

Programs with Respect to Relief  
and Rescue of Refugees. Other  
Government Agencies

War Department, Vol. 1

000948

CROSS REFERENCE ON . COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES:  
WAR DEPARTMENT

FOR:

- Amendment to this License . . . . .
- Extension of this License . . . . .
- Renewal of this License . . . . .
- Correspondence concerning this application .
- Other (Specify)

ALL CHAF REPORTS

SEE: SENT TO MR. MCCORMACK 7/6/45

000949

SLP

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to submit to you herewith my final summary report of the activities of the War Refugee Board.

The accomplishments of the Board, especially during the months of my service, were due in large measure to the assistance received from the War Department. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you personally for your help and interest in this great humanitarian undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

*FX*

FH:hd 9/5/46

000950

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES CHIEF OF COUNSEL  
FOR PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

ROBERT H. JACKSON  
CHIEF OF COUNSEL

21 August 1945

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:

APO #13  
U.S. Army

Miss Florence Hodel  
Assistant Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

As successor to Colonel Bernays, your letter of August 1st has been turned over to me. Of the eleven War Refugee Board files, part are still in our Washington office, and part are in the files here in London. At the present time it is impossible to determine what part of those files will be used as evidence in the coming trial. Because of the lack of reproduction facilities here, photostatic copies have not been made. In accordance with the information in your letter, the files will be returned to the National Archives as soon as we are finished with them.

Sincerely yours,

*Leonard Wheeler Jr.*

Leonard Wheeler Jr.  
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps

000951

AUG 17 1945

Dear Colonel Gerhardt:

We have just received the enclosed final report from Roswell McClelland, the Board's representative in Switzerland. I thought you would like to have a copy.

Sincerely yours,

Florence Hodel  
Assistant Executive Director

Col. Harrison A. Gerhardt,  
Executive to Ass't. Secretary of War,  
Room 4E886, Pentagon Building,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

FH:hd 8/17/45

*McClelland Report - dated  
8/2/45*

000952

AUG 1945

Dear Colonel Bernays:

In connection with the eleven official War Refugee Board files which the Board turned over to your office in June and which you agreed to return to the Board upon completion of their use, I wish to advise you that the Board plans to be completely liquidated about September first at which time its records will be transferred to the National Archives.

Colonel Taylor has explained to me that you may need our files for some months to come and that it therefore may not be possible to return them to us at the time our records will be transferred to the National Archives. In the circumstances, I think that it would be appropriate to have these files photostated and sent as soon as possible to the Board in Washington in order that our records will be complete.

We shall, of course, advise the National Archives that the War Department has the eleven original files.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Florence Hodel

Florence Hodel  
Assistant Executive Director

Colonel M. C. Bernays,  
% U. S. Chief of Counsel,  
APO 413,  
% Postmaster,  
New York, N. Y.

*M. Charlesworth*  
*Silverman* *Woj. Saunders*  
FR:nd 8/1/45

000953



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



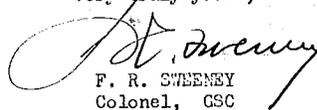
1 August 1945

General William C'Dwyer  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear General:

The enclosed copy of my letter of 1 August 1945 to Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz of the Vaad Hahatzala is furnished for your information and files.

Very truly yours,

  
F. R. SWEENEY  
Colonel, GSC  
Military Permit Secretary

000954



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



1 August 1945

Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz  
Vaad Hahatsala  
132 Nassau Street  
New York 7, New York

My dear Rabbi:

The matter of having Rabbi Wohlgelechner proceed to Germany to control and supervise the distribution of kosher food products and religious articles, as requested in your letter of 25 July, has been discussed with General Hilldring's office. I am advised that arrangements for the shipment you described did not include provisions for a representative of your organization to supervise their distribution, and the application for him to travel for this purpose is not favorably considered.

Arrangements have just been concluded, however, under which the military authorities will permit the principal American Jewish organizations to appoint at their own expense, and under UNRRA auspices, a limited number of special representatives who are satisfactory to the United States Group, Control Council, Germany, to assist with problems of Jewish stateless and nonrepatriable persons in the U. S. zone of Germany.

In order to simplify administrative arrangements, UNRRA has agreed to coordinate and supervise on behalf of the military authorities the appointment and activities of such representatives as it already does with respect to voluntary welfare agencies working in Germany. It is suggested that for the purpose of making necessary arrangements, the Vaad Hahatsala communicate immediately with Mr. William Pierce, Displaced Persons Division, UNRRA, with whom the War Department has discussed the matter.

Very truly yours,

F. R. SWEENEY  
Colonel, GSC  
Military Permit Secretary

000955



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

24 July 1945

General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear General:

The mission of Rabbi Solomon Pinchas Wohlgelemer of the Vaad Hatzala, which you and I discussed and of which you wrote me on 14 July, was outlined to theater headquarters and its views requested on the proposed travel. A paraphrase of the reply from the Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater, states that:

"Since there are already sufficient rabbis to render the services proposed by Rabbi Solomon Wohlgelemer, authority is not granted for his travel to Germany. It is pointed out furthermore that such travel would create difficulties in relation to other Jewish organizations which desire to send rabbis to Germany from the United States and elsewhere."

I regret to advise you that the application of Rabbi Wohlgelemer to travel to Germany is therefore not favorably considered. There is, however, no longer any need for military clearance for travel to Switzerland, France, Holland or Belgium, for which he also applied, and that portion of his journey will require only the issue of the necessary passport and validation by the Department of State.

Since the rabbi had also discussed his proposed travel with Senator Magnuson, I am, at the request of his office, forwarding a copy of this letter to the Senator.

