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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal,
National Refugee Service, 1939-1940.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

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July 17, 1939

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed herewith is material which
is being sent to you in connection with the meeting of
the Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service,
Inc., on Friday, July 21:

The Refugee Problem in the United States
William Rosenwald - President

Where Are the Refugees?
Map prepared as of Jan. 1, 1939

Refugee Immigration Facts and Figures

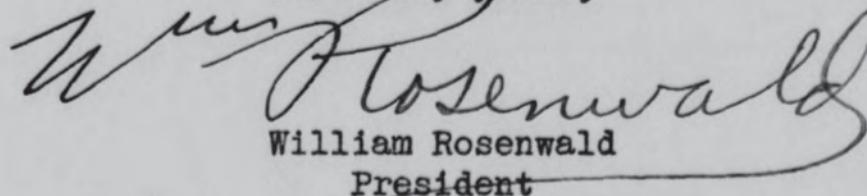
National Coordinating Committee Recast
Harry Greenstein

The Work of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
William Haber - Executive Director

By-Laws of the National Refugee Service, Inc.

With kind personal regards, I am,

Cordially yours,


William Rosenwald
President

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

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THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES

The refugee problem is one which affects us all. We cannot help being moved by the plight of these unfortunate people, as well as by the situation which has brought about their plight.

National Refugee Service, Inc. is concerned mainly with those who are fleeing from oppression in Central Europe. Since the advent of the Hitler regime, although the European countries have absorbed a great number of the refugees from Greater Germany (not all for permanent settlement), the United States has welcomed more (for permanent settlement) than has any other single country in the world. The attached map shows where the German refugees have gone.

While the problem of adjusting the emigres in the United States requires our best efforts, the net immigration has been almost insignificant in comparison with the size of our country. The quota from Greater Germany is 27,370 a year. It has not been filled in any calendar year since 1933. This year it will probably be filled, for the first time. During the past six years, only 26% of the total immigration allowance from all countries entered the United States. On the other hand, the United States Immigration Service figures show that in the corresponding period, more immigrants departed from this country than were admitted from all countries. During 1938, which was the largest year for refugee immigration, the net immigration from all countries was 4/100 of one per cent of our population. The attached folder "Refugee Immigration, Facts and Figures" gives the entire picture.

In 1934, knowing that the United States would receive refugees, the National Coordinating Committee was organized. It has served as a national clearing bureau for certain activities on behalf of refugees. (Pages 9-13 of Mr. Harry Greenstein's report, issued in May 1939, a copy of which has been sent to you, give a description of this work.) In 1938, the National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc., was set up in order to centralize the financing of, and to enlist additional support for this work. This year, the National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc., is one of the beneficiaries of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs.

Following the crisis of last November, it became evident that the refugee problem was increasing, and that we might expect to be concerned with it for some time to come. Consequently, it was decided to set up an organization which would function in a more integrated manner. Steps were taken to carry out this decision, the first being to have a competent study made of the work and needs. Through the generosity of Baltimore, Mr. Harry Greenstein was made available for a study of this problem. A summary of his report is attached.

With the completion of Mr. Greenstein's study, his recommendations were accepted, and the National Refugee Service, Inc. was established. We have been most fortunate in securing the services of Dr. William Haber, former relief administrator for the State of Michigan, and Professor of Economics at the University of Michigan, to act as Executive Director of the new organization. The details of the reorganization are now in the process of being carried out.

The several departments of the National Refugee Service, Inc. have been serving the needs of thousands of refugees each week. These refugees have come to us asking advice and assistance on immigration, resettlement and employment. In addition, many who have come without resources are being given financial aid.

The Resettlement Department has had the cooperation of local committees from all over the country and approximately 3,000 emigres have been assisted in resettling in localities where the prospect of their adjustment is more hopeful. The Employment Department has been aiding several hundred refugees each month in finding employment opportunities. The information department, in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee, has assisted in the preparation and dissemination of general material of a factual character in order to make possible a correct understanding of this problem. A general statement on affidavit policy has been prepared and distributed to local cooperating committees. The National Refugee Service, Inc. is proceeding with the organization of a National Refugee Consultative Council in order to strengthen and unify the efforts of all groups interested in the refugee program.

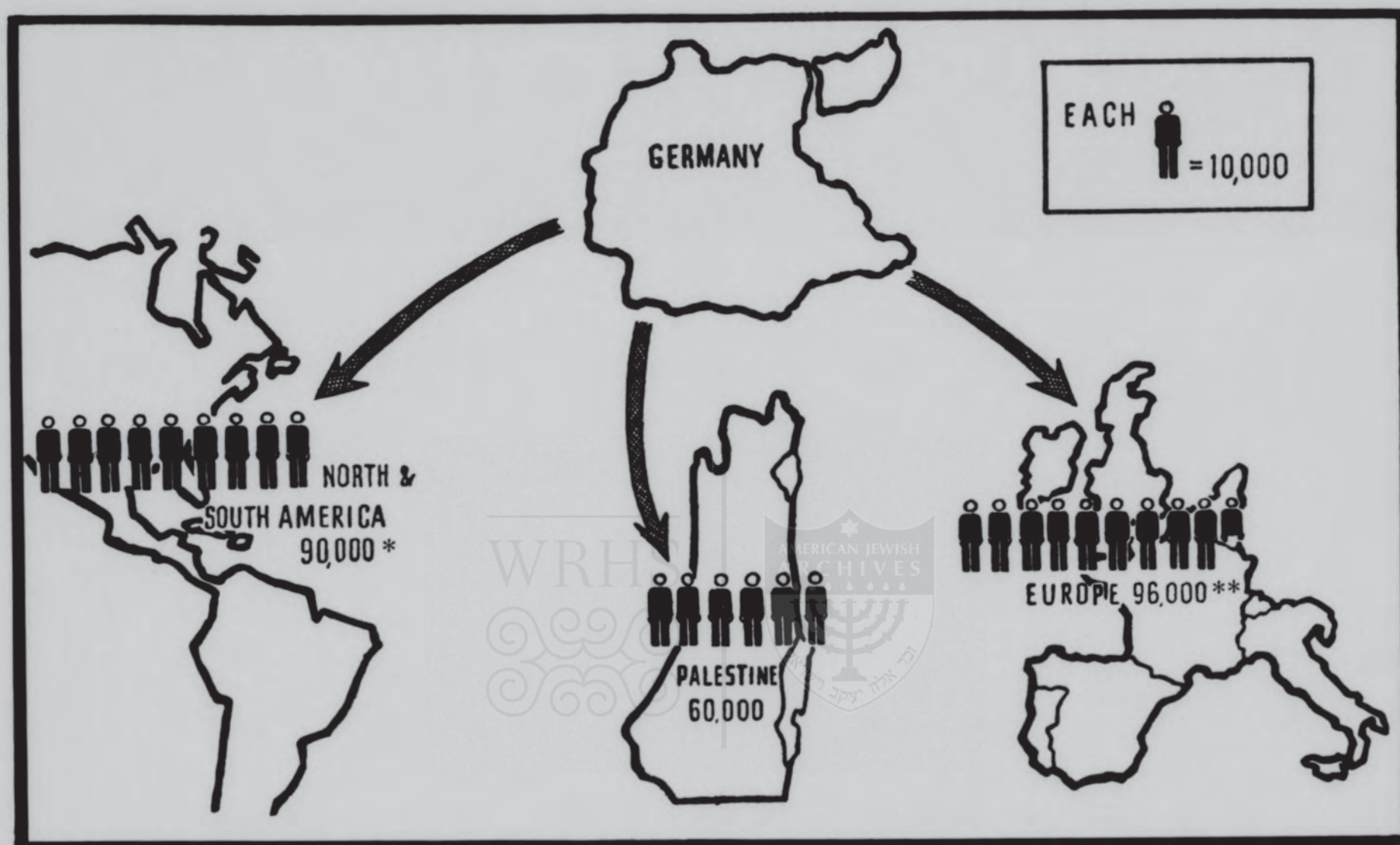
The present rate of increase in these activities, which the large influx of refugees has made necessary, indicates that in order to adequately discharge our full responsibility in this regard, and to begin the next year with ample working funds, we will be obliged to expend an amount nearly twice as large as the minimum of \$2,000,000 which has been allocated from the United Jewish Appeal.

In all these activities the officers and staff have had genuine cooperation from hundreds of individuals who have given unselfishly of their time, thought and effort. To these and to all others who have cooperated with us in the past years, I wish to extend my sincere thanks.

William Rosenwald

July 21, 1939

WHERE ARE THE REFUGEES?



(Map prepared as of January 1, 1939)

* U.S. Immigration Service shows 65,404 German immigrants entered United States in six and a half years ending December 30, 1938.

**Not all permanently settled.

APPROXIMATELY 245,000 refugees have left Germany since the Spring of 1933. These have been spread over the face of the earth. In European countries there are today 96,000 refugees. Palestine has given homes to over 60,000 and North and South American countries have opened their doors to 90,000. Six thousand have settled in Africa and 2,000 in Australia. Scattered groups have found havens in other Asiatic lands.

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION

FACTS and FIGURES

(The figures used in this memorandum are based on statistics checked by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the U. S. Department of Labor.)

In order to present the true picture to the American public of refugee immigration to this country, this memorandum is being issued by:

Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany
123 Second Street, New York City
His Excellency, Joseph F. Rummel
Archbishop of New Orleans, Chairman

American Committee
for Christian-German Refugees,
287 Fourth Avenue, New York City
James M. Speers, Chairman

National Co-ordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees and Emigrants, Coming from Germany
165 West 46th Street, New York City, Professor Joseph P. Chamberlain, Chairman;
William Rosenwald, Co-Chairman.

A Few Amazing Immigration Truths

For the six and a half year period, July 1, 1932 through December 30, 1938, there has been an immigration to this country of only 65,404 Germans. (These years include the entire period since the advent of National Socialism in Germany).

Assuming an immigration this year from Germany, including Austria, of 27,370, the total allowable under quota regulations, there will be in this country by June 30, 1939, less than 75,000 Germans who have come here in the seven years since the advent of National Socialism in Germany.

For the last fiscal year, July 1, 1937 through June 30, 1938, there was a net immigration to this country from all countries of the world of only 42,685 persons.

For the six year period, July 1, 1932 through June 30, 1938, the years since the advent of National Socialism in Germany, 4,487 more aliens left this country permanently than were admitted for permanent residence.

Present U. S. Immigration Greatly Exaggerated

The statements made above are taken from the official records of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. They may be better understood in the light of the present regulations governing immigration to this country.

Immigration to the United States has been restricted by quota regulations since 1921. We are now operating under the restrictions of the national origins law enacted in 1924 and as amended in 1929. Under the law, a total of 153,774 quota immigrants are allowed to come to this country annually and of this number, 83,574, are assigned to Great Britain and Ireland, countries which last year (ending June 30, 1938) used only 4,551 of their total. Under this circumstance, quota immigration is limited to approximately 75,000 annually.

As there is still an annual emigration from this country of aliens previously admitted for permanent residence, the net increase of aliens admitted for permanent residence during the year July 1, 1938 through June 30, 1939, is likely to be in the neighborhood of from sixty to sixty-five thousand.

SIX YEARS OF IMMIGRATION TO U. S.

(SINCE HITLER) JULY 1, 1932-JUNE 30, 1938

IMMIGRANTS ADMISSIBLE UNDER QUOTA LAW



IMMIGRANTS ACTUALLY ADMITTED



EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 50,000 IMMIGRANTS

PICTORIAL STATISTICS, INC.

TOTAL NET IMMIGRATION TO U. S.

FROM ALL COUNTRIES

1924
FIRST YEAR
UNDER QUOTA
REGULATIONS



1929
LAST YEAR
BEFORE
DEPRESSION



1938
YEAR OF
PEAK REFUGEE
IMMIGRATION



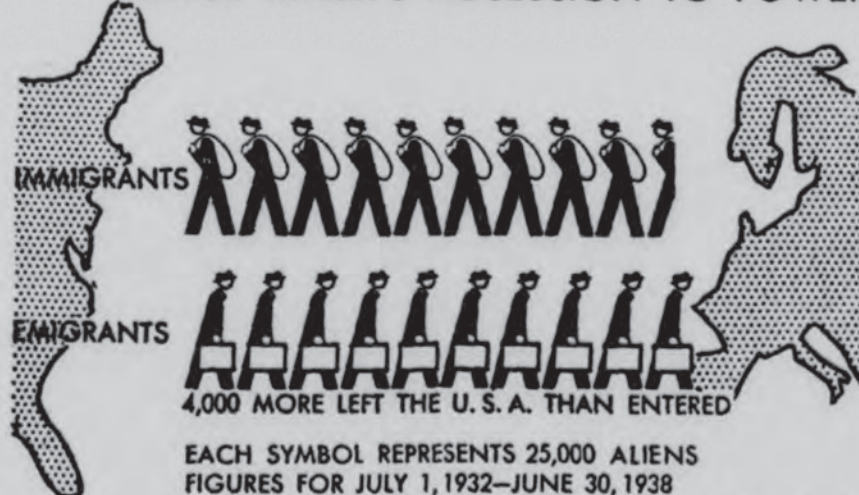
EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 40,000 IMMIGRANTS

PICTORIAL STATISTICS, INC.

MIGRATION

TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES

SINCE HITLER'S ACCESSION TO POWER



EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 25,000 ALIENS
FIGURES FOR JULY 1, 1932-JUNE 30, 1938

PICTORIAL STATISTICS, INC.

Figures on Permanent Net Immigration

For the six year period, July 1, 1932 through June 30, 1938, 241,962 immigrants were admitted into the United States for permanent residence. During the same six year period 246,449 immigrants previously admitted to this country for permanent residence departed from these shores for other countries. Thus, during the six year period that roughly approximates the years of the Nazi regime in Germany, 4,487 more aliens departed than were admitted to the United States. During this six year period the quota laws permitted an immigration of 922,644, whereas only 241,962 immigrants were admitted for permanent residence, only about 26 percent of the quota allowance. Of those admitted during this six year period over fifty percent were children under eighteen, persons past forty-five, and married women.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, the year of the so-called "great refugee immigration," there was a net immigration into this country for permanent residence of only 42,685.

Figures for 1938 appear even smaller when compared with the immigration figures of 1929, the last year before the depression, and the figures for 1924, the high point of post war immigration. In 1929 there was a net immigration increase for permanent residence of 210,475; in 1924, the net increase was 630,107. In other words, the 1938 net immigration was only one-fifth that of 1929 and one-fifteenth that of 1924.

Based upon a population of 130,000,000 the 1938 net immigration to this country represented less than 4/100 of one percent of our population.

Figures on Total Immigration

It is generally acknowledged that the truest measurement of immigration is, as shown by the figures above, the net change in immigrants here for permanent stay. Some propagandists have used the figure of 252,697 to represent the number of immigrants admitted into this country during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938. The use of this quarter million total, however, is misleading for it includes 184,802 non-emigrants who came to this country during the year as temporary visitors

(tourists, students, diplomats and other foreign government officials, persons in transit, etc.). Such temporary visitors are required to leave the country at the expiration of their limited stay permits. The government is rigidly enforcing this provision. During the 1938 fiscal year, 197,404 non-emigrants left the country. In other words, 1938's 184,802 incoming non-immigrants were balanced by an even greater number of non-immigrants, 197,404 who left this country during the same period. Consequently, when you consider all aliens entering the country as set against all aliens leaving the country the figure for aliens entering the United States during the 1938 fiscal year is reduced to 30,083.

Figures for Year Ending June 30th, 1938

Immigrant aliens admitted for permanent residence	67,895
Emigrant aliens departed who were previously admitted for permanent residence.....	25,210
Net increase of immigrant aliens in U. S. for permanent residence	42,685
Non-Immigrant (temporary residents and returning residents of U. S.) aliens admitted....	184,802
Non-Emigrant (temporary residents and returning residents of U. S.) aliens departed....	197,404
Surplus of Non-Emigrant aliens departed over those admitted during year.....	12,602
Net increase of Immigrant aliens admitted for permanent residence	42,685
Surplus of Non-Immigrant aliens departed over those admitted	12,602
Net increase of aliens of all classes admitted during year	30,083

Number of German Refugees in this Country

From July 1, 1932 thru June 30, 1933 —	1,919	Total Immigration from Germany
From July 1, 1933 thru June 30, 1934 —	4,392	Total Immigration from Germany
From July 1, 1934 thru June 30, 1935 —	5,201	Total Immigration from Germany
From July 1, 1935 thru June 30, 1936 —	6,346	Total Immigration from Germany
From July 1, 1936 thru June 30, 1937 —	10,895	Total Immigration from Germany
From July 1, 1937 thru June 30, 1938 —	17,199	Total Immigration from Germany and Austria
From July 1, 1932 thru June 30, 1938 —	45,952	Total Immigration from Greater Germany

To this six year total of 45,952, the number of Germans who have come to this country as permanent immigrants since July 1, 1932, may be added the 19,452 immigrants who have entered this country from Germany (including Austria) through December 30, 1938. Thus there are only 65,404 German immigrants (in all) who have come to this country in the six and a half years from July 1, 1932 through December 30, 1938, the period since the present German regime.

On the basis of the figures for six and a half years since July 1, 1932, there has been a net immigration to this country of 43,042 Germans. (This figure is arrived at by deducting 22,362, the number of aliens who returned to Germany from this country, from 65,404.) Thus, for the past six and one half years there has been an annual net immigration to this country from Germany of 6,622 persons per annum.

It is interesting to compare the total immigration per annum for the past six years with the total immigration from Germany during the years 1919 to 1932. The total for that period was 426,326, or an average immigration of 30,452 per year. In other words, an average of over four times as many immigrants came here from Germany before Hitler as came after Hitler.

National Coordinating Committee Recast

By **HARRY GREENSTEIN**

Executive Director, Associated Jewish Charities, Baltimore

THE National Coordinating Committee was organized in October 1934 to coordinate the work of the agencies engaged in service to emigres and to act as a national clearing agency for certain activities in behalf of emigres coming to the United States.

Funds to carry on the work were advanced by the Joint Distribution Committee, foundations and welfare funds. To provide for central financing and also to secure more widespread support, the National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc., was organized in 1938.

No one can examine the present method of operation without being immediately conscious of the fact that the present organizational structure is not geared to the effective administration of a program which for the year 1939 may involve the expenditure of \$2,500,000 or more. When the National Coordinating Committee was set up, it was impossible to foresee the extent and complexity of the refugee program—its growth in volume and its implications not only in New York but throughout the country.

Major Changes Proposed

Compared with previous periods of immigration, the volume of work is not large, but it has increased especially during the past year so that no agency, however well organized, whose primary purpose was coordination rather than functional operation and direct control, could possibly deal efficiently with the many administrative problems involved.

It has been my privilege for the past three months to make a study of the organizational structure of the National Coordinating Committee and its affiliated agencies. Recommendations have now been submitted and accepted, calling for a thorough reorganization.

The following major changes have been proposed:

1. A new organization, to be known as the National Refugee Service, Inc., will take over the work of the National Coordinating Committee and its affiliated agencies. This organization is to be functional in its operation, with central administration and services.
2. A national Board of Directors is to be organized, truly national in character, to be responsible for the broad general program of the organization.
3. There is to be an Executive Committee of the Board, to be vested with full responsibility for carrying on the program between meetings of the Board.
4. The Executive Director of the organization is to

be the chief administrative officer with broad authority to implement the work of the organization with such administrative procedures as may appear necessary.

5. The following departments are to be set up, each administered by a department head responsible to the Executive Director: (a) Immigration; (b) Resettlement; (c) Employment; (d) Special Categories; (e) Relief and Case Work; (f) Information and Research; (g) Comptroller; (h) Central Office Management.

6. Heretofore the Jewish Social Service Association, the Jewish Family Welfare Society of Brooklyn, the New York and Brooklyn Sections of the National Council of Jewish Women, have had the responsibility of administering relief for refugees in New York City. This work will be transferred to the new organization. Where special case work skills are needed, however, the cases are to be referred to the four New York agencies which are well equipped to render these services.

7. The separate employment services carried by the New York Section of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Greater New York Coordinating Committee are to be combined in one Central Employment Department.

8. In the past, the National Coordinating Committee assumed responsibility primarily for German-Jewish refugees. No uniform policy in this respect was maintained. The National Refugee Service, Inc., will extend its services to all refugees who come within the scope and jurisdiction of the organization, regardless of country of origin.

