W.R.B.: Liquidating Correspondence

RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS
Dear Rabbi Schonfeld:

Reference is made to your letter of January 2, 1946, addressed to the War Refugee Board.

As you undoubtedly know, the War Refugee Board was terminated by Executive Order on September 15, 1945. Its affairs are being liquidated by this office which has no information concerning the whereabouts of Leo Topor who has been reported to have survived the Nazi persecutions.

It is suggested that you may wish to contact one of the agencies on the enclosed list which are members of the Central Location Index. I regret that this office is unable to give you any further advice on the matter.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Rabbi Dr. S. Schonfeld,
Yad Hakatomah Emergency Committee,
122 Nassau Street,
New York 7, N. Y.

Enclosure.

FR: H 1/5/46
January 2, 1946

Dear Sirs:

Recently the press published a picture of Jewish refugee children rescued by your Department. Among them was one of Leo Topor described as follows:

Orphaned by Nazi brutality (but saved by underground agents, the War Refugee Board and Christian friends) untold numbers of children such as these found shelter in homes after Pope Pius instructed bishops and priests to give all assistance possible to refugees. Parents of all three are listed as missing. Cheerful looking Leo Topor (1), left, was sheltered by a Paris family. His father, Michael, a Polish mechanic, arrested in Paris on Aug. 20, 1941, was "deported" to a death camp from Oompagne on June 3, 1942....."

One of our friends thinks the boy may be a relative and we should be deeply grateful if you would please supply us with additional information, especially as to his present whereabouts.

Kindly reply to Mrs. Gotthold, 15A East 73rd St., New York, N. Y.

Yours faithfully,

Rabbi Dr. S. Schonfeld.

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

JAN 5, 1946

Dear Mr. Mathews:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 31, 1945, concerning the rules for admission to practice before the War Refugee Board.

The War Refugee Board was terminated by Executive Order on September 15, 1945. Accordingly, it is impossible to reply to your request.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Mr. T. Odon Mathews, Public Relations Advisor, 3030 Eye Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

File M 1/3/46
December 31, 1945

Chief Clerk
War Refugee Board
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please mail to me the rules for admission to practise before the War Refugee Board.

Yours very truly,

T. Odon Mathews

TOM/lp
Dear Mr. Gurin,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 24, 1945, requesting reports issued by the War Refugee Board.

As you may know, this Board was terminated by Executive Order on September 15, 1945, and this office is liquidating its affairs. The only official report of the Board was the final report of its Executive Director, copy of which is enclosed. In addition, you may be interested in the enclosed copy of the report on conditions at Auschwitz and Birkenau which was released by the Board in November 1944.

Very truly yours,

/\/ Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt

Director

Mr. Arnold Gurin,

Director of Budget Research,

Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Inc.,

165 West 46th Street,

New York 19, N. Y.

Enclosures.

FHhd 1/2/46
Respectfully referred to the
Treasury Department for consideration and acknowledgment.

WILLIAM D. HASSELT
Secretary to the President
December 24th, 1946

Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

We are at present engaged in a study of the activities of Jewish voluntary agencies in the fields of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation work overseas. For background purposes it would be very useful to us to have the reports issued by the War Refugee Board.

Would you please be good enough to send us one copy of each report that is available?

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Arnold Gurin
Director of Budget Research
December 14, 1945

Dear Miss Miller:

Reference is made to your letter of December 12 addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you may wish to refer your problem to the National Refugee Service, 139 Centre Street, New York, New York.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Miss Regina Miller
2310 Creston Avenue
New York 23, New York
2310 Centraville Avenue  
New York 53, N.Y.  
December 12, 1945

Dear Sir,

Several weeks ago I learned through the newspaper that my niece, Kelt Mackner (1934 Labor supervision, B. P. O. E. 78, U. S. Army), who is now working for the Red Cross in Heidelberg, Germany, was looking for work. She is a young girl of eighteen who has suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazis. Her father and brother were gassed, and her mother was shot leaving her to her own except my family and myself. For that reason, I will do anything in my power to take her in, as I am well able to support her financially and would like...
I am writing to adopt her. I would appreciate it if you would let me know the legal procedure involved in this and if it is in your power to help me.

Thanking you for your kindness,

I remain,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. She was born in Germany but is a British citizen.
Liquidation of
War Refugee Board

December 14, 1945.

Dear Mr. Funk:

Reference is made to your letter of December 11
addressed to Mr. John W. Pohle, Executive Director, War
Refugee Board, with respect to a report of the activities
of the Board for inclusion in the forthcoming issue of your
Year Book.

The War Refugee Board was terminated by Executive
Order on September 15, 1945 and this office is presently
liquidating its affairs.

In view of the termination of the Board it is
proposed that no material be submitted for inclusion in your
1945 Year Book. However, for your information there is en-
closed a copy of the Final Summary Report of the Executive
Director of the Board, which has been released to the public
and which may contain material of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Mr. Charles Earl Funk
Editor
The New International Year Book
354 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Filadela 13 12-14-45
Mr. John W. Pehle, Executive Director  
War Refugee Board  
Department of the Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pehle:

May I again ask your cooperation in preparing a brief report of the activities and findings of your office during 1945 for inclusion in the forthcoming issue of The New International Year Book?