Very truly yours,

  
F. R. SWEENEY  
Colonel, GSC  
Military Permit Secretary

000956

July 14, 1945

My dear Colonel Sweeney:

Last Thursday I promised to have prepared for you a statement by the Vaad Hahatzala explaining the religious needs of the liberated Jews in Europe, especially those in camps in Germany, and the religious services its representative, Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgebornter, would render them. I am enclosing a statement that the Vaad Hahatzala prepared for transmittal to you.

The Vaad Hahatzala has worked closely with the War Refugee Board ever since the Board's inception. Its functions in connection with the Board's work of rescue and relief of persecuted minorities were essentially such as could best be performed by a religious organization. The zeal which the Vaad Hahatzala brought to this work was exceptional and inspiring.

As Executive Director of the War Refugee Board I urge that everything possible be done to enable Rabbi Wohlgebornter, an representative of the Vaad Hahatzala, to render the services outlined in its statement to the liberated Jews in Europe by granting him access to Switzerland, France, Holland, Belgium, and the camps in Germany under military government as officially requested by him.

Sincerely yours,

15/

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

Col. Frank R. Sweeney,  
The Joint Chiefs of Staff,  
1901 Constitution Avenue,  
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure  
G:SILVERMAN: ve 7/14/45

000957

ועד ההצלה

**VAAD HAHATZALA**

(EMERGENCY COMMITTEE)

132 NASSAU STREET

(ROOM 818)

NEW YORK 7, N. Y.

PHONE RECTOR 2-4235

July 12, 1945

General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Supplementing our conference with you this afternoon, we are enclosing herewith a short statement relative to the work of Vaad Hahatzala. This statement will, no doubt, convince you and the military authorities of the urgent need to permit our Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelernter, of Seattle, Washington, to proceed immediately as our emissary to lay the foundation of the Vaad Hahatzala activities in Europe.

Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelernter occupies a very prominent position in his community and among American Jewry generally. He is very well equipped by his background and experience to carry out this mission.

We hope and pray that the authorities will expedite such permission and we appeal to you to help us in this instance.

Respectfully yours,

VAAD HAHATZALA



Rabbi Aaron Kotler

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

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COPY

COPY

VAAD HAHATZALA

An urgent need for religious service to be rendered the  
liberated Jews in Europe.

VAAD HAHATZALA

Fully recognizing the material aid rendered the civilians of the liberated areas by the fine program of UNRRA and by the voluntary private relief organizations now functioning in Europe, we beg to present the particular functions of the Vaad Hahatzala so urgently needed to relieve the traditional religious difficulties in the lives of the remnant of our people who survived the Nazi atrocities.

Vaad Hahatzala is the organized movement of Orthodox Jewry in America to provide for and to relieve the needs of Jewry in the present world catastrophe, in consonance with religious law and tradition. Vaad Hahatzala was organized by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada in 1939, and has been actively engaged in this program of activity ever since. It is headed by American Rabbis and authorities of Jewish religious law. The Orthodox Jewish laity in America wholeheartedly supports the program of the Vaad Hahatzala. The Vaad Hahatzala has gained the recognition and confidence of the American communities. When the War Refugee Board came into existence, it recognized the importance of the specific service rendered by Vaad Hahatzala. The record of

*The smaller memo is the  
copy. See Vaad Hahatzala  
memo 6/5/45*

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accomplishment of the Vaad Hahatzala is well known to the War Refugee Board, the State Department, the War Department and the Treasury Department.

At the present moment the remnants of European Jews are faced with very serious religious problems, besides their material needs, which only the Vaad Hahatzala, the recognized Orthodox Jewish authorities, can help solve. The European religious leaders have either been massacred or incapacitated and the Orthodox American Rabbinate are now called upon to re-establish and to rehabilitate the religious life of our brethren in Europe.

The problem in Europe now are specifically as follows:

1. Religious Rituals.

The Jewish community needs authorized individuals to perform the following religious functions: Schochtim- Men to perform the ritual slaughtering and preparation of fowls and animals in accordance with Jewish law; Scribes- Men qualified to prepare religious articles such as scrolls and phylacteries needed for traditional observance; Mohellim- Men authorized to perform circumcision.

2. Kosher Foods.

Besides the general problem of lack of nourishment of the European populations generally, the religious Jews suffered additional hardships by the fact that they abstained from foods not in accordance with Mosaic dietary laws. The various relief agencies

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cannot render this particular service to relieve the remaining Orthodox Jews in Europe. Only the Vaad Hahatzala is equipped to select, to prepare, and to deliver to the satisfaction of those needy ones, the Kosher foods which will be acceptable to them.

3. Marital Relations.

There is no Enoch Arden law in the Jewish religious code. The only time a woman is permitted to remarry is when an eye witness has proven to the satisfaction of a recognized Rabbinical court that her former spouse died, or that his dead body was identified beyond doubt. There are now in the liberated camps many witnesses who can bear such testimony if a recognized court were established. After the dissolution of these camps and the relocation of these peoples, such testimony may be impossible to obtain. For generations following the Jews of Europe will be burdened with the problems resulting from such a situation. The Vaad Hahatzala undertakes to establish local boards in the camps and in the various centers of Jewish population, to take such necessary testimony

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and with the cooperation of the Orthodox Rabbinate, and under their guidance to help relieve and solve the above and kindred problems. We are attaching hereto a cable from our Swiss representative explaining the prime need for immediate action in this instance. If the Rabbis of the European countries were alive today, they would surely handle this problem without delay. It has become the responsibility of the American Rabbinate to ensure the continuation of our religious Law and Family Purity so basic in our religion.

The Vaad Hahatzala is ready and prepared to render all these services in complete cooperation with the various military authorities and other agencies if the necessary permission for our representatives to enter these territories will be granted. The field of operation of the Vaad Hahatzala would be Switzerland, as the central headquarters, France, Holland, Belgium, and the camps in Germany under military government.

