoon service followed a greeting from Bishop Ysander and a speech by Mr. Johannes Ivarsson of Gothenburg, the Mission's last parson in Vienna; the speech was titled: "No human - only a Jew."

The speaker gave a shocking description of his experiences in Vienna - where the anti-semitism had risen to an ever worse inhumanity, and also touched the hidden Jew hatred which has sneaked into large circles in our own country. Against the Anti-semitic parole "No human - only a Jew" - the speaker set up the Christian message "Here we are not Greeks or Jews - we are all one in Jesus Christ". Bishop Björkquist closed the moving mission night.

The annual meeting continues to-day, Monday with deliberations and a mission speech by parson Göte Edenquist, who is speaking on the subject: "When Peace has Come" - whereupon the Missiondirector Birger Pernow will speak on "Christian Relief Work in the Prosecuted Israel".

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Lund, Thursday, T.T. The Swedish refugee policy was dealt with by Minister Gustav Mållér at Thursday's big student night in the Academical Association, where elements from our neighbour countries were remarkable.

The Minister stated that our great refugee problems rose at the time of the German occupation of Denmark and Norway, when a great stream of refugees sought their way across to Sweden. Thus we had in May last year, about 20,000 refugees within our borders, of which 16,000 were Norwegians, who accordingly have represented our largest refugee problem. Since then the number has been more than doubled, and just now it is estimated that we in Sweden have 47,000. Of these 22,000 are Norwegians, 14,000 Danes, 5,000 Germans, Austrians and Czechs, 2,000 Estonians-Swedes, 1,500 Estonians, 1,000 Poles, plus Russians, Hungarians and French to 1,500.

Just now we have the regulations that Danish, Finish and Norwegian citizens, as well as Estonian Swedes, do not have to apply for work permits. The refugees are generally allowed to stay all over the country, except in the three largest cities Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. There are 26 free camps under the supervision of Kgl. Socialstyrelsen, 45 under Danish and 41 under Norwegian supervision, plus five internment camps directly subordinate to the Socialstyrelsen.

* * * * *
THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IS GROWING

In a wide perspective the foreigner problem in Sweden really has comparatively modest proportions. A comparison with Switzerland shows for instance enormous differences; there one has more than 300,000 refugees and a native population of about 4 million. The Swedish population is considerably larger and the refugee contingent considerably smaller. In his lecture in the Academical Association at Lund some days ago, the minister Moller mentioned the last figure of 47,000.

If one, however, does not consider the material for comparison from abroad, and only observes our foreigner problem isolated, that is only in relation to our earlier Swedish conditions, the perspective is quite another. Then none can deny that great and complicated changes have occurred in the last years. The stream of refugees has constantly risen. Mr. Moller pointed out that only a year ago we had in the whole country only 20,000 refugees; in other words more than doubling has taken place in quite a short period of time.

Since long the Norwegians are the most numerous. They have come across the border in ever increasing groups from the beginning of 1941. And yet two years ago their group consisted only of about 6,000 persons. At the close of 1942 there were some more than 9,000 people only a year ago 15,000, and now, according to Mr. Moller's statements, 22,000. Also the Danish group has become considerable, here the events from the 29th of August last year and onward, have driven up the figures to the present 14,000. Obviously one must count on a strong continuance all along the line. This has been stressed by 1943's foreigner experts, who also assert that the immigration pressure on our borders can continue to be strong also after the war. A better public organization of the administration for foreigner cases, a special foreigner inspectorate has been demanded by these experts in last February. The figures presented by Mr. Moller in Lund some days ago, seem to give a further importance to this desire.

It is Sweden's duty to take care of refugees, and she does it gladly. We must, however, consider right from the beginning, that the refugee problem can become a proper national problem before the end of the war, or in connection with the suspension of hostilities. If for instance Norway and Denmark should become battlefields, thousands of people most probably would try to gain security on Swedish soil. And as to the enormous refugee problems that would arise for Sweden in case of a Finnish defeat and collapse in the battle with the Russians, no comments are necessary. In this connection, as in other one had better not think that we have our worst difficulties behind us.

