

Statement by General Eisenhower

000400

Secretary Morgenthau

November 8, 1944

J. W. Pehle

Eisenhower issued the statement prepared by the War Refugee Board on November 7.

As issued by Eisenhower, the statement reads as follows:

"Germans! You have in your midst a great many men in concentration camps and forced labor battalions.

"Germans! Do not obey any orders, regardless of their source, urging you to molest, harm or persecute them, no matter what their religion or nationality may be.

"The Allies, whose armies have already established a firm foot-hold in Germany, expect, on their advance, to find these people alive and unharmed. Heavy punishment awaits those who, directly or indirectly, and to whatever extent, bear any responsibility for the mistreatment of these people.

"May this serve as a warning to whoever at present has the power to issue orders."

(Initialed) J. W. P.


JWP:dg 11/8/44

000401

Warning

The following warning was broadcast to Germany last night by Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters:

"Germans! You have in your midst a great many men in concentration camps and forced labor battalions.

"Germans! Do not obey any orders, regardless of their source, urging you to molest, harm or persecute them, no matter what their religion or nationality may be.

"The Allies, whose armies have already established a firm foothold in Germany, expect, on their advance, to find these people alive and unharmed. Heavy punishment awaits those who, directly or indirectly, and to whatever extent, bear any responsibility for the mistreatment of these people.

"May this serve as a warning to whoever at present has the power to issue orders."

OWI reported the broadcast.

700402

NEW YORK
Herald Tribune
NOV 8 1944

Eisenhower Warns Germans

Broadcast Tells People of "Heavy Punishment" for Persecutions

The German people were warned yesterday in a broadcast announcement from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters that "heavy punishment" will be meted out to any one who directly or indirectly harms or persecutes persons in Nazi concentration camps or forced labor battalions.

The broadcast, reported by the Federal Communications Commission, called on the Germans to disobey any orders, "regardless of their source, urging you to molest, harm or persecute" the captives, "no matter what their religion or nationality may be."

7 0 0 4 0 3

The New York Times.

NOV 8 1944

**EISENHOWER WARNS
REICH ON PRISONERS**

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters warned the German people today not to carry out the orders of any German authorities to "molest, harm or persecute" any persons in German concentration camps or forced-labor battalions, regardless of their "religion or nationality."

Warning at the same time that "heavy punishment" awaited any who were "directly or indirectly" responsible for the "mistreatment of these people," General Eisenhower's statement said that it was hoped that the warning would also be noted by "whomever at present has the power to issue orders." The warning was broadcast by the British radio and the American Broadcasting Station in Europe. It was reported by the Office of War Information.

000404

NEW YORK DAILY PM - November 8, 1944

Warning

The following warning was broadcast to Germany last night by Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters:

"Germans! You have in your midst a great many men in concentration camps and forced labor battalions.

"Germans! Do not obey any orders, regardless of their source, urging you to molest, harm or persecute them, no matter what their religion or nationality may be.

"The Allies, whose armies have already established a firm foothold in Germany, expect, on their advance, to find these people alive and unharmed. Heavy punishment awaits those who, directly or indirectly, and to whatever extent, bear any responsibility for the mistreatment of these people.

"May this serve as a warning to whoever at present has the power to issue orders."

OWI reported the broadcast.

000405

'Ike' Warns Germans On Persecution

The German people were warned yesterday by General Eisenhower's headquarters that "heavy punishment" would be meted out to anyone who directly or indirectly harms or persecutes persons in Nazi concentration camps or forced labor battalions. The broadcast called on the Germans to disobey any orders "regardless of their source, urging you to molest, harm, or persecute" the captives "no matter what their religion or nationality may be."

000400

November 3, 1944

Secretary Morgenthau

J. W. Pehle

The following is the story on the Eisenhower statement:

On September 28, 1944, I sent a letter to McCloy transmitting the suggestion that General Eisenhower issue a statement warning the Germans against the extermination of persons held in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. We had been getting many requests for additional statements by the President and by military authorities and it was felt here that it made more sense for Eisenhower to issue a statement which would not be interpreted as a political gesture. Also we felt that such an action might have some effect since Eisenhower presumably will be in charge of certain parts of Germany when occupied. A copy of the statement transmitted to McCloy is attached, marked Exhibit A.

Simultaneously, this statement was cleared in principle with the State Department which suggested certain language changes.

