January 3, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILD AIR

Following Colonel Gitting’s conversation with Mr. Fohle on January 2, Lieutenant Stockhausen, U.S.N., called on me to discuss a proposed cable to the Commanding Generals of the European, Mediterranean and Middle East Theatres of Operations. The following were the main points in the draft presented by Mr. Stockhausen:

1. All refugees from Axis territory to be screened at the first possible opportunity for counter-intelligence and to prevent enemy agents from passing through.

2. The most convenient military agency is to be used to conduct the interrogation of the refugees along their route of travel or at their destination.

3. Reference is made to the Executive Order establishing the War Refugee Board and charging it with the responsibility of developing plans for rescue of victims of enemy oppression and to find temporary havens for such persons.

4. Theater Commanders are advised that the local representative of the War Refugee Board will be requested to inform the Theater Commanders whenever refugees are released from Axis territory within their respective commands.

5. Reference is made to the fact that 1300 refugees are now in Switzerland awaiting further transportation.

After a general discussion with Mr. Stockhausen of our principal remaining operations and a statement of the facts as far as we know them concerning possible movement of refugees from Switzerland, Mr. Stockhausen advised me that he felt he should discuss the matter in more detail with Colonel Gitting and that he would inform us of any action that might be taken with respect to the proposed cable. It is contemplated that the War Refugee Board will issue an appropriate instruction to its representatives if the above-mentioned cable is dispatched to the Theater Commanders.

F. Hodel
My dear Mr. McCloy:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of March 3, 1944, advising that a message concerning the establishment and responsibilities of the War Refugee Board has been dispatched to the appropriate Theater Commanders and that the Navy Department has taken action to inform the U. S. Navy Commander concerned.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pahle

J. W. Pahle
Acting Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,

Assistant Secretary of War.
WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

3 March 1944

To the Secretary of the Navy,

I have the honor to report that, after discussion with the War Department, the Secretary of War has decided that the War Department has no official connection with any of the War Department organizations which have been under your supervision, and referred to the Joint Boards of Navy for their consideration.

As a result of your study of the matter, in shaping and thinking through your proposals to you, I have learned of the importance of your work and the necessity for the cooperation of the Navy Department in the joint investigations ordered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Asst. Secretary of War
In a letter dated January 29, 1944, the Secretary of the Treasury suggested that the appropriate national committees be informed of the establishment and responsibilities of the War Refuge Board. The Secretary further indicated a proposed program to be submitted to the Joint Board of Chiefs of Staff for their consideration.

As a result of their study of this matter, a program similar to that proposed by the Secretary has been developed and submitted to the appropriate War, Navy, and Army Committees. I have been informed that the War Department has taken the necessary action to inform the War, Navy, and Army Committees concerned.