Foresees More Effective Administration

The reorganization of the National Coordinating Committee should make for a much more effective administration of the refugee program in and out of New York City. The centralization of intake, the reduction of the waiting period and a closer integration of the Resettlement Division with central relief and employment departments of the new agency to be created, will help tremendously in increasing the flow of refugees out of New York. In addition, local coordinating committees can look forward to more effective service from the national office in New York.

The National Coordinating Committee was organized to assure to the Government and to the general American community in all of its component parts, the

responsibility of the agencies that claim to engage in all phases of refugee assistance. While it is quite true that a substantial proportion of the refugees are Jewish by religion or "race," there are an increasing number who are not Jewish. The problem, therefore, is an American problem in so far as all American citizens must undertake to control it and direct it into proper fields of activity. It is, therefore, important that the National Refugee Service, Inc., be concerned with the broad aspects of the refugee problem in the United States. With this thought in mind, it is recommended that a Refugee Consultative Council be set up by the National Refugee Service, Inc., and that representatives of Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and non-sectarian national agencies be invited to serve on this Council. There are so many instances of collaboration of the various groups in the refugee field, that it is important for the National Refugee Service, Inc., to provide some elastic formula whereby matters of common interest and common objective may become the concern alike of Jews and Christians.

The lot of the refugee in America is one of deepest concern to American Jews, both from the humanitarian urge to aid the persecuted and because of the reaction it can have on the 4,500,000 Jews residing here. The problem of the refugees has been beclouded with misinformation and has lent itself to much misinterpretation. A prime function of the new organization will be to make the facts on refugee life in America available to the general American public.

The refugee problem is not one that can be met merely by money or sympathetic enthusiasm. The placement of the refugee so that he can be self-supporting, without dislocation of the existing community life, is a challenge to the skill of the National Refugee Service, Inc., and the Jewish groups in communities throughout the United States.



Reprinted from NOTES AND NEWS, June 5, 1939

Published by

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, Inc.

The National Refugee Service, Inc. was organized in order to provide effective assistance to refugees who immigrate to the United States from Central Europe and other countries enforcing anti-racial legislation. While the volume of such immigration has been highly exaggerated in the public mind, even the relatively small number of refugee immigrants who have thus far arrived, present serious problems. If we are fully to discharge our responsibility, we must aid them in making immediate and reasonable adjustment, in a manner that will be satisfactory to the whole of the American public.

The organizational set-up of the National Refugee Service, Inc. is designed to expedite such adjustment through a variety of services. The work of the National Refugee Service, Inc. is organized into several major functional departments. These are: Migration, Employment, Relief and Service, Resettlement and Information and Research. A Special Projects Department, consolidating the activities now being conducted for special groups of refugees such as doctors, rabbis and others, is in process of organization. Many of the activities of the National Coordinating Committee and certain of its affiliates have already been integrated into these departments and are functioning as part of the new organization. The process of reorganization is not entirely completed, but during the next thirty to sixty days, all of the refugee activities formerly conducted by the National Coordinating Committee and some of its affiliates, will be consolidated in the new organization.

The rapid increase in the demand for service to refugees during the past six months has placed a great strain upon the organization and tested the patience and administrative effectiveness of its personnel. Changes in administrative procedure in personnel organization, office management, accounting and

other controls, are designed to correct the difficulties which have unavoidably impeded the administration of refugee services and to make the National Refugee Service, Inc. a completely effective organization.

The magnitude of our undertaking can be seen in the fact that during one week -- that of June 26 -- 6,071 persons came to our office for assistance, advice and information. A large number (over 1,300) of these men and women desired advice and assistance in matters pertaining to immigration. For the most part, the problems they brought were highly technical in nature, having to do with complicated issues of quotas, affidavits, Governmental regulations, temporary visas and similar matters. Our services in these directions include pre-immigration formalities, dealing with Federal immigration authorities, with South American countries, and assistance to refugees in transit. At times, specific problems, such as that presented by the St. Louis in Havana, impose tremendous and unpredictable responsibilities upon the Migration Department of our organization. This department has a trained and competent staff, yet it is under terrific pressure to respond to as many as 1,500 persons who come into the office each week, and thousands of inquiries which are made through correspondence and telephone.

During the week referred to above, 915 of the refugees came to receive financial assistance from our Relief and Service Department. This represents a very small percentage of the total number of refugees who come to us, since generally, those who have signed affidavits are meeting their responsibilities for assistance and support. For the most part these refugees came to us without any resources, and after having investigated the ability of relatives and affiants to contribute to their support, we were obliged to meet the minimum requirements so that they would not become public charges. During the same week, 1,332 persons came to our Employment Department, seeking job information. In the

month of June, this department was successful in actually placing over 600 of our applicants in temporary or permanent positions -- an achievement all the more remarkable because of the great care taken (in view of our national unemployment problem) that these refugees should not displace American workers.

In all case work, the procedure demanded intelligence and skill, with particularized attention to each case, with effective guidance as essential as the satisfying of elementary needs.

The Resettlement Department, in cooperation with local committees in over 500 communities, is seeking to make possible an orderly transfer of refugees to places where there is reasonable probability for adjustment and employment. It interviews hundreds of cases each week with a view to determining the best solution for each problem. During the first six months of 1939 - 922 families comprising 1,520 individuals, were resettled in communities throughout the United States. This represents an increase of 25% over the number of cases resettled during the whole of 1938. During the entire period of the resettlement program, over 3,000 families and single persons have been aided.

In cooperation with the National Refugee Service, Inc., the New York and Brooklyn Sections of the National Council of Jewish Women continue to provide specific services to large numbers of refugees who come to them with special problems. The closest possible relations are maintained with the American Committee for Christian German Refugees, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Committee for Catholic Refugees. Plans are now under way for the creation of a Refugee Consultative Council, which will include all of these groups, and which will make possible the correlating of the efforts of all who are interested in the refugee problem.

In order to provide funds for the National Refugee Service, Inc. to carry out its program, an allocation of \$2,000,000 was provided from the United Jewish

Appeal. It was further provided that a majority vote of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal could increase this amount to \$2,500,000. However, a unanimous vote of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal is required if a sum in excess of \$2,500,000 is to be made available for the National Refugee Service, Inc. It can be seen therefore, that the tremendous growth in the volume of work now carried on by the National Refugee Service, Inc. presents serious budgetary problems. At the time when the original allocation was determined it was not possible to anticipate the rapid increase in the demands upon our services. It should be noted that in addition to the refugees coming from Germany (which quota will be filled for the first time in 1939), we must take care of the growing number from Hungary, Italy and other countries enforcing anti-racial laws. It is necessary that we plan the expansion of our program for resettlement and employment. We must also anticipate a marked increase in the expenditures for direct financial assistance since a greater number of refugees are without resources.

If we are to meet the problems which face us during the balance of this year, and if in addition we are to be provided with an adequate reserve with which to continue operations after January 1, 1940, we shall be required to expend an amount nearly twice as large as the minimum allocation, - that is no less than \$4,000,000.

We dare not curtail our essential services, nor can we ignore the growing volume. In view of the wide significance of the work we do, and the possible repercussions of our failure to do it completely, may I express the hope that we shall be able to muster the resources that will make it possible for us to meet the problem adequately.

William Haber
Executive Director
National Refugee Service, Inc.

BY-LAWS
of
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

ARTICLE I

Members

Section 1. Members. The members of the Corporation shall consist of the subscribers to the Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation and the persons who are hereafter elected or appointed directors of the Corporation, but the membership of any member shall terminate upon his ceasing to be a director.

Section 2. Effect of Termination of Membership. The right of a member to vote and all other rights of a member of the Corporation with respect to the Corporation or its property shall cease upon the termination of his membership by death, resignation or otherwise.

Section 3. Records of Membership. The Secretary of the Corporation shall keep a book in which shall be entered the names and addresses of the members of the Corporation, the dates upon which they became members respectively, and, when a member shall cease to be such, the date thereof.

ARTICLE II

Meetings of Members

Section 1. Annual Meetings. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Corporation for the election of directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation, in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, N. Y. (or at such other place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors and stated in the notice of meeting) on the last Thursday in March in each year, unless that day be a legal holiday and, in that event, on the next succeeding business day, at four o'clock in the afternoon, or at such other hour on that day as may be fixed by the Board of Directors and stated in the notice of the meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be held upon call of the Board of Directors or of the President or of one-third of the members of the Corporation, at such time and place as may be fixed by the Board of Directors or the President or such members; and as may be stated in the call and notice of the meeting.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings. Written notice of the time, place and purpose or purposes of every meeting of the members, signed by the President, or a Vice-President, or the Secretary, or an Assistant Secretary, or by the members who shall have called such meeting, shall be served either personally or by mail upon each member not less than ten nor more than forty days before the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be directed to each member at his last known address as it shall appear on the books of the Corporation. Meetings may be held without notice if all the members are present in person or represented by proxy at the meetings, or if notice thereof is waived by those not present or represented.

Section 4. Quorum. At every meeting of the members, one-third of the members, whether present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum; provided, that if one-third of the members be nine or more, then nine members shall constitute a quorum. If at any meeting there shall be no quorum, the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice other than announcement at the meeting, until a quorum shall have been obtained, when any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as first convened had there been a quorum.

Section 5. Voting and Inspectors. At all meetings of members, each member shall be entitled to one vote and may vote either in person or by proxy appointed by instrument in writing executed by such member or by his duly authorized attorney-in-fact. No proxy shall be valid after the expiration of eleven months from the date of its execution unless the member executing it shall have specified therein its duration which shall be some limited period.

At all elections of directors the vote shall be by ballot and a plurality of the votes cast shall elect. At all such elections the Chairman of the meeting shall appoint two inspectors (unless such appointment shall be waived by unanimous vote of those present at the meeting), who, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, shall take and subscribe an oath faithfully to execute the duties of inspectors at such meeting with strict impartiality and according to the best of their ability, and who shall take charge of the polls and after the balloting shall make a certificate of the result of the vote taken; but no officer or director of the Corporation or candidate for the office of director shall be appointed as such an inspector.

Section 6. Annual Report. The directors of the Corporation shall at each Annual Meeting present a report, verified by the President and Treasurer, or by a majority of the directors, showing the whole amount of real and personal property owned by the Corporation, where located and where and how the assets of the Corporation are invested, the amount and nature of the property acquired by the Corporation during the year immediately preceding the date of the report and the manner of the acquisition; the amount applied, appropriated or expended during the year immediately preceding

such date, and the purposes, objects or persons to or for which such applications, appropriations or expenditures have been made; and the names and places of residence of the persons who have been admitted to membership in the Corporation during such year, which report shall be filed with the records of the Corporation and an abstract thereof entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE III

Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Qualifications and Term of Office. The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors*. All of the directors shall be of full age and at least one of them shall be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York. The directors shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the members and shall hold office for a term of one year and until their respective successors are elected and shall have qualified.

If for any reason the Annual Meeting of the members for the election of directors shall not be held or shall be adjourned, the directors then in office shall continue in office until such election shall have been held and their successors are elected and shall have qualified.

Section 2. Vacancies. Whenever any vacancy shall occur in the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation, or any other cause, it shall be filled without undue delay by vote of the Board, and the person who is appointed to fill any such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of the director whom he succeeds and until his successor is elected and shall have qualified. If the number of the directors shall be increased, the vacancies in the Board of Directors caused by any such increase may be filled by vote of the Board. Such additional directors shall continue in office until the next Annual Meeting of the members and until their successors are elected and shall have qualified.

Section 3. Meetings of the Board. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President of the Corporation or by a majority of the directors then in office, whenever in his or their judgment it may be desirable, by giving two days' notice to each director, either personally or by telegraph or mail, of the time and place of such meeting. All such meetings shall be held at the office of the Corporation in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, N. Y., unless some other place is specified in the notice.

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held without notice if all the directors are present or if notice is waived by those not present.

* This Board to consist of not more than 99 members.

Section 4. Annual Meeting of Directors. A stated meeting of the Board of Directors, to be known as its Annual Meeting, shall be held in each year promptly after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the members, and at such meeting the officers of the Corporation for the ensuing year shall be elected. If a quorum of the directors be not present on the appointed day for the Annual Meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to some convenient day.

Section 5. Quorum. One-third of the directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business, except that for the purposes of Section 2 of this Article III, if a majority of the directors in office is less than one-third of the full Board, a majority of the directors then in office shall be a quorum.

Section 6. Executive Committee. The Board of Directors, may, by resolution, appoint an Executive Committee to consist of three or more members and also of alternate members if the Board of Directors so elects, such members and alternate members to be directors. The Executive Committee shall possess and may exercise, subject to any restrictions which may be imposed by the Board, all of the powers of the Board when the Board is not in session, including power to authorize the seal of the Corporation to be affixed to all papers which may be required by law; provided that the Executive Committee shall not have power to fill vacancies in the Board, or to change the membership of, or to fill vacancies in the Executive Committee or to make, alter, amend or repeal the by-laws. The Executive Committee shall keep a record of all of its proceedings and shall report the same to the Board for its information. The Board shall have the power at any time to fill vacancies in, to change the membership of, or to dissolve the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may make rules for the conduct of its business. One-third of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum thereof, and the action of a majority thereof shall be the action of the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee shall have power to create sub-committees of the Executive Committee.

Section 7. Other Committees. The Board of Directors shall have power to create such other committees as it shall desire.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1. Officers. The Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting shall elect from among its members a Chairman of the Board and the President of the Corporation and shall also elect one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Executive Director, and from time to time may appoint one or more Assistant Secretaries, and Assistant Treasurers and such other officers, agents or employees as

it may deem proper. In addition, the Board of Directors in its discretion may from time to time elect one or more Honorary Officers whose titles shall be preceded by the word "Honorary" and who shall exercise no powers and assume no duties with respect to the affairs of the Corporation.

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person and the President or a Vice-President of the Corporation may also be either the Secretary or the Treasurer. Officers other than the Chairman of the Board and the President need not be members of the Corporation.

Section 2. Term of Office. The term of office of all officers shall be one year or until their respective successors are elected and shall have qualified; but any elected officer of the Corporation may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors then in office, and any appointed officer, agent or employee of the Corporation may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by vote of a majority of the directors present and voting at any duly convened meeting of the Board of Directors or by vote of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting at any duly convened meeting thereof.

Section 3. Powers and Duties. Subject to such limitations as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe, all officers of the Corporation (other than the Honorary Officers) shall have such powers and duties as generally pertain to their respective offices, as well as such powers and duties as from time to time may be conferred by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer and any Assistant Treasurers and any other officers, agents or employees of the Corporation may, but need not, be required to give bond for the faithful discharge of their duties, in such form and in such amounts and of such character as the Board may from time to time prescribe.

ARTICLE V

Checks and Contracts

Section 1. Checks. All checks and drafts on the Corporation's bank accounts and all other instruments for the payment of money shall be signed by such officers, agents or employees of the Corporation as shall be thereunto authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors; provided that no such draft, check or other instrument shall be signed on behalf of the Corporation by less than two persons.

Section 2. Contracts. No officer, agent or employee of the Corporation shall have power to make any contract or to incur any obligation on behalf of the Corporation, except as may be authorized by the Board of Directors or by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

Compensation

No director or officer of the Corporation other than the Executive Director, the Assistant Secretaries, and the Assistant Treasurers shall receive, directly or indirectly, any salary, compensation or emolument from the Corporation, either as such officer or director or in any other capacity, and no director or officer of the Corporation shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract relating to the operations conducted by the Corporation or in any contract for furnishing supplies thereto.

ARTICLE VII

Corporate Seal and Principal Office

Section 1. Corporate Seal. The Board of Directors shall provide a suitable seal of the Corporation, bearing the name of the Corporation, the year of its organization and the words "Corporate Seal, New York".

Section 2. Principal Office. The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, N. Y.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

The by-laws of the Corporation may be altered, amended or repealed at any duly convened meeting of the members by the vote of a majority of the members present thereat provided that notice of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal shall have been given in the notice of such meeting. Subject to the by-laws, if any, adopted by the members, the Board of Directors may also make, alter, amend or repeal the by-laws at any meeting of the Board provided that notice thereof be given in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting.

No by-laws adopted by the Board of Directors regulating an impending election of directors or officers shall be valid unless published at least once in each of two successive weeks in a newspaper in the County where the election is to be held, the last publication to be at least thirty days before such election.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report Of The Executive Director On Activities

During The Month Of July, 1939



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report Of The Executive Director On Activities

During The Month Of July, 1939

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to make available for reference and study a complete statement of its operations and activities, the National Refugee Service, Inc. inaugurates, with this issue, a monthly report of its progress.

The National Refugee Service, Inc. began functioning on June 7, replacing the National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees and certain of its affiliates. The work which was formerly performed by a number of separate groups and committees, as well as the functions of the Coordinating Committee itself, has now been transferred and is being carried on by a number of operating departments, responsible to the Executive Director. These departments include: Resettlement, Employment, Migration, Relief and Service, and Research and Information. An outline of their functions and activities during the month of July is presented in this report.

The Special Committees which have been set up to deal with the problems of specific professional groups, such as physicians, medical scientists, musicians, scholars, and rabbis, continue to function in cooperation with the several departments. The Self-Support Committee seeks to assist refugees to establish small enterprises which will enable them to become self-supporting; another committee is concerned with the educational, social and cultural needs of the refugee. Present plans contemplate the complete integration of these special activities within the National Refugee Service, Inc.

Cooperative arrangements have been developed with the New York and Brooklyn Sections of the National Council of Jewish Women, which are assisted financially by the National Refugee Service, Inc., in meeting the costs of certain of their activities. Refugees whose problems require more intensive treatment than can be provided by the National Refugee Service, Inc. directly, are referred to the Brooklyn Family Welfare Society and the Jewish Social Service of New York.

The work of reorganization is not complete and many problems remain, some of which will be briefly outlined here. Changes in organization and procedure may be made, as need and experience indicate. Consolidation of the major activities has been accomplished, however, and the basic structure of the new organization has now taken form. The new organization is functioning. The report of its activities follows:

II. ACTIVITIES DURING JULY

During July an average of about 5,400 persons per week came to the offices of the National Refugee Service, Inc. Approximately 1,200 desired information on technical migration problems; about 1,000 sought financial assistance in the form of relief and advice on family problems; 1,215 were interested in job and resettlement opportunities; the remainder were referred to the various committees, sections and individuals who could respond to the variety of problems and questions which they raised.

The total expenditures of the National Refugee Service, Inc. during July amounted to \$221,613.80. Of this amount \$103,340.10 was distributed in cash to families for food and shelter, gas and light, medical care; for transportation to other communities; for maintenance during a temporary period in the United States while awaiting admittance and a new

home in another country; for vacation care to refugee children; for vocational retraining and similar purposes. In addition, \$38,000 was provided for the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars, largely for direct aid supplied by this committee, and making a total disbursement of \$141,340.10 for the various purposes enumerated.

1. Relief and Service Department

The Relief and Service Department provides financial assistance to refugees who apply at the offices of the organization in New York City. Refugees now coming to the United States are for the most part without financial resources. Assistance is provided after investigation of the applicant's resources, the ability of the affiants to pay, and the resources of relatives and friends. In addition to financial aid this Department assists with advice on problems of adjustment, housing, child care and medical care.

During the month of July a total of 775 families applied for relief or service to this Department for the first time. Only 380 of these applicants, however, were accepted; of these, 203 were for cash relief. A great many persons who applied to us needed only some incidental service. As the figures above suggest, the request for cash assistance was denied in many cases where evidence indicated that there might be personal resources or that relatives and others who furnished affidavits were well able and willing to help. In other cases, referral to the Employment and Resettlement Departments and subsequent placement of the family made possible substantial savings in relief costs.

During the month of July a total of 1,604 families were actually in receipt of relief; of these 203 were being aided for the first time. A

total of \$80,544.98 was disbursed for cash assistance. This compares favorably with the expenditure of \$78,935 disbursed in June. There has been a steady growth in relief expenditures - from \$44,284 in January, 1939 to \$78,935 in June. The relatively slight increase of \$1609.98 in July might suggest that the peak in relief assistance has been reached. Such a conclusion is not warranted. There was a similar arrest in the rise of relief expenditures in March and April of this year; March relief expenses being \$48,103 and April \$54,585, yet the total rose thereafter.