Europe, for many centuries, was the citadel of Jewish religious life. The Nazis have massacred more than five million of our people, mostly Orthodox Jews. Their orphans and the remaining members of their broken families deserve and need that religious uplift and spiritual rehabilitation. The future of the Jewish religion does not warrant that we abandon the remnants of our people in Europe, and to allow their religious life to become disintegrated.

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From the foregoing, it is obvious that the Vaad Hahatzala is solely equipped to render this unique service. It will supplement the humane efforts of the military, the UMRA, and other agencies for the rehabilitation of the stricken peoples of Europe. The messengers of the Vaad Hahatzala will fortify them spiritually. We feel that we have been spared by the hand of the Almighty to perform this sacred task in line with the historic traditions of America.

000963

SPJGI

12 June 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BERNAYS:

SUBJECT: War Crime Material From War Refugee Board.

1. Pursuant to your recent request this office has caused a review of all files of the War Refugee Board to be made.
2. On 6 June 1945, Lts. C. Warren Colgan and Stanley Thomas delivered to you four of these files and herewith they are delivering to you the balance of such files which are considered to be of value to you, as follows:
  - a. "Nazi Discriminatory Actions", as taken from the American Jewish Year Book which detailed laws and acts against the Jews taken by the Nazis in various occupied countries.
  - b. "Hungary No. 7", which contains various reports on persecutions of Hungarian Jews.
  - c. "British Army Intelligence Report on German Atrocities Against Belgian Civilians at Camp Breendonk, Belgium."
  - d. "Lithuania," which contains data on German minority persecutions.
  - e. "Latvia," which contains data on German minority persecutions.
  - f. "Report From Polish Ambassador," on Polish persecutions.
  - g. "Situation of Jews in Holland."
3. Lts. Colgan and Thomas also compiled a list of War Refugee Board Representatives in Europe and North Africa with their last known addresses which is furnished for your information and possible use as witnesses as follows:
  - a. Mr. Ira A. Hirschmann ----- Turkey  
Vice-President  
Bloomingdale's  
New York 22, N.Y.
  - b. Mr. Iver C. Olsen ----- Sweden  
Financial Attache  
United States Legation  
Stockholm, Sweden.

11 files

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- c. Mr. Roswell McClelland ----- Switzerland  
Special Representative  
War Refugee Board  
% United States Legation  
Bern, Switzerland.
- d. Mr. Leonard E. Ackermann ----- Italy & North Africa  
Present Business Address:  
Dep't of Commerce  
Div. of Surplus Property  
Procurement Building  
7th & D Sts. S.W.  
Washington, D.C.
- e. Mr. James H. Mann ----- London  
Treasury Representative  
American Embassy, Paris  
  
(Mr. Mann can now be reached at the above address, as his work  
in London for WRB has been completed)
- f. Mr. Robert C. Dexter ----- Portugal  
(Mr. Dexter has not been with the Board for some time, and  
there is some question as to whether or not he returned to the  
States. His present address may be obtained by contacting his  
previous organization, before coming to the Board. Their name  
and address are as follows:  
  
Unitarian Service Committee  
25 Beacon St.  
Boston 8, Mass.
- g. Mr. Herbert Katski ----- Turkey  
Present address:  
% United States Legation  
Bern, Switzerland  
(Mr. Katski is assisting Mr. McClelland now.)

4. It is understood that all the files listed in Par. 2 above which are marked for return to the War Refugee Board will be returned to them inasmuch as they have no duplicates. This office will be glad to pick up and return these files at your convenience if you will call upon us.

SIDNEY S. RUBENSTEIN  
Lt. Colonel, A.C.  
War Crimes Office

000965

JUN 7 1945

Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Hodel

I am sure you will be interested to know that the War Department recently indicated great interest in the War Refugee Board files as a possible source of information and evidence for use in connection with the Department's work with the War Crimes Commission. Certain reports and records in our files were turned over to Colonel Bernays who is working with Justice Jackson on this matter. He was so pleased with the material furnished him that he arranged for two of his men to go through all of our records. We have assigned one of our men to work closely with the War Department on this matter. In addition, we have instructed Mr. McClelland in Bern to make available any files he has to the local representative of General Donovan.

(Signed) Florence H. Hodel

FH:hd 6/7/45

000966

GENERAL ORDERS  
No. 29

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Washington 25, D. C., 13 April 1945

I...The following order of the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, announces to the Army the death of FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, President of the United States:

"It is my duty as Secretary of War to announce to the Army the death of FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, President of the United States, which occurred at Warm Springs, Georgia, at 1635 hours, 12 April 1945.

The Army is deeply grieved at the untimely death of our Commander in Chief. He prepared us to meet the savage onslaught of our enemies and he led us through the bitterness of our early reversals. His unwavering courage in the face of overwhelming odds, his abiding faith in the final triumph of democratic ideals, and his clear vision of the paths to be followed were a source of constant inspiration. He gave the Army unstintingly of his strength and wisdom and his unremitting labors hastened his death. Although he leaves us while there is still much hard fighting ahead, the ultimate victory has been fashioned of his heart and spirit.

Memorial services shall be held on the day of the funeral, 15 April, at all posts, camps, and stations, war operations permitting, at which time this order will be read.

The former Vice President of the United States, HARRY S. TRUMAN, has taken the oath of office and assumed the duty of President in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

II...The National flag will be displayed at half staff at the headquarters of all military commands and vessels under the control of the War Department from 0800 hours local time, 13 April 1945, until sunset 12 May 1945, west longitude dates, war operations permitting.

The wearing of mourning bands, the draping of colors and standards, and the firing of salutes will be dispensed with because of war conditions.