* * * * *
Förenst Staternas flyktingspolitik

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amerikanska flyktingarna börjat att legitera sina lämnningar och bekosta sina resor till USA. De har underlättat att legitera sina lämnningar, men det finns fortfarande ingen garantier att de inte kommer att bli avvisade av USA:s immigrationsmyndigheter. Detta är en extremt allvarlig situation för de som vill flyta till USA, och det är viktigt att de inte skall överstoppas av den allvarliga situationen.

4) USA:s immigrationssystem är ett av de mest rigorösa i världen, och de har underlagt sig att legitera sina lämnningar och bekosta sina resor till USA. Det är en extremt allvarlig situation för de som vill flyta till USA, och det är viktigt att de inte skall överstoppas av den allvarliga situationen.

5) Jag tror mig alldeles inom denna artikel skriver jag att legitera sina lämnningar och bekosta sina resor till USA är ett extremt allvarligt saker, och det är viktigt att de inte skall överstoppas av den allvarliga situationen.

6) USA:s immigrationssystem är ett av de mest rigorösa i världen, och de har underlagt sig att legitera sina lämnningar och bekosta sina resor till USA. Det är en extremt allvarlig situation för de som vill flyta till USA, och det är viktigt att de inte skall överstoppas av den allvarliga situationen.
Flyktingsproblemet växer

Egentligen har uttillningsfrågan i Sverige relativt högansatta proportioner, om man infattar den i större manövrering. En jämförelse med Schweiz vann t.ex. oerhörde skillnader: där borta har man ju mer än 300.000 flyktingar och en inhemsk befolkning, som endast bestod av cirka fyra miljoner människor. Det svenska folket är betydligt större och antalet uttillningar beträffande mindre. Statensministern Möller nämnade under sitt företräde på Akademiska föreningen i Lund för några dagar sedan den senaste siffran: 47.000.

Bortser man emellertid från jämförelsematerial utfört och betraktar vårt uttillningsproblem isolerat, endast jämfört med tidigare svenska förhållanden — då blir perspektivet givetvis ett helt annat. Då har ingen i unna förneka att stora och komplexa förändringar inträffat under de senaste åren. Strömman av flyktingar har sedanligt ökat. Hr Möller påvisade i sitt tal i Lund, att vi för ett år sedan endast hade 20.000 flyktingar i hela landet; det är med andra ord mer än en fördubbling, som på grund av en ganska kort tidspunkt. Sådana ganska betydande är det normämnen, som bro tabellen. De ha kommit över gränsen i allt större skala sedan början av 1941. Årsvärdig av för två år sedan bestod deras grupp dock endast av cirka 6.000 personer. Mot slutet av 1942 rörde det sig om drygt 8.000 människor, för ett år sedan om 10.000 och nu — enligt hr Möllers redogörelse — om 22.000. Men även den danska gruppen har blivit betydande — här är det ju framför allt händelserna i Danmark från och med den 29 augusti förra året, som drivit siffrorna upp till nuvarande höjd: 14.000. Uppenbarligen måste man också räka med en kraftig fortsatt ökning över hela landet. Detta har tidigare understrykts bl.a. av 1943 års uttillningsakkumulering, som också höjde det att invandringstrycket med våra gränser kan komma att vara starkt även efter krigets slut. En bättre statlig organisation för uttillningsärendenas behandling, en allsidig uttillningsinspektion, efterlystes som bekant av dessa sakkunniga i februari. De utför, hr Möller drag fram i Lund för några dagar sedan, tycker ge ytterligare eftertryck åt detta önskemål.

Sverige har skyldighet att ta hand om flyktingarna — och gör det med glädje. Vi noterar emellertid från början ha klart för oss att flygningsträgår kan bli ett verkligt nationalproblem innan kriget är slut eller i sammanhanget med flyktingproblem som omsattes av L. ex. Norge och Danmark blir slagfält, skulle människor i tillsammans troligen förörade sig i säkerhet på svensk botton. Och vilket erövrat flyktingproblem, som ett visst nederlag eller sammanhäng i striden mot tyskarna skulle kunna innebära for Sverige, behöver inte närmare beskrivas. Man skulle i detta sammanhang likaså i andra okta sig för att tro att vi ha de värsta svårigheterna bakom oss.
100 000 kronor till förföljda judar.