Sample studies of new cases reveal that most applications are made within the first three months of arrival. Of the 775 families who applied in June 1939 to the Relief and Service Department of National Refugee Service, Inc., for the first time, 72.6 per cent had been in this country six months or less; 55.7 per cent had been here three months or less. Only 8.1 per cent had been here over a year. Approximately 33 per cent of all new applicants received relief within the first month of their arrival. Eighty per cent of these cases were in the non-professional group. This sample study would indicate that the newcomer lacks resources to maintain himself here for more than a short period after his arrival; he must adjust himself quickly in the economic scene, or be reduced to the necessity of seeking aid.

By the end of June full quotas of immigrant arrivals had been reached for Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Poland and Russia. The fact that immigration has reached its peak might indicate the possibility of stabilization, since there is an obvious relationship between the number of immigrants arriving and the number applying for relief. On the other hand, other factors which may lead to further relief expenditures

in the future cannot be ignored. The fact that recent arrivals are practically without resources is an important consideration. In brief, it is dangerous to draw a conclusion on the basis of one month's figures.

The present trend suggests a slight increase in relief expenditures in August over July and probably larger demands upon us in the Fall and Winter months. During July and August, boats coming from Europe are loaded with tourists and bring few refugees. However, arrivals will increase during September and October. More accurate estimates will be made in subsequent reports.

2. Employment Department

The Employment Department seeks to find job opportunities for employable refugees in New York and, to a lesser extent, elsewhere. This is a difficult undertaking since it involves placing refugees on jobs without, at the same time, creating any displacement of American workers. The department maintains a record of the occupational experience of the refugees who register at this office and in many instances has been successful in finding employment opportunities which capitalize on the special skills many of the refugees possess.

The table below indicates the number of placements which have been made each month from January through June 1939.

January.....	374
February.....	389
March.....	509
April.....	390
May.....	474
June.....	402
July.....	<u>300</u>
Total.....	2,838

The exceptionally small number of placements for the month of July represents a usual seasonal decline which characterizes not only our industrial placements, but particularly the decline in requests for persons for domestic employment, which generally revive after Labor Day. There was, however, during this period, an increase over the previous months in the number of placements made in the crafts and skilled trades. While in January, for example, only 16 per cent of all our placements were made in skilled crafts, in July 20 per cent of the placements were in the skilled trades.

Such data as is now available indicates that more recent arrivals from Germany represent a larger group of artisans and skilled workers than heretofore; among recent arrivals professional workers represent a smaller proportion.

For the seven-month period January to July 1939, a total of 2,838 refugees were placed on jobs. This compares favorably with the placement of 3,000 for the entire year of 1938.

3. Resettlement Department

The Resettlement Department through 407 committees - 41 state and regional and 366 local - resettles families from New York City into more suitable and less congested areas throughout the entire country.

There were resettled during this month a total of 162 family units - 23 for specific jobs; 17 physicians for internships, residences or for practice; one in a vocational training center of the National Youth Administration; 121 for general resettlement. A total of 270 individuals were resettled.

The resettlement Department spent \$7,180 for transportation and

baggage shipments for these families, and for other initial emergency needs.

The resettlements for July maintained the level of other months - an average of 160 families comprising 250 individuals. The total placements for 7 months of 1939 exceed the total 12 months for 1938.

	Entire Year <u>1938</u>	7 Months <u>1939</u>
Families	797	1,143
Individuals.....	1,256	1,868

There are now 41 state and regional committees with 386 local committees to aid in resettlement of refugees. Complete reorganization of the Los Angeles Committee has taken place under the professional direction of Dr. S. C. Kohs, and the chairmanship of Mr. Ludwig Schiff. This Committee will now assume responsibility for the organization of refugee work as well as resettlement in Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas.

The Ohio State Committee has employed a new State Field Secretary, who will undertake organizational activity for the whole state, working out of the Cleveland office, under the chairmanship of Albert C. Weihl, of Cincinnati.

The Wisconsin State Committee has a new chairman, Dr. Nathan Schneck of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Ben Z. Glass, the former chairman and Executive Secretary, has resigned because of full-time activity with the B'nai B'rith of Chicago.

There has been a decided increase in resettlement activity in Florida and Northern Illinois. There are now full time Field Secretaries functioning in eleven of our large state or regional committees. In each

one of these areas, an active refugee resettlement program is being carried on.

4. Migration Department

The Migration Department offers pre-migration advice; technical information on affidavits; it deals with immigration authorities in this and other countries on immigration problems; when necessary it gives financial assistance and advice to temporary visitors and emigres in transit.

During July, the Migration Department received 1,900 requests for immigration services and information. In 1,506 instances, information could be given by letter or by one interview. In 396 cases, continuing service over a period of time was required. These were mainly cases of visitors and emigres in transit to other countries, who needed immediate care and planning for the future, some special affidavit problems requiring frequent consultations with government officials in Washington and considerable correspondence with consulates abroad.

The Migration Department gave financial assistance to 87 visitors and new immigrants destined to other countries -- the total amount spent for transportation and maintenance during July being \$4,113. This department, by the very nature of its work, must be geared to sudden emergencies and unpredictable crises. It cannot anticipate or stabilize the extent of its services, or the amount of its expenditures. The fluctuation in expenditures for cash assistance to refugees with temporary visas for June-July indicates the variation from month to month.

January	\$6,647
February	4,472
March	4,794
April	3,653
May	3,604
June	5,490
July	4,113

Dramatic episodes, as significant as the story of the steamer "St. Louis", though less publicized, occur frequently in the Migration Department. This month saw the successful completion of the case of a young stowaway who was found on one of the French boats early in the Spring. He had been detained at Ellis Island for months and was threatened with deportation to Germany. With the help of Mr. Alfred Jaretzki, Jr. of the subcommittee on Refugee Aid in Central and South America of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, we succeeded in securing a new passport from the German consul and a visa from the Dominican consul, enabling the stowaway to sail for the Dominican Republic. We gave funds for his transportation; the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee guaranteed funds for his landing, which was thus made possible.

5. Research And Statistics

In order to provide adequate information concerning our refugees, the Research Department has been directed to initiate special studies dealing with various phases of the many activities conducted by the National Refugee Service, Inc. These studies are now in process and when completed will provide the following pertinent information:

(1) The age and description of persons applying for assistance in the Relief and Service Departments.

(2) The occupational description of those who come to us for assistance. At present the professional managerial merchants and the business group represent the largest number of applicants; skilled artisans and craftsmen come next. Such information will make possible more careful planning of our employment and vocational training activities.

(3) Another study now being made will provide us with the reasons

why refugees who agree to accept resettlement cancel such plans. In recent months the number of such cancellations has been large.

(4) An inquiry is also being made into the number of refugees who receive financial assistance in New York City, but whose affidavits were signed by persons living outside of New York City. A preliminary survey indicates that approximately 25 per cent of the families being aided financially have affiants who live outside of New York.

(5) How long after arrival does the refugee sustain himself before applying for assistance? Another inquiry in progress will provide this information. A preliminary study indicates that 72 per cent of the persons aided by us have been here less than 6 months, 55 per cent less than 3 months. Only 8 per cent have been here over a year. Over 33 per cent of those receiving cash aid have come to us within a month after arrival.

(6) It is important that we know definitely what number of refugees in need of help come from countries other than Germany. To what extent is the number increasing. We are seeking data which will determine this.

(7) In order to meet the request of some members of the Board and others who desire information, we shall attempt, with the cooperation of the local committees, a census of the number of refugees in the various parts of the United States.

These are but a few of the studies upon which our Research and Statistical Department has embarked. When completed, they should make possible more intelligent planning.

6. Information Department

Acting jointly with other cooperating organizations interested in the refugee problem, the Information Department has helped prepare and

disseminate essential pamphlets, reprints and statements presenting the facts about the refugees in the United States. It has serviced the press, and interested individuals and organizations by collecting and preparing in serviceable form important data, statistics, and news about the refugees.

It has in preparation a pamphlet which will explain the activities and purposes of the National Refugee Service, Inc., and which will outline the services performed by this organization. It is preparing also a booklet which aims to interpret American customs, institutions, public services, etc., to the refugee. It plans a series of informational bulletins which will give a continuing picture of our activities, and which will report in general on developments which affect the refugee problem.

III. PROGRESS IN REORGANIZATION

Considerable progress in reorganization of the work formerly conducted by the National Coordinating Committee has already been made. Such activities which were formerly carried on by two or more organizations, have already been combined. The Men's and Women's Employment Departments, formerly separate, have been consolidated. Cases formerly carried by the Jewish Family Welfare Association in Brooklyn and the Jewish Social Service Association in New York, and many cases formerly handled by the Brooklyn and New York Sections of the National Council of Jewish Women have already been transferred to other departments of the National Refugee Service, Inc.

Central office management procedures have been established and considerable progress has been made in eliminating long periods of waiting, and the many delays which have perhaps inevitably characterized the work heretofore. We feel confident that the services of the organization, its correspondence and reception are being speeded up, and in other ways a more

efficient operating unit is being created. The next 30 to 60 days should complete the process of reorganization.

Lease and Building Program -- A two year lease for quarters in the building at 165 West 46th Street, New York City, has been signed, and work is well advanced in renovating the offices to provide adequate physical arrangements for the administration of the activities of the National Refugee Service, Inc.

IV. PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

1. Problems presented during this month indicate the need for exploring the possibilities of placement of refugees in agriculture. Many suggestions and proposals for agricultural projects have been received and have been examined.

2. The need for vocational retraining of refugees is being given immediate consideration and steps now being taken will expand the activities of the National Refugee Service, Inc. in this direction. Likewise, more attention is being given to the educational program, the teaching of English, orientation to the American community and social adjustment.

3. The problems involved in working out effective relationships with other organizations engaged in refugee and related activities are also being given consideration; among these, relationship with the National Council of Jewish Women and the H.I.A.S. as well as with other organizations, is of utmost importance.

4. To provide for more effective cooperation with non-Jewish Refugee Groups the Executive Committee has authorized steps to organize a National Refugee Consultative Council. The preliminary discussions to this end have already been held and the next monthly report will contain a

further statement on this subject.

These, and other pressing questions, must be answered soon. It is our hope that forthcoming issues of this report will deal with these problems in detail when the process of reorganization embraces them, and they become a part of our regular functioning.

William Haber
Executive Director



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

FROM THE DESK OF
WILLIAM HABER

August 31, 1939

EXECUTIVE OFFICE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER 19

(Superseding Memorandum No. 14)

In order to avoid any misunderstanding as to the responsibility of the National Refugee Service in providing assistance and service to refugees, the following statement will serve as a guide to the members of the staff of the various departments of the National Refugee Service:

The several departments of the organization will provide service and assistance to refugees coming to the United States from Greater Germany and other countries which are fully following the anti-racial laws of Germany and Italy. People from such Balkan states as are following the anti-racial policy of Germany and Italy, are also eligible for service and assistance from the National Refugee Service. It is to be understood however, that this applies to those who have arrived in the United States since October 1938 and have not been known previously to a local family agency.

The National Refugee Service will accept responsibility for cases from Poland and Rumania with the following specific limitations: Only those who arrived after May 1, 1939 and who have not previously been known to local family agencies, will be accepted by the National Refugee Service.

Natives or citizens of the North European countries, particularly Holland, Belgium, Norway, Sweden and England, coming to the United States, who may be allowed to return to their native countries, are clearly not the responsibility of the National Refugee Service. This is also true of citizens or residents of any of the above mentioned countries, who may be of German origin, if they are able to return to the country of their last residence, even though that country is not their native land. However, former refugees from the Axis countries, residing temporarily in the above mentioned countries, are the responsibility of the National Refugee Service. Immigrants coming from Palestine are to be considered in the same category as those arriving from England or other countries where a return to the country is possible.

William Haber

Summary of the Minutes of the Meetings
of the Executive Committee of the
National Refugee Service, Inc.

Covering the Period July 21 to November 21, 1939

The Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc. meets at the offices of the organization every other Tuesday at 4:30 P.M. Since the last meeting of the Board of Directors on July 21, the Executive Committee has had six meetings. In addition to reviewing the day to day operations of the organization, approving decisions of the Budget Committee, listing and passing upon such reports as are presented by the Executive Director and others, the following specific items included in the minutes covering these meetings are briefly summarized below as being of special importance and, therefore, to be presented to the members of the Board of Directors for their ratification:

1. Scope of the Responsibility of National Refugee Service, Inc.: In order to clarify the scope of the responsibility of the National Refugee Service, Inc. the Committee approved a statement which defines who is included under the designation of "refugee." A copy of this statement, known as Executive Office Memorandum #19, is herewith attached.

2. Problem of War Refugees: It was the feeling of the Committee that while the National Refugee Service, Inc. will wish to assist with advice and service such individuals who may be stranded here because of the war situation, our program and responsibility are primarily concerned with "refugees" as defined in Executive Office Memorandum #19 and not with war refugees in general. Therefore, it was concluded that no financial assistance from our organization should be provided for the latter group and that such cases and problems should be referred to established agencies.

3. Establishment of a Branch Office in Miami: Since present indications point to an issuance of as many as 300 to 400 quota numbers per month to refugees in Havana, it would be highly desirable that a branch office be established temporarily in Miami to eliminate the necessity of the refugees' coming to New York City, and to provide for their resettlement throughout the country from Miami. The Executive Committee gave authorization to proceed with the establishment of such an office.

4. Release of English Deposits: A considerable number of individuals who had deposited funds on behalf of relatives on the continent with the National Refugee Service, Inc., at the request of the Jewish Refugee Committee in England, asked that such deposits be released. The British Committee cabled instructions to the National Refugee Service, Inc. to refund any deposits made with us by Americans and still held by us in New York for refugees who are in Germany. They further advised that they would take up with their Home Office the matter of refunding money to us which we or the relatives here forwarded to England, in cases where the applicant is still in Germany.

The Committee approved the action taken and authorized the establishment of procedures subject to approval by counsel for the refunding of such monies.

5. Authorization for New Accounts and Procedures Pertaining Thereto: The Committee gave specific approval for the establishment of proper accounts and financial controls, authorized signatures to its checks and vouchers, and approved procedures for the mailing of relief checks in order to relieve undue pressure on the limited physical space in our offices.

6. The Relief Burden of the National Refugee Service, Inc.: The Committee has held a special meeting during which the steadily increasing relief expenditures of the organization were discussed and alternate policies for dealing with the problem were examined. The conclusion, now only in process of formulation, will undoubtedly be a matter of discussion at the meeting of the Board on December 2.

7. Assistance to Physicians and Dentists Outside of New York City: Several communities requested assistance from the National Refugee Service, Inc. to defray the cost of tuition or internship of physicians and dentists in these communities in order to make possible their retraining. The Committee decided that the National Refugee Service, Inc. cannot assume financial responsibility for meeting the costs of retraining and the tuition of refugee physicians located in various sections of the country.

8. German Jewish Children's Aid, Inc.: Authorization was given to the Executive Director of National Refugee Service, Inc. to assume responsibility for the administration of the German Jewish Children's Aid, Inc. The Executive Director was further authorized to advise the National Council of Jewish Women, which finances the activities of the German Jewish Children's Aid, Inc., of the desire of the National Refugee Service, Inc. also to provide such funds as are needed to finance the activities of the German Jewish Children's Aid, Inc.

9. Vocational Retraining Program: The Action of the Budget Committee, authorizing the employment of a Director of Vocational Retraining, and the expansion of the activities of the National Refugee Service, Inc. in this direction, was approved by the Executive Committee.

10. Agricultural Committee: The Agricultural Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc. met on Friday, September 22, 1939 and it was their conclusion that the National Refugee Service, Inc. should continue its inquiry into the possibilities of agriculture as a means of assisting refugees; that someone should be retained on the staff to advise refugees concerning this problem; and, if possible, assist the Jewish Agricultural Society in order to make possible an expansion of its program in this direction. The Committee directed the President to appoint a member of the Executive Committee to act as Chairman of the Agricultural Committee and provide for a reorganization of this Committee.

11. Establishment of Central Loan Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc.: In order to centralize the many loan activities conducted by the various departments of the National Refugee Service, Inc., the Executive Committee authorized the establishment of a Refugee Central Loan Committee as an integral part of the organization. The Rosenwald Capital Outlay Fund was dissolved.

12. National Refugee Consultative Council: The participation of the National Refugee Service, Inc. in the National Refugee Consultative Council, which has been organized to strengthen the cooperation among the various organizations engaged in refugee work, comprised of representatives from the American Christian Committee for German Refugees, the American Friends Service Committee, the Committee for Catholic Refugees and the National Refugee Service, Inc., was approved. Several meetings of the Council, at which two representatives from each of the four groups were present, have been held. It is felt that the Council can operate more effectively than any of the constituent organizations alone, particularly in the field of public relations, consultation with governmental departments, and similar activities.

13. Request of the National Refugee Service, Inc. for additional funds from the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal: The Executive Committee gave authorization to request the members of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal for an additional allocation to the National Refugee Service, Inc. This was done and the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal voted an allocation of \$2,600,000 to the National Refugee Service, Inc. for the year 1939.

14. Authorization to Borrow Funds: The Executive Committee authorized the borrowing of funds not to exceed a total of \$300,000 and not to exceed \$50,000 at any one time. It was further provided that, when necessary to borrow, specific authorizations of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the National Refugee Service, Inc. are required.

15. Assistance to Refugees in Mexican Border Towns: The question of assisting communities which have been using their funds to aid refugees temporarily located in Mexican border towns was presented for the Committee's action. It was the Committee's conclusion that the responsibility of the National Refugee Service, Inc. be limited to problems within the United States and that the issue raised be referred to the Committee in Mexico City.

16. Attendance of Out-of-Town Members of the Board of Directors at Executive Committee Meetings: It was suggested that a letter be written to out-of-town members of the Board of Directors informing them that the Executive Committee meets every other Tuesday and inviting them to attend these meetings when they are in New York City.

17. Meeting of Board of Directors: The Executive Committee authorized the holding of a meeting of the Board of Directors in Chicago on December 2, 1939 and instructed that invitations be extended to the members of the Board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to attend these sessions.

18. Pamphlet as Guide for Refugees: It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that a pamphlet to serve as a guide for refugees should be prepared, but that the method of releasing such a pamphlet should be reviewed at a later date after a thorough draft is submitted to the Committee.

19. Relationship with HIAS: Several discussions have taken place with the HIAS for the purpose of correcting any overlapping activities which may prevail and a

sub-committee of the Executive Committee is now studying this problem.

20. Arrangements with the National Council of Jewish Women: A final draft of an understanding between the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Refugee Service, Inc., concerning the work of the National Council in relation to refugee service has been approved by both organizations.



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, Inc.
165 West 46th Street
New York City

September 8, 1939

Information Bulletin #1

Subject: THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND REFUGEES

With the outbreak of hostilities abroad, the National Refugee Service, Inc. has received many inquiries, from all parts of the country, concerning the future program of work for refugees. At this moment, with the international scene changing almost hourly, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make a forecast as to what may happen. All that can be said now is that the National Refugee Service, Inc. is fully aware of all the implications in the situation as they affect the work of national and local organizations. For the present it is the earnest conviction of this National Office that all Committees should continue activities as usual, taking cognizance, however, of the following suggestions which are being made after a careful study of the many questions that have been raised. The information given obviously may have to be revised as conditions change. It is hoped, however, that local correspondents and committees will find the following suggestions helpful:

AMERICAN CITIZENS STRANDED ABROAD

The State Department has set up a bureau known as Special Division, State Department, Mr. George Brandt, Administrative Officer, through which all requests for information or assistance to American citizens stranded abroad may be referred. American citizens who are still in Germany are being evacuated through the Berlin Consul and arrangements are now being made to send them to the United States via Stockholm. Funds for all American citizens abroad may be sent to Mr. George Brandt, State Department, Washington, D.C. Additional steamers are being rushed to Europe so that it is hoped all American citizens will be evacuated within the next four or six weeks.

IMMIGRATION TO U.S.A. FROM ENGLAND AND POLAND

The National Refugee Service, Inc. has been officially advised that immigration to the United States from London and Warsaw has been temporarily suspended for the entire month of September; since the Immigration Law is still in force, this suspension is only temporary. This temporary suspension is necessary for two reasons: first, because of limitations of shipping facilities; and second, because the entire staffs of the Consulates have been turned over to carrying on welfare work, location of Americans, and repatriation work. X

SHOULD AFFIDAVITS BE SENT ABROAD?