Enclosed is a copy of the material which we printed in the previous volume, covering the year 1944. We will assume, unless we hear from you to the contrary, that the space will be approximately the same.

Our deadline is not until January third, but our work will be greatly facilitated if we can arrange to send your article to the printer during December. You will have ample opportunity to revise the proofs during January in order to insure the completeness of the material up to the end of the year.

The authoritative coverage of governmental material has become an outstanding feature of the Year Book and we shall, therefore, greatly appreciate your continued assistance.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

CEP: HF  
Enclosure
WAR REFUGEE BOARD. On June 22, 1944, President Roosevelt by Executive Order set up the War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. They were directed to take action for the immediate rescue from the Nazis of as many as possible of the persecuted minorities of Europe—civil, religious or political—all civilians victims of enemy savagery. The Board was established in the Executive Office of the President. John W. Peck, Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury and Director of Foreign Funds Council, was given leave of absence to serve as Executive Director.

As set out in the Executive Order, the Functions of the Board include development of plans and programs and the inauguration of effective measures for (a) the repatriation, maintenance and relief of all victims of enemy oppression, and (b) the establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims. The Board was directed to cooperate with all public agencies and with established private organizations dealing with refugee problems.

Early in February, 1944, the Board solicited the written suggestions of all interested private agencies concerning the measures they believed the Board could take to rescue and otherwise bring relief to Jews and other victims of enemy persecution, and it asked the private agencies to advise it of the measures they were equipped to take to lend assistance in the Board's work. To implement its existence the Board has directed its efforts toward channeling, stimulating, and expediting the work of other established operating groups, both public and private.

From the beginning evacuation and relief operations have assumed a position of major importance in the Board's activities. To facilitate these operations the Board appointed special representatives at strategic spots in Europe where evacuation was possible. These representatives were: Ira Hirschmann and Herbert Karsh, Turkey; Roswell McClelland, Netherlands; Robert C. Christ, Portugal; Ivan de Groot, Sweden; Leonard Adirimani, Italy; and the Mediterranean area.
With the cooperation of neutral countries, the Board has participated in the rescue of thousands of refugees from the Balkans across the Black Sea to Palestine; in the rescue of many children and other refugees from Belgium, Holland, and France who were brought to Switzerland and over the Pyrenees to Spain and Portugal; in the rescue of many victims of Nazi persecution in Norway and the Baltic who feared internment in Sweden and in the rescue of thousands from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Northern Italy to Switzerland. As a direct result of the Board’s efforts over 40,000 refugees were brought back from Transnistria to Romania, additional evacuations were effected from Yugoslavia to Italy. Aid also was brought to several hundred thousand Jews and Portuguese Jews in occupied Portugal through the cooperation of the Spanish and Portuguese Governments, which were persuaded to assume responsibility for these exiles of 450 years’ standing.

With the cooperation of other American republics, the Board has taken effective measures to safeguard the lives of thousands of persons in enemy Europe who had secured passports and other documents issued in the names of Latin-American countries. In conjunction with the State Department, programs have been set in operation to facilitate the rescue of husbands, wives, children, and parents of American citizens and the wives and children of aliens resident in this country. A similar program has been devised for the protection of those to whom American immigration visas had been issued after July 1, 1941, but who, because of war conditions, were unable to come to this country.

President Roosevelt charged the Board with overall responsibility for creating nearly 1,000 refugees from Italy and establishing them in the section of the war in an Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario, an abandoned Army camp near Oswego, New York. The Board has also supported other countries in setting up refugee camps in Africa.

With the cooperation of the American and International Red Cross, the Board has carried on a program for the shipment of hundreds of thousands of food packages from the United States for delivery to civilians interned in Nazi concentration camps. The Board has also facilitated and sponsored large-scale feeding programs financed by private American relief organizations. These programs involve the purchase of food in neutral countries for delivery by the International Red Cross and other 

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USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR TABLES

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Second only in importance to evacuation operations has been the Board's psychological warfare work. In this area it has worked hand in hand with the Office of War Information, President Roosevelt's warning of March 24 to Germany and her satellites of the consequences of further persecution of the Jews was given wide coverage in the press and radio around the world, particularly in German-controlled Europe. Listeners to secret radio in Europe also heard statements of warning and protest against the persecution of the Jews from Secretary Hull, the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, and Governor Dewey. As the Nazi program of deportation and extermination of Jews got under way in Hungary in March, 1944, the Office of War Information beamed its "Voice of America" steadily to Hungarians in Hungarian-language shortwave broadcasts. At the same time leaflets were dropped warning the Hungarian Jews of deportation for their inhuman conduct. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's statement of Nov. 7, 1944, urging Hungarians not to obey orders to deport Jews, was transmitted to Hungarian camps in concentration camps; secret leaflets were widely publicized in the free world and radio. Although there is no accurate measure of the effectiveness of the various psychological warfare efforts, the Board has in its prestige reports that indicate that the deterrent effects of the repeated warnings have been considerable.
Brigadier General William O'Dwyer
6415 Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We have in this library a copy
of No. 19 of the War Refugees Board Press
Releases.