On or about October 9, Judge Rosenman called me concerning a request that Proskauer had made that the President issue a statement. I told Rosenman about the proposed Eisenhower statement and he was fully in agreement that it would be preferable for General Eisenhower to issue a statement rather than the President. He asked if he could be of any help in pushing the statement with the military authorities and I sent to him a suggested memorandum from the President to Secretary Stimson approving the statement. The President signed the memorandum to Secretary Stimson on October 18. A copy of the President's memorandum is attached, marked Exhibit B.

In the meantime, the War Department transmitted the text of the proposed statement to General Eisenhower for his views. Eisenhower said that he had no objections to issuing the statement provided a change was made in the language to change the words "Without regard to their nationality and whether they are Jewish or otherwise" to read "Without regard to their nationality or religious faith". The War Department submitted the matter to the British authorities who also suggested an unimportant language change which was made.

Upon receipt of Eisenhower's comments the War Department replied to the President's memorandum on October 20, furnishing him with a copy of the statement in its latest form and telling him that the matter was pending with the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Apparently the President, instead of filing the revised statement or writing on it "Approved, F.D.R.", signed the statement and returned it to the War Department. The War Department was somewhat mystified by the President's signature on the statement and asked me to clear up the matter. Judge Rosenman's secretary checked into the facts and told me to advise the War Department that the President had merely meant to approve of Eisenhower issuing the statement.

It is expected that General Eisenhower will issue a statement along these lines in the near future. The latest version of the statement is attached as Exhibit C.

At the same time, we are working through the State Department to try to get Russian military or civil authorities to issue a comparable statement, which would be very significant since the Russians, to our knowledge, have never taken any such action.

I have searched my recollection further as to whether I mentioned this matter to you. I know that I intended to do so and thought that I had. However, since you do not recall it I assume that you are correct and you were not kept up to date on the matter. Certainly you should have been.

(Signed J. W. Pehle)

Attachments *JWP*
JWPehle:lh 11-3-44

11 11 4 11 11

EXHIBIT "A"

GERMANS!

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. A great many citizens of the United Nations, including Poles and Czechoslovaks are among these captives. There are also among them many persons who have been declared by Hitler to be stateless. Without regard to their nationality and whether they are Jewish or otherwise, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, I shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

(Text of proposed statement by General Eisenhower as transmitted to McCloy on September 28.)

000409

"EXHIBIT B"

October 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY STIMSON

There is attached a proposed statement to be issued by General Eisenhower with respect to prisoners in enemy concentration and forced labor camps which the War Refugee Board has submitted for consideration.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, I think General Eisenhower should issue such a statement as promptly as possible.

FDR

000410

GERMANS

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality and whether they are Jewish or otherwise, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

000411

EXHIBIT "C"

GERMANS!

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality or religious faith, Germans, disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

(Latest version of the Eisenhower statement - Nov. 3, 1944)

000412

*2 War Ref Bd.
(Mr. Peble)*

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Embassy, Moscow (via Army)
TO: Secretary of State, Washington
DATED: November 2, 1944
NUMBER: 4206

CONTROL COPY

The following is for War Refugee Board and the Department.

In a communication which voiced the hope that a statement would be made by the Soviet Government like that issued by General Eisenhower, we transmitted to the Foreign Office the data concerning German plans to kill persons interned in concentration and labor camps which was contained in Department's message October 30, No. 3563.

KENNAN

DCR:GFW

11-3-44

DECLASSIFIED

State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72

By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000413

DEPARTMENT
OF
STATE

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

7-Quar Ref-Bel Bell
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

LFG-227

Distribution of true
reading only by special
arrangement. ()

London

1944 NOV 5
Date: November 1, 1944

Rec'd 6:32 a.m., 2nd

*ALL INFORMATION
(LONDON)*

*Falk
JBS*

Secretary of State,
Washington.

9444, November 1, 7 p.m.

FOR PEHLE FROM TAMM

Reference WRB 18

Person of refugee Department Foreign Office states
that proposed warning was cleared and certain minor
changes suggested about ten days ago. He is certain
that the statement as changed has now been received
in Washington. His suggested change was to modify the
"these are my orders" and say something along the lines
of "it is expected that". Please advise if draft with
British changes has not been received.

GALLMAN

RR

For security reasons the
text of this message must
be closely guarded.

CONTROL COPY

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000414

*2 war Ref Bd
(Parker)*

ORIGINAL TEXT OF TELEGRAM SENT

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington
TO: American Embassy, Moscow
DATE: October 30, 1944
NUMBER: 2563

CONTROL COPY

From Department and War Refugee Board for Kennan.