Many inquiries have been made with regard to affidavits. Some ask if they should continue to secure affidavits for people living in Germany. Others wish to know whether they should forward affidavits to England, France, and to neutral countries outside of Germany. It is recommended that affidavits should be sent where they are now being requested by the American Consuls to complete granting of the visas, or where they may serve some other specific purpose. It is expected that additional information on this subject will be available within the next few days; you will be currently advised. It is recommended that all affidavits be forwarded to the National Office for transmittal abroad.

MAIL AND CABLES TO BELLIGERENT COUNTRIES

Since all mail sent to belligerent countries will be censored, individuals should be instructed to word carefully all letters they are sending abroad. At the present time the Post Office authorities report that mail is being accepted for transmission to all countries, including the belligerent countries.

Cables are being accepted for transmission abroad. In some countries the cable names and cable codes are not being accepted, and full names and addresses of senders and recipients must be given.

It is recommended that photostatic copies should be made of all legal and other important documents, before sending them abroad. This precaution applies particularly to the following documents:

- (a) Affidavits and all supplementary documentary evidence usually accompanying affidavits, such as bank statements, income tax statements, tax receipts, mortgage deeds, auditors' statements, etc.
- (b) Birth certificates, police certificates, marriage certificates, divorce certificates, death certificates, etc.
- (c) Contracts (rabbinical, academic, etc.)
- (d) Diplomas and other valuable and possibly irreplaceable documents.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH AGENCIES ABROAD

All reports to be sent abroad should be cleared through the office of the National Refugee Service, Inc., since this agency is in close touch with the agencies abroad, some of which have been forced to close by Government edict, and others have been obliged to remove their headquarters to inland towns for safety.

(The Staff of the National Office has been advised to give precedence to all inquiries coming from local communities and individuals in the United States. In this connection, it must be borne in mind that the information given is subject to revision in the light of new developments abroad.)

TRANSMISSION OF MONEY TO EUROPE

The National Refugee Service, Inc. will continue to accept money for transmission abroad, with the understanding that the National Office will forward such money abroad after every precaution has been taken to assure its safe receipt. However, it must be clearly understood that the National Refugee Service, Inc. cannot accept responsibility for fluctuations in exchange which are taking place at this time, nor for any losses or delays that arise out of this present crisis.

REFUNDS OF MONEY FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Many individuals have requested refunds of money deposited by them for transmission to England for German relatives or for relatives placed for temporary asylum in England or other countries. Under date of August 25, the London Committee cabled the National Office as follows:

"BEFORE MAKING REFUNDS ON CASES BEING DEALT WITH BY OUR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES ESSENTIAL OBTAIN OUR ASSURANCE THAT VISA NOT GRANTED."

It is essential, therefore, to explain to inquirers that before refunds can be made, the National Office will apply for and will expect to receive from the London Committee a release assuring that the visa has not been granted and authorizing the refund of the money. This will of necessity entail a delay of several weeks. The London Committee, in a letter confirming this cablegram, indicated that once a visa has left their office, it is extremely difficult to cancel it. It is not certain at this time, but it is possible that some of the people who received visas have succeeded in getting out of Germany; they may be stranded in some other country where the funds may be needed for them.

IMMIGRATION INTO ENGLAND FROM GERMANY

In accordance with information received from committees in England there will be no more immigration into England from Germany. Applications for temporary asylum are, however, still being accepted with the clear explanation that applications will be kept on file until the situation permits further action. X

REGISTRATION OF NON-CITIZENS WITH THEIR CONSULS

German Consuls in the United States have notified all German subjects to register. This applies to those permanently admitted to the United States who now have only their first papers, as well as to those who are here on temporary visas. For the present it is suggested that these persons be advised to defer action for another week or two. While the final decision rests with them, the American Neutrality Laws as they apply to these aliens are being studied; further information on this subject will be available at a later date.

For obvious reasons, refugees are being advised to refrain from public discussions regarding the war situation.

The National Refugee Service, Inc. appreciates the fact that there are many anxious people who seek counsel from you. The National Office will therefore make every effort to keep you posted with regard to any new developments by general bulletins wherever possible.

Cecilia Razofsky
Director, Migration Department

William Haber
Executive Director

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

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RELIEF AND SERVICE

HANNA ZIEGLER
Acting Director

RESETTLEMENT

JACOB H. KRAVITZ
Acting Director

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

September 29, 1939

Dear Friend:

The report of the Executive Director of National Refugee Service, Inc. for the month of August 1939 is attached. You will notice that it embraces the activities, not only of the four major operating departments but also of the special committees for aid to professional groups, the report of the German Jewish Children's Aid and of the Division of Social and Cultural Adjustment. The work of these groups and committees is now part of the program of National Refugee Service, and an accounting of their activities is therefore included.

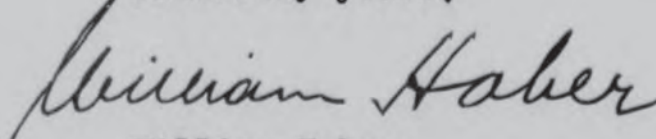
You will receive this report during a most critical time. It is too early to estimate the actual effect of the war on our operations; certainly the August report gives very little indication of change since it covers a period preceding the actual hostilities. The troubled conditions in Europe are reflected, however, in the increased demands upon the Migration Department, in the frantic character of the new appeals made to us for aid.

You will note a slight rise in activities in all departments with the exception of the Resettlement Department. This is largely seasonal; September already shows a marked increase.

The total expenditures in August decreased slightly -- \$209,458 in August as against \$221,613 in July. Disbursements for relief and to meet emergency needs of the refugees actually increased -- \$117,259 in August as against \$103,340 in July.

For your convenience, the report contains a brief summary, so that you may quickly review the activities during August before proceeding to an examination of the work of each department.

Sincerely yours,



William Haber
Executive Director

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
Report Of The Executive Director On Activities
During The Month of August, 1939



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report of The Executive Director on Activities

During the Month of August, 1939

I. INTRODUCTION

The impact of the war in Europe upon the activities of the National Refugee Service cannot be indicated in the report of our operations for the month of August. It can be reported, however, that an immediate result has been to increase the demands upon our organization as frantic refugees and their friends and relatives in this country literally besieged our offices with anxious questions. At this writing, it appears likely that refugees will continue to come; that through Italy and Sweden refugees can still leave Germany, and that numbers will probably come from other countries in which they find themselves temporarily.

This report of our activities during the month of August, covers the operations of our major departments. It includes in addition, a summary of the work of the special committees providing service and assistance to special groups of refugees.

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING AUGUST

During the month of August there was a substantial increase in all of the activities of the National Refugee Service, with the exception of the Resettlement Department. The National Refugee Service disbursed \$209,458.03 during the month. This represents a decrease over July when the expenditures were \$221,613.80. The disbursements in cash relief to refugees for relief, food and shelter, gas and light, medical care, transportation and maintenance for visitors in transit to other countries, actually increased during August

to \$117,259.12 as against \$103,340.10 in July. In addition, \$17,675 was provided in subventions to Special Committees and organizations, as compared with \$38,000 in July. Thus the total direct cash aid expenditures to refugees during August, amounted to \$134,934.12.

A weekly average of 5,600 applicants came to the offices of the National Refugee Service requesting assistance or information. This is to be compared with an average of 5,400 per week during July. The work of the Migration Department reflected the troubled conditions in Europe; a total of 8,318 letters were received during the month, and 3,048 inquiries and appeals for assistance were made to this Department in person.

The Relief and Service Department provided direct cash assistance to a total of 1,745 refugees during the month; 1,161 families applied for assistance for the first time, as compared with 775 applications in the month of July. An analysis of the number of families being aided by the Relief and Service Department indicates a substantial decrease in the length of time during which refugees require financial assistance. This represents a favorable tendency, for it indicates a more rapid social and economic adjustment.

The Employment Department increased its placements by 23% in August as compared with July; a trend only partly seasonal and therefore encouraging. A total of 369 persons were assisted in finding occupational employment in jobs largely non-competitive and involving no displacements of American workers. In many instances these jobs offer opportunity for retraining.

A substantial decrease in the number of persons resettled characterized the work of the Resettlement Department during August. This is in part a seasonal decline - early reports for September already indicate an improvement.

The National Refugee Service during August assumed the administrative responsibility for the German Jewish Children's Aid; it increased its activities in providing social and cultural adjustment of refugees to the American community; it inaugurated a program for providing vocational retraining to refugees.

III. REPORTS OF OPERATING DEPARTMENTS

Relief and Service Department

Refugees arriving from Europe in recent months are, in numerous instances, without resources. Financial assistance is made available through the Relief and Service Department on a temporary basis until employment or resettlement can be facilitated and only after inquiry into resources of affiants and relatives who may be in a position to be of help.

During August there was a decided increase in the activities of this department, as the following figures reveal:

	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Persons seen at reception desk.....	4,402	6,226
Applications for relief and service.....	775	1,161
New relief cases accepted.....	203	346
Total No. of families receiving relief.....	1,604	1,745
Amount of relief expenditures.....	\$78,945	\$89,730

This upward trend has been apparent since the beginning of the year as a larger number of persons came to us for assistance and as the resources of those who arrived some months ago became depleted.

In addition to actual cash assistance, the Relief and Service Department assists refugees in making adjustment; it aims to preserve the self-respect of the refugee and his family; it aids in hospital and medical care, in providing special types of assistance when necessary, in housing and family problems.

How long do refugees remain on relief with our organization? A study of 1,729 families which were aided during August, reveals that 330 or 20% received relief for the first time during that month. Over 1,100 or 65% were on our rolls for four months or less. Nearly 9% were receiving the assistance for more than one year. These facts indicate that save for a small fraction of the refugees who are being aided, cash assistance is generally temporary and that within a few months they are able to provide for themselves. The situation in this respect, has been improving. Thus, while only 9% of the relief load in August 1939 were receiving assistance for a period of one year or more, in December 1938 21% (511 families) were on relief for a period in excess of one year.

What is the usual amount allowed for assistance for a family? The average figures are deceptive, since families vary in size and needs. Out of the 1,729 families given financial assistance during August, 235 or 13% received less than \$20 each for the month; 27.5% received between \$20 and \$40, and nearly 30% between \$40 and \$60. We are devoting considerable attention during September to examination of those cases involving the larger relief payments; we are seeking to reduce these payments through careful re-evaluation of the needs, and constructive assistance in other directions, and similarly to lessen the time during which families remain on relief.

Resettlement Department

Resettlement operations of the National Refugee Service which are conducted in cooperation with local refugee service committees, were subjected to the usual summer lull. The number of families resettled in August, presented a decrease of 25% as compared with July. For the first eight months of 1939, a total of 1,262 families comprising 2,044 individuals were resettled. This

compares favorably with the number resettled during the entire year of 1938 when 797 families comprising 1,256 individuals were resettled.

A comparison of the August and July resettlements, is indicated below:

	<u>No. of Families Resettled in August</u>	<u>No. of Families Resettled in July</u>
Placement of refugees in N.Y.A. training centers.....	8	1
Resettlement of refugee physicians.....	8	17
Referral of refugees to specific jobs..	13	24
General resettlement.....	<u>90</u>	<u>120</u>
	119	162

This decrease is only in part explained by the reduced activities of many local resettlement committees due to the vacation period. In addition, there has been an actual decrease in the number of refugees who applied to the National Refugee Service for resettlement in areas outside of New York.

It was to cope with the latter situation that the National Refugee Service obtained the assistance of Mr. Walter Bieringer, Chairman of the New England region and leader of the Massachusetts State Committee. Mr. Bieringer devoted nearly three weeks in August to a study of our entire resettlement problem. In immediate response to certain of his recommendations and suggestions, the National Refugee Service has enlarged its program of interpreting resettlement opportunities to refugees. The objectives and advantages are explained to the large number who come into our offices each day. As a result of these activities, it is anticipated that the number of families to be resettled in September and the succeeding months, will show a substantial increase over July and August.

In order to meet the requirements of a larger resettlement program, as well as interpret the work of the National Refugee Service and to assist local communities in their own problems, a full time field staff of 7 persons will be assigned to various regions early in October.

Meanwhile, progress is being made in the formation of new resettlement committees, and in the reorganization, under the National Refugee Service, Inc. of the established committees. In Indiana the South Bend region has been reorganized under the leadership of Will Welber, with the immediate result that two communities in that region - Fort Wayne and Michigan City - have set up quotas. In Georgia the State Committee is now functioning, and Atlanta, under the leadership of W. H. Alexander, with the assistance of Eugene Oberdorfer, is prepared to undertake resettlement with various cooperating committees.

At present, the following five regional committees are carrying on the most active resettlement program: Massachusetts (through Boston), Eastern Pennsylvania (through Philadelphia), Wisconsin, Florida, and Western Pennsylvania (through Pittsburgh). These states have all set quotas on general resettlement ranging from 12 to 25 families for the month of September.

Migration Department

As a result of the developments in Europe the demands upon the Migration Department during the month of August have been particularly heavy. Over 8,300 requests for information, guidance and direct assistance were received through the mail. In addition, 3,048 individuals called at the offices of the department with similar inquiries. In many instances requests for information and advice through the mails could be disposed of in routine fashion through form letters or by direct answers. However, a large number required intensive investigation and detailed study, which necessitated many cables and telegrams. Of the 3,048 personal applicants, approximately 1,000 required intensive service and direct assistance.

It is the policy of the Migration Department to speed the passage of newly arrived immigrants who are destined to parts of the United States other than New York, the port of entry - lest they add to the already existing congestion in that city. A staff member is assigned to work closely with the dock representative of the National Council of Jewish Women and with the HIAS, to effect immediate transit arrangements. This involves contact with relatives and friends who will supply the funds for transportation, or if such funds are not available, with the local committees to which these immigrants can be referred. All else failing, the Migration Department has furnished some funds for transportation and shipment of baggage inland, upon assurance that the refugee will be taken care of by friends or relatives thereafter.

In this connection, the episode of the S.S. Laconia is of particular interest. During August, the Department learned from the refugee committee in London that 23 refugees were arriving on the Laconia, who were on their way to inland cities in the United States, but who had been provided with passage only to New York. Within 24 hours the machinery had been put into operation for their care; the dock worker met them at the pier and noted their individual needs; shelter was provided for them overnight, telegrams were dispatched to the cities of their destination, friends and relatives were reached who in most cases provided the full or partial funds for their transportation inland.

A total of \$15,054.88 was spent by the Migration Department during August under the general classification of Relief Expenditures. Of this amount \$12,742.46 was spent on maintenance and emergency assistance; \$1,832.51 on transportation and shipment of baggage inland; \$248.16 at Ellis Island, and \$231.75 for miscellaneous relief.

Employment Department

The number of refugees who have been assisted in locating gainful employment during August increased 23% over July, initiating a Fall improvement which becomes marked in September and October. In addition to 369 completed placements, 123 orders received during the month are still outstanding pending decision by employers on the people referred to them. Craftsmen and skilled workers aggregate 28% of the total, constituting the highest percentage for any single occupational category.

Placement figures convey only one aspect of the many-sided activity of a department responsible for placing a group handicapped by language difficulty. Opportunities for re-education and retraining must often be provided before placement can be effected. Sometimes this re-education helps the individual to find his own job, sometimes we cannot find him the job without first providing the re-education. This often requires painstaking work on a highly individual basis, leading to an intensive search for specialized opportunities. Such efforts made it possible for us to find jobs for highly trained persons whose employment not only solved their own economic problem but introduced new and desirable skills into the American labor market.

IV. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE

Under the former National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees, a number of affiliated committees functioned as special projects, in aid of specific professional groups, such as Scholars, Musicians, Physicians, etc. Special Committees existed also to further the social, cultural and economic adjustment of the refugee to life in the United States, or to meet particular problems such as the care of the refugee children who arrived in the United States under the quota, but without their parents.

These Committees now function within the National Refugee Service. As the functions of these Committees are properly evaluated, and integrated with the whole program of the organization, their activities will be included in this report.

The August report therefore, summarizes below, the work of certain Committees which have been most closely integrated with the National Refugee Service, Inc. There are other committees and organizations which cooperate on closest terms.

1. The National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians
2. The Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers
3. The German-Jewish Children's Aid
4. The Division of Social and Cultural Adjustment
5. The Musicians Placement Committee

The National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians - Since February 1, 1939, a special project operating as the central office of the National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians has been functioning, formerly under the aegis of the National Coordinating Committee, now under the National Refugee Service.

Because of stringent regulations relating to medical licensing, only a few states are permitting refugee physicians to qualify for practice. The National Committee, therefore, must necessarily concern itself with a broad educational program to facilitate a more adequate distribution of refugee physicians throughout the United States.

The central office, operating as a division of the National Refugee Service, coordinates this work through the preparation of statistical data, reports to affiliated groups and individuals, appeals to state boards and educational programs. It registers and classifies foreign physicians, of whom there were about 1,200 in New York out of a total of 1,528 when the office was organized. Since then 230 new arrivals have been recorded.

Every newcomer is interviewed and supplied with information concerning license requirements, existing opportunities and American medical practices. Facilities for training preparatory to State Medical Board examinations have been created. From June 1st until August 15, 1939, we arranged for a total of 34 lectures by outstanding American medical scientists and clinicians. Under our sponsorship intensive coaching courses were given by qualified instructors from New York universities. Advisory boards in twenty specialties have been set up to examine and evaluate all refugee physicians upon arrival and 167 physicians have been examined so far.

Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers - Efforts of the Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers to place refugee rabbis, cantors, and other Synagogue functionaries wanting posts have been gratifying during July and August, largely because of the approach of the High Holy Day season, but also due to the many direct and valuable contacts which the Committee has established with communities and congregations throughout the land.

During this two-month period, the Committee secured 12 permanent posts for rabbis and Synagogue functionaries and helped to fill 18 positions for the High Holy Days; at least 7 or 8 of the persons so placed have the prospect of being permanently engaged. The Committee also negotiated and forwarded, through the cooperation of our Immigration Department, 7 two-year contracts for rabbis who are abroad.

Plans are under way to organize a special re-training course for the exiled rabbis at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America which will be started in October and continued throughout the winter and spring months. This course will offer special instruction in Elocution, Homiletics, and will include many lectures and seminars on the principles of teaching, religious school administration, and practical work in this country.

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German Jewish Children's Aid - German Jewish Children's Aid was organized in 1934 for the purpose of bringing to this country a number of refugee children, without their parents, but under the regular quota. German Jewish Children's Aid guaranteed that the children would not become public charges, and undertook the placement of these children in private homes. It also assumed responsibility for their education and training. Under this arrangement, and with the approval of government authorities, 413 German Jewish children have come to the United States. Two of these children have been legally adopted; three have left the United States to rejoin their parents in South American countries. Others have been reunited with their parents in this country. It must be stressed that arrangements to increase the number of children who could come to the United States had been completed when war broke out, and interrupted the work.

National Refugee Service now assumes administrative responsibility for this work and is supervising the functions of German Jewish Children's Aid.

During the month of August, three additional children were admitted to the United States through the efforts of German Jewish Children's Aid. Two were immediately sent to families and agencies awaiting them; the third was taken care of by a relative. The children arrived here with full knowledge of impending hostilities, and efforts have been made to ease their fears for their families in Germany.

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Division of Social and Cultural Adjustment - Upon this Division now falls the responsibility for the large program which we envisage of adjusting the refugee

to life in the United States; of meeting his educational, religious, and other cultural needs; of interpreting to him American institutions; of aiding him towards good citizenship. This program, like all general services of the National Refugee Service, Inc. will be maintained on a non-sectarian basis.

The program of this Division is a comprehensive one, involving the utilization of all educational services, schools, libraries, special courses, etc., available to the immigrant, and the cooperation of a number of outside agencies.

Perhaps the main achievement of this department during August was the organization of five English classes for physicians to take the place of those W.P.A. classes and Board of Education classes which had been suspended. More than 150 physicians requiring English for examination credit enrolled in these classes.

August, too, saw the conclusion of one of the most successful undertakings of the Division - the Bennington project. Under the sponsorship of a committee headed by Professor Theodore Newcomb of Bennington College and Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher, 60 children (ages ranging from eight to seventeen) were sent to vacation homes near Bennington, Arlington and neighboring towns in Vermont - there to mix with American children and to acquire a first-hand knowledge of American ways. The children were selected by the Division in cooperation with the American Friends' Service Committee, the American Christian Committee, the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany, and the Self-Help Committee. The Division made all arrangements for transportation, physical examinations, etc. The children were exceedingly popular with Vermont citizens, and met for sports, picnics and other activities with the American children of the community. They put out a mimeographed paper, "New Citizen" which carried in its first issue a "Message to the People of Vermont."