III...The body of the late Commander in Chief will be interred at Hyde Park, New York, on 15 April 1945.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

OFFICIAL:  
J. A. ULIO  
Major General  
The Adjutant General

G. C. MARSHALL  
Chief of Staff

MAR 16 1945

Dear Colonel Chandler:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 6, 1945, forwarding to us for reply a copy of a letter addressed to Major General Hildring by Dr. Arleh Tartakower.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of our reply to Dr. Tartakower.

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

William C. Chanler,  
Colonel, GSC  
Acting Director,  
Civil Affairs Division,  
War Department,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure.

*RBH* RBH:inp 3/12/45 *JCH*

000968

MAR 16 1945

Dr. Arieh Tartakower  
World Jewish Congress  
1834 Broadway  
New York 23, New York

Dear Dr. Tartakower:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 26, addressed to Major General Hildring, Director of the Civil Affairs Division of the War Department, and forwarded to this Board.

In reply, I wish to state that the War Refugee Board is giving the fullest possible consideration to all problems connected with the shipping of relief supplies to victims of enemy persecution detained in concentration camps in Germany. You may rest assured that we shall continue to do everything possible in order to insure the speedy delivery of such supplies.

With regard to your inquiry concerning Jewish deportees from Salonika found in the free part of the Netherlands, it is suggested that you address such an inquiry to your representatives in or nearest that area. The Board will be glad to have you forward that message through its facilities in the usual way.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director

BAkzin:ar 3/9/45

Ba JM

000969

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

To: Mr. Aksin  
(1) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)  
(2) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)  
(3) ..... (Room) (Bldg.)

Please prepare appropriate  
reply.

*Under contract.  
Have your local contact  
any locals.*

From: F. Hodel ..... 3/8/45  
..... (Date)  
..... (Room) (Bldg.)

000970

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
WASHINGTON 25

6 March 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director, War Refugee Board  
Main Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I am inclosing, for appropriate reply by the War Refugee Board, a copy of a letter dated 26 February 1945 addressed to Major General Hildring from the World Jewish Congress concerning Jewish deportees from Salonika, and relief to persons detained in concentration camps in Germany. This arrangement is in accordance with the conversation this morning between Miss Hodel of your office and Lieutenant Fierst of this division.

Sincerely,



WM. C. CHANLER  
Colonel, GSC  
Acting Director  
Civil Affairs Division

Incl  
as above

000971

6 March 1945

Brigadier General William O'Dwyer  
Executive Director, War Refugee Board  
Main Treasury Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I am inclosing, for appropriate reply by the War Refugee Board, a copy of a letter dated 26 February 1945 addressed to Major General Hilldring from the World Jewish Congress concerning Jewish deportees from Salonika, and relief to persons detained in concentration camps in Germany. This arrangement is in accordance with the conversation this morning between Miss Hodel of your office and Lieutenant Bierst of this division.

Sincerely,

W. C. GRAMLER  
Colonel, USC  
Acting Director  
Civil Affairs Division

Incl  
as above

CIVIL AFFAIRS DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT

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000972

COPY

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS  
Congres Juif Mondial \* Congreso Judío Mundial  
1854 Broadway  
New York, 23 N.Y.

Cables: Congress, New York  
Telephone: Circle 6 -1900

February 26, 1945

Major General G. H. Hilldring  
Director, Civil Affairs Division  
War Department  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Major General Hilldring:

May I, on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, appeal for your cooperation in the following two urgent cases:

A few days ago, the World Jewish Congress received through the War Refugee Board a message from the President of the Jewish Community of Salonika, dated February 6th this year and stating that according to reliable information, a large number of Jews who were deported from Salonika were recently freed in Holland by the armies of the Allies. We have been urged to find out the number and the names of those persons.

May I therefore ask you to kindly inform us whether you have any news in your office regarding this case; and if not, whether you couldn't communicate by cable with the office of General Eisenhower in Paris and secure the necessary information from there. We shall be most grateful for this cooperation which may enable us to establish contact between the Greek Jews in Holland and their families in Salonika. We are of course ready to cover the expenses involved for this exchange of cables.

The second case concerns relief to persons detained in concentration camps in Germany. We were informed by our representatives in Switzerland through the War Refugee Board that relief activities of the International Red Cross in behalf of such persons are hampered seriously on account of lack of transportation means. If Allied authorities were able to make available to the International Red Cross trucks and fuel required, much more could be accomplished. We were therefore urged to communicate with the United States authorities to have a few trucks put at the disposal of the International Red Cross for this relief work.

In view of the fact that this may be the only way of saving thousands of interned persons from the imminent danger of starvation, may I appeal to you to do whatever possible in order to comply with the above mentioned request, and to enable the International Red Cross to continue their relief activities. Should any further information be necessary, I shall be glad to furnish it for you immediately upon request. Information is also available at the War Refugee Board, which may have approached you directly in this matter.

Thanking you for your kindness and looking forward to your reply, I am

at/ld

Very sincerely yours,  
(s) Dr. Arieh Tartakower

000973

JAN 5 1945

Dear Colonel Lay:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 18, 1944, outlining the procedure established for Government agencies requesting information to be obtained in enemy and liberated areas of Europe.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Lt. Colonel James S. Lay, Jr., G. S. C.  
Secretary  
The Joint Intelligence Committee  
The Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Washington 25, D. C.

EBTowler:inp 1/1/45

000974

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



OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colonel Lay:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 18, 1944, outlining the procedure established for Government agencies requesting information to be obtained in enemy and liberated areas of Europe.