Vid Svenska Israelmissionens 69:a årsdag på söndagen upphöjdes att denna summa är den praktiskt taget enda kristna minnet, som kan nå Europas förföljda judar med hjälp.

En mindre ka som omkring 10 000 kr. i form av penning- och bransmedelstes hundre under hjälp mestadels genom missionser till Tyskland och Österrike, kvarlevande judar, till Frankrike och Italiens Interessazoner, till Bibliotek i Theresienstadt i Båkonia, till Judenstaten f. m. Åren i Överiga utgörs en omfattande förfrågning av speckli, endast intakt urhanc, som lyckats ridda sig över hot.

I Tyskland fanns för förföljelsen omkring 500 000 judar, av vilka omtrent en omkring 20 000 återstått, och i efterkommande kvarvarande omkring 300 000 av de 280 000 judar som finns där förra 1937. I Theresienstadts ghetto ligger omkring 90 000 människor i stort sett 3½ miljoner judar, av vilka omtrent 150 000 människor, där finns ett omkring 100 000 judar, som hittills omkostat 10 miljoner i Europa under de senaste åren. Fruktsamhvet är hög för de spanjoriska judarna, där finns en omkring en miljon judar, där sedan 1941 övergåt till Svenska Israelmissionen, vilken även för ekonomiskt ansvar, för den förra missionen i Italien med dessa miljoner judar.

Allt till hören kan ett befintligt ställhöja sin sig vända behovet, och de meddel, som hittills konstateras skadea sig istil till Europa omfattande judar, ett bild flit och ekonomiskt ansvar, för de omdöpte judarna, där finns en större uppgift av uppvaktningsarbete.

Förhandlingen avbrottades efter tillståndet, som existerade, och allt hopp om framtiden och om missionsverksamheten med missionspfleger och missionsskola.

S.B. Apr. 17, 1944
Flyktingsskaran uppe i 47.000.

LUND, torsdag.

TT. Den svenska flyktingpolitikens klyvade av statsrådet Gustaf Möller vid en talrika besökt studentafton på torsdagen på Akademiska föreningen, där intresse ur flyktinger från våra grannländer var märkligt.

Statsrådet Möller framhöll att vistats flyktingproblem upptäcktes vid tidens för den tyska okupationen av Danmark och Sverige, då en mycket kraftig ström av flyktingar rutter sig till Sverige. I regel i enlighet med direkten 20.000 flyktingar kom efter ålter, därav 16.000 norrmän, vilka alltjämt stora flyktingproblem. Genom har antaget mer än förväntat, och just nu beräknar verket flyktingar i Sverige till 47.000. Av dessa är 22.000 norrmän och 14.000 danskar. Tyck arkitekturerna och tjänsterna uppdrag till 3.000. Estlandsvenskarna till 2.000, estern till 1.500, polackerna till 1.000 samt syrer, ungarn och fransman till 1.500.

Just nu gäller den beslutssaken att danska, thai-ländska, finska och norska medborgare liksom estlandsvenskarna inte behöver sina arbetstillstånd. I regel får flyktingarna uppstå av sociala och politiska skäl, men i dessa år är det att de tre stora städerna, Stockholm, Göteborg och Malmö. I socialstyrelsens regi finns 26 och 25 från flyktingarna, vidare 45 i dansk och 41 i norska regi. Vartill kommer de internationella regler och städer som sortera dessa direkter under socialstyrelsens.
Mr. John W. Pehle,
Director, War Refugee Board,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

I attach herewith copies of certain press items covering my appointment as representative in Sweden of the War Refugee Board. Virtually all the papers in Stockholm and the larger cities in Sweden carried more or less similar items but I have been unable to secure copies of all of them.