During the first three weeks of August, applications to the Division of Social and Cultural Adjustment averaged 35 daily. This figure jumped considerably during the last week, when the office was visited by many refugees enquiring for tickets for the High Holy Days.

In collaboration with many local organizations, the Division is suggesting programs for social activities for the emigre group during the Fall and Winter months. Organizations cooperating include: The Good Neighbor Committee, the Ethical Culture Society, United Neighborhood Houses, Congregation Emanu-El, Temple Israel, Young People's Group of the Joint Distribution Committee, the German-Jewish Club, Child Study Association and others.

During the first three weeks in August, the Division, as part of its service, referred 13 children to nurseries and kindergartens in New York City.

#

Musicians Placement Committee - This Committee's function is to find opportunities for highly qualified refugee musicians in this country. It works closely with the Resettlement Department in the placement of musicians in

suitable communities where their talents are needed. The Committee has sponsored concerts by refugee musicians; it has been successful in placing a number of them in schools and conservatories, and has otherwise found for them non-competitive employment.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Included as part of this report are charts indicating the general trend of our activities. An examination of these charts suggests that the demands upon our services in all of the departments have been steadily increasing in the past several months. The war situation will intensify the needs of the refugees in the months immediately ahead. An orderly distribution of refugees throughout the United States, intelligent placement so as to make possible economic adjustment, guidance, and other assistance towards community adjustment - these activities of the National Refugee Service are not likely to decrease as a result of the international situation.

William Haber
Executive Director

TABLE I
RELIEF AND SERVICE DEPARTMENT

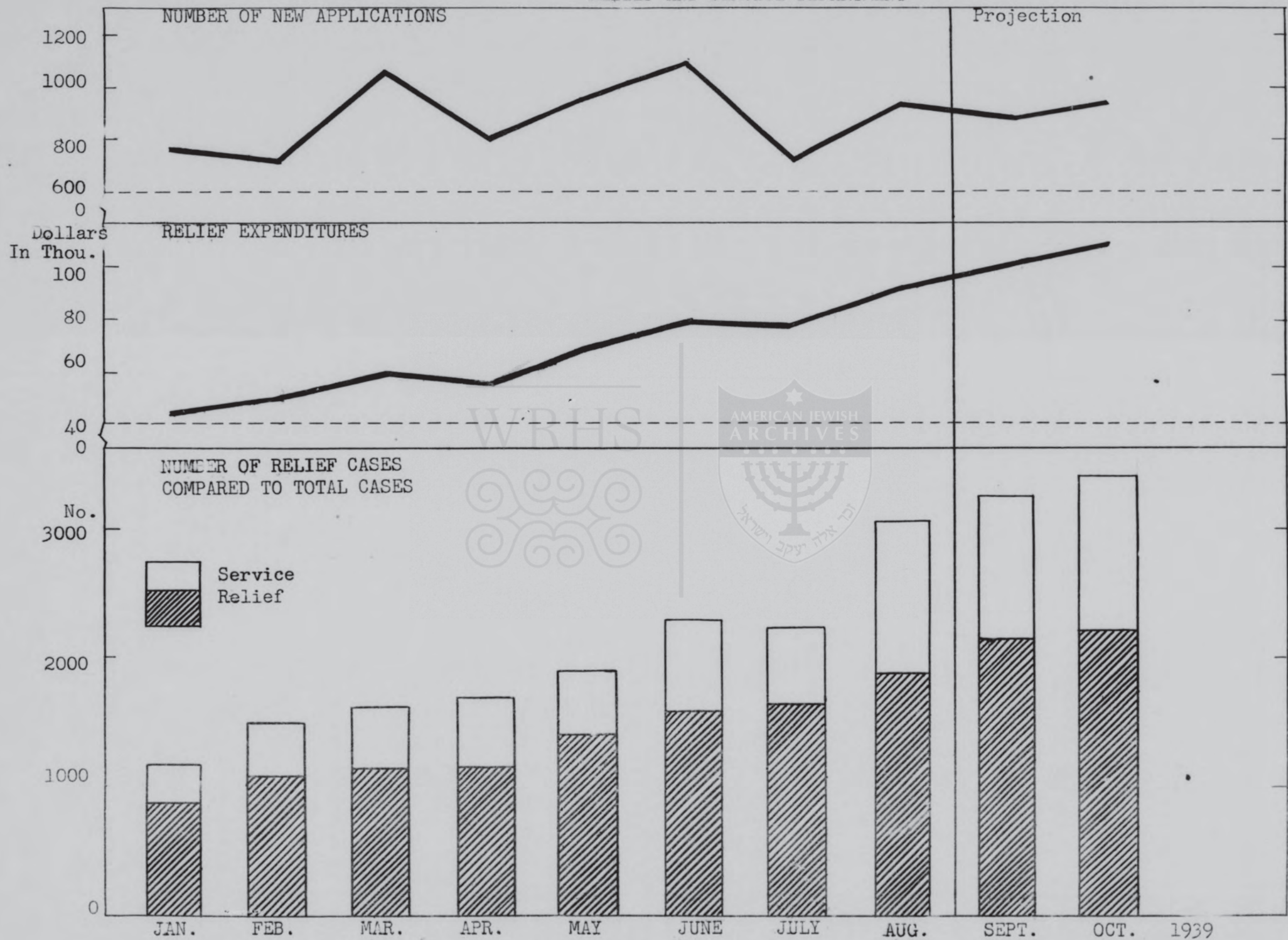


TABLE II
EMPLOYMENT AND RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENTS

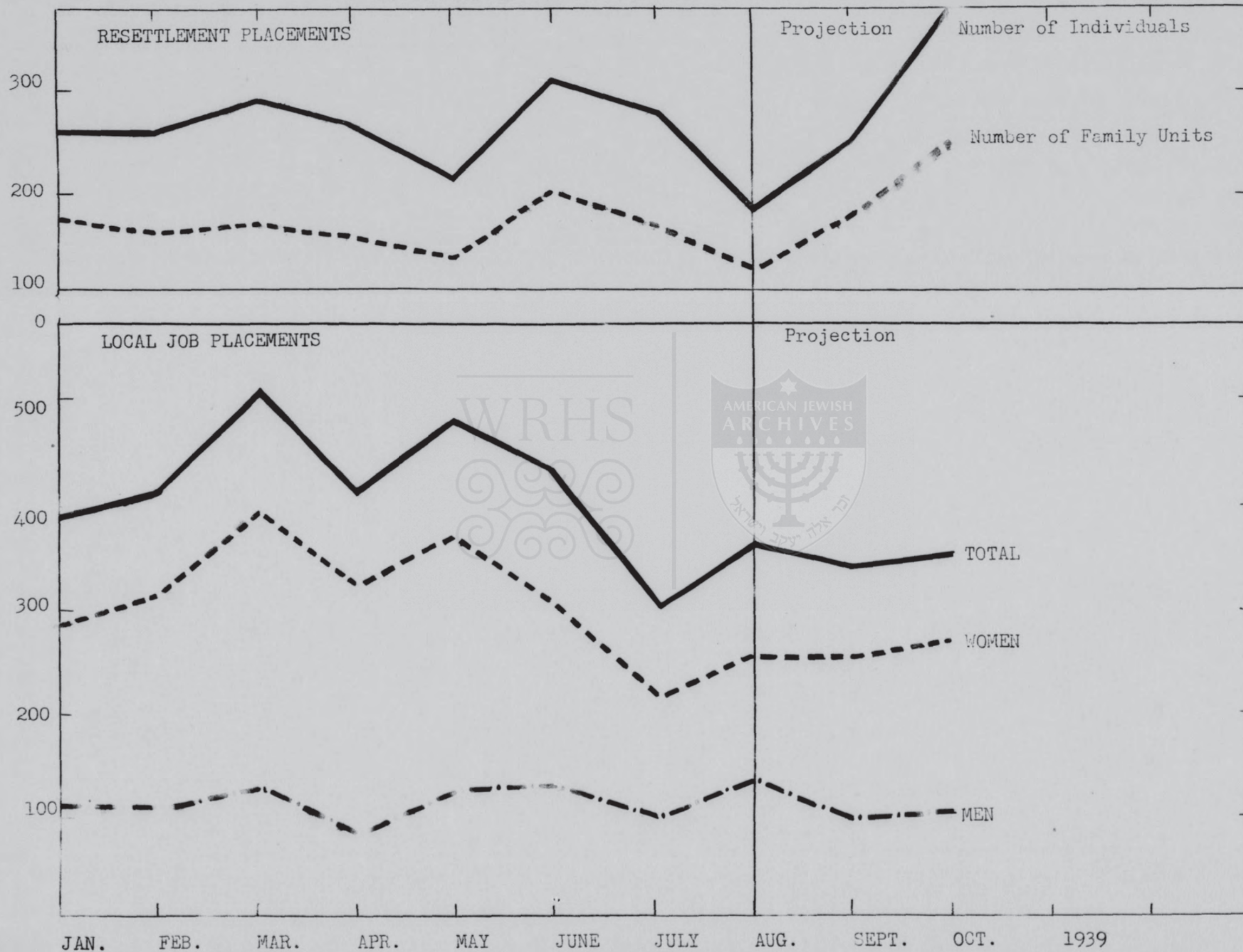
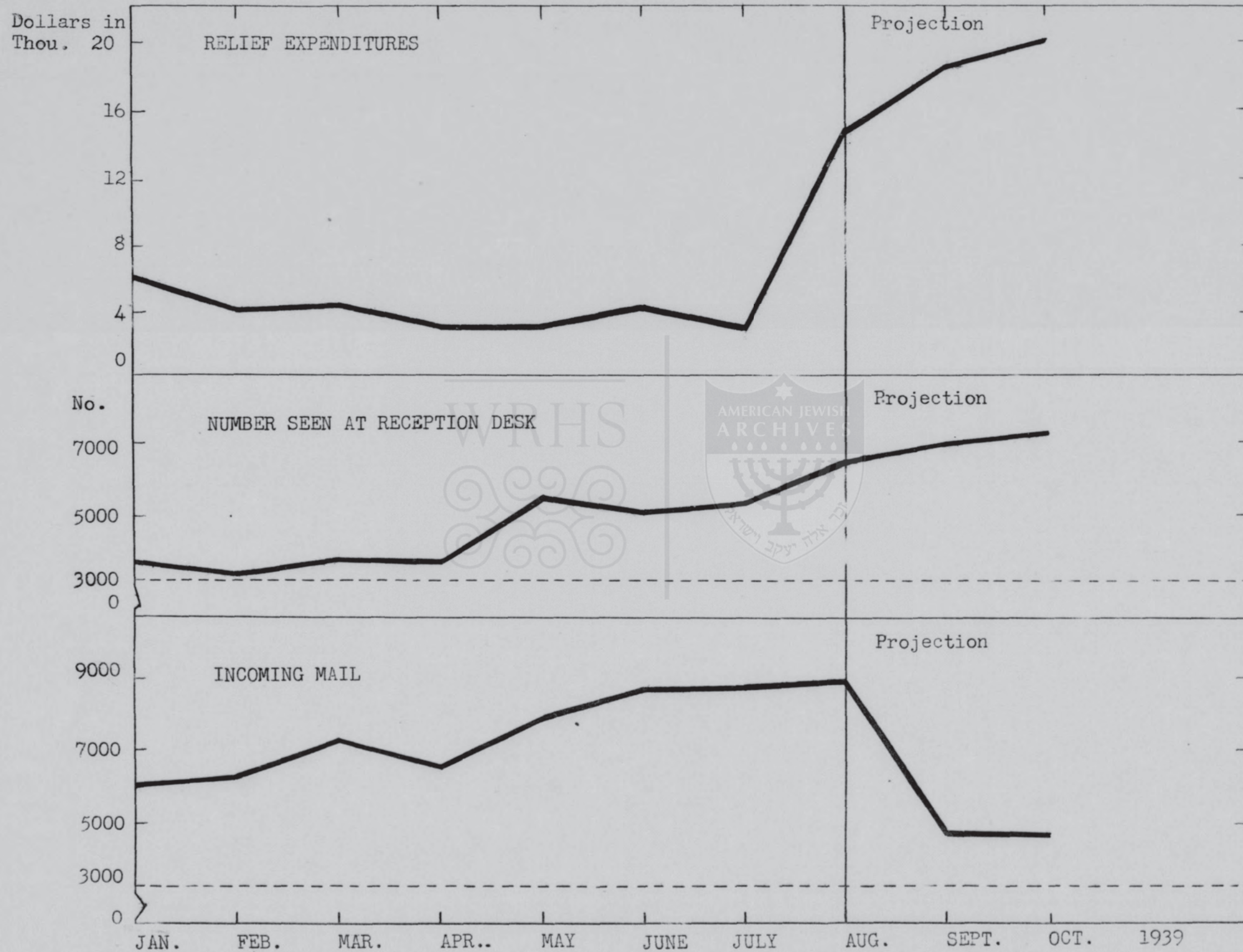


TABLE III
MIGRATION DEPARTMENT



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN
Chairman of the Board

WILLIAM ROSENWALD
President

EUSTACE SELIGMAN

DAVID H. SULZBERGER

MORRIS WOLF
Vice-Presidents

S. MARSHALL KEMPNER
Treasurer

PAUL FELIX WARBURG
Secretary

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER

HARRY GREENSTEIN

JOSEPH C. HYMAN

SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN

ERICH M. WARBURG

JONAH B. WISE

DEPARTMENTS

MIGRATION

CECILIA RAZOVSKY
Director

EMPLOYMENT

NELL MANN
Acting Director

RELIEF AND SERVICE

HANNA ZIEGLER
Acting Director

RESETTLEMENT

JACOB H. KRAVITZ
Acting Director

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

October 2, 1939

Dear Friend:

The report of the Executive Director of National Refugee Service, Inc. for the month of August 1939 is attached. You will notice that it embraces the activities, not only of the four major operating departments but also of the special committees for aid to professional groups, the report of the German Jewish Children's Aid and of the Division of Social and Cultural Adjustment. The work of these groups and committees is now part of the program of National Refugee Service, and an accounting of their activities is therefore included.

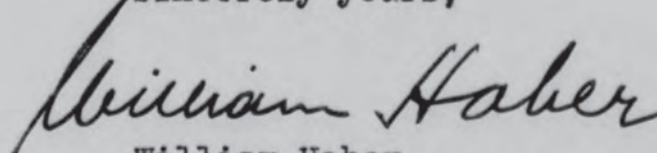
You will receive this report during a most critical time. It is too early to estimate the actual effect of the war on our operations; certainly the August report gives very little indication of change since it covers a period preceding the actual hostilities. The troubled conditions in Europe are reflected, however, in the increased demands upon the Migration Department, in the frantic character of the new appeals made to us for aid.

You will note a slight rise in activities in all departments with the exception of the Resettlement Department. This is largely seasonal; September already shows a marked increase.

The total expenditures in August decreased slightly -- \$209,458 in August as against \$221,613 in July. Disbursements for relief and to meet emergency needs of the refugees actually increased -- \$117,259 in August as against \$103,340 in July.

For your convenience, the report contains a brief summary, so that you may quickly review the activities during August before proceeding to an examination of the work of each department.

Sincerely yours,



William Haber
Executive Director

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 30, 1939

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN
Chairman of the Board

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Acting Director

RELIEF AND SERVICE

HANNA ZIEGLER
Acting Director

RESETTLEMENT

JACOB H. KRAVITZ
Acting Director

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

To the Members of the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal:

Under the agreement constituting the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs, the National Refugee Service, Inc.* is entitled to receive a minimum of \$2,000,000. However, the Allocations Committee may vote an additional half million dollars on proof of need and by majority vote (although the ultimate allocation is not necessarily limited to this amount).

We shall present, at a later time, a request for final allocations, but at this time, we wish to submit an estimate for the entire year. Financial data, accompanying this letter, indicate that the National Refugee Service, Inc. will have disbursed in its several operating departments, and in subventions to other organizations, a total of \$2,720,875 during the year. Since the original allocation for us was \$2,000,000, an additional sum of \$720,875 will be required in order to make available the services, which the National Refugee Service, Inc. is obliged to provide in 1939. No consideration is given, in this request, for working capital with which to begin the year 1940.

Since the Allocations Committee will wish to give careful and deliberate study to this request, it is necessary to point out that our organization is now operating on a hand-to-mouth basis, and funds at present in sight will be sufficient only until November 2 or 3. It is to be hoped, therefore, that while the application for the full amount needed is being studied, the Allocations Committee will approve an emergency allocation of \$500,000, \$250,000 to be made available immediately and \$250,000 to be made available before November 30. This is necessary in order to make possible the immediate authorization of present budgetary requests for November and part of December.

* through the National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc.

October 30, 1939

The following considerations justify our requests for the amount indicated above, and for an immediate emergency appropriation:

1. Immigration to the United States has not stopped as a result of the war. Refugees are still leaving Germany, bound for the United States. Should serious obstacles to such emigration from Germany arise, it can be quite definitely stated that quota numbers now held in Germany, will be transferred to refugees temporarily located in London or neutral countries in Europe, or to Havana and elsewhere in the western hemisphere. Present indications justify the conclusion that the number of refugees who will come to the United States in the next 12 months is likely to be as large as in the past year.

2. The handling of the refugee problem in the United States is of vital interest to every Jewish community in the country. Provision for the refugee services forms a major basis for the enthusiastic support of the United Jewish Appeal throughout the country. Any diminution in these services at this time, would result in serious privation and confusion, would produce repercussions from communities throughout the country, and undesirable public relations implications.

3. Since the organization of the National Refugee Service, Inc. in June 1939, substantial progress has been made in improving the administrative structure, in establishing financial and accounting controls, in providing effective procedures for handling 5,000 to 6,000 persons who come to our offices for assistance, advice and services each week, and the more than 20,000 inquiries which come to us by correspondence each month. Progress in improving the administrative organization has already resulted in (and should continue to produce) increased efficiency of expenditures. However, because of the increasing size of our problem, this may not result in decreased total expenditures at this time. At present, refugees are not given financial assistance until after thorough investigation of resources -- possible assistance from relatives or friends. In all cases, the possibility of assistance from affiants is being fully explored.

Progress now being made in a thorough recheck of every relief case and in establishing more rigid controls before refugees are accepted for relief, indicates that savings can be made from this source. However, it might be recognized that the present volume of requests for assistance which comes to us, does not justify any anticipation for substantial reduction in these expenditures for the months immediately ahead. Refugees who come to us for assistance, have already, for the most part, contacted their affiants or exhausted other resources of relatives or friends. They come to the National Refugee Service as their sole means of support. We must realize, therefore, that if substantial reductions in the amounts now being spent are to be made, we shall have to be willing to accept the responsibility for denying

October 30, 1939

assistance to destitute families, or for providing for a substantial reduction of the average amounts now granted per month. The latter step, while still contemplated, may result in postponing the day when refugees can become self-supporting.

4. While approximately 50% of our expenditures per month are for direct cash assistance, for food, clothing, shelter and medical attention, it must be emphasized that the National Refugee Service, Inc. provides practical aid intended to make possible a rapid adjustment and rehabilitation of the refugee. Among these services we cite:

a. Our Employment Department has assisted in placing 3,228 refugees in jobs during the first 9 months of this year. In the majority of these instances, placements are in permanent positions. A considerable proportion of the persons so aided, are taken directly from our relief rolls.

b. We are assisting refugees in securing vocational retraining so that they may become productively employed as soon as possible.

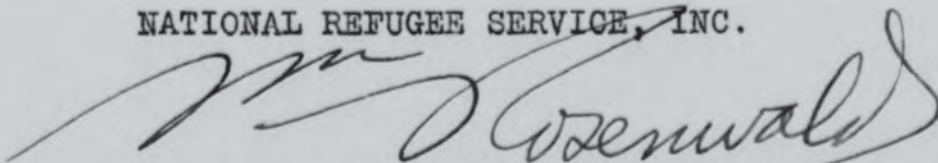
c. Our Resettlement Department has facilitated the resettlement, outside of New York City, of 2,344 refugees from January through September 1939. During the month of September alone, 194 families consisting of 300 persons, were resettled in communities throughout the country. We are rapidly expanding our operations in this activity, and contemplate an average of 250 families to be resettled per month. It is significant to note that between 25% and 30% of the families who are being resettled, were receiving relief from us before such resettlement was effected.