The Board's requests of this nature will accordingly be channeled through the designated officer in the Department of State.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Lt. Colonel James S. Lay, Jr., G. S. C.  
Secretary  
The Joint Intelligence Committee  
The Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Washington 25, D. C.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
 JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE  
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

16 December 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~RESTRICTED~~

Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director,  
 War Refugee Board,  
 Room 3414, Dept. of the Treasury Bldg.,  
 Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED  
 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or E  
 JCS memo, 1-4-74  
 By SLR, NLR, Date JUN 3 1974

My dear Mr. Pehle:

The attention of military authorities in the European theater of operations and in Washington has been drawn to a number of requests originating in various agencies of the United States Government for information to be obtained in enemy and liberated areas in Europe. Action on these requests involves the cooperation of military authorities. In many cases they are closely connected with United States production and other factors having an important bearing on the prosecution of the war. The necessity for U.S. and British coordination of requests of this nature was immediately apparent. Accordingly, under the authority of the Combined (British and U.S.) Chiefs of Staff, a Combined Intelligence Objectives Subcommittee (C.I.O.S.) has been established in London. The U.S. members of this subcommittee are responsible to the Joint Intelligence Committee of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The U.S. member agencies of the C.I.O.S. are:

- Military Intelligence Division, War Dept., General Staff
- Office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff Intelligence, War Department
- Division of Naval Intelligence, Navy Dept.
- Department of State
- Foreign Economic Administration
- Office of Strategic Services
- Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Requests received from the agencies listed above are coordinated by the U.S. members of the C.I.O.S. under policies laid down by the Joint Intelligence Committee.

In the field of technical intelligence of an industrial nature it has been found necessary to establish in Washington a special subcommittee of the Joint Intelligence Committee (the Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee - T.I.I.C.) to coordinate requests from U.S. agencies prior to their submission to C.I.O.S.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~RESTRICTED~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following procedures are therefore available to the U.S. government agencies which require information from liberated and enemy territories under Allied military control:

a. Requests for information concerning industrial processes, patents, inventions, engineering, and "know-how" should be submitted to the Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee.

b. Requests for information on subjects other than those under a., coming from agencies having membership on the C.I.O.S., should be submitted by them directly to C.I.O.S.

c. Requests on subjects other than those under a., originating in agencies not members of C.I.O.S. should be submitted to the Department of State.

In making requests under the procedure outlined in the above paragraph, the following data should be furnished:

a. A detailed description of the information desired.

b. An expression of the reasons for urgency in procuring such information, and of its intended use.

c. The probable location of the sources of such information in specific terms; i.e., names and addresses of agencies, firms and individuals.

d. The number or names of qualified personnel who can be made available for technical investigation of the sources of such information in Europe.

The Department of State has designated the following individual to handle requests falling within its competence:

Mr. Herbert J. Cummings,  
Room 219 Architects' Building,  
1735 New York Ave., N.W.,  
Telephone - RE 5600, Ext. 2263.

The Technical Industrial Intelligence Committee has designated the following individual to handle requests falling within its competence:

Mr. Robert Reiss,  
Assistant Executive Secretary, T.I.I.C.,  
Room 2315 Munitions Building,  
Telephone - RE 6700, Ext. 79238.

DECLASSIFIED

FOR THE JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE:

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or E  
JCS memo, 1-4-74

By SLR, NLR, Date

JUN 3 1974

*James S. Lay, Jr.*  
JAMES S. LAY, JR.,  
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.  
Secretary.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

000977

AUG 8 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you herewith the third supplement for "War Refugee Board - Projects and Documents".

Included with the material is a set of instructions indicating the order in which the new material is to be inserted and which of the old material is to be deleted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosures.

EST (PH) Hutchison:agr 8-5-44 JFJ

000978

JUL 5 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you herewith the second supplement for "War Refugee Board - Projects and Documents".

Included with the material is a set of instructions indicating the order in which the new material is to be inserted and which of the old material is to be deleted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of War.

Enclosures.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

*EPA*

*REH* REH:om:agr 7-1-44

000979

MAY 21 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you herewith supplemental material for the first volume of "War Refugee Board - Projects and Documents" which was forwarded to you with my letter of May 9, 1944.

I am also sending an additional binder and a set of instructions indicating the order in which the new material is to be inserted and which of the original material is to be deleted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of War.

Enclosures.

*Original signed by  
Mr. Pehle*

*JH*

*ED* EHPowler:agr 5-29-44

000980

M E M O R A N D U M

A conference was held on Saturday, May 27, 1944, in the office of General Hilldring; to discuss the refugee situation in Italy. The conference was attended by General Hilldring and Major Grey of the War Department, Mr. Hoehler of UNRRA, and Messrs. Pehle, Luxford, DuBois and Friedman.

At the outset Pehle briefly indicated the War Refugee Board's connection with this matter. He mentioned the project which we submitted to the President some time ago to bring a number of refugees to this country from Italy in order to relieve congestion there; the discussion of the matter at a Cabinet meeting on May 26, and Stimson's suggestion that Pehle discuss the problem with General Hilldring. Pehle mentioned also the President's desire that nothing be done to discourage the entry of refugees into Italy.

General Hilldring referred briefly to the present refugee situation in Italy, mentioning the congestion there as a result of the continuous entry of large numbers of refugees from Yugoslavia. He indicated that General Wilson is insisting that some place be found to which refugees in Italy can be removed. General Hilldring stated that the Army, without any mandate from anyone, had been and is taking care of refugees that enter Italy and financing their maintenance out of Army funds on the ground of military necessity.

The possibility of taking additional people from Italy to Egypt was discussed. Mr. Hoehler indicated that UNRRA had recently agreed to take responsibility for receiving into Egypt an additional 14,000 refugees from Italy (making a total of 40,000 to be taken there). He indicated certain possible obstacles to receiving more than this number in Egypt: (1) The Egyptian Government has begun to raise questions about the ultimate destination of these people and probably would object to taking more; (2) UNRRA does not yet have any funds and when it receives its appropriation will need a substantial part of it for other commitments; (3) The British Army which has been furnishing supplies for the camps in Egypt has indicated its desire to be relieved of this responsibility.