The items were based on a Reuters T.T. from Washington stating that I had been appointed Swedish representative of the "War Production Board and would arrive in Sweden soon". Consequently, the press telephoned the Legation for further details and were promptly referred to me. Had I been aware that there would be a Washington release on this appointment, and had I known that local interest would be so great, it could have been possible to take full advantage of the situation by a carefully prepared statement which would give fuller force to the program and considerably more emphasis to the President's statement. However, press queries were by telephone, quite informal, and I simply tried to make the best of a totally unprepared situation. Nevertheless, it seemed best that I emphasize briefly the following points:

(1) That it seemed a real opportunity for me to work with the Swedes on this problem, in view of their practical experience in this field and their great record.

(2) That I was to work closely with Swedish religious and charitable organizations and to keep the War Refugee Board constantly informed as to what the Americans could do to push the rescue program.
thought it best to make no reference to the Swedish Government since I am sure they will cooperate but are somewhat nervous about talking about it officially.

As being more or less typical of these press items, I attach a translation of the interview appearing in the Svenska Dagbladet. There were the usual variety of misquotes of my remarks, not serious, and in general related to what the newspaper in question construed my remarks in English to mean in Swedish.

It is clear that local interest in this program is very substantial and it will be up to me to make the most of some rather unusual contacts already opened up. There have been many callers who were simply seeking some possible personal prestige but certain others who I am sure will come back very soon with a concrete program. In my discussions I have emphasized constantly "What are your facilities?" and "Can you bring me a concrete program?" This has helped a great deal in weeding out the publicity seekers and idlers.

The press items brought a deluge of callers into the office and telephone calls far into the night. It is clear that a large proportion of the 50,000 refugees in Sweden has construed my appointment as a mission to solve all their personal problems. There has been a great flood of them to ask advice and help in emigrating to America, to rescue their relatives in occupied Europe, to deliver messages to them, to help them obtain jobs in Sweden or Funds from the United States, etc. etc. In one case a Dane came in to ask me to obtain Penicillin from London, since his daughter would die within 48 hours without it. Also has come a stream of job seekers, almost all without qualifications except the wish to work.

Due to the fact that many of them speak in the most terrible jargon of foreign languages imaginable which incidentally I find is contagious, it has been necessary to talk with all of them to make certain that somebody with perhaps an Important contribution is not overlooked. Obviously, it has been a tremendous burden and has disorganized my work, but I consider it temporarily essential until a specific program shapes up. Also, it soon should be possible to determine just what type of assistance is necessary to lift that part of the load that is liftable.

Important conferences are scheduled for most of this week and next, from which it should be possible to forward concrete
concrete plans to you.

Sincerely yours,

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

Enclosures as stated
"Flyktingattaché" från USA bär.

Mr. Iver C. Olsen.

— Jag är mycket glad att jag fått mina arbete förlagat just till Stockholm, ty Sverige har i Amerika ett anseende som omfattande flyktinghjälpen, framhåller för Sveriges dagblad i Stockholm den troliga finansattachén vid amerikanska beskickningen i Stockholm, mr Iver C. Olsen. Han har utsatts till det amerikanska "War Refugee Board"-representant i Sverige med speciell uppgift att arbeta med "flyktingar och hjälp åt judar och andra förföljda minoriteter i Europa".

Innan jag strax före jul kom till Sverige som finansattaché vid vår stockholmslegation, berättar mr Olsen, hade jag i Washington under min tjänstgöring i finansdepartementet en hel del att göra särskilt med ekonomiska frågor, som ha samband med flyktinghjälpen. Denna verksamhet settes redan 1945 i gång i Amerika, och tack vare det mest generösa underhålls dels från statens och dels från privata organisationer och sociala och religiösa institutioner, har en omfattande hjälp kommit verzeras. I februari i år bildades det amerikanska "War Refugee Board" i Washington för att samordna hela verksamheten och det är därför min utnämning som svensk representant nu kommun. Det amerikanska flyktingarådet har kunna så långt förestå mig en representant i Ankara men det är meningen att "flyktingattachéerna" snart skola täckas också i London och Madrid.