5. The request for funds indicated in this letter, does not include any reserves, nor is provision made for working capital with which to begin the next year. On the basis of the request indicated, there will be no funds on January 1, 1940. It is to be noted that the National Refugee Service, Inc. began its operations in 1939 with a deficit, and intelligent planning for our services beginning next year, requires that provision be made for working capital.

The above considerations are submitted in order to make it possible for the Allocations Committee to reach an immediate decision for an emergency appropriation. Obviously, we will be pleased to meet with the members of the Committee or to provide such additional data as the Committee desires.

Respectfully submitted,

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.



William Rosenwald, President

APPLICATION TO THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE
of the
UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FOR AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000.
for the
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

	Page
Requirements for 1939 Operations	1
Subventions for 1939 - Schedule "A"	2
Monthly Operating Expenses - Schedule "B"	3
Breakdown of Operating Expenses, by departments and relevant statistics - Jan. 1 - Sept. 30th, 1939 - Schedule "C"	4
Budget for October, as approved by the Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc. - Schedule "D"	5
Statistical Data	6 - 13

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Requirements for 1939 Operations.

I. OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC. FOR 1939:

Jan. 1st to Sept. 30th, 1939 - Schedule "B", page 3.....\$1,486,200
(Breakdown of expenses by departments and
relevant statistics, Schedule "C", page 4)

Budget for October as approved by the Executive
Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc.

Schedule "D", page 5.....250,000
Total Operating Expenses - Jan. 1 - Oct. 31, 1939.....\$1,736,200

Requirements for November and December, estimated at
\$265,000 per month.....530,000 \$2,266,200
*Emergency Provision for November and December.....75,000

II. SUBVENTIONS FOR 1939 - Schedule "A", page 2.....220,675

III. NON-RECURRING AND DEFERRED ITEMS:

January 1939 expenditures borrowed for working
capital and since repaid.....\$ 95,000
Deposit on lease, remodeling, etc.....64,000 159,000

Total Requirements for 1939.....\$2,720,875

Estimated Income for 1939

Under arrangements with the United Jewish Campaign.....\$2,000,000
Miscellaneous Income received to Sept. 30, 1939.....11,000 2,011,000

Deficit.....709,875

*Budgets for November and December do not include provision for emergency needs to cover a possible increase in the relief load due to new factors (change of average age of applicants from 35 to 45 years; arrival of penniless immigrants from Cuba; cumulative need of relief for refugees on visitors' visas who have no right to work and are thus exhausting their own and their friends' resources, and of whom there are several thousand here at the present time; new work in connection with the Philippine project, etc.)

Neither has any provision been made for working capital.

Schedule "A"

SUBVENTIONS PAYABLE IN 1939.

Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars - Balance of 1938 appropriation, paid in 1939	\$ 5,000.	
1939 appropriation	<u>65,000.</u>	\$ 70,000.
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Medical Scientists - Balance of 1938 appropri- ation, paid in 1939	\$ 6,000.	
1939 appropriation	<u>34,000.</u>	40,000.
National Coordinating Committee Capital Outlay Fund		12,500.
Musicians Emergency Fund, Inc.		4,000.
Council of Service for Foreign Born, Inc. (National Council of Jewish Women)		47,500.
Trade Winds, Inc.		5,000.
Jewish Vacation Association		4,175.
Jewish Theological Seminary		1,000.
Westchester County Refugee Committee		1,500.
Hebrew Free Loan Association (for loans to be extended at our request)		5,000.
Additional Subventions contemplated		<u>30,000.</u>
		<u>\$ 220,675.</u>

Schedule "B"

Monthly Operating Expenses of the
National Refugee Service, Inc.
from Jan. 1st - Sept. 30th, 1939.

Operating Expenses in New York:

January	\$ 111,000.	
February	127,700.	
March	144,800.	
April	139,500.	
May	161,300.	
June	174,100.	
July	188,800.	
August	191,600.	
September	<u>207,400.</u>	\$1,446,200.

Cuba:

Expenses incurred for maintenance of refugees who arrived in Cuba from the U.S.A. (where they stated on visitor's visa without right to work) to wait for their quota immigration number and return to the U.S.A.; maintenance of refugees arriving in Cuba directly from Europe are borne by the Joint Distribution Committee; subject to accounting of respective expenses and maintenance of refugees arriving from U.S.A. and those arriving from Europe, the share applicable to the N.R.S. clients is estimated as of

September 30, 1939	<u>40,000.</u>
--------------------------	----------------

Total Operating Expenses - Jan.1 - Sept.30,1939 ..	<u>\$1,486,200.</u>
--	---------------------

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC. AND PREDECESSORS
 SUMMARY OF OPERATING EXPENSES - FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1939
 (Exclusive of Subventions, German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc., Capital Outlay Fund)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Migration		Employment	
Relief.....	\$111,600.00	Relief.....	-0-
Salaries.....	160,600.00	Salaries.....	\$ 40,000.00
Office Expenses.....	62,000.00	Office Expenses....	8,500.00
General Overhead.....	22,900.00	General Overhead...	6,800.00
	<u>\$357,100.00</u>		<u>\$ 55,300.00</u>
Resettlement		Special Committees:	
Relief.....	\$ 63,800.00	(Musicians, Rabbis, Physicians, etc.)	
Salaries.....	65,100.00	Relief.....	\$ 8,700.00
Office Expenses.....	22,600.00	Salaries.....	15,900.00
General Overhead.....	9,400.00	Office Expenses....	4,900.00
	<u>\$160,900.00</u>	General Overhead...	4,000.00
			<u>\$ 33,500.00</u>
Relief and Service Dept.			
Relief.....	\$646,000.00		
Salaries.....	127,900.00		
Office Expenses.....	41,300.00		
General Overhead.....	24,400.00		
	<u>\$839,600.00</u>		

RECAPITULATION

Relief.....	\$ 830,000
*Salaries.....	455,000
*Office Expenses.....	161,000
	<u>\$1,446,000</u>

*Includes salaries, travel, rent and all other expenses of general overhead - a total of \$67,500, equal to 4.7% of all expenses. General overhead consists of Executive Director's office, Central Office Management, Accounting Department and Research and Statistical Department.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
Budget for October, 1939.

(Exclusive of Subventions and Non-recurring Items)

Departments

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Relief</u>	<u>Travel & Office Expenses</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>	
					<u>Prof.</u>	<u>Cler.</u>
Migration Department	\$ 33,263.49	\$ 20,000.	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 11,133.49	25	64
Resettlement Department	18,961.65	13,000.	1,125.00	4,836.65	5	35
Field Service	3,771.50	-	2,000.00	1,771.50	7	1
Relief & Service Dept. (Incl. J.F.W.S. & J.S.S.A.)	116,577.40	98,800.	1,780.00	15,997.40	71	35
N.Y. Section, N.C.J.W.	7,644.42	3,200.	250.00	4,194.42	12	20
Bklyn. Section, N.C.J.W.	1,778.32	400.	380.00	998.32	3	5
Special Committees	4,695.00	-	1,275.00	3,420.00	10	15
Employment Department	5,210.00	-	325.00	4,885.00	10	20
Executive Director's Office	3,850.00	-	770.00	3,080.00	5	6
Comptroller's Office & Central Accounting	3,465.83	-	320.00	3,145.83	5	17
Central Office Management	4,475.00	-	575.00	3,900.00	1	38
Research & Statistical Department	2,691.66	-	75.00	2,616.66	9	12
Information Service	588.00	-	175.00	413.00	1	1
 <u>Office Expenses not included above:</u>						
Auditing	750.00	-	750.00			
Rent	8,000.00	-	8,000.00			
Telephone	2,450.00	-	2,450.00			
Electricity	500.00	-	500.00			
	<u>\$218,672.27</u>	<u>\$135,400.</u>	<u>\$22,880.00</u>	<u>\$ 60,392.27</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>269</u>
Reserve for relief	10,000.00					
Capital Outlay Loan Dept.	10,000.00					
Resettlement & Retraining of Physicians & Dentists	6,170.00					
Vocational retraining including retraining of Social Workers, etc.	1,300.00					
Miscellaneous	2,000.00					
Sub total	<u>\$ 32,170.00</u>					
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$250,942.27</u>					

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

SUMMARY - SERVICE STATISTICS
January 1 - September 30, 1939

	Average Number of Persons in Office of N.R.S. Each Week.	Average Amount of Incoming Mail Each Week.
<hr/>		
January.....	6,668	2,999
February.....	6,215	2,519
March.....	6,318	2,638
April.....	5,868	2,592
May.....	6,018	2,693
June.....	5,916	3,040
July.....	5,586	3,100
August.....	6,148	4,820
September.....	6,872	4,309
<hr/>		
<div>Number of persons placed on jobs during 9 months..... 3,628</div> <div>Number of families resettled during 9 months..... 1,465</div> <div>Number of individuals in families resettled during 9 months..... 2,344</div> <div>Number of families given relief during 9 months..... 3,284</div> <div>Number of inquiries answered on migration problems during 9 months.....42,242</div>		
<hr/>		

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

R E L I E F A N D S E R V I C E D E P A R T M E N T

RELIEF AND SERVICE GIVEN
January 1 - September 30, 1939

ALL CASES			RELIEF CASES				
	Total Cases Given Relief and Service	Average ^(a) Number of Cases per Case Worker	Total Number of Relief Cases	Number Received Relief for 1st time	Amount of Relief	Average ^(b) per Case	Amount of Non-budgetary Items
January....	1,311	78	895	350	\$44,285	\$52.07	\$3,281
February...	1,511	70	1,070	248	49,365	46.50	2,666
March.....	1,638	67	1,118	177	57,613	51.07	2,594
April.....	1,711	62	1,166	156	53,917	48.40	4,360
May.....	1,908	62	1,385	284	68,642	49.44	3,914
June.....	2,129	61	1,542	432	77,823	49.08	5,431
July.....	2,225	60	1,630	384	80,548	49.03	2,815
August.....	2,405	62	1,846	356	87,834	47.08	3,443
September..	2,471	60	1,900	277	94,300	47.16	4,825

SUMMARY OF CASES GIVEN RELIEF AND SERVICE
January 1 - September 30, 1939

Carried on January 1.....	1,046
intake of new cases.....	2,277
reopened cases.....	<u>3,474</u>
Total cases given relief and service during 9 months.....	6,771
of which relief was given.....	3,284

(a) For Manhattan Office only.

(b) For Manhattan Office only and includes non-budgetary items.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

R E L I E F A N D S E R V I C E D E P A R T M E N T

LENGTH OF TIME RELIEF CASES ARE UNDER CARE
December 1938 - August 1939 - September 1939 Compared

Length of Time on Relief	NUMBER OF CASES			PERCENTAGE OF CASES		
	Dec. 1938	Aug. 1939	Sept. 1939	Dec. 1938	Aug. 1939	Sept. 1939
1 - 6 months..	343	1,290	1,361	67	74	75
7 - 12 months.	59	284	306	12	17	17
13 - 18 months.	47	62	63	9	4	3
19 - 24 months.	24	41	40	5	2	2
25 and over....	38	52	61	7	3	3
Total.....	511	1,729	1,831	100.0	100.0	100.0

LENGTH OF TIME IN UNITED STATES
BEFORE APPLICATION FOR RELIEF AND SERVICE
June - September - October 1939 Compared

Length of Time in United States	NUMBER OF CASES			PERCENTAGE OF CASES		
	June 1939	Sept. 1939 (a)	Oct. 1939 (a)	June 1939	Sept. 1939	Oct. 1939
1 month or less	63	109	168	8.1	44.9	45.8
2 months " "	241	24	83	31.1	9.9	6.6
3 " " "	128	9	36	16.5	3.3	3.5
4 " " "	64	9	19	8.3	3.3	1.7
5 " " "	32	10	9	4.1	4.1	4.7
6 " " "	35	11	26	4.5	4.5	5.5
Total - 6 months	563	172	341	72.6	70.0	67.8
7-12 months.....	149	42	124	19.3	17.7	18.7
13-18 "	27	13	9	3.5	5.3	8.2
19-24 "	17	2	45	2.2	.9	2.2
25 months or over	19	1	26	2.4	.8	2.6
Unknown.....	-	13	3	-	5.3	.5
Total.....	775	243	548	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Represents partial month - 10 days in September and 25 days in October respectively.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
E M P L O Y M E N T D E P A R T M E N T
TOTAL JOB PLACEMENTS MADE
January 1 - September 30
1938-1939 Compared

	1938	1939	% Increase
Men.....	716	986	39.1
Women....	1,121	2,642	135.6
Total	1,837	3,628	97.5

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

E M P L O Y M E N T D E P A R T M E N T

A. APPLICATIONS - INTERVIEWS - RECEPTION FIGURES AND REFERRALS TO JOBS
January 1 - September 30, 1939

	No. of New Applications	No. of Interviews	No. of Persons Seen by Receptionist	No. of Referrals Made to Jobs
January.....	1,820	2,772	6,717	1,086
February....	1,633	2,340	8,162	1,354
March.....	1,737	2,946	6,818	1,725
April.....	1,508	2,540	6,223	1,363
May.....	2,127	2,780	7,429	1,478
June.....	1,764	2,390	5,418	1,635
July.....	1,593	1,736	5,967	1,597
August.....	1,765	1,829	5,425	1,678
September..	1,572	2,062	5,260	1,729

B. NUMBER OF JOB PLACEMENTS MADE
January 1 - September 30, 1939

	Total	Men	Women	Placements made Outside N.Y.C. (of total)
January.....	392	106	286	18
February....	411	104	307	22
March.....	519	124	395	10
April.....	411	85	326	21
May.....	474	122	352	18
June.....	428	126	302	20
July.....	300	88	212	22
August.....	369	124	245	19
September..	324	107	217	20
Total.....	3,628	986	2,642	170

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

E M P L O Y M E N T D E P A R T M E N T

TYPE OF JOB PLACEMENTS MADE
January 1 - September 30, 1939

Type of Job	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total
Professional.....	13	6	8	10	19	16	3	5	4	84
Semi-professional.....	12	4	29	14	7	17	10	12	4	109
Technicians.....	7	3	10	1	3	3	3	8	3	41
Administrative.....	-	1	-	1	7	-	1	1	-	11
Sales - Outside.....	5	7	-	1	4	4	1	-	1	19
Sales - Inside.....	5	2	5	-	4	3	3	5	1	28
Service Related to Sales....	-	-	5	5	1	1	1	-	2	15
Clerical.....	28	37	38	38	39	29	13	27	22	271
Service Worker - Domestic...	124	157	144	126	178	156	93	93	106	1,177
Service Worker - Personal and Institutional...	77	63	95	78	115	82	55	36	38	639
Service Worker - Maintenance	2	7	4	9	3	4	2	10	3	44
Crafts and Skilled.....	61	61	118	90	53	51	64	103	74	675
Production.....	31	35	41	11	38	48	42	54	56	356
Physical Labor.....	9	6	12	6	7	14	9	15	10	88
Type Not Given.....	18	22	10	21	-	-	-	-	-	71
Total	392	411	519	411	474	428	300	369	324	3,628

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
 RESETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT
 TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS RESETTLED
 January 1 - September 30
 1938-1939 Compared

	1938	1939	% Increase
Families	384	1,465	281.5
Individuals	583	2,344	302.0

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

R E S E T T L E M E N T D E P A R T M E N T

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS RESETTLED
January 1 - September 30, 1939

TOTAL				TYPES OF RESETTLEMENT PLACEMENTS MADE				
	Total Family Units	Number of Individuals Represented by Family Units	Number of Families on Relief in N.R.S. that were Resettled	General	Resettled for Job	Resettled on N.Y.A.	Physicians ^(a) Resettled	Number of Communities in which Families were Resettled
January...	172	258	52	133	26	13		69
February..	160	260	44	134	21	5		61
March.....	167	285	42	144	17	6		67
April.....	159	259	33	133	25	1		64
May.....	142	215	26	116	22	4		77
June.....	191	321	64	134	17	13	27	88
July.....	162	270	50	121	23	1	17	69
August....	119	176	41	89	13	8	9	63
September.	193	300	63	144	22	13	14	79
Total.....	1,465	2,344	415	1,148	186	64	67	280 ^(b)

(a) Physicians' Committee began resettling physicians prior to June and June figure includes some placements for previous months.

(b) Total is an unduplicated count and not the sum of individual months since some communities were used more than one month.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report of the Executive Director

September - October, 1939



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report of the Executive Director on Activities
During the Months of September and October, 1939

I. INTRODUCTION

September and October were the first two months of the war period. The impact of the conflict abroad was felt in all of our activities, particularly in the demands upon our staff in the Migration Department and in the Relief and Service Department. While it may not be possible, on the basis of our experiences during these two months, to forecast our problems for the months immediately ahead, it can be definitely stated that the situation in Europe, far from providing a breathing spell, presented us on the contrary with new, difficult and complex problems.

Refugees continue to arrive in approximately the same numbers as before. They are still permitted to leave Germany, although the way is made more difficult for them. Subject to our quota limitations, many are awaiting their turn in countries on the Continent, in Cuba, in Shanghai, and in Central and South American countries, where they are temporarily taking refuge. (1)

(1) Dock workers of the National Council of Jewish Women reported that they met 1166 refugee immigrants in September and 1270 in October (they meet approximately half of the total who enter the United States). In January, the number of refugees met by these workers was 1140; in February, 1251. The peak figure was 1726 in March -- the lowest figure 848 in July.

A tabulation of refugee-immigrants who applied to our offices between October 4 and October 31 -- 239 refugees who had left Europe since September 1 -- showed that 48 per cent came directly from Greater Germany. Of the 125 who came from outside the Reich, 34 reached here from Switzerland, 19 from England, 15 from Italy, 13 from France, 12 from Belgium and the others from Cuba, Sweden, Denmark, Yugoslavia, Latvia, Shanghai, Honduras, Rumania, Hungary, Ecuador, Haiti and Palestine.

These same war months -- September and October -- were the most successful months in the history of our undertaking, particularly when measured in terms of resettlement and job placement activities. At the same time that National Refugee Service was facing the new problems presented by the international situation and making progress in its basic activities, it also made large headway in perfecting its organizational and administrative procedures. The physical quarters of the new organization have been rearranged, its administrative staff completed, its office machinery set up; personnel practices have been revised and the work of the Special Committees has been integrated with the operating departments of the organization.

WRHS
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

During the month of September a total of 26,902 persons came to our offices for some type of information, advice or assistance. During October the number was 29,540. This is an average of 6,208 per week in September as compared with an average of 6,815 in October. These are obviously not unduplicated cases; hundreds, perhaps several thousand, came many times during the month with a variety of questions. Not all of the applicants were refugees; many of them were Americans who were equally eager for direction and information concerning problems affecting their relatives and friends abroad.

The National Refugee Service disbursed for all purposes during the month of September a total of \$227,319.59. During October the expenditures of National Refugee Service amounted to \$259,345.81. Increased disbursements for relief and for grants to affiliated groups engaged in specialized phases of refugee aid accounted for the increased expenditures.

A brief summary of the activities of the operating departments indicates:

A. The number of refugee families receiving financial assistance from the Relief and Service Department increased each month from August through October. During September a total of 1,846 refugee families received financial assistance. During October the total was 1957 families. The number during August was 1745.

B. The Employment Department assisted in the placing of 324 persons in gainful employment during September. The total for October was 430, a 24 per cent increase over the similar period last year.

C. The Resettlement Department's record for these two months exceeds any achieved previously. A total of 193 families, representing 300 individuals, were resettled in September; 190 families, comprising 332 individuals, were resettled in October, making the total for the two months 383 families, representing 632 individuals. For the first ten months of this year 1,655 families, comprising 2,676 individuals, were resettled, as compared with 384 families, 583 individuals, for the whole of 1938 -- an increase of more than 350 per cent.

D. More than 6,000 people visited the offices of the Migration Department for information, aid or advice during September; in October the number was increased to 8,825. More than 9,000 requests for advice and information came in by mail. The Department was faced with complex questions arising from the war-time migration situation, the restrictions in Europe, the problem of the refugees in Cuba and the South American countries.

III. REPORTS OF OPERATING DEPARTMENTS

Resettlement Department

The work of the Resettlement Department has been put on a sounder basis during the months of September and October. We have developed a tangible program for interpreting resettlement opportunities to the refugees; group meetings, lectures, articles in the German and Jewish press have stressed the possibilities of resettlement and the opportunities for more rapid adjustment away from urban centers. Our Field Service has been of assistance to many communities and through its reports has made us aware of the problems and procedures throughout the country.