The possibility of increasing refugee facilities in Italy was then discussed. General Hilldring said that General Wilson is now having two surveys made to determine whether it would be possible to increase facilities in Italy over the present limit of 8,000.

The sense of the meeting was that the possibility of keeping more people in Italy should be explored and that to this end the following steps should be taken:

1. Mr. Hoehler will discuss with Governor Lehman whether UNRRA will assume the responsibility of caring for refugees in Italy if asked to do so by the Army and if necessary supplies and funds can be obtained.

000981

2. The Army and USMRA will explore with FEA the possibility of leasing supplies to the Yugoslav Government for the care of refugees in Italy, the use of the supplies to be administered by USMRA.

In connection with the discussion of finding additional havens of refuge, Pehle indicated his understanding that the President, in the Cabinet meeting, had referred to the possibility of taking care of refugees in Sicily.

Mr. Pehle emphasized the interest of the War Refugee Board in keeping open the flow of refugees into and out of Yugoslavia, mentioning not only the necessity of rescuing people in Yugoslavia who are being indiscriminately slaughtered by the Germans, but also the desirability of obtaining the cooperation of the Partisans in evacuating people from Hungary.

General Hildring said that the Army would do nothing to discourage the flow of refugees into Italy and that he would cable General Devers today, instructing him accordingly, mentioning the President's desire in this regard.

JB7

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

748

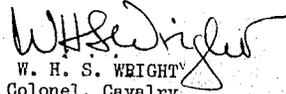
W. R. D. 74  
Special Authority  
To: Files  
Ans.  
No. Ans. Reg.   
Initial E. B. Bowen  
Date 5/20/44

May 15, 1944.

My dear Mr. Pehle:

The Secretary of War has received the copy of the Volume prepared for use by the Staff of the War Refugee Board and has asked me to thank you for your kindness in sending it to him.

Very sincerely yours,



W. H. S. WRIGHT  
Colonel, Cavalry  
Aide to the Secretary of War.

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

000983

MAY 9 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sending you with this letter a volume recently prepared for use by the staff of the War Refugee Board. Supplemental material and revisions will be sent to you from time to time.

This book presents an outline of the work the Board is doing with an analysis and copies of important cables exchanged with our missions and representatives abroad. I believe it gives a good, over-all picture of the programs developed by the Board and the various projects already initiated or under consideration.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of War.

*Original signed by  
J. W. Pehle*

EBT EB Towler:agr 5-8-44

000984

COPY

REFUGEES

101. During the first three months of the campaign in Italy there have been large movements of refugees. In the west they had moved uncontrolled and dispersed themselves. On the east, S.C.A.O., 8th Army, with his limited staff and no refugee specialist officers, had collected and sent them to the rear areas, where they had dispersed independently.

102. From the start of the campaign until 31 January 1944 the movement was:-

8 Army side ..... 30,800  
5 Army side ..... 1,800

Nearly all of these were dispersed in the areas adjacent to Bari, Brindisi and Lecce. During February the movement was:-

8 Army side ..... 800  
5 Army side ..... 13,600

Included in the 5 Army figure are refugees from the Beachhead numbering 4,900. The main evacuation started on Feb. 14. All these refugees have been sent back to the provinces of Potenza, Cosenza, Catanzaro, and Reggio in Region II.

103. Great difficulty has been experienced in the matter of transit camps and the whole of the numbers handled during February have been passed through 2 small centers. These two centers can accommodate some 750 persons but are devoid of proper cooking and sanitary facilities. In the hot weather the situation would have been impossible, but as it was, the refugees were fed and the children given milk, doctors were in attendance and the sick sent to hospitals. Security screening was done and the Red Cross distributed clothing to all the needy.

104. Plans are now in hand for proper camps with capacities as follows:-

West:

Capua - Capacity 4000 - Tented and mobile  
Aversa - Capacity 3000 - In existing buildings  
Naples - Capacity 2000 - In existing buildings

East:

Foggia - Capacity 500 - Huts

The camp at Aversa is already functioning.

000985

106. The main problem is the disposal of the refugees in the Godalbyland, which is Regt. 101.

107. The civilian population of the two towns were evacuated by the Germans in September 1943. The civilian population of the two towns was 10,000 before the evacuation. The Germans left about 500 persons in the two towns and issued them with passes. The passes were for business, doctors, electricians, rail and telephone, etc. Approximately 10,000 persons were evacuated to the Godalbyland and it is estimated that about 3000 additional refugees have entered in, making a total population of about 13,000 in this area.

108. The other main problem of the two towns is the food, which is being distributed and controlled in the area is working well. The food is being distributed along the lines established during the last few months. There is no major problem in the Godalbyland area, the people having the usual food and being used to their life. The bread ration is being increased to 1000 grams per day and this reduces the number of civilians to be fed.

109. The details of the Allied - Estimated Camp in Regt. 101 are as follows:

Nationality	Living in the Camp			Living without the Camp		
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children
Yugoslavs	39	0	0	10	10	4
Czechs	0	-	-	-	-	-
Polish	5	-	-	0	-	-
Czechoslovaks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulgarian (friendly)	-	-	-	-	-	-
French	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>44</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>

Grand Total:- 140

Adequate provision in the way of medical attention, food, clothing, shelter and recreational facilities has been made for these people.

From: Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394, report in Regions I, II, III, V, VI and in the 5th and 6th Army areas during February 1944.