Would it be possible for you to
send us all the Releases before No. 19?

We would be grateful if you could
carry out our request.

Yours very truly,

Arthur C. Pulling
Director

[Signature]
December 4, 1945.

Dear Mr. Pulling,

Reference is made to your letter of December 1 requesting copies of all of the War Refugee Board press releases.

I regret to have to advise you that copies of these releases are no longer available. As you know, the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 15, 1945.

Very truly yours,

/\no\s

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Mr. Arthur C. Pulling
Director
Law School of Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Phodeligm 12-4-45
War Refugee Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We have in this library a copy of your Press Release No. 19.

Would it be possible for you to send us all the Releases before No. 19 and Release No. 20 to date? We would also like to have the name of this library placed on your mailing list for all future Releases.

We would be grateful if you could comply with our request.

Yours very truly,

Arthur C. Pulling
Arthur C. Pulling
Director
Mr. Orvis A. Schmidt, Director
Treasury Department
Foreign Funds Control
Liquidation of War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 1945.

We appreciate your kindness in sending this library a complimentary copy of "Final Summary Report of the Executive Director, War Refugee Board", September 15, 1945.

I am sure that we will find this report of interest and value in the library.

Yours very truly,

Arthur C. Pulling
Director
Liquidation of
War Refugee Board

Dear Mr. Pulling:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of
November 5, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee
Board. The Board was terminated by Executive
Order on September 15, 1945, and this office is
handling the liquidation of its affairs.

The only public report of the Board is the
enclosed final summary report of the Executive
Director.

Very truly yours,

/5/ Orvis A. Schmidt
Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Mr. Arthur C. Pulling, Director,
Library, Langdell Hall,
Law School of Harvard University,
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Enclosure.
Law School of Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Mass.

LIBRARY LANGDELL HALL

November 5, 1945

War Refugee Board
Room 2426
Department of the Treasury Building
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Would it be possible for you to send this library complimentary copies of all your publications and reports?

We would also be grateful if you could place the name of this library on your mailing list.

We would appreciate it very much if you could comply with our request.

Yours very truly,

Arthur C. Pulling
Director

Arthur C. Pulling
Director
Liquidation of
War Refugee Board

December 5, 1945.

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to your communication of November 28, 1945.

I regret to advise you that press releases of the War Refugee Board are no longer available. As you know, the Board was terminated on September 15, 1945.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Documents Division
University of California Library
Berkeley, California

File: 12-5-45
We shall be grateful if you will send the publication noted below which we need to complete our file. If you cannot supply, will you kindly inform us?

Please address: DOCUMENTS DIVISION THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARIES

November 28, 1945

U.S. War Refugee Board.

Release nos. 17 and 18.
December 5, 1945.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There is forwarded to you herewith for appropriate reply a letter addressed to the President by Vesta Shumaker concerning the refugees at Fort Ontario.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior

Enclosure

Rhode Island 12-5-45
President Harry Truman  
White House,  
Washington, D.C.  

Nov. 29th, 1945  

1419 S. Elm St.  
Coshocton, Ohio  

Dear Sir:  

We are concerned about the Refugees at Fort Ontario in N.Y. Could you please give these 1000 people American citizenship. We feel they are the type of people who would make valuable citizens. Sending them back to Europe would work a needless hardship. America has not done her share of taking in refugees, and this would be a kind gesture which we can afford.

Sincerely,  

/s/ Vesta Shumaker
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

November 16, 1945

My dear Mr. Keator:

Reference is made to your letter of November 10 addressed to Mr. John W. Fohle, Executive Director, War Refugee Board. This Board was terminated by Executive Order of President Truman on September 15, 1945, and its affairs are presently being liquidated by this office.

In view of the foregoing it is suggested that you may wish to communicate with the Department of State concerning your program for Jewish refugees.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Mr. Edward O. Keator
108 Five Oaks Avenue
Dayton 5, Ohio

Rhodelumb 11-16-45
FARM
COAL MINE
FARM AGAIN

IN AMERICA, IT'S FARM, COAL MINING, FARM AGAIN

September, 1944
COAL AGE

The land is threatened, too, by unnecessary strip mining.

Because all available fuel is needed to keep war industries humming and home fires burning, the area has become typical of wartime England.

Big "Caterpillar" Diesel Tractors and tractors with the appeal from farmsteads in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and pile it carefully aside. When the coal is removed, the "Caterpillar" Diesels will dig away in much the same fashion. Once mine it is futureland, ready for seeding.

Scientists report on Population Shifts

This year scientists found that their 1944 meeting would have to be called off as had all since December 1944—because of pressure of war research. The notion of a sandalhouse-tour was seen in more time for scientists to leave their lab coat and meet often they met most of Tokyo without recognizing.

But last week some 5,000 top-flight chemists, astronomers, physicists, geologists, and anthropologists (indeed all those present 8,000) managed to get to Cleveland for the AAAS's 114th session. They of course gave away no secrets, but they did make clear science's high role in making the peace for men in the wars and achieving individual security.