Communities throughout the country understand the problem better and are able to cooperate more effectively. More generous quotas have been accepted by communities in Missouri, Michigan, Iowa and Ohio. Activity was intensified in Southern Illinois and Eastern Missouri, and encouraging results were shown by the committees in Indianapolis and throughout the states of Alabama and Florida. Prospects for November indicate an increasing activity and interest in cities on the West coast and in the South.

As a result of these developments the Resettlement Department has made steady progress in its program of placing refugees in suitable areas throughout the United States. The months of September and October were peak months, with a total of 193 families, comprising 300 individuals, resettled in September -- and 190 families, comprising 332 individuals resettled in October. This represents a 60 per cent increase for each month over the placements in August.

Our resettlement experiences during 1939 are indicated in the following tables:

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of Family Units	172	160	167	159	142	191	162	119	193	190	1,655
Number of Individuals	258	260	285	259	215	321	270	176	300	332	2,676

Employment Department

There was a distinct rise in the number of refugees for whom we found gainful employment in September and October, representing more than the upward seasonal trend. The September-October job placement total was 754. The total for September was 324; for October 430 -- 24 per cent ahead of the corresponding period in 1938.

Particularly encouraging is the high proportion of professional, technical and skilled workers -- 26 per cent of all placements were in this category.

Over 4,000 refugees were placed by the employment department during the first ten months of 1939 -- an average of more than 400 a month. The total for the 12 months of 1938 was 1,837.

Here are the totals of the placements during the first ten months
in 1939:

	<u>Number Placed</u>
January.....	392
February.....	411
March.....	519
April.....	411
May.....	474
June.....	428
July.....	300
August.....	369
September.....	324
October.....	430
Total.....	4,058

Migration Department

The pressure created by the war in Europe was felt first in the Migration Department which had to deal with the new and complex problems of a wartime situation. A total of 6,212 people visited the offices of this department in September; the number was increased to 8,825 in October. More than 9,000 requests for advice and information came in by mail during these two months. The number would have been much larger had not wartime censorship slowed down European communications. A large number of these requests came from people in this country trying desperately to get families and friends out of Greater Germany. Many of these people in Germany have already received visas for the United States or some other country, but must first meet the requirements that transportation be purchased on a neutral ship and paid for in foreign (usually American) exchange and

that permission to leave must be obtained from the German government.

Because of the threatened deportation of thousands of Viennese Jews to the Lublin area of Poland, cables were received here urging that immediate steps be taken to communicate with the relatives of these people, for possible aid in the matter of steamship tickets. Six staff members are working intensively on this problem alone and have investigated and reported to European committees their findings in some 500 cases. At present there are 150 cases pending and in 300 instances relatives here, after consultation with us, have bought steamship tickets.

The Migration Department is making every effort to secure the co-operation and financial aid of relatives here for the purchase of steamship tickets. Over \$16,000 has already been deposited for this purpose.

With the increase in the number of persons in Cuba who received visas for the United States during October, the Migration Department expects to be increasingly concerned with the problems of these people immediately after their arrival in this country. Several of them have already been detained by the Miami immigration inspectors and bonds have been required, even though the immigrants possessed permanent visas. These matters and other important migration questions are now being taken up with the State Department.

As a special service to communities, the Migration Department issued two confidential migration bulletins, setting forth the present status of refugee migration, the situation in Europe and in this country.

The Migration Department received 1,015 new cases in September, of which 525 needed intensive care immediately. The new applications in October totaled 1,576, of which 1,030 required immediate attention.

Relief and Service Department

New applications for relief and service dropped from 1,161 in August to 880 in September, but rose to 903 in October. A similar trend is observable in the number of cases receiving relief for the first time -- the figure dropped from 356 in August to 277 in September and rose again to 387 for October.

One of the burdens imposed upon us by wartime migration of the refugees is the destitution of the new arrivals, who come with even fewer resources than their predecessors, many bringing only their hand luggage. They come therefore to National Refugee Service for aid almost immediately upon landing. A study of 671 new applications at the Relief and Service Department between October 2 and October 31 reveals that more than 50 per cent of the new applicants arrived within three months prior to application. One third of the applicants arrived in October. Fourteen per cent arrived in September and seven per cent in August.

Our relief rolls are necessarily accumulative, increasing with the growth in the refugee population. Last year, the immigration quotas from Greater Germany, Italy, Hungary and other countries of refugee emigration were filled for the first time. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that expenditures for relief have risen each month since the formation of National Refugee Service. The sum of \$94,300 was expended in September -- an increase of \$6,500 over August. The October expenditures amounted to \$95,353 -- a relatively small increase. A total of 225 cases were dropped during October -- the largest number in any single month.

It is important to note that relief is granted only after we have made certain that the refugee has availed himself of every other resource,

including the possibility of aid from relatives and friends.

Field Service

In October, the newly created field service of National Refugee Service began its function. During September the members went through a period of intensive training at headquarters, designed to equip them to answer all questions that might be raised in the communities, to interpret the work and the programs of National Refugee Service, and to assist in community organization. National Refugee Service hopes, through its new Field Service, to maintain a closer relationship with the communities, to be able to exchange information and advice, and to set up machinery for the closest sort of collaboration.

Adjustment Activities for the Refugees

A basic part of the program of National Refugee Service is the education of the refugee to American life. A knowledge of our social and cultural institutions, a familiarity with our language, are the prime essentials in the refugee's search of a livelihood and his adjustment to the American community.

We have speeded up our efforts to prepare refugees to their responsibilities in America, in the direction of providing education in English and other necessary instruction.

During September and October we were faced with an emergency arising from the curtailment of instruction in English by both the W.P.A. and the New York City Board of Education. New resources had to be developed. Through exploration and utilization of other existing services our Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment was able to place 1,435 persons in English courses during these two months.

In cooperation with the Good Neighbor Committee on the Emigre and the Community, the Foreign Language Information Service, the Service Bureau of Adult Education of New York University, the National Recreation Association, the American Association for Adult Education and the Public Affairs Committee, the Division is working out a comprehensive program for the cultural orientation of the refugee in America, including the collection of material and the drafting of suggested lecture programs for neighborhood centers.

The two-month period also saw the distribution to refugee clients of many free concert tickets, the securing of 20 scholarships for refugees at the Rand School, and the adoption by the German-Jewish Club of a program of lectures to acquaint the club's members with the American scene in general, emphasizing the resettlement program designed to adjust the refugees most satisfactorily to this new country.

During the two-month period a total of 3,140 individuals received some type of service from the Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment.

IV. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

During September and October particular attention was given to the task of correlating the activities of the "special category" groups and committees, formerly affiliated with the National Coordinating Committee and now part of National Refugee Service. These special committees include the Self-Support Committee, the German-Jewish Children's Aid, the National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians, the Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers, the Musicians Placement Committee.

Self-Support Committee and Loan Activities - For the purpose of consolidating loan operations, designed to aid refugees in enterprises where they might be self-supporting, the National Refugee Service Capital Loan Committee began to function October 16, 1939. Since its formation, seventeen loans amounting to \$6,500 have been made. The Jewish Agricultural Society, local coordinating committees and private sources matched these loans in varying amounts, making a total of \$12,000 received by refugees. Four of these loans were made for enterprises outside of New York City.

The Self-Support Committee, which has been doing a good deal of investigation and planning on these self-support enterprises cooperated with the Loan Committee in studying the remaining enterprises and in making recommendations. The Self-Support Committee has been functioning for over a year, has through October set 244 persons up in business, and in addition, has been giving advice to a number of business men who have their own funds and who call at the office for advice on American business procedures. In the month of October 137 persons were given such advice. This service has grown considerably since January when only 60 persons received this kind of aid.

In all cases repayment for loans are expected, but the period of repayment varies, being left open for determination until the recipient of the loan can develop his business. In general, no interest has been charged in the past, although in some cases where funds have been contributed, a small charge -- never exceeding 2 per cent -- has been levied.

The National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians. Forty-nine refugee physicians were placed in practice, internship and institutional jobs by the Committee during the September-October period. In September 15 placements were made and the next month saw an increase to 34. The total number of placements to date made by the Committee is 154. In addition, 57 refugee physicians were enrolled in a course designed to help them meet American professional requirements and five students were enabled to enter medical and dental schools.

Efforts to bring the problem of the refugee physician nearer solution gained momentum. Progress has been made in enlisting the support of members of medical societies and of local communities.

Musicians' Placement Committee. Positions were found during September and October for 16 artists, whose earnings as a result totaled over \$11,000. Single engagements were arranged for 31 persons who earned \$717 as a result of their performances. In September two artists of great promise were given grants totaling \$1,840 to enable them to continue their musical studies. Two musicians were resettled in Illinois in October.

Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers. The Committee, during the September-October period, succeeded in finding nine permanent and 10 temporary positions for refugee rabbis and synagogue functionaries. In addition, it sent abroad nine two-year contracts for rabbis who will now be able to come to this country with their families under non-quota status.

Special training classes for refugee-rabbis are being conducted at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where graduate rabbis of recognized European rabbinical schools are eligible to attend free of charge. Classes are held in English, public speaking and synagogue and school administration. These courses have been undertaken as a three-month experiment and will be extended if the progress and interest of the students warrants.

German-Jewish Children's Aid. Plans of the German-Jewish Children's Aid to bring over additional children to this country for placement on a foster home basis have been interrupted by the war in Europe. However, arrangements now in process of completion indicate that they may be resumed, that the number of children who can be brought over will be substantially increased in the weeks immediately ahead. During October 5 children arrived and were placed in foster homes, bringing up to 418 the number of German-Jewish children in the United States for whose continued care German-Jewish Children's Aid, in cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women is now responsible.

V. CONCLUSION

This review of the activities for the months of September and October, as well as indications for ensuing months, make it clear that there can be no justification for any relaxation of effort or organization. For some time to come our activities must continue unabated, our responsibilities will be as great as ever.

It is imperative to emphasize that our cooperating communities throughout the country must continue to carry on their responsibilities in the resettlement and in the adjustment of the refugees. The problem is one of major importance and the war situation has made its solution more urgent.

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Report of the Committee on Public Relations
of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
in Chicago, Illinois, on December 2, 1939

The National Refugee Service, Inc. has a responsibility to the public to give correct information concerning its work and the refugee problem in general -- and it has a responsibility to itself to properly interpret the work that it is doing. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the National Refugee Service, Inc. is a functioning and not a policy-making organization and that it does not and should not engage in propaganda of any kind.

These considerations have governed us in servicing the press and public with information. On the one hand, we have made available to the press and to all who sought information the essential facts and statistics about the refugees in the United States. The committee has prepared material of a general character and it has been prepared to answer specific and individual questions. Through various file services and informational centers it has seen that copies of these informative pamphlets are made accessible to libraries throughout the land and to organizations interested in the problem. It has made this material available to the Christian committees and cooperating organizations such as the Good Neighbor Committee, the Y.W.C.A., the Federal Council of Churches and others.

Its policy in servicing the press has been to furnish on request the information upon which a considerable number of articles have been based, notably the series in the New York Daily Mirror, the New York Journal-American and articles in the New York Post and World Telegram, rather than to place articles. It has similarly serviced newspapers and magazines throughout the country. The understanding article "My Neighbor Is a Refugee" which appeared in the September

issue of McCall's Magazine -- a periodical with a circulation of 2,000,000 -- was based on information furnished by us in this manner.

In addition, the department answers several hundred inquiries a month from private individuals and organizational heads seeking facts about the refugee situation.

Through the medium of such national organs as "Notes and News" published by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency bulletins, and in cooperation with the Joint Distribution Committee and the American Jewish Committee we have released interpretative articles concerning our organization and its functions.

A large part of the duties of our Information Service is to supply the inner-organizational needs of National Refugee Service, Inc., hence it has played an active part in the issuing of reports and internal bulletins and the like, and has supplied our field service with indispensable material with which to answer questions which may be addressed to them by the people they visit. It has assisted in the preparation of material designed to guide the refugee in the United States towards an understanding of American customs and institutions.

In order to accomplish these purposes it had necessarily to collect a wealth of material and it is able to say that in its files today is virtually all the available information about the refugees not only in the United States but anywhere in the world. This is in itself a large accomplishment which, we hope, will be put to considerable use in the near future.

The National Refugee Service, Inc. in its work has consistently kept in mind the primary interests of the American public and has endeavored not to raise any contentious issues. One of our major objectives has been the compiling and recording of accurate data on the refugee situation.

S. Marshall Kempner,
Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations

Report of the Capital Loan Committee
of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
in Chicago, Illinois, on December 2, 1939

3.6 Loans
\$ 11.000

The Capital Loan Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc. was organized for the purpose of extending loans to refugees, in situations where a single loan facilitates the refugee's economic adjustment in the United States. In addition to taking over the activities of its predecessor, the Rosenwald Capital Outlay Fund of the National Coordinating Committee, The Capital Loan Committee coordinates and approves all loans effected by all departments or agencies of the National Refugee Service, with the exception of relief loans and loans for transportation.

The Capital Loan Committee had its first meeting on October 16, 1939. The Committee consists of several laymen and professionals and meets once a week. Material on all applications submitted is forwarded to the members of the Committee in advance of each meeting. A panel of businessmen is available for expert advice on applications for business loans. The Committee also utilizes all other available facilities of the National Refugee Service for evaluation of applications submitted.

Types of business financed can be seen from the following list:

manufacture of ice cream; cattle dealer; chicken farm; manufacture of ski outfits and sportswear; ping pong parlor; upholstery establishment; rooming house; manufacture of chemical products; photographic studio; manufacturing of cosmetics; knit goods; restaurant; designing and production of paper for book covers; general merchandise (itinerant); confectionery shop; feed business; nurseryman; music school; consulting engineer's office; button jobber; watchmaker (tools); chinaware and gift shop; dental laboratory.

Some of the loans approved were paid out of funds which were still available in

the Rosenwald Capital Outlay Fund and were matched with funds placed at its disposal by the Refugee Economic Corporation, the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation and the Intercollegiate Committee to Aid Student Refugees.

Wherever possible, efforts are being made to obtain endorsements of notes covering loans, from relatives or affiants of applicants.

In the case of applications submitted by local communities, the local community investigates the proposition, supplies one-half of the funds required and subordinates its share of the loan to that supplied by this Committee. The Field Service of the National Refugee Service, Inc. is kept advised of all loans in which local communities are interested.

Loans approved during the period from October 16 - November 15, 1939

Categories	Number of loans	Amounts voted	Matching participation by friends, local commu- nities and other sources
Physicians	2	\$ 343.00	\$ 257.00
Students and retrain- ing (including State medical examination)	5	508.00*	690.00
Professors and musicologist	3	1,500.00	3,400.00
Business	<u>26</u>	<u>8,725.00</u>	<u>3,100.00</u>
Total	<u>36</u>	<u>\$11,076.00</u>	<u>\$7,447.00</u>

Total from all sources - \$18,523. of which \$5,500. came from National Refugee Service, Inc. funds.

* Part came from Intercollegiate Committee to Aid Student Refugees.

Abner Bregman,
Chairman of the Capital Loan Committee

Report of the Resettlement Department
of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
in Chicago, Illinois, on December 2, 1939

10 months
2,676

Resettlement of refugees away from the principal port of entry, New York, in suitable areas throughout the United States is now recognized as the constructive approach to the refugee problem in this country. It is therefore of importance to the whole program of the National Refugee Service that the past months have seen a progressive growth in our resettlement activities. This growth has been due to the development of effective techniques for the placement of larger numbers of families and to the expansion of cooperating community organizations and their ability to better absorb the refugees.

In the first ten months of this year we have resettled a total of 1,655 families, representing 2,676 individuals. In terms of volume alone the 1939 figures are well over twice the totals for the full twelve months of 1938. This progress reflects better methods of dealing with the refugees and with the 569 local committees engaged in resettlement work.

We have greatly improved our techniques of interpreting to the refugees the opportunities for social and economic adjustment that resettlement offers. This has been done through articles in the foreign language press, group meetings in our offices and in refugee cultural centers and through skillful individual discussions with refugees who apply for assistance to our various departments. The resettlement approach has, in fact, pervaded the activities and thinking of our whole organization.

Efforts are being made to resettle refugee families as soon as possible after their arrival in this country. For those who have been in New York any

length of time, a program of social and educational adjustment is offered to better equip them for resettlement. For those who are leaving, our Traffic Division has worked out the most economical methods of transporting the refugees and their possessions to the local communities. This better understanding of the techniques involved in resettlement is reflected in the accomplishments of the past few months, when the number of individuals resettled jumped from 176 in August to 300 in September and 332 in October. The figures for November that are available at present indicate a continuation of the same progressive trend.

We must all continue to make every effort to further expand our program by action on two fronts. We must stress the need for the local communities to accept refugees as they are sent to us from abroad and to help them make their adjustments with a sympathetic understanding of the experiences of the refugees. And at the same time we must try to approach each situation with a plan that relates, wherever possible, the background and capabilities of the refugees to the needs and absorptive capacities of the communities.

With the establishment of a Field Service it is believed that the resettlement program can be further expanded in cooperation with our nation-wide system of local committees.

Erich Warburg,
Chairman of the Resettlement Committee

Report of the Employment Department
of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
in Chicago, Illinois, on December 2, 1939

The Employment Department has been placing an average of 400 persons monthly for the current year. These figures compare favorably with the reports of other agencies unhandicapped by the problems presented in an alien group.

Such a record represents an achievement not only in its own terms, but also as a factor in the reduction of relief costs. These placements have averted dependency entirely, or shortened its duration to an emergency period, for a significant number of men and women. Since employment provides the best opportunity for adjustment, the Department has also been serving the objective of rapid absorption into the community.

A substantial percentage of the placements were in non-competitive categories, comprising at one level skilled groups, (approximately 25%), and at another, domestic service (approximately 33%). The fact that these two fields represent contrasting types of scarcity in the labor market is important in terms of the relationship of alien groups to American labor.

The total of 4,058 persons placed through our efforts shows an increase of 84% over the corresponding period for 1938. This impressive gain is attributable to the expansion of the department as well as to improved business conditions.

An enlarged retraining program has been recently undertaken. It is expected that this new emphasis will make an additional contribution to the total problem of economic adjustment.

Paul Felix Warburg,
Chairman of the Employment Department

Report of the Migration Department
of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
in Chicago, Illinois, on December 2, 1939.

Since the outbreak of war in Europe the Migration Department has been faced with new and difficult problems. This Department, in fact, felt the shock of the conflict abroad more immediately than other parts of our organization. In the first two weeks of the war period, the number of applicants for advice and aid in technical migration matters almost doubled.

The war has raised new barriers in the path of immigration, yet refugees continue to arrive in this country in the same numbers as before. In addition to obtaining from the German Government permission to leave the Reich, refugees must now buy transportation on a neutral vessel and pay with foreign, usually American, exchange. Even when these hurdles are cleared, passage across the Atlantic is subject to war-time risks -- risks that materialized in the tragic fate of the refugees enroute to Chile who went down when the Dutch liner Simon Bolivar was sunk by a mine in the North Sea. Precisely because of these obstacles and dangers, the work of the Migration Department on behalf of refugees here from belligerent and neutral nations has been rendered more complex.

The first days of the war brought a large portion of Poland into the Nazi orbit. The effect of this was felt not only by the millions of Polish Jews, but by thousands in Austria who now face the prospect of being herded into a ghetto-state in the Nazi section of Poland. Frantic pleas come to the Migration Department from American relatives here to do something to help these people, many of whom already have visas for the United States. These pleas must be answered with considered advice to relatives and friends here and by

Careful planning of the refugees' transportation. Thousands of refugees are temporarily stranded in countries outside Germany -- everywhere from London to Shanghai -- some with visas for the United States, others waiting for their quota number to be reached. This problem is particularly pressing in Cuba where approximately 4,000 refugees are waiting under these conditions. Many consultations are held with relatives of these refugees who seek advice and guidance in making plans for them. There is also the question of securing maintenance for these people and this requires constant communication with relatives in this and other lands.

The Migration Department has been concerned with those refugees who reach New York but are destined for some inland community, where relatives or affiants reside. Transportation must be arranged in these cases. The question of providing services for those who were in this country on temporary visas also came within the scope of this department.