000986

MAR 30 1944

Dear Mr. McCloy:

In connection with the memorandum which Captain Wheeler Grey is preparing for you on the work of the War Refugee Board, it occurred to me that the enclosed copies of the weekly reports of the Board might be of considerable help.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,  
Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosures.

FH:lab 3/29/44

*JJ*

000987

*was R. H. P. Bd  
ms P. H. L.*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE - WASHINGTON  
TO: AMLEGATION - BERN  
DATED: MARCH - 21 - 1944  
NUMBER: 933

**CONTROL COPY**

With reference to the proposal to return Italians now in German occupied countries to their homes, Bern's telegram of January 20, 1944, no. 444 and Department's telegram of February 23, 1944, no. 619, the Department has received from Admiral Leahy a letter dated March 9 stating that there had been referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for consideration the Department's letter of February 23 presenting the matter. The Allied Commander in Chief of the Mediterranean theater has received a cable asking his views on the feasibility of the proposal. The Department will be informed and you will be advised of the decision reached as soon as a reply is received.

HULL

DECLASSIFIED  
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72  
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 21 1972

000988

2/10/44

Copies to:

Mr. Pehle  
Mr. Luxford  
Mr. DuBois  
Mr. Lesser  
Mr. Friedman  
Miss Hodel

000983

February 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Raynor:

Reference is made to your letter of February 5 enclosing a paraphrase of a cable received from Bern relative to the return of Italians in German occupied Italy to their homes in southern Italy; together with a draft of a letter which you had intended to send to Admiral Leahy on this matter.

The letter which you have prepared from your Department to Admiral Leahy has our approval, and you may feel free to so indicate in the letter.

Yours very truly,

/signed/ J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director.

Mr. Hayden Raynor  
Special Assistant to the Under Secretary  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

(cc Miss Chauncey, Messrs. Gaston, White, Paul, Pehle, Luxford, Friedman, Lesser, Stewart, E. M. Bernstein, and Miss Hodel.)

*900 JWP*  
JEDuBois:secr  
2/11/44

000990

CONTROL COPY

OFFICE OF  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON  
February 5, 1944

325  
CLASSIFIED BY  
100-331870-  
AN. 2/12/44  
NO. . . . .  
INITIAL . . . . .  
DATE . . . . .

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Confirming our conversation, I enclose here-  
with paraphrases of the cable received from Bern  
and of our proposed reply and a draft of a letter  
which we had intended to send to Admiral Leahy on  
this matter. You said in our conversation that you  
would like to look over this file. If the War Refu-  
gee Board would prefer to communicate on this direct-  
ly with the Chiefs of Staff, such procedure will be  
entirely agreeable to us, or, with your approval,  
we shall be glad to send the letter as planned.  
Will you be good enough to let me know your deci-  
sion in the matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*Hayden Raynor*  
Hayden Raynor,  
Special Assistant to  
the Under Secretary

Encs.

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

000991

PARAPHRASE

FROM: Bern; #444  
DATE: January 20, 1944

My British colleague and I have received from the Vatican Secretariat of State a note dated January 5 requesting Allied authorities to permit Italian women, children, aged and infirm who are residing at present in German-occupied Italy to return to their homes in Southern Italy and Islands. The request is made, the note explains, on humanitarian grounds as a result of appeals reaching Holy See from many parts Italy and adds that the Holy See is prepared to collaborate in facilitating transfer if permission is granted.

London has already sent a negative reply and my British colleague has informed the Cardinal Secretary of State of this reply. Grounds for the refusal were that the proposal would (a) establish precedent for other German-occupied countries; (b) present insurmountable difficulties; (c) add to food problem difficulties occupied areas; afford opportunity for mischiefmaking to enemy agents.

I also shall reply in negative to Secretariat of State's note mentioning reasons (a) and (b) above unless instructed otherwise.

000992

PARAPHRASE

TO : Bern

Department is unable to reply until receiving the advice of military authorities relative to the return of Italians in German-occupied Italy to their homes in southern Italy referred to in your #444. If and when it seems desirable to grant permission requested, you will be informed.

000993

DRAFT

My dear Admiral Leahy:

The Department is in receipt of a telegram dated January 20, 1944 from the American Legation in Bern concerning a note received from the Secretariat of State of the Vatican on January 5, 1944. The Secretariat of State requests that Allied authorities permit Italian women, children, and aged and infirm persons, who are residing at present in German-occupied Italy, to return to their homes in "southern Italy and Islands". The note explains that the Holy See is prepared to collaborate in facilitating the transfer and that the request is made on humanitarian grounds as a result of appeals reaching the Holy See from many parts of Italy.

The telegram also points out that the Secretariat of State of the Vatican sent a similar note to the British and that the British have replied in the negative, although it is not clear whether the negative response emanated from the Ministry of Economic Warfare, the British Chief of Staff or the Combined Chiefs of Staff in London.

The Department is desirous that these persons receive all possible assistance consistent with the war effort and will appreciate a statement from appropriate military authorities on the feasibility and desirability of this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Admiral William D. Leahy,  
Chief of Staff to the  
Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy,  
The White House.

000994

FEB 9 1944

MEMORANDUM TO COL. E. H. FOLEY, Jr.

It would be extremely helpful if we could obtain promptly from the appropriate military authorities information with respect to non-Italian refugees in that part of Italy under the control of Allied Forces. In particular we should like to ascertain, among other things:

- (1) Number of non-Italian refugees living in camps in Bari or elsewhere;
- (2) Adequacy of camp facilities for present occupants and possibility of receiving others;
- (3) Number of such refugees outside of camps with indication of arrangement under which they are living.

We have information indicating that the British military authorities are presently evacuating refugees from Italy to camps in Egypt. Reports indicate that this is a fairly large scale movement. It would be extremely helpful to have more details of this operation including an indication of whether refugees are being taken from existing camps in Italy, the program contemplated and the basis upon which it is being carried out. We would also like to have any suggestions as to how the Board could be of assistance in any of these matters.