This Government has recently received reliable information that the Germans are preparing for a last minute slaughter of thousands of United Nations' citizens and stateless Jews held by them in forced labor and concentration camps. This diabolical scheme is a further step in the program of mass murder and terror visited upon the peoples of the world by the Germans. The Governments of the United Nations, of course, are determined to see that the perpetrators of all of these crimes are brought to justice and punished. But this Government also feels that all possible steps should be taken in an effort to prevent additional atrocities. With this in view President Roosevelt has requested the issuance of a statement of warning by General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of the Allied Military Forces in the West. Accordingly, arrangements are being made for General Eisenhower to issue a statement along the following lines:

"Germans! There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality or religious faith, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!"

It is the conviction of this Government that it is extremely important that the Soviet Government, either directly or through appropriate military officials, make a similar statement. While this Government can, of course, have no assurance that words will save the innocent lives which are threatened, the voice of the military forces now prepared to crush the enemy may be heard and obeyed.

This Government sincerely hopes that the Soviet Government will find itself in a position to cooperate in this most important matter. In view of the urgency of the situation, this Government believes that both statements should be issued at the earliest possible moment. For this reason, this Government does not believe that the matter should be delayed in order that the two statements can be issued at exactly the same moment.

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1977

STETTINUS
ACTING
RECEIVED

000415

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

5 was by St-Pelle

RED
Specialization of
arrangement.

OCTOBER 30, 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SPECIAL

1944 NOV 1 AM 11 15

CONTROL COPY

EMBASSY,
LONDON

COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS
(LIAISON)

9053

The following for Mann from Fehle is WRB 18.

I have been advised that proposed warning from General Eisenhower to Germans concerning atrocities against persons in concentration and labor camps is still awaiting clearance from the British. The proposed warning was cleared with all interested agencies here and has been approved by the President. I urge that you do everything possible to expedite clearance in London where matter has been referred by British military authorities.

For security reasons the text of this message must be closely guarded.

STETTINIUS
(ACTING)
(SIN)

WRB:MMV:OMH
10/27/44

BC

DECLASSIFIED
State Dept. Letter, 1-11-72
By R. H. Parks Date SEP 27 1972

000416

CABLE TO AMBASSADOR WINANT, LONDON, FOR MANN FROM PEHLE

I have been advised that proposed warning from General Eisenhower to Germans concerning atrocities against persons in concentration and labor camps is still awaiting clearance from the British. The proposed warning was cleared with all interested agencies here and has been approved by the President. I urge that you do everything possible to expedite clearance in London where matter has been referred by British military authorities.

THIS IS WRB LONDON CABLE NO. 18.

11:05 a.m.
October 27, 1944

Miss Chauncey (for the Sec'y) Abrahamson, Cohn, DuBois, Friedman, Hodel, Lesser, Mannon, McCormack, Files

JH
FH:JWP:hd 10/27/44

000417

October 30, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Re: Eisenhower Statement

Colonel Gerhardt called me this morning to say that the British had cleared the statement subject to the words "these are my orders: You shall" being omitted from the draft. The British regard such language as unnecessarily provocative. I told Colonel Gerhardt I would concur in this change since I did not want to have the statement held up.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JWA' with a large loop on the left side.

JWP:Lnh

000413

TO:

- Mr. Lesser
- Mr. Friedman
- Mr. Stewart
- Miss Hodel 2410
- Mr. DuBois
- Mr. Luxford
- Mrs. Taylor

For Secret Files

J. W. Pehle
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

000419

October 26, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Judge Rosenman's office called me today to say that Miss Tully, the President's secretary; said that the President was not thinking and instead of writing "O.K. - FDR", on the Eisenhower statement, he signed his name but meant that the statement was o.k.

I advised Colonel Gerhardt accordingly.



JWP:1hh 10-26-44

000420

SECRET



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
WASHINGTON

26 October 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building, Rm. 3414
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Enclosed herewith is a photostatic copy of the statement signed by the President. Upon comparison I find this is the same statement which was sent to the President in reply to his letter to Mr. Stimson. I am enclosing a copy of the letter to Mr. Stimson and the reply thereto made by Mr. McCloy, as you requested.

Sincerely,

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Enc.

- 1 Photostatic cy. President's statement
- 1 cc. ltr. 20 Oct. '44 to President fm. ASW and encl.
- 1 cc. ltr. 18 Oct. '44 to S/W fm. President and encl.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72
SEP 27 1972

000421

SECRET

GERMANS

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality or religious faith, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to select, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed.