Det arbete, som dessan tjänstgörer nu ska utföra, har nära ut formen och programmässigt fästes, påminner mr Olsen i det tal i flyktingfrågan, som president Roosevelt höll den 29 mars. I enlighet härmed blir det min främsta uppgift att söka kontakt med de institutioner av olika slag, som här i Sverige och i Europa över huvud taget arbetar med flyktinghjälpen, att råda kartlägga behovet i fråga om de olika flyktingasetsverkningarna och därefter förelägg Washington kundige sätt att hända till besluten av presidenten. Vi ska till och med fått intaget i detta verksamhet av Sverige—USA på detta område, det visar, som Olsen, och eftersom Sverige har ha en omfattande erfarenhet av flyktingarådet och gjort ansökning gärna sågot namnet land för den s.k. "flü-"att grav av honom och hennes, är Stockholms huvudflyktingen också var förfall från en amerikansk hijkämpa i Europa han organiserade.
"Refugee-Attache" here from U.S.A.

"I'm very glad that my new work is located in Stockholm, for in America Sweden enjoys an ever increasing recognition as a leader in all matters concerning refugee aid", states Mr. Iver C. Olsen, the Norwegian-born Financial Attache at the American Legation in Stockholm. He has just been appointed representative to Sweden for the American War Refugee Board, with the special task of "rescuing and helping Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe".

"Prior to my arrival in Sweden just before Christmas as Financial Attache, I had in Washington during my service in the Treasury Department, a considerable experience with the financial problems involved with refugee and relief matters. This relief activity was initiated in America even earlier than 1940 and from private, social and religious institutions, an extensive assistance has been made possible. In February of this year, the War Refugee Board was formed to coordinate all such activities and it is on behalf of this organization that I have now been appointed representative in Sweden."

The War Refugee Board has already a representative in Ankara, but now it is also intended to send Refugee Attaches to Lisbon and Madrid as soon as possible.
The work these officials are about to start has been clearly planned and set by program in the recent speech on the refugee problem given by President Roosevelt on March 29, Mr. Olsen reminds us.

"Accordingly, it will be my foremost task to seek contact with the various institutions in Sweden and in Europe in general that are working with refugee problems in order to formulate the requirements in question for the various groups of refugees and to send Washington proposals of the best means of solving the problems."

We want a close cooperation between Sweden and the U.S.A. in this field, concludes Mr. Olsen, since the Swedes have an extraordinary experience in refugee work and have done probably more than any other country for those driven from house and home. Stockholm seems to be one of the best possible places from which an American aid program could be organized in Europe.
USA-DIPLOMAT
organiserar jude-
hjälp i Stockholm

WASHINGTON, onsd. (TT fr. Reu.
ter). Krigsproduktionsdekret medde-
lar att L C. Olsen utnämnts till spe-
ciell representant i Stockholm. Ol-
sen skulle framför allt synda med
"räddning och hjälp åt judar och
andra forföljda minoriteter i Eu-
ropa".

Mr L C. Olsen, som nämns i tele-
grammet ovan är identisk med ameri-
kanets finansministern i Stockholm, som
visste här sedan juleniden, då han kom
med flyg direkt från USA. Vid ett sam-
tal med Allahoua berättar han att han
ärns tillskriva den anryckta uppgiften.

- Jag har tidigare sysslat med be-
nikande frågor hemma i Amerika, a ö-
ger han. Monikorn är att säga utnäms-
era till den hjälp man är möjlig i en-
arbete med svenska institutioner, en-
na är verkställande liknande syfte. Min ar-
betallitet är europeiska hela Europa. Jag
har redan sökt kontakt med några av
denna svenska hjälporganisationer och
hoppas på att göra resulter. Huvudsak-
ligt framstalt syftar huvudsakligt på inte
och tillhandahålla givning till alla kato-
ger, ledamöterna. Erhöjer en den
hela "operationssystemet" för detta slag
rättsamhetsfrågor.

Mr Olsen är född i Nordamerika, men
hans familj eller mestadels till
USA. Han har sedan årligen övertygat att
Födelseland. Han befolkats att relativt
snart kunna föras till USA.
USA utnämner flyktingsattache.