(Signed) J. S. Feltz

*JWA*

000995

3 March 1944

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

Dear Mr. Pehle:

In a letter dated January 28, 1944, the Secretary of the Treasury suggested that the appropriate Theater Commanders be informed of the establishment and responsibilities of the War Refugee Board. Mr. Morgenthau's letter, containing a proposed message to be dispatched to the Theater Commanders, was referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their consideration.

As a result of their study on this matter, a message similar to that proposed by Mr. Morgenthau has been dispatched to the appropriate U.S. Army Commanders. I have been informed that the Navy Department has taken the necessary action to inform the U.S. Navy Commander concerned.

Assistant Secretary of War.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Original on file  
"Confidential" with other  
agencies. File file  
Agency. [unclear]*

COPY TO ACCOMPANY ORIGINAL

000996

In reply please  
refer to: 57

FEB 16 1944

Dear Mr. McCloy:

Your letter of February 6, 1944, to the Secretary of the Treasury concerning instructions to the Theater Commanders with respect to the War Refugee Board has been referred to this office. It is noted that the proposal contained in the letter from the Secretary of the Treasury of January 28, 1944, has been referred to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Pursuant to your suggestion, the War Refugee Board will inform the War Department of any specific cases in which the Theater Commanders might be in a position to be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle  
Acting Executive Director

Honorable John McCloy,  
Assistant Secretary of War.

FHodel:hd 2/15/44

000997

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

57  
FILING AUTHORITY  
TO: Mail & Files  
ANS. ....  
NO ANS. REQ. ....  
INITIAL .....  
DATE .....

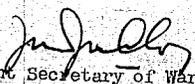
FEB 6 1944

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of the Treasury.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The proposal contained in your letter of January 28, 1944, regarding War Department cooperation with the War Refugee Board has been referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff at my request for consideration and necessary recommendations to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Instructions to the theater commanders primarily concerned can be given only by the latter body. I will inform you as to the decision of the Combined Chiefs of Staff on this matter.

However, in order to insure the continuing cooperation of the War Department with the War Refugee Board, I would suggest that the War Department be informed in the event any specific cases become known in which the theater commander might be in a position to provide relief. The matter will then be presented, through proper channels, to the appropriate theater commander for such action as may be necessary and in the light of the existing military situation and available resources at his disposal.

  
Assistant Secretary of War.



000998

January 28, 1944

TO: Mr. McCloy  
FROM: J. W. Pehle

For your information I am sending you herewith copies of three cables to Bern: The first cable transmits the text of a license issued on January 22nd by the Treasury Department to the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. The second cable transmits a message to the International Red Cross, Geneva, from the War Refugee Board. The third cable transmits a message from the World Jewish Congress in the United States to its representative, Dr. Riegner, in Geneva.

I am advised that the first two cables have been despatched by State. The third was sent to Mr. Berle this afternoon.

/s/ JWP

Attachments.

*JWP*

FHodel:hd 1/28/44

*No attachments when received in files*

000999

JAN 28 1944

TO: Assistant Secretary McCloy  
FROM: Secretary Morgenthau

In accordance with your timely suggestion it would be very helpful if instructions along the following lines were sent to the appropriate Theater Commanders:

"The President has instructed the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War to take action for the immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution. In an Executive Order issued January 27, 1944, the President declared 'it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war.' The order establishes special governmental machinery for executing this policy. It creates a War Refugee Board consisting of the Secretaries of State, Treasury and War. The Board is charged with direct responsibility to the President in seeing that the announced policy is carried out. The President indicated that while he would look directly to the Board for the execution of this policy, the Board would cooperate with the Intergovernmental Committee, UNRRA, and other interested international organizations. The President stated that he expected the cooperation of all members of the United Nations and other governments in carrying out this difficult but important task. He stated that the existing facilities of the State, Treasury and War Departments would be employed to furnish aid to Axis victims to the fullest extent possible. He stressed that it was urgent that action be taken to forestall the

plot of the Nazis to exterminate the Jews and other persecuted minorities in Europe.

You should do everything possible, consistent with the successful prosecution of the war in your theater, to effectuate this policy of this Government. You should cooperate as closely as possible with all public and established private agencies who are active in your theater in this field in this matter. Consistent with your needs and military security considerations, you should make communication facilities available to these private agencies for appropriate messages for carrying out the policy of this Government herein stated, keeping the War Refugee Board advised through the Department. You should report to the Department any recommendations which you may have as to what you feel this Department can do to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of the victims of enemy oppression.

Foreign representatives of the Department of State and of other Government Departments are being similarly instructed and you should give them any possible assistance."

I would appreciate your bringing this to the attention of Secretary Stimson.

/s/ Henry Morgenthau, Jr.  
January 28, 1944

 JBF:JWP:lh 1/28/44

001001

MEMORANDUM

January 28, 1944

McCloy called me this noon. He said he had noticed the instructions which the State Department had sent out to diplomatic and consular officers announcing the Executive Order and indicating the duties of such officers in connection with carrying out its purposes. McCloy said he wondered if there was anything the War Department ought to do in this connection. He said there would be considerable reluctance on the part of the War Department to commit troops to new responsibilities in this matter since the War Department is just getting under way on carrying out its functions under the November 10 letter from the President giving the supply problem in liberated areas to the War Department. I told Mr. McCloy we would give the problem consideration and give him any suggestions we had as to instructions which should be sent out by the War Department, but there would be in any event specific cases involving matters requiring cooperation by Theater Commanders and problems of shipping and supply which would be raised with the War Department on an ad hoc basis.

*J. W. P. C.*