Approved: (Inserted upon instructions from War Refugee Board)

Walter H. Reuther

DECLASSIFIED
ON 03D letter, 5-3-78

DECLASSIFIED
ON 03D letter, 5-3-78

DECLASSIFIED
ON 03D letter, 5-3-78

SEP 27 1972

000422

C
O
P
Y

SECRET

20 October 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

In the absence of the Secretary of War, I am acknowledging your letter of October 18 to him concerning issuance by General Eisenhower of a statement, prepared by the War Refugee Board, with respect to prisoners in enemy concentration and forced-labor camps.

On October 11, upon receipt of a copy of the proposed statement from the War Refugee Board, the War Department transmitted it to General Eisenhower for an expression of his views. He replied that he has no objection to the statement provided the words "or religious faith" are substituted for "and whether they are Jewish or otherwise" in the second sentence thereof. He requested that he receive a directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff for issuance of the statement.

The War Refugee Board has approved General Eisenhower's proposed amendment, and the U. S. Chiefs of Staff have today recommended to the Combined Chiefs of Staff that they instruct General Eisenhower to issue the statement as amended by him.

The statement as thus amended is attached.

(Signed) John J. McCloy

Assistant Secretary of War

The President

The White House

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78
SEP 27 1972

000423

SECRET

GERMANS!

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality or religious faith, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72
SEP 27 1972

000424

The White House
Washington

October 18, 1944

MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY STIMSON

There is attached a proposed statement to be issued by General Eisenhower with respect to prisoners in enemy concentration and forced labor camps which the War Refugee Board has submitted for consideration.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, I think General Eisenhower should issue such a statement as promptly as possible.

F.D.R.

100425

GERMANS!

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality and whether they are Jewish or otherwise, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

000426

SECRET

26 October 1944

Mr. John W. Pehle
Executive Director
War Refugee Board
Treasury Building, Rm. 3414
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Enclosed herewith is a photostatic copy of the statement signed by the President. Upon comparison I find this is the same statement which was sent to the President in reply to his letter to Mr. Stimson. I am enclosing a copy of the letter to Mr. Stimson and the reply thereto made by Mr. McCloy, as you requested.

Sincerely,

~~SIGNATURE~~

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Enc.

- 1 Photostatic cy. President's statement
- 1 cc. ltr. 20 Oct. '44 to President fm. ASW and encl.
- 1 cc. ltr. 18 Oct. '44 to S/W fm. President and encl.

~~SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72
SEP 27 1972

000427

OCT 19 1944

My dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know, this Government has recently received reliable information that the Germans are making plans for a last minute slaughter of thousands of United Nations' citizens and stateless Jews held by them in forced labor and concentration camps. Your forceful warning of October 10th was directed to this grave situation.

In this connection, the War Refugee Board received a number of telegrams from various individuals and organizations, suggesting that in addition to warnings issued by high political officials a statement by General Eisenhower as Commander of the Allied Military Forces might have an important staying effect. We felt that there was much merit in this suggestion, and cleared with the State Department, and submitted to the War Department a proposed statement to be issued by General Eisenhower. At the same time the matter was taken up with the President who is in complete accord with the idea. The President has advised the War Department that in his judgment General Eisenhower should issue as promptly as possible the statement suggested by the War Refugee Board. Attached hereto is a copy of the President's memorandum to Secretary Stimson.

I have now been informed by the War Department that the matter has been approved in principle by General Eisenhower, and that the War Department is proceeding to obtain prompt clearance from the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

It is our belief that if the fullest possible effect is to be achieved the Soviet Government should be requested to make, through one of its military commanders, a statement similar to the Eisenhower statement. I am sure you will appreciate that statements by high military authorities of all of the forces now surrounding Germany may have greater force than a statement by General Eisenhower alone.

- 2 -

It occurs to me that a personal message from you to Mr. Molotov may be the most effective means of obtaining Soviet cooperation in this instance. If you are in agreement, it is suggested that you communicate with him along the lines of the attached draft message, which quotes the proposed Eisenhower statement in its revised form. In view of the urgency of the situation we do not feel that it is desirable to postpone General Eisenhower's statement in order that it may be issued simultaneously with any statement the Soviets may wish to make. The desired effect will be achieved if both statements are issued quickly even though not at exactly the same moment,

I am sure that you will recognize the urgency of this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed J. W. Pehle)

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Enclosures

JBF:JWPehle:lh 10-19-44

000429

Suggested Message from Secretary Hull to Mr. Molotov.

