Programs with Respect to Relief and Rescue of Refugees and Other Government Agencies.
CROSS REFERENCE ON EXISTING LICENSES

FOR:

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

ALL SHIP REPORTS

SEE: SENT TO MR. MCCOOL 7/6/45
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
Executive Director

(Signed) William O'Dwyer

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosure.

FHind 9/5/46
Miss Florence Bodel
Assistant Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Bodel:

As successor to Colonel Bernevis, 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 these 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,

[Signature]

Leonard Wheeler Jr.
Lt. Colonel, Signal Corps
AUG 17 1945

Dear Colonel Gerhardt:

We have just received the enclosed final report from Roewell 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 Asst. Secretary of War,
Room 42888, Pentagon Building,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

By

FRnd 8/17/45
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.
1 August 1945

General William C. Dyer
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 Hakatzala is furnished for your information and files.

Very truly yours,

F. R. CRONEY
Colonel, GSC
Military Permit Secretary
Rabbi Abraham Kalmanowitz
Vaad Nahatsala
112 Nassau Street
New York 7, New York

My dear Rabbi:

The matter of having Rabbi Kohlgelerster 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 Milling'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 Nahatsala 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
24 July 1945

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

My dear General:

The mission of Rabbi Solomon Pinchas Wohlgelernter of the Vos Nokhtsime, 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 Wohlgelernter, 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 Wohlgelernter 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 the 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,

[Signature]

P. H. Swenney
Colonel, GSC
Military Permit Secretary
July 14, 1945

By Dear Colonel Sommets:

Last Thursday I promised to have prepared for you a statement by the Vaad Nahatanai 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. Scheigalmenste, would render them. I am enclosing a statement that the Vaad Nahatanai prepared for transmission to you.

The Vaad Nahatanai 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 essential, such as could best be performed by a religious organization. The zeal which the Vaad Nahatanai 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 Scheigalmenste, as representative of the Vaad Nahatanai, 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,

[Signature]

William O'Mayer
Executive Director

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

Relosure
GR:SILVERMAN YO 7/14/45
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. Wohlgelehrer, of Seattle, Washington, to proceed immediately as our emissary to lay the foundation of the Vaad Hahatzala activities in Europe.

Rabbi Solomon P. Wohlgelehrer 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.
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 volun-
tary 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
accomplishment of the Yadd Mahatsala 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 Yadd Mahatsala, 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 indi-
   viduals to perform the following religious functions:
   Sopherim- 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; Mohelim- Men
   authorized to perform circumcision.


   Besides the general problem of lack of nourish-
   ment of the European populations generally, the re-
   ligious Jews suffered additional hardships by the
   fact that they abstained from foods not in accordance
   with Mosaic dietary laws. The various relief agencies
cannot render this particular service to relieve the remaining Orthodox Jews in Europe. Only the Vaad Nahatzala 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«Nahoh 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 those 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 Nahatzala undertakes to establish local boards in the camps and in the various centers of Jewish population, to take such necessary testimony
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 Nahatzala 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 Nahatzala 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 this 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.
From the foregoing, it is obvious that the Vass Hadatzale is solely equipped to render this unique service. It will supplement the humane efforts of the military, the UNREA, and other agencies for the rehabilitation of the stricken peoples of Europe. The messengers of the Vass Hadatzale 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.
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, Lieut. C. Warren Colgan and Stanley Thomas delivered to you four of these files and hereewith 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 Citizens at Camp Bredenkamp, Belgium."

   d. "Lithuania," which contains data on German minority persecutions.

   e. "Latvia," which contains data on German minority persecutions.


   g. "Situation of Jews in Holland."

