

Goldberg, Arthur J.

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November 20, 1944.

Dear Arthur:

Joe Friedman tells me that you are back in private life. Since I unfortunately did not have the chance to do so in person, I want to thank you now for the many ways in which you helped the War Refugee Board during the past six months.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Major Arthur J. Goldberg
39 South La Salle Street
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Chicago, Illinois

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Lisbon

May 5, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle,
Executive Director World Refugee Board,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Pehle:

I am writing you this very brief note from Lisbon where I have had the pleasure of seeing and speaking to your representative, Dr. Robert C. Dexter, and Mr. Schwartz of the Joint Distribution Committee.

During my stay here I have spoken also to our representative and he is quite willing and anxious to cooperate with Dr. Dexter in all possible ways. In particular he has concluded an arrangement to make available to Dr. Dexter the part time use of a secretary who has been assigned to our office here and who is expected to arrive shortly. The automobile situation is somewhat more difficult since our people likewise have a shortage of motorized equipment. Dr. Dexter has indicated that for the time being at least he will be able to manage by using taxis - but I would like to suggest that you ship him an automobile from the United States since this will facilitate his work and since it is practically impossible to purchase a car here. In general I am sure that Dr. Dexter will receive complete cooperation from our staff in Lisbon and I was very pleased indeed to see the cordial relationship which already existed between all of the parties concerned.

In the course of my discussion with Dr. Dexter he emphasized certain points which I am not competent to discuss but which I shall merely report for your information.

1. He felt that it would be extremely helpful to the Board's work in connection with your current difficulties with the French in the matter of removing refugees to Camp Lyautey if Dr. Howard Brooks were sent to Algiers to lend a helping hand with his friends in the Free French Committee. This matter has already been brought to your attention. Apparently for some reason Brooks' papers have not been cleared in Washington and this had delayed his departure.

2. Dr. Dexter seems concerned about an apparent rift which has developed here between Schwartz representing the Joint Distribution Committee and the man by the name of Weizman representing the World Jewish Congress. Apparently these organizations, or at least their local representatives here, are at odds and in Dexter's opinion this breach in some measure will interfere with the work of increasing the flow of refugees from enemy occupied countries. Perhaps a few words from you to the principals in the United States would ease this situation and solve the local difficulties.

3. Dr. Dexter was glad to learn of your efforts with the Mexican Government to obtain visas for refugee Spaniards. He believes that it will be possible to rescue several hundred Spanish refugees if such visas are made available.

I should likewise like to report on my discussion with Schwartz without drawing any conclusions since I am not qualified to form any. Schwartz made the following points:

1. He believes that the Board can be of even greater help by liberalizing the licenses which are being granted to the various private refugee organizations. In particular he would like more scope in his licenses for limited feeding, so that it would be possible for the Joint to buy food more freely. This he pointed out to me may involve the granting of compensatory licenses to the Portuguese and the Swiss to enable them to buy food in order to replace food made available by purchase of the refugee organizations. (I trust this makes good sense to you since I certainly am ignorant of the implications which may be involved in this connection).

2. Schwartz urges that the Board reconsider its decision with regard to the representative suggested by the Ambassador to act for the Board in Spain. Schwartz says that the person suggested whose name begins with B is acceptable to virtually all of the refugee organizations and is capable of handling the Board's work. While Schwartz recognizes that it would be preferable to have Mr. B. devote all of his time to the Board's affairs, nevertheless he feels that it would be well to make the appointment - notwithstanding that B is not willing to abdicate his present functions for the various private refugee organizations. Both Dexter and Schwartz emphasize the great need of having a representative of the Board in Spain as quickly as possible since Spain, because of geographical reasons, offers many more opportunities for increasing the flow of refugees than does Lisbon.

I shall be leaving Lisbon in the next day or two enroute to Algiers and after I have talked to your representative there I shall drop you a further note. Please remember me most cordially to your associates.

Yours truly,

Arthur J. Beckley

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

8 April 1944

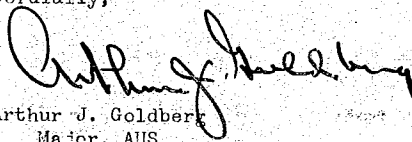
Mr. Joseph Friedman
War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

My dear Friedman:

I am returning herewith the papers which you
were kind enough to send to me.

I should like very much to see you again and
discuss some matters of mutual interest. If convenient,
perhaps we could have lunch together some time during
the latter part of next week. I shall give you a call
so that we can arrange a mutually satisfactory time
and place.

Cordially,


Arthur J. Goldberg
Major, AUS

Enclosure

*Received
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