My Government has recently received reliable information that the Germans are preparing for a last minute slaughter of thousands of United Nations' citizens and stateless Jews held by them in forced labor and concentration camps. This diabolical scheme is a further step in the program of mass murder and terror visited upon the peoples of the world by the Germans. The Governments of the United Nations, of course, are determined to see that the perpetrators of all of these crimes are brought to justice and punished. But we also feel that all possible steps should be taken in an effort to prevent additional atrocities. With this in view President Roosevelt has requested the issuance of a statement of warning by General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander of the Allied Military Forces in the West. Accordingly, arrangements are being made for General Eisenhower to issue a statement along the following lines:

"Germans! There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality or religious faith, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!"

It is my conviction that it is extremely important that the Soviet Government, either directly or through appropriate military officials, make a similar statement. While we can, of course, have no assurance that words will save the innocent lives which are threatened, the voice of the military forces now prepared to crush the enemy may be heard and obeyed.

I sincerely hope that your government will find itself in a position to cooperate in this most important matter. In view of the urgency of the situation, I believe that both statements should be issued at the earliest possible moment. For this reason, I do not believe that the matter should be delayed in order that the two statements can be issued at exactly the same moment.

000430

OCT 9 1944

My dear Mr. McCloy:

Reference is made to my letter of September 28, 1944, transmitting a proposed statement to be issued by General Eisenhower.

There is attached hereto an amended version of this statement which has been approved by the Department of State.

I would appreciate prompt action being taken with respect to this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

J. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Honorable John J. McCloy,
Assistant Secretary,
War Department.

Attachment

*Letter and attachment to Pentagon (Ex-104)
by Special Messenger 10/9/44*



JWP:dg 10/9/44

000431

OCT 9 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Reports continue to indicate the probability that the Germans intend, as a last-minute act before their defeat, to complete the extermination of Jews and others held by them in concentration and forced labor camps. As you said in your message to the Congress on June 12: "Knowing they have lost the War, the Nazis are determined to complete their program of mass extermination." We think that a stern warning by General Eisenhower may have some deterrent effect. Consequently, we have submitted to the War Department a proposed statement to be issued by him, a copy of which is attached. The Department of State has already given its approval to such statement.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, there is attached for your consideration a proposed memorandum from you to Secretary Stimson approving the issuance of such statement by General Eisenhower.

(Signed) J.W. Pehle

Executive Director

Attachments.

original & copy white House 10/9/44



LL/JWP:dg 10/9/44

000432

GERMANS!

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. Without regard to their nationality and whether they are Jewish or otherwise, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, we shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

000433

MEMORANDUM TO SECRETARY STIMSON ✓

There is attached a proposed statement to be issued by General Eisenhower with respect to prisoners in enemy concentration and forced labor camps which the War Refugee Board has submitted for consideration.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, I think General Eisenhower should issue such a statement as promptly as possible.

000434

SEP 28 1944

My dear Mr. McCloy:

Fears have been expressed to the Board that the Germans, in retreating, may as a last minute gesture slaughter a large number of the United Nations' citizens and stateless Jews held by them in forced labor and concentration camps. These fears have been augmented by a recent report that the Polish Government is informed that the Germans are planning to exterminate 45,000 civilians detained by them at Auschwitz.

In telegrams to the Board on this subject, Judge Joseph M. Proskauer of New York and others have suggested that a statement issued by General Eisenhower to the German authorities and people might have some staying effect. I feel that there is much merit in this suggestion and there is enclosed for your consideration a statement which it is proposed General Eisenhower might make on this subject.

I would appreciate it very much if you would at your earliest convenience undertake to secure the necessary clearances for this statement from all appropriate authorities. It is our intention, if General Eisenhower should make such a statement, to request the Soviet Government to rebroadcast it or to make a similar statement through a military commander.

I am sure that you will recognize the urgency of this matter.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. W. Fehle

J. W. Fehle
Executive Director

Mr. John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

LSL:ecer:JBF:friedman:tro

807 9/28/44 L.G.L. JCF

Original copy by
Mr. Fehle

Copies to: Abrahamson
Lisser
Hodul
Friedman

000435

GERMANS!

There are within your midst large numbers of persons in forced-labor battalions and in concentration camps. A great many citizens of the United Nations, including Poles and Czechoslovaks are among these captives. There are also among them many persons who have been declared by Hitler to be stateless. Without regard to their nationality and whether they are Jewish or otherwise, Germans, these are my orders: You shall disregard any order from whatever source, to molest, or otherwise harm or persecute any of these people. As the Allied armies, already firmly on German soil, advance, I shall expect to find these persons alive and unharmed. Severe penalties will be inflicted upon anyone who is responsible, directly or indirectly, in large measure or in small, for their mistreatment. Those now exercising authority, take heed!

LSLesser:tmh 9-27-44

L.S.L. aa 7d

000436