Geographic Juggling From Isaiah Bowman, the great geographer, political scientist, president of the Johns Hopkins University, and aide to the American delegation at Damouron Oaks, came a message that prompted some of the large tall, shifting human populations to overcrowded lands. Some of bits of Captain's population shifts "would be the biggest folly." Such mistakes, dating back to the Roman propert, could not now be cured by "lighted sail" about the rearrangements of the population of the world.

For example, said Bowman, take the idea of moving half the annual increase of 2,000,000 into the 5th Census Region. Transportation alone would be an impossibly large. The borderlines Indians would know how to make a living in the strange new country, so unlike their old, historic landscape, values, family life, and religion. And Indians would scarcely welcome the prospect of having a new Indian Empire suddenly dumped among them.

U. S. Southern Another geographer, Dr. William J. Boyce of Western Michigan College of Education, offered the association a prediction: The United States will have to cope with a huge population Bryant's Prediction by analogy. He noted that in climate, soil, resources, and resources, the American corn belt compared with the western Far West in Italy. But the eastern belt moved by the movement of people from the Great Lakes Valley to the Far West, whereas the population of the Pacific coast, he said, will be so great.

Similarly, the Beatle festival and delta of the Lower Mississippi Valley compared with the Lower Mississippi Valley and Yangtze Valley. Among this part of the Mississippi Valley, Bryant was less than 100 square miles of the vast Mississippi Valley, but the eastern Belt moved by the movement of people from the Great Lakes Valley to the Far West, whereas the population of the Pacific coast, he said, will be so great.

By a patchwork of such computations, Bryant came to his conclusion that the United States could accommodate an additional 150 acres each, annually.

A REVEALING CRITERION OF AMERICAN "DEMOCRACY"!

Note: Improved Strip Mining Methods Have Been Developed Within Last Year and Automatically Specify the Land Icon for Cultivation as a Route Part of the Stripming Operation. Illustrated and Describing Method on Stripming with Giant Steer and the Improved Methods Are Now Being Employed in Most of the Larger Machinery as Much as 30 Acres Each, Annually.

J. H. Hefler, III, Peoria, Ill.
Mr. B. O. Kentor,
100 First Oak Avenue,
Dayton, Ohio,

Dear Sir:

Your letter of May 3rd has been received by me and read with great interest. It is very evident that
you are familiar with the problems of the coal industry.

I shall have to visit your town, which is
one of the questions you have. It is really a good time. Anything
distinctly worse in quality than it is now. Perhaps the best way to
would be to come here and see me some time and let me get
your views firsthand. I will be glad to have a talk with you. If
you should plan to come to Indianapolis please arrange an
appointment beforehand, because I may very apt to be away.

Very truly yours,

President.

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Mr. Edward O. Kentor,
100 First Oak Avenue,
Dayton, Ohio,

Dear Mr. Kentor:

I have your letter of February 10th. I
am sorry to say that it would be utterly impossible for
me to accept any such radical innovation as you suggest.
In the first place, I do not have the time; in the second
place, I would not want to take such a matter due to the,
chaotic condition of the coal business at the present time.
It would not expedite the coal system any.

Very truly yours,

President.
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR PALESTINE AID

NEW YORK, Nov. 5—Many Americans have returned to Jewry with Great Britain the responsibility for immediate transportation and settlement in Palestine of 200,000 displaced Jews in Europe because of the latest resolutions adopted at the closing session of the World Conference of Christian Churches in Dallas, Tex.

In his address, the Rev. Dr. John R. M. MacKay, the New York representative of the World Christian Council, said that the United States share the same responsibility for immediate transportation and settlement in Palestine of 200,000 Jews who have been displaced from homes and livelihood in Europe because of the latest resolutions adopted at the closing session of the World Conference of Christian Churches in Dallas, Tex.

Dr. MacKay said that the United States share the same responsibility for immediate transportation and settlement in Palestine of 200,000 Jews who have been displaced from homes and livelihood in Europe because of the latest resolutions adopted at the closing session of the World Conference of Christian Churches in Dallas, Tex.

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If European Jews Can't Return To Palestine, America Has Many Places for Controlled Citizens

BY PHILIP WYLIE

If European Jews can't return to Palestine, the United States has many places for controlled citizens.

The recent resolutions of the Christian churches demand that the United States share with Great Britain the responsibility for immediate transportation and settlement in Palestine of 200,000 Jews who have been displaced from homes and livelihood in Europe because of the latest resolutions adopted at the closing session of the World Conference of Christian Churches in Dallas, Tex.

In his address, the Rev. Dr. John R. M. MacKay, the New York representative of the World Christian Council, said that the United States share the same responsibility for immediate transportation and settlement in Palestine of 200,000 Jews who have been displaced from homes and livelihood in Europe because of the latest resolutions adopted at the closing session of the World Conference of Christian Churches in Dallas, Tex.

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Dr. MacKay said the United States share the same responsibility for immediate transportation and settlement in Palestine of 200,000 Jews who have been displaced from homes and livelihood in Europe because of the latest resolutions adopted at the closing session of the World Conference of Christian Churches in Dallas, Tex.