3. Lt. 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. Ezra Hirschman ------ Turkey
      Vice-President
      Bloomingdale's
      New York 22, N.Y.

   b. Mr. Iver G. Olsen ------ Sweden
      Financial Attaché
      United States Legation
      Stockholm, Sweden.
c. Mr. Russell McColland ———— Switzerland
   Special Representative
   War Refugees Board
   % United States Legation
   Bern, Switzerland.

  d. Mr. Leonard E. Ackerman ———— Italy & North Africa
   Present Business Address
   Dept of Commerce
   Div. of Surplus Property
   Procurement Building
   7th & E 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 WGB has been completed)

  f. Mr. Robert G. 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 5, Mass.

  g. Mr. Horace Katami ———— Turkey
   Present address:
   % United States Legation
   Bern, Switzerland

   (Mr. Katami is assisting Mr. McColland now.)

4. It is understood that all the files listed in Par. 2 above which are marked for return to the War Refugees 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. ROSENSTEIN
      Lt. Colonel, AC
      War Crimes Office
Secretary Morgenthau

Miss Model

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. McLellan in Bern to make available any files he has to the legal representative of General Donovan.

[Signature] Florence

FM/DA 6/7/45

0000966
GENERAL ORDER

WAR DEPARTMENT

No. 29

Washington, D. C., 15 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 10:10 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 unswerving 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 unstintedly of his strength and wisdom and his unceasing labor 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 Nation's flag will be displayed at half staff at the headquarters of all military commands and vessels under the control of the War Department from 0600 hours local time, 15 April 1945, until sunset 13 May 1945, except 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 16 April 1945.

By order of the Secretary of War:

OFFICIAL:

J. A. ULIND Major General

Chief of Staff

The Adjutant General

G. O. MARSHALL

AGO 2718—Apr.
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 Millring by Dr. Arich Tarkower.

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

Very truly yours,

William O'Dwyer
Executive Director

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

Enclosure.
Dr. Arich Tartakower
World Jewish Congress
1534 Broadway
New York 23, New York

Dear Dr. Tartakower:  

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 26, addressed to Major General Hilldring, 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

Baksinar 3/9/45

800469
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR好きなボード

To: Mr. Abein
(1) (2) (3)

(4) (5) (6)

Please prepare appropriate reply.

From: J. Noda 3/6/56
(7) (8) (9)
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 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 Fletcher of this division.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. C. Chamler
Colonel, GSC
Acting Director
Civil Affairs Division

Incl as above
6 March 1945

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

Dear General O'Dwyer:

I am enclosing for appropriate reply by the War Refugee Board, a copy of a letter dated 26 February 1945 addressed to Major General Milling 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 Hotol of your office and Lieutenant Flent of this division.

Sincerely,

M.C. Grahame
Colonel, OSS
Acting Director
Civil Affairs Division

[Signature]

[Stamp]

[Stamp]
February 25, 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 these 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

Very sincerely yours,

(5) Dr. Arieh Tartakover
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. E. C.
Secretary
The Joint Intelligence Committee
The Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington 25, D. C.

EBTellinguy 1/1/45
Dear Colonel Lay:

I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 16, 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. G.
Secretary
The Joint Intelligence Committee
The Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington 25, D. C.
18 December 1944

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

My dear Mr. Fehle:

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.
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 names or numbers 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 - RS 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 - RS 6700, Ext. 79238.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11092, Sec. 3(c) and 5(3) or 5
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By SLR, MEB, Date JUN 3 1974

FOR THE JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE:

JAMES S. LAX, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.O.
Secretary.
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,

[Signature]

J. W. Pohle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.

Enclosures.
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. Fohle

J. W. Fohle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War,

Enclosures.

Original signed by

[Signature]

July 5, 1944
May 31, 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.
A conference was held on Saturday, May 27, 1944, in the office of
General Gildring, to discuss the refugee situation in Italy. The confer-
ence was attended by General Gildring and Major Grey of the War
Department, Mr. Hershler of UNRRA, and Presidents Pehle, Isaford, Dalfoz and
Friedman.

At the outset Pehle briefly indicated the War Refugee Board's con-
nection 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 Simson's suggestion that Pehle
discuss the problem with General Gildring. Pehle mentioned also the
President's desire that nothing be done to discourage the entry of refugees
into Italy.