**For "räddning av judar och andra förföljda minoriteter"**

WASHINGTON, onsdag. (TT fr. Reuter.)

Krigsproduktionsrådet meddelar att L. C. Olsen utnämnts till special representerant i Stockholm. Olsen skall framför allt syssla med "räddning och hjälp av judar och andra förföljda minoriteter i Europa".

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Den i telegrammet omnämda mr Olsen är handelsattache vid amerikanskalegationen och har varit i Sverige sedan andra jul. Han uttrycker både trötthet och fasthoppelse att han under sitt arbete vid finska-amerikanska möten i Washington hoppas kunna hjälpa vid flugningar och dessa problem, vilka mycket ofta är av ekonomisk art.

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Men nu är Olsen i Sverige för att träda i förbindelse med de olika svenska hjälpsorganiseringarna och att meddelas Washington vad vi i vår tur kan göra för att hjälpa avläggades i denna arbete för flyktingar söker mr Olsen.

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Det är ett underligt att ännu en sådan förhandling som det är mycket mer en än jag och för Amerika är det en stor glädje att få samarbeta med ett land som gört mer för flyktingar än något annat i Europa.

Självklart var detta praktiska arbetet mycket betydligt och har alltså mycket att berätta om. President Roosevelt utredde i flyktingfrågor i första hand roan deras väg han föreslog att hans medarbete skulle vara och dct är med stor glädje jag grepper mig av, med这两种 uppgift att hjälpa judar och andra förföljda i den man jag kan.

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Här amerikanska regeringen tillställt några lättande poster på andra platser.

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Ja, jag vet att det räcker dock en special representerant i Anatra och att det är möjligt att skicka någon till Spanien, och någon till Portugal. Till Schwedt skulle vi göra vilja under en representerant också, men det är svårt att få den åttaga och där finns för närvarande ingen som är lämplig. Men det viktigaste landet i detta avseende är utan tvivel Sverige.
"Flyktingsattaché" från USA bär.

Mr. Iver Olsen.

Jag är mycket glad att jag fått mina nya arbetsfördrag just till Stockholm, nu Sverige har i Amerika ett ständigansvar som ministerin-land i allt vad som gäller flyktings- hjälp, främst för Svenska Dagbladets nödbreda flyktningstjänst vid amerikanska ambassaden i Stockholm, av Iver C. Olsen. Han har utsatts till den amerikanske "War Refugee Board" representerarg i Sverige med speciell uppgift att syssla med "söktning av och hjälp åt judar och andra förföljda minoriteter i Europa".

I tråd med en strävan som kommit till Sverige, som en flyktingsattaché vid vår stockholmsambassad, noterar jag, att jag i Washington under min tjänstgöring i den amerikanska regeringen har haft den stortvågade uppgift att göra stabilt med ekonomiska frågor, som ha samband med flyktinger- hjälpen. Denna verksamhet medföll sedan 1940 i början i Amerika, och jag utövar det mest generösa insatsen dels från statens sida, dels från privata män och organisationer och religiösa in- stitutioner, har en omfattande hjälpkom- som avseende i Europa. I februari i år hölls vid "War Refugee Board" i Washing- ton för att samordna den verksamheten och det är därför min utmaning som övergrepresentant om kommitté. Det amerikanska flyktingsrådet har även vid högre förslag och en represen- tant i Antwerpen men det är möjligt att "Flyktingsattachéer" ansettes vidare i detta plan på parallellar i London och Madrid.

Det arbete, som dessa tjänstemän nu ska utföra, bör nog utformas av viktiga och kritiska frågor, som senare är belägna i ett arbete med flyktingfrågorna, som president Roosevelt håller den 31 maj. I samband med detta bör det vara främst uppenbar att sikta kontakt med de institutioner av olika slags, som bär i Sverige och i Europa över huvud taget marknadsarbetet med flyktingerfrågor, då det utöver kartläggas behöver vi förstå de olika flyktingsorganiseringarna och däremot förstå Washingtons förvaltande akti- vet att avgörning av problemen. Vi måste alltid att inleda samarbetet, det bör vara ett särskilt emblem, att det är USA:s uppgift att hjälpa människor, som också kan vara människor som stöds av andra som ingår därutiför. Han och dess område, och eftersom svenskarna har en rätt att ansöka om en ansvarig regering av flyktingsarbetet och att det kan vara en mångsidig partner som också kan vara en ansvarig regering. Denna är inte Sveriges manliga punkt för detta amerikanska flyktingsarbete i Europa kan organisera.
Mr I. C. Olsen.