If European Jews can't return to Palestine, the United States has many places for controlled citizens.
between the Arabs and Jews to settle in Palestine, I can readily understand. I am strongly opposed to controversies, and inasmuch as we need, I see no reason why we can supply the land here in America. And, I specialize in that line of excavation and haulage, for many years of experience, in strip mining operations. I can explain briefly the process as to the removal of other minerals and metals. Several methods are employed, such as pictured and described. Scrapers, then, is the haul away. That is something that we can do here in America.

The land is so plentiful that one acreage under production permanently destroys the top soil is first removed, for the coal is removed. The cost is high, but not necessarily the methods that destroy the land is so plentiful that one acreage under production permanently destroys the top soil is first removed, for the coal is removed. The cost is high, but not necessarily the methods that destroy the land. Of course I brought these government authorities but creating scarcity to hold for co-operation. The Ohio can see from Lt. Governor the strip mine operators due to a handful of the largest are tending to go along with them, and so. However, after reading Philip entitled "If European Jews Many Places for Good Citizens" as:

Ohio Senate
Columbus
July 28, 1944

Mr. Frank J. Kestor,
188 West Capitol Avenue,
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kestor:

I am deeply interested in your letter of July 10th and its enclosure.

I have personally given considerable thought and study to the matters produced by strip-mining operations. I am quite confident that one of the recommendations that our Post War Program Commission will make to the next legislature will be legislation to save the top soil and restore it, as nearly as possible, to its original state after the strip-mining operation is completed.

You have made a very intensive study of this whole serious problem, and can do a great deal to bring to the attention of the public the urgent need for a corrective program.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Lieutenant Governor
EDWARD O. KEATOR  
Consulting Engineer  
Excavation  
10th Five Oaks Avenue  
Dayton 5, Ohio  
Telephone 8567  
11/10/45

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

SUBJECT: RECLAIMED STRIP MINE LAND FOR JEWISH REFUGEES

Dear sir:

Regarding the current trouble between the Arabs and Jews in connection with the latter's moves to settle in Palestine, I have no desire to debate the issues but I can readily understand the viewpoints of both sides. However, I am strongly opposed to embroiling America in any more outside controversies, and inasmuch as we have more land here in America than we need, I see no reason for not inviting all Jews who desire to go so and can supply certificates of good character, to settle here in America.

As you can see from my letterhead, I specialize in that class of construction work commonly known as excavation and haulage, and in this capacity I developed, after many years of experience, improved methods of tremendous importance in strip mining operations. Do you know what strip mining is? I'll explain briefly the process. It applies to the recovery of coal and other minerals and metals lying within 70 feet of the surface. Several methods are employed, and the method on the left-hand here pictured and described consists in uncovering the coal with tractors and scrapers, then excavating it and loading it into trucks that haul it away. That is the way it is now being done with American equipment in England.

Here in the United States where land is so plentiful that the Government has taken a hand to reduce acreage under production in order to hold up prices, the land is permanently destroyed by strip mining, whereas, in England, the top soil is removed and then put back in place after the coal is removed. The British method is more expensive in the first cost, but not necessarily because I developed improved stripping methods that destroy the land and that automatically reclaim the land. Of course I brought these improvements to the attention of the Government authorities but since they are currently interested in creating scarcities to hold up prices, I was unable to secure their cooperation. The Ohio State authorities are interested, as you can see from Mr. Governor Herbert's letter also on the last, but the strip mine operators have a powerful organization controlled by a handful of the largest operators, and they are opposed to making any changes tending to place the small operators on a competitive basis with them, and so far, I have been unable to get action. However, after reading Philip Wylie's article of Nov. 3 on the right entitled "If European Jews Can't Return to Palestine, America Has Many Places for Good Citizens" I decided to write you. Hence this letter.
Located in various States, but mostly in the Middle West, there are more than 1,000 strip coal mines alone in current operation, some of the largest of which EACH destroy ANNUALLY as much as 150 acres of land much of which is capable of producing 100 bushels of corn per acre. Of course the coal operators are doing everything in their power to belittle the importance of this destruction, but unbiased experts say that with the strip mineable depth constantly increasing as machinery is improved, it is quite likely that in due time strip mining can be practiced economically to a depth of 160 feet; and at this depth, as much as 25,000,000 acres of usable land will be eventually destroyed, more than the entire tillable area of Palestine! So you can readily understand how this destruction fits into the "economy of scarcity" practiced by the New Deal.

On the right hand herewith are copies of two letters, first and last, out of a correspondence extending, with conferences, over a period of 7 months, with the Central Indiana Coal Co., one of the largest strip mine operators. You can see from the letter of May 20, 1937, this operator recognized my familiarity with the strip miners' problem. And you can see from his letter of Feb. 12, 1938, that he did not want to introduce improvements that would make his expensive machinery obsolete. Actually, that was not his reason for declining finally to co-operate with me, and, as a matter of fact, my improvements do not make current equipment in the stripping obsolete because it is not the stripping industry but the underground, or shaft, mining that dictates the price of coal only about 10% of all coal is now mined by the stripping method. However, my methods place the small operator on a much better competitive basis than now, and it might be that here is an opportunity for the American Jewish Societies to make a deal with the Government to all their buying up all strip mine wastelands now idle and non productive and start reclaiming them for Jewish refugees to settle on. This is an eminently practical proposition and there is little doubt that if the Jewish Societies seriously undertook to reclaim this land, they could arrange with State and Federal authorities to make American citizenship for refugees placed on it contingent on their staying on the land. Well, there isn't the slightest doubt about the fertility of the reclaimed land, so there need be no fear of their abandoning it.