General Gildring 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 in which refugees in Italy can
be received. General Gildring 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. Hershler indicated that UNRRA had recently agreed to take
responsibility for receiving into Egypt an additional 10,000 refugees from
Italy (noting a total of 30,000 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 destina-
tion 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 Gildring 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 5,000.

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. Hershler 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.
2. The Army and UNRRA will explore with FRA the possibility of land-
leasing supplies to the Yugoslav Government for the care of refugees in
Italy, the care of the supplies to be administered by UNRRA.

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

Mr. Fohle emphasized the interest of the War Refugees 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 Hildegard said that the Army would do nothing to discourage the
flow of refugees into Italy and that he would cable General Doviera today,
instructing him accordingly, mentioning the President's desire in this regard.
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. E. 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.
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. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

The Honorable,

The Secretary of War.
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. In the east, S.C.O.O., 8th Army, with his limited staff and no refugee special officers, had collected and sent them to the rear areas, where they had dispersed independently.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army Side</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Army</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Army</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly all of these were dispersed in the areas adjacent to Resi, Grindieri, and Locone. During February the movement was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army Side</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 Army</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Army</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included in the 8 Army figure are refugees from the Balearic Islands numbering 2,500. The main evacuation started on Feb. 14. All these refugees have been sent back to the provinces of Veneto, Udine, Trieste, and Foggia in Region 7.

Great difficulty has been experienced in the matter of vacant camps and the whole of the numbers handled during the evacuation have been passed through 2 small centers. These two centers can accommodate only 750 persons but are devoid of proper cooking and sanitary facilities. In the interest of the welfare of the refugees these centers have had to accept all. The sick 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.

Plans are now in hand for proper camps with capacity as follows:

**East**
- Capua: Capacity 4000 - Tented and mobile
- Avona: Capacity 3000 - In existing buildings
- Naples: Capacity 2000 - In existing buildings

**West**
- Foggia: Capacity 500 - Huts

The camp at Avona is already functioning.
The situation is that the refugees and displaced persons, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, are living in miserable conditions. The majority are women and children, and the majority are living in exposed open areas. The refugees and displaced persons are in urgent need of food, clothing, and shelter.

### Table: Living Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Living Arrangements</th>
<th>Sleeping Arrangements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yugoslavs</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turks</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechoslovaks</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgarians</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adequate provisions in the way of medical attention, food, clothing, and shelter and sanitation facilities have been made for these people.

MAR 30 1944

Dear Mr. McCloy:

In connection with the memorandum which Captain Wheeler Gray 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. Pahl

J. W. Pahl
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Enclosures.
PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: SECRETARY OF STATE - WASHINGTON

TO: AMBASSADOR - BERN

DATE: MARCH 21 - 1944

NUMBER: 933

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
2/19/44
Copies to:

Mr. Pehle
Mr. LuCord
Mr. Dubois
Mr. Isser
Mr. Friedman
Miss Model
February 12, 1944

Dear Mr. Haynor:

Reference is made to your letter of February 5 enclosing a paraphrase of a cable received from Berlin 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 Haynor
Special Assistant to the Under Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

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

[Signature]
2/11/44
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 Refugee Board would prefer to communicate on this directly 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 decision in the matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Hayden Baynor

Encc.

Mr. John W. Pehle,
Acting Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.
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; allow 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.
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.
My dear Admiral Leahy:

The Department is in receipt of a telegram dated January 10, 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.
MEMORANDUM TO COL. E. H. FOLEY, JR.

FEB 9 1944

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 operation. 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. H. Finkle
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 29, 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.
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,

[Signature] J. W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Acting Executive Director

Honorable John McCloy,

Assistant Secretary of War.

F Hodal. 2/15/44
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.

[Signature]
Assistant Secretary of War.
January 28, 1944

TO: Mr. McGloy

FROM: J. H. 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. Kligman, in Geneva.

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

/1/ JHP

Attachments.

[Handwritten note: Phoetalnd 1/28/44]
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
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.

[Signature]