WASHINGTON, onsdag.


Mr I. C. Olsen är identisk med amerikanske finansattachéen i Stockholm, som visades här sedan julen, då han kors med flyg direkt från U. S. A.

Jag har tidigare syftat med bestraffade frågor hamn i Amerika, säger han. Meningen är att alla organisera all den hjälp som är möjlig i samarbete med svenska institutioner som är verksamma i liknande syfte.

Mr. Olsen är född i Norge, men hennes föräldrar emigrerade tidigt till U. S. A. Han har sedan aldrig åter sett Norge. Han hoppas att relativt snart kunna lär sig svenska.
Flyktingattaché från Amerika verkar i Sverige


Mr Olsen kom till Stockholm direkt med flyg från Amerika före jul och har här fungerat som finansattaché vid amerikanska legationen. Dessutom tjänstgjorde han vid amerikanska finansdepartementet i Washington, där han kom i nära kontakt med flyktingsspe- cimen. Hans verkstansarbete som flyktingattaché omfattar sedan lenta av Europa, och han har dräktt i förbindelse med svenska hjälporganisationer och frivilliga Washington vad som kan göra för att bistå svenska i deras arbetar för flyktingarnas

Mr Olsen är född i Nederländerna, men hans föräldrar emigrerade tidigt till USA och han har sedan aldrig återvunnit sitt födelseland. Det bryr sig han emellertid stort kunna göra, och han har tillhöpare och Olsen som inte kunna lycka ihop svenska.
USA utnämner flyktingsattaché i Stockholm

WASHINGTON den 11 april.

ETT nyhetsbyrå i Washington berättade här, att USA ansökt att utnämna C. Olsen till flyktingsattaché vid amerikanskalegationen i Stockholm. Olsen skulle framför allt arbeta med "rättvisa, hjälp och andra förhållande färder i Europa".

Mannen, som tidigare arbetat vid amerikanska legationen i USA, är sedan i Nordnorge. Han har tidigare arbetat med andra frågor i USA och menar, att han är en bra knapp för att arbeta med dessa frågor i Stockholm, och att den här organisationen är ett bra alternativ.

C. Olsen.
Stockholm sätte
för flyktinghjälp

WASHINGTON onsdag
(FT fr.Reuters),
Krigsproduktionstjänsten meddelar
att L. C. Olsen utnämndes till speciell
representant i Stockholm. Olsen
skall framför allt syssla med "läsning och hjälp av judar och andra
martialis minoriteter i Europa".

Till utrikendepartementet har även
lätts inget någon underrättelse om
den speciella amerikanska delegaten
eller hans verksamhet i Stockholm.
TRANSLATION

NYA DAGLIGT ALLIHANDA
Stockholm, Sweden,
February 15, 1944.

WIDELY SPREAD CLOTHING TRADE WITH REFUGE GOLD

Copenhagen man leader of central in Stockholm.
80,000 kronor in the lump - while others are
starving.

According to official statements, there are now almost
50,000 refugees in Sweden. During 1943 alone 20,000
refugees arrived in Sweden and the events in Denmark are,
of course, chiefly responsible for this high figure.

It can be estimated that out of these 50,000 refugees
12,000 are living in Stockholm. Spread over the whole country,
there are, according to the calculations, 21,000
Norwegians, 13,000 Danes, some 6,000 without a passport,
3,500 Finlanders (the children not counted) and nearly
2,000 Poles. To this must be added small groups among
which the ex-German citizens hold a prominent position.
The Jews form, of course, a large percentage of the refu-
gees.