The various locations named by Philip Wylie, such as Nevada, and the Texas dust bowl haven't enough water to grow crops regularly, but he also mentions Georgia which does have possibilities. However, there is no land in the world better situated for farming or better supplied with water than the Middle West where strip mining is carried on. The Jewish societies have their experts who are well able to look into this proposition from beginning to end, and I would be very glad to meet with them and discuss the various angles in connection with the reclamation of strip mines. And I am certain too, that you can secure the ready cooperation of the Governors of all the States involved. I have no regular fee for this kind of consultation service, and you would be under no obligation to me unless we entered into a written agreement. Let me hear from you.

[Signature]
Liquidation of 
War Refugee Board

My dear Mr. Secretary:

There is forwarded to you herewith for 
appropriate reply a letter addressed to the President 
by Charles Braun concerning his relatives at the 
Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Orvin A. Schmidt
Director

The Honorable 
The Secretary of the Interior 

Enclosure

[Date]

Fees: [amount]
November 9, 1947

My dear President Truman,

I am writing this letter and am appealing to your good nature and heart.

I have not seen my sister and her family for 24 years. They have been, and still are, in the Geomega Refugee Camp for more than a year now. I would be the happiest man in the world if I could see my sister and her family, but I am a very sick man, with a heart condition, and no doctor gives me permission to travel so far to see her. I know that you are the only man on earth that could help me. Whenever we needed help in the past, we always got help from President Roosevelt. We have a good God, they, and He gave us the same good one in his place, but you should have longer years to live than he had. Amen.

I would be extremely grateful to you, if you would grant my request, and release my sister and her family from the Geomega Refugee Camp. Their name is:

Mr. Isaac Baruch and family.

Respectfully,

/s/ Mr. Charles Brum

2071 Brighton St. St.

Brooklyn, N. Y.
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

November 2, 1945

Dear Mr. Greenbaum:

Reference is made to your letter of October 21, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you refer your problem to one of the member agencies of the Central Location Index, the names and addresses of which appear on the enclosed list.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Nathaniel Greenbaum, Esq.,
Counselor at Law,
66 Court Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Enclosure.

Filed 11/2/45
October 31, 1945

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am interested in ascertaining the present whereabouts of Chaim V. Granatowitz, also known as Granatovich.

This individual was born in Lomza, Poland where he was at the outbreak of World War II. From a soldier who returned to the States, it was ascertained that as late as August, 1945 Mr. Granatowitz was in Modena Refugee Camp #24, Modena, Italy.

The relatives of this subject are very anxious to do what they can for him and most anxiously await word as to his present whereabouts. I will thank you for any assistance that you may render in ascertaining and reporting to me this subject's whereabouts and full address.

Thanking you in advance for any courtesies you may extend, I remain

Very truly yours,

NATHANIEL GREENBAUM
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

Dear Mr. Wells:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 17, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you contact one of the agencies on the enclosed list for assistance concerning immigration to this country of your sister and her son.

Very truly yours,

Offa L. Schmidt
Director

Mr. Egon P. Wells,
44-13 43rd Avenue,
Long Island City, N.Y.

Enclosure.

Phld 10/22/45
Executive Office of the
War Refugee Board
Washington, (25) D. C.

Attention: Office of the Executive Director

Gentlemen:

Referring to your letter from September of 1944 in which you stated that my sister and her son, ALICE BOLGAR and MICHAEL BOLGAR were in the category of people you have under your special protection. I would like to inform you that I received a cable from them that they are living at their old address 32/5 Damjanich道, Budapest VII.

Will you please be good enough to let me know if you could do anything to help them as they are in need. Or, if I can do anything please let me also know what I can do to bring them over here and if I can communicate with them through your office.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

owy/gkx
Dear Corporal Maziarz:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 19, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you contact one of the agencies on the enclosed list for assistance concerning immigration to this country of your wife.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Orvis A. Schmidt

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Stephen Maziarz, ASN 3108196,
Cpl., Btry B, 902nd F.A. Bn.,
APO 777,
San Francisco, Cal.

Enclosure.
19 September 1945

Honorable J.W. Fehle,
Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington, 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing again to tell you that I have had word from my brother in Poland and he informed me that my wife and family are alive but have been reduced to utter destitution from the effects of the war. They are still residing in the village of Wola Wadowa, Town of Mielec, State of Krakow, Poland. Since the war in this theater is now over too, I expect to be sent home in the near future, but I would like to know if there are any steps I can take out here that would hasten the entry of my wife into our country. Please excuse my undue anxiety, but since I have heard that my wife is alive and living in extreme circumstances I would be most grateful if you can inform me of any necessary formalities I can take care of before I am able to return.

Thanking you again for your sincere consideration and kind cooperation, I remain

Sincerely Yours,

[Signature]

[Address]

APO 77 San Francisco, Calif.
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

OCT 17 1946

Dear Mr. Lisakofsky:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 11, 1945, concerning your interest in the organization and achievements of the War Refugee Board.

A copy of the final report of the Executive Director of the Board is forwarded to you herewith. It is hoped that this report will be of assistance to you. The records and files of the War Refugee Board have been transferred to the National Archives. The Board was terminated by Executive Order on September 13, 1945, and this office is handling its liquidation.

Very truly yours,

Orvis A. Schmidt
Director

Mr. Sidney Lisakofsky,
199 East 3rd Street,
New York, N. Y.

Enclosure.
War Refugee Board  
Washington, D.C.  

October 11, 1945  

I am contemplating writing a study concerning the organization and achievements of the War Refugee Board. I would want this to be a thorough and scholarly piece of work, to be incorporated as part of a doctoral dissertation on a related theme. It would not be advisable, however, to begin such a study unless the necessary documents were available to me.

I would appreciate your informing me whether, where, and which of your records I could consult. Of course, the more the documents that could be sent to me to keep, the more my work would be facilitated.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Sidney Kishofsky
September 27, 1945.

Miss Florence Hodel,
Assistant Executive Director,
War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Miss Hodel:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 14th enclosing documents for us which arrived through the United States Consulate General in Istanbul.

Sincerely yours,

Ilja Dijsur
Executive Secretary.
My dear Mr. Secretary:

There is forwarded to you herewith for appropriate reply a letter addressed to the President by Leon M. Despres.

As you may know, the War Refugee Board was terminated by Executive Order No. 9614 of September 14, 1945, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Interior.

Enclosure.
President Harry S. Truman,
the White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Recently I chanced to spend the night in Oswego, New York, and visited the excellent War Relocation Camp there. I was deeply impressed by the high level of the persons living in the camp. They seemed to be unusually gifted both in their personalities and in their cultural achievements.

I am writing to ask you to do whatever you can to make it possible for these persons to remain in the United States so that their contributions can be added to our society. Although some of them desire to return to Europe, most of them have lost their European connections so that a return to Europe would be almost an act of inhumanity. I believe that a service would be rendered this country by doing everything possible to keep those residents who desire to stay.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Leon M. Despres
Liquidation of War Refugees Board

SEP 26 1945

Dear Mr. Hebert:

Reference is made to your letter of September 24, 1945, addressed to the War Refugees Board. This Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9014, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

Your letter has accordingly been referred to Mr. Howard K. Travers, Chief of the Visa Division of the Department of State, for appropriate reply.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

M. F. Edward Hebert,
House of Representatives.

Ftdhd. 9/26/45
Liquidation of
War Refugee Board

SEP 26 1945

Dear Mr. Travers:

There is forwarded to you herewith for appropriate reply a letter addressed to the War Refugee Board by Congressman Robert who has been advised of this reference.

As you may know, the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9034, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

Very truly yours,

/3/ M. L. Hoffman

M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

Mr. Howard K. Travers,
Chief, Visa Division,
Department of State,
Room 239-D, Standard Oil Bldg.,
3rd & Constitution Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Enclosure.

[Handwritten note:]

Enclosed 9/26/45
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

September 24, 1945

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Mr. Azkin

Dear Sirs:

With further reference to my telephone conversation with you on December 20, 1945, relative to the petition for issuance of immigration visa filed in behalf of Mrs. Elizabeth Wolber, now residing at Kolshenfeld, Germany, I would deeply appreciate your advice as to the status of this request at the present time and if it is possible to assist this lady in her request.

The petition was filed by Mrs. Henrietta Wolber Brown, 438 Boroughbraugh Court, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mrs. Brown has sent on to me a copy of a letter which she received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, dated October 21, 1945, advising her that visa petition had been approved by them and forwarded to the Department of State together with a copy of the communication of their office to the War Refugee Board advising of the action taken.

I would appreciate your advice in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ F. Edw. Hebert
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

SEP 24 1945

Dear Mr. Keating:

Reference is made to your letter of September 18, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you refer your problem to one of the member agencies of the Central Location Index, the names and addresses of which appear on the enclosed list.

Very truly yours,

/S/ M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

John M. Keating, Esq.,
Giddings, Keating and Reid,
41 East 42nd Street,
New York 17, N. Y.

Enclosure.

Filed 9/24/45
September 18th, 1946.

The War Refugee Board
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Att: Mr. McCormick
Re: Wladyslaw, Stefanie and Jadwiga Natanson

Dear Sirs:

During the early part of 1945 I was in communication with Mr. Akson of the War Refugee Board, inquiring about the above named persons. Under date of February 7th I received a letter from Florence Hodel, Assistant Executive Director of the War Refugee Board, stating that the people were deported from Vittel with the second transport in May, 1944. From Vittel they were apparently transferred to Drancy, a camp in a suburb of Paris. From information which we have, it appeared that the second transport went east, that is to Poland, but nothing more definite than that could be ascertained.

Will you please advise whether at the present time any further information is available on the possible whereabouts of these refugees.