Common to them all is the uncertainty as to the future.
The possibilities of the refugees of making a living of
their own in this country, which has given them a temporary
asylum, has, of course, turned out quite differently. On
the whole, it can, however, be said that they have found
their way in a satisfying manner, and the government does
all it can to help them with money and work.

5,000 are working in the woods.

It can be estimated that 5,000 refugees are now work-
ing in the woods, most of them Norwegians, who have the
best qualifications to find their way in our woods, we
are told by The Refugees Committee and The Ministry for
Social Welfare.

Furthermore, a great number has been absorbed by
industry which has suffered from shortage of man-power
but found clever and interested assistance from the refu-
gees of our neighbouring countries. As early as last
autumn many refugees got such jobs, and since then a grow-
ing number has been put on similar jobs. The training to
metal workers has been done to a large extent, and in most
cases the result has been satisfying. Quite a large
number of Danes has become shop assistants.

Difficult.
Difficult for the artists.

In some cases it is, of course, impossible to fit the refugees into new labor structure, but this is more due to the personal considerations than lack of good intentions. For example, it has been most difficult for the practisers of free professions and many of them live on the verge of starvation, in spite of the fact that people have begun to realize their difficulties and try to help them by giving direct support to their production, for instance that of the artists.

Musicians are also in an awkward position. You cannot send a violinist to the woods, where his hands would be spoiled.

Among other measures taken to help the refugees it may be mentioned that a shop has been opened at Sövrumgatan in Stockholm, to which handy refugees can deliver their products for sale. Needle work and carved work represent the biggest part, but repairs of fountain pens and China are also being done there. This business has proved to be a brilliant idea, and no complaints can be made against the determination of the refugees to make their own living; so far as this is possible.

On the verge of starvation.

The pleasant fact that many refugees, to some extent, have succeeded in settling down and obtaining a tolerable income does not, however, conceal the fact that the situation is almost intolerable to those who are forced to live on the support given by national institutions alone. They get about 110 kr. monthly, just as much as the Swedish parochial relief and it needs almost a wizard to be able to live on this amount.

If they do not get any more money, in form of contributions from private friends or their own refugee committees, for instance, their condition can be called one of real misery. They are living on the verge of starvation and many tragedies occur in secrecy. The pawn shops offer a way out but, in general, the refugees do not possess many things to bring there. And, furthermore, the solution is only a temporary one.

Increased police work.

There is thus nothing astonishing in the fact that the police in Stockholm has got a lot of additional work because
because of the invasion of the refugees. Incidents and scandals on a small scale occur now and then, but, on the whole, the policy is of the opinion that the refugees are decent people. Among so many people there must always, apart from the general conditions, be those who are not 100 percent blameless, the police points out.

Illegal gold trade.

In striking contrast to the above mentioned facts stands, however, the trade with refugee jewelry and refugee gold, which, according to reports in well informed circles, is flourishing at the expense of those who managed to escape with their fortune. It is well known that, among others, a lot of money arrived here in a far from destitute condition. They represent, relatively, a small percent and have later on been very helpful to their compatriots, but they have got into the clutches of ruthless individuals who have not hesitated to profit by the situation.

We are thus told that a Copenhagen man here in Sweden has associated himself with an unscrupulous jeweller and set up a "firm" for the purchase of refugee gold at cut prices. These transactions are now conducted all over the country and those who practise them are said to make a good profit. The central is to be found in Stockholm. The jeweller's shops in Sweden have, however, with a few exceptions, disassociated themselves from this kind of trade. It may happen, it is true, that refugees turn to them and offer them to buy jewelry, but then the refugees know that they will be treated in an irreplaceable way.

Transactions amounting to 90,000 kr.

One of the biggest transactions of this kind that has probably been carried out in Sweden, was concluded by a large firm in Stockholm. This firm bought a parcel of ornaments and jewelry from a refugee at a price of between 70,000 and 80,000 kr. These ornaments had, however, not been smuggled into this country but had been deposited in a bank here before the crisis had become acute in order to put the property of the person in question in safety. No complaints can be made against this transaction, but it illustrates another side of the refugee problem than that of starvation and misery.