Very truly yours,

John M. Keating

JMK:B
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

Dear Miss Reiman:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 18, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you communicate with the Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Commission concerning your study on refugees.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

Miss Eleanor Reiman,
Smyrna, Delaware.
Sept. 18, 1945

Mr. John W. Pehle

War Refugee Board
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am working on a project in school concerning refugees. If you would be able to supply me with any material on this subject I should be very grateful. The main questions that I should like to know are: (1) Where are most of the refugees being kept, (2) what will be done with them now that the war has ended, (3) what meets the expenses required to take care of these people, (4) about what are the number of refugees here now and from what countries are they?

I hope that you will be able to help me with the answers to my questions.

Yours truly,

(Miss.) Eleanor Reiman

Smyrna, Delaware
Liquidation of War Refugee Board

SEP 24 1945

Dear Mrs. Case:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 19, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9614, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you contact one of the agencies on the enclosed list for assistance concerning immigration to this country of your mother and sister.

Very truly yours,

/s/ W. L. Hoffman

W. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

Mrs. Yolan Case,
1576 Pearl Street,
Denver 5, Colorado.

Enclosure.
Sept. 19, 1945

Executive Office of the President
War Refugee Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Mr. E. W. Pehle
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Pehle:

Thank you for your encouraging letter of October 19, 1944. On Nov. 7, 1944, my mother Mrs. Irma Schoen and sister Miss Margit Schoen were issued immigration visas by an American officer at Budapest, Hungary.

I just received a letter from my mother and sister. They just returned from two different German concentration camps to their old address: Nagyatadi Szabo St. 50 fsz 2, Budapest, Hungary.

Please advise me, what can we or you do for them and what are the chances about facilitating their early immigration to the U.S.A.

Thank you very much for all the trouble you went into for me.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Yolan Cass

Mrs. Yolan Cass
1876 Pearl Street
Denver 6, Colorado
Dear Mr. Huber:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 18, 1945, addressed to the War Refugee Board. This is to advise you that the War Refugee Board was terminated on September 14, 1945, by Executive Order No. 9014, providing for its liquidation by the Treasury Department.

It is suggested that you contact one of the agencies on the enclosed list for information and assistance in connection with the immigration of your brother to this country.

Very truly yours,

M. L. Hoffman
Acting Director

Mr. Joseph Huber,
900 Riverside Drive,
New York 32, N. Y.

Enclosure.
Joseph Huber
900 Riverside Drive,
New York 32, NY.

September 18, 1945

War Refugee Board,
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen,

The U.S. State Department referred me to your Agency for your kind assistance in rescuing my brother, Mr. Felix Huber, from Europe.

Only a few days ago I received a letter from him, the first since the war had started. It is a tale of horror and suffering, death and destructions. Suffice to say that for 8 months he was an inmate for the notorious extermination Camp Dachau-Auschwitz, now prominently in the news in connection with the trial of the murderer Kramer of Belsen.

Presently he is located at the Center Deggendorf N.P., Oberbayern, Germany and I am unable to correspond with him directly and give him any assistance, especially cannot even try procure an Immigration Visa for him as no U.S. Consulate is operating in Germany. Furthermore I fear that my own resources may be found not sufficient under the rigid rules of the Visa Dept.

Therefore I ask you for your kind assistance and advise in this matter, i.e., the quickest way to bring my suffering brother out of the hell of Germany to the U.S. to join us, my mother and me. Perhaps you could arrange for an Emergency Visa or other way to shorten the time until he can come to the United States of whom I am proud to be an Citizen.

I thank you very much for any advice you may be able to give me and meanwhile remain,

very truly yours

Joseph Huber
Mr. William O'Dwyer,
Executive Director of the
War Refugee Board, 7/8 S. C.

WASHINGTON.
U. S. A.
Sir,

Will you allow me please to call your attention to the following:

It has been disclosed that some 6,000,000 Jews have been tortured and killed by the Germans.

May be some hundred German war criminals will be tried and punished.

Germany and the Germans will be helped to recover and to rebuild their economy.

What's with those Jews who have been lucky enough to save their lives but have lost most of their relations and all their properties? People whose whole life work has been destroyed and who are not willing to go back to the place of their disaster and misfortune knowing they never could feel happy again being forced to live there?

Thus these peoples who in order to escape death had to abandon their homes and all their properties - most of which had been completely destroyed or ruined by the Nazis or their satellites - are eligible victims someday.
Wouldn't it be more human and just to help these peoples to settle down in some other countries they wish to go to and to help them to start a new modest but secure and decent life, before helping Germany and the German people?

Surely Germany must be helped on the grounds of international reasons and security - but first help these poor, homeless, but refugees please! They have been the victims of the Germans almost since 1933. It's time not to keep them waiting any longer - even in order to safeguard their morals.

What's with compensating these refugees out of the confiscated properties of the German and other nation's war criminals?

Objects of art and great value looted by the Nazis or Fascists and former belonging to very wealthy refugees will be restituted to the latter ones. Right so! - But with those of the refugees, who have not been as wealthy to possess such values before, be helped at all?

May this please not be a cry for help in the desert?

Kill antisemitism and national hatred once for ever!

Or does it still to stay on as a suitable political weapon?
Again, 36.9.45.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Date] 9.10