Inland communities call on us repeatedly for guidance and information on these matters of life and death. These are some of the problems raised in the 42,000 inquiries that came to the Migration Department during the ten months covered by this report.

The Migration Department will continue to work toward a solution of these problems in cooperation with such agencies as the Joint Distribution Committee, the National Council of Jewish Women, Hias, and other organizations. The uncertain and unparalleled nature of the present war in Europe makes predictions hazardous. But it is reasonable to assume that the coming months will see approximately the same number of refugees arriving as in the past, if not from Europe, then from Central and South America and other lands. The Migration

Department, therefore, anticipates no slackening in its tremendous task of providing for refugees abroad and for American residents concerned about them in this country a constant stream of accurate information and effective aid.

Dr. Philip Jessup
Acting Chairman of the Migration Department



Report of the Relief and Service Department
of the National Refugee Service, Inc.
for the Meeting of the Board of Directors
in Chicago, Illinois, on December 2, 1939

Relief to bus 2000
1957-Oct

The Relief and Service Department, unlike the other Departments of National Refugee Service, Inc., cannot regard as progress the fact that its volume of work has been greatly increased since the first of the year, since this increase is reflected in enlarged expenditures for relief. The expenditures for Relief and Service are emergency expenditures for the most part, mounting with the growth of the problem rather than contributing to a solution of it.

The statistical reports of this department indicate -- as is to be expected -- that the relief rolls are cumulative, that cases have mounted from 895 carried in January, to 1,957 in October, and expenditures for relief from \$44,285 in January to \$95,353 in October. Nevertheless, there are signs which point to eventual solution of the relief problem. Unquestionably, as the records of this department indicate, the refugees tend to make quicker adjustment now than in the past. They remain for a shorter period of time on relief. Progress in other departments, notably in employment and resettlement, tend further to relieve the pressure.

These favorable signs have been somewhat obscured by the fact that we are faced with a growing refugee population that has been considerably augmented in the past ten months by the filling of the immigration quotas. It was felt that the outbreak of the war would give the department a chance to take stock and catch up with its work. Unfortunately the opposite has been true, for not only has there been no let-up from a quantitative standpoint but also the newer arrivals have fewer resources upon landing than their predecessors; many of them

bring only their luggage. They must apply almost immediately to our Relief and Service Department for their more urgent needs.

Obviously, we investigate every other possibility before giving relief; our limited budget makes it necessary for us to explore exhaustively the ability of the affidavit-maker to give aid, or of other relatives and friends to come to the assistance of the applicants, and we can report an increasing awareness on the part of these affiants and relatives. We have succeeded in reducing the average amount of relief granted the family. For the rest, we must depend upon the results of our larger constructive program.

This is not to say that the whole program of the Relief and Service Department is devoted to the giving of financial aid. A great portion of the program comes under the heading of "service," and this heading comprises a considerable variety of activities -- advice and guidance, adjustment of family difficulties and other forms of constructive assistance. The outcome of many of these services has been to make relief unnecessary.

David H. Sulzberger,
Chairman of the Relief and Service Department

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
165 West 46th Street
New York City

December 20, 1939

Confidential

Not For Publication

Information Bulletin #3

Subject: THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND REFUGEES

The international situation continues to present diverse and difficult problems for the refugees and their relatives in this country as well as for the National Refugee Service, Inc. Refugees continue to arrive from Europe, under the established quota allotments, as the evacuation of Americans appears completed. With the repatriation of most of the American citizens to the United States accomplished, the American consuls in France, England, and the various neutral countries have resumed the granting of visas to prospective immigrants.

During the month of November more than 3,500 passengers arrived on the Saturnia, the Conte Di Savoia, and other vessels. In the first week of December, the Rotterdam, Statendam, Vulcania, and the Gripsholm arrived carrying some 3,000.

VISA SERVICES RESUMED

As of October 15, 1939, the American Consul in London again began the issuance of visas. It is understood that 1,000 visas a month will be issued by him, 600 under the German quota, for refugees who have been permitted to remain in England for temporary asylum until such time as their quota numbers were reached.

The National Refugee Service, Inc. is receiving many requests from the Jewish Refugee Committee of England to communicate with relatives and affiants with a view to their obtaining transportation and making arrangements for the reception of these immigrants on their arrival. Children as well as adults are now coming. The first contingent from England arrived on the Georgic carrying many men who had been detained at Kitchener Camp, England.

In France the visa issuing office of the American Consulate has been transferred from Paris to Bordeaux. Visas are issued also by the American consuls in Marseilles, Bordeaux, and Le Havre, but all applications originally made at Paris have been transferred to Bordeaux. In writing to the consul on cases which were formerly handled in Paris, it is essential that the name and address of the applicant abroad, together with the statement that "this is a Paris case", be noted in the communication.

The American Consul at Oslo will serve as quota control officer in charge of distribution of Polish quota visas. The American consular offices in Warsaw have been reopened. The building housing these offices was bombed and many records are missing. There will be an announcement when the American consulate in Warsaw again will be able to resume issuance of visas. In the meantime, new documents may be forwarded via diplomatic pouch on cases pending in Warsaw.

The American consular officers continue to function in Prague, serving the Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovakian areas. If, however, people from Moravia and Slovakia cannot get into Prague to obtain their visas, they should attempt to reach the American consulate in Budapest.

Many refugees from Germany are now in Wilno and may apply to the American consulate at Kaunas, Lithuania for their visas.

Where documents are to be transferred from one American consulate to another because the applicant has changed his residence, the application should be made directly to the consular office where the documents were originally filed, and the request for the transfer should be made personally by the applicant.

QUOTA REGISTRATION NOW DETERMINES PRIORITY

It should be borne in mind that under the new system of distribution of visas, it is the date of registration and not the quota waiting number that determines priority. At the present time the Consuls are examining applicants belonging to the German quota who registered in September, 1938. There is no change in quotas resulting from boundary changes in Eastern Europe.

EMIGRATION FROM GERMANY PERMITTED ON NEUTRAL SHIPS

Cables and letters are being received in great numbers by relatives in all parts of the United States from their families in Central Europe, stating that American visas can be obtained and that they will be permitted to leave Greater Germany provided their steamship tickets are purchased on neutral ships in foreign exchange.

Where such inquiries are referred to our local committees and cooperating agencies, a complete investigation should be made of the ability of relatives to pay for this transportation. In some communities individuals have loaned money to relatives to enable them to rescue their families abroad. It is against the law for an organization or a committee to pay for the transportation of an immigrant. Only individual loans by individuals should be made in such emergency situations, and, promissory notes should be given by relatives to establish the fact that they are paying for the steamship ticket. It is suggested that cooperating committees who receive inquiries regarding this procedure should communicate with the National Refugee Service if further information is desired.

A cable dated October 31st received from the Central Jewish Organization in Berlin reads as follows: "EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM GERMANY CONTINUES POSSIBLE AS FORMERLY WITHOUT RESTRICTION AS TO AGE AND PROFESSION STOP ENLARGING AND HASTENING EMIGRATION POSSIBILITIES THEREFORE OF DECISIVE IMPORTANCE".

EMIGRATION FROM FRANCE

Difficulty has been encountered up to the present time in securing permission from the French Government for male refugees between the ages of 15 and 65 to leave that country. Steamers on their way to the United States and South America have been stopped and searched by the French officials. German males have been taken from steamers and interned. A number of men who with their families were on their way to the western hemisphere recently were taken off steamers at Algiers. A committee has now been established which is attempting to facilitate the release of many of those persons who hold visas for other countries so that they may continue their journeys.

TWENTY-FOUR HOUR STOP-OVER LIMIT IN HOLLAND

According to the latest decree issued by the Dutch government, persons may not enter Holland for immigration or temporary stay. Individuals desiring to sail from Holland to the United States are permitted to remain in Holland for 24 hours only prior to the time of sailing.

STATUS OF QUOTA FOR POLAND AND DANZIG

Since the United States government has not recognized the division of Poland by Germany and the U.S.S.R. the quota for persons born in the territory now claimed by Germany and the U.S.S.R. remains as formerly. Persons born in Kattowice, for example, are still regarded as belonging to the Polish quota, and those born in Danzig are still included in the Danzig quota. The American Consul is functioning in Danzig.

POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER OF QUOTAS OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

It is now evident that there will be less emigration from Germany either because many applicants for visas cannot secure transportation on neutral steamers or cannot secure passports from their governments. For this reason, it is expected that more visas will be issued to applicants in neutral countries such as Holland, Belgium, and Sweden, and that more visas will also be available to applicants now waiting in Cuba and other Central and South American countries.

IMMIGRATION TO SHANGHAI

There was a steady stream of refugees from Greater Germany into Shanghai up to the middle of October when further immigration into Shanghai was halted. We have been advised by a newly-established committee known as the Central Information Bureau, which has heretofore had its offices in Harbin and has now its offices in Shanghai, that the Shanghai authorities have issued new regulations.

Payment in American money of \$400 per adult and \$100 per child will permit individuals to enter Shanghai, provided this per capita deposit is deposited with the steamship company and steamship tickets are purchased. No other permit is required. Wives, husbands, children, parents and fiances of persons already living in Shanghai may secure entry permits and need not make the deposit required in other cases.

There is great poverty in Shanghai and unless relatives in this country are prepared to continue to send funds for maintenance to those who settle there, it would be inadvisable to recommend further immigration to that part of the world.

RESPONSIBILITY OF AFFIANTS

With the requests now coming from American Consuls for supplementary affidavits, as well as for setting up irrevocable trust funds, inquiries are reaching us as to the responsibility of persons who give supplementary accommodation affidavits.

Persons who sign such affidavits will be expected to assist or participate in a plan of assistance for the refugee for whom the affidavit was given, should such assistance be required. The signing of an affidavit is an obligation which must be taken seriously by the affiant.

INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNICATION AND RELIEF FOR POLAND AND GERMANY

Numerous requests have come to us for information with regard to sending food packages into Germany and Poland and with reference to communication with and location of relatives in Germany and Russian Poland.

It is inadvisable to send food packages into Germany, since the chances of the packages being received by the addressees are slight.

The Joint Distribution Committee has continued to function in the German occupied area of Poland. It has been supplying food, shelter, clothing, medical and child care, both directly through its offices in Warsaw and through such affiliated organizations as TOZ and the CENTOS.

The International Red Cross has advised that mailing service within the occupied part of Poland is now functioning more or less normally and that deliveries are being made directly in Upper Silesia, Pomerania, Lodz and Poznan Districts. In the other area occupied by Germany, deliveries are made through the local Red Cross. We are further advised that it is occasionally possible to reach people in Galicia, Wolyn, and other places. The International Red Cross is organizing a special service for locating people whom it is not otherwise possible to reach. Messages of a strictly personal character, limited to 25 words each, will be accepted. Replies are already being received from all parts of the occupied area. These messages can be relayed either through the local Red Cross branches or through the main office of the American Red Cross in Washington.

TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS TO GERMANY AND POLAND

At present, funds may be sent to all Eastern European countries except Poland, the payments being made in foreign currency. Because of present unfavorable rates of exchange, we are advised that funds should not be transmitted in this way except in emergency cases.

Funds may be sent to Greater Germany, payable in benevolent marks, through the Bank of Manhattan, The American Express, and the HIAS Remittance Bureau. The uniform rate is about 16 cents for the mark, if remittances are made through responsible financial institutions. Money not delivered is refunded to depositors at the latest rate of exchange.

We are advised that negotiations are proceeding to allow transmission of benevolent marks to certain cities in occupied Poland. New York banks are sending funds to specific cities in the German parts of Poland. Funds may be sent to cities in the former Polish Corridor, now formally incorporated into Greater Germany. Because of the great exodus of population from there in the first days of the war, many intended recipients cannot be found and the undelivered money is refunded to the American depositor at the latest rate of exchange, which may have changed since the money was originally sent.

REFUNDS OF MONEY

The Jewish Refugee Committee of England has authorized us to make refunds of money deposited with our organization and held by us in New York on cases of persons in Germany who had made application for admission to England but who are now unable to enter. Arrangements are now being made by us to issue checks refunding the money still on deposit with us here. We are awaiting a report from the Committee in England with regard to the deposits which had been forwarded to England directly by the relatives in the United States or through us. At the present time there will undoubtedly be a loss of exchange since the money sent to England was converted by the Committee into English pounds. This loss of exchange must obviously be borne by the depositors since no agency can be held responsible for war conditions and fluctuations in currency.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR FORM 633

In connection with the filing of Form 633 by American citizens for non-quota or preference quota status for their relatives, the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington now requires full documentary evidence of the ability of the American applicant to maintain the relatives for whom he desires immigration visas. The documents required are similar to those requested by the American Consul abroad. A copy of the statement that must accompany Form 633 is appended to this bulletin.

PREFERENCE QUOTA TO FARMERS

According to immigration laws, farmers and farm laborers, along with their wives and minor children under the age of 18, may claim quota preference. It is necessary, however, that certified documents from proper sources be presented to prove that the immigrant is a qualified agriculturist or farmer. Proof may take the form of a statement from a former employer or from a district representative of the Ministry of Agriculture in the country of departure. It is further necessary that the applicant prove that he will engage in farm work after arrival in the United States. The applicant must not, however, under penalty of violating the Contract Labor Clause of the Immigration Law, accept employment in advance of his arrival.

Foresters or gardeners or persons engaged in orchard, vineyard or dairy work or persons experienced in breeding and raising animals are regarded as belonging to the category of agriculturists who are entitled to preference in the quota. Generally speaking, a relative here must purchase a farm for the prospective immigrant or the applicant must be able to prove that a farm has been rented for him when he gets here or that he has become an owner of a farm. He may not accept employment as an ordinary worker on a farm.

William Haber
Executive Director

Cecilia Razovsky
Director, Migration Department

EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL STATUS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATION
FORM 633. PETITION FOR ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRATION VISA.

The following documentary evidence should be submitted in duplicate, with the petition.

- (1) Statement, in affidavit form, showing -
 - a. Names of persons dependent on petitioner for support.
 - b. Relationship of such persons to petitioner.
 - c. Whether such persons are dependent wholly or partially on petitioner for support.
 - d. The details regarding claimed net worth, specifying -
 1. Amount of cash, when and where deposited.
 2. Real estate owned, and if encumbered to what extent.
 3. Personal property owned.
- (2) Statement from an officer of a bank, postal or other financial institution, giving the following details regarding the depositor's account:
 - a. Date account was opened.
 - b. Itemized statement of deposits for past year.
 - c. Present balance.
- (3) Affidavit from employer, if petitioner is employed, preferably on his business stationery, showing -
 - a. Nature of employment.
 - b. Salary paid.
 - c. How long employed.
 - d. Whether position temporary or permanent.
- (4) Report of a commercial rating concern, if petitioner is in business, regarding the individual or his business, if available, or in lieu thereof, certified copy of last income tax return.

Affidavits of support, and documentary evidence similar to the above, may be submitted to this office with the petition by near relatives to supplement the evidence presented by the petitioner.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

December 28, 1939

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Acting Director

RELIEF AND SERVICE

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Acting Director

RESETTLEMENT

JACOB H. KRAVITZ
Acting Director

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

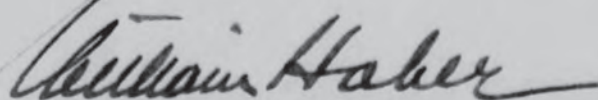
I want to take this opportunity to express to the members of the Board of Directors of National Refugee Service, my sincere appreciation for the help and for the encouragement which they gave to me in 1939. The work of our organization could not have proceeded without the devotion and unselfish efforts of our officers, members of our Executive Committee and members of our Board throughout the country.

The year just closing has given to many of us an opportunity to be of service and to provide assistance to thousands of men, women and children who have been torn out of their economic and social environment. Distressed, helpless and many of them broken in spirit and at times physically beaten, most of them penniless, they have come to us for advice and direction. With your generous aid and that of thousands of Americans whose ability and willingness to provide the necessary funds has made it possible, these thousands have been assisted during the most trying period of their adjustment to the American scene.

The year ahead will put us to a severe test. New problems and new difficulties will arise and will have to be surmounted. I am confident that the cooperation we have received will continue and we shall be enabled to carry on these indispensable and constructive services.

My very best wishes to you.

Cordially,



William Haber.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report of the Executive Director

November - December, 1939



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Report of the Executive Director on Activities
During the Months of November and December, 1939

I. INTRODUCTION

Activities during November and December offer additional evidence supporting the prediction made in the September-October report that refugee immigration to the United States would continue to the full extent permitted by legal quotas, despite the European war. There has, in fact, been an actual increase in the demands made upon the resources and services of the National Refugee Service, Inc. Despite the fact that transportation facilities were curtailed as a result of the war and the dangers of trans-Atlantic travel, unofficial estimates place the number of immigrant arrivals at New York during the two month period, subject to quota limitations, in excess of 10,000. Not all of them, of course, were immediate or even potential cases to be handled by the National Refugee Service. However, most of the new arrivals presented some type of problem and sought the advice or the assistance of our organization.

Inability to anticipate the volume of immigration during this period has increased the difficulty of our problem. At

times our offices have been crowded to the point where the constructive services of the organization have had to be momentarily held in abeyance in order to register those who applied for service and assistance and to respond to an increasing volume of mail.

During the period covered by this report, the Resettlement activities of the organization have been materially increased. Substantial progress has been made in increasing the participation of local communities throughout the country.

During November the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal provided an additional allocation of \$600,000 to the National Refugee Service, thus increasing the total allocations for 1939 to \$2,600,000. A report on the expenditures of the National Refugee Service during 1939 has been prepared and is available.

The regular bi-monthly report of the Executive Director will be issued quarterly during 1940. Hence the next statement on the operations of the National Refugee Service will be available in April.

II. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

In November a total of 28,155 persons came to the organization. In December the number declined to 24,533. They were not all new cases, many being relatives and friends rather than refugees, and the numbers included many who came more than once. The significance of these total figures, however, lies in the extent to which they indicate the pressure under which our (1) daily activities are carried on. In addition it must be noted that between 5,000 and 6,000 pieces of mail are received weekly; many of these inquiries are concerned with technical problems of immigration and related questions.

Disbursements during the two month period amounted to approximately \$550,000. Comparative disbursements for the past four months are as follows:

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
\$227,319.59	\$259,345.81	\$277,383.35	\$271,416.48

(1) As the accompanying tabulation reveals, a weekly average of 6,547 persons in November and 5,710 persons during December visited the offices for service or assistance.

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
total.	26,902	29,540	28,155	24,553
weekly average	6,212	6,822	6,547	5,710

It should be indicated that the decrease shown for December is the result of a new procedure under which checks are mailed to those given cash assistance in order to reduce the volume of traffic in the office.

III. REPORTS OF OPERATING DEPARTMENTS

Resettlement Department

Stimulated by community consciousness of the importance of the problem, resettlement of refugees throughout the country forged ahead in November and December. In close cooperation with its 750 local cooperating committees the Resettlement Department moved a total of 234 families consisting of 421 individuals to their new homes in November and continued the accelerated pace in December, when 250 families numbering 449 persons were resettled. During the entire year of 1939 a total of 2,139 families consisting of 3,546 individuals moved into new communities.

	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Calendar Year</u> <u>Total</u>
Families	193	190	234	250	2,139
Individuals	300	332	421	449	3,546

The marked increase in the number of families resettled during the last two months of 1939 is, in no small measure, the result of the successful establishment of a trained field staff and an improved program of interpretation to the refugees.

Migration Department

Problems relating to visas, status of immigrants in the United States, and location of refugees abroad brought 7,911

persons to the Migration Department in November, a decrease from the October figure of 8,825. With 7,116 such personal visits in December, the total for the two-month period numbered 15,027.

The volume of mail containing requests for information and service increased during the two-month period by more than 20 percent, when a bi-monthly total of 10,515 written inquiries were received as compared with 8,268 during September and October.

Employment Department

With the addition of 454 new job placements in November and 400 positions found in December, the total number of placements for the calendar year was 4,912. The bi-monthly total exceeded by 100 the combined September and October placements. During November and December one out of every 20 placements was in work requiring professional, semi-professional, technical, or administrative personnel. Positions filled by the Employment Department for the last four months of the year were as follows:

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Calendar Year</u> <u>Total</u>
324	430	454	400	4,912

Relief and Service Department

During November and December 1,304 refugees applied for financial assistance for the first time. During this period a total of 309 new and reopened cases were added to the relief rolls. Applications during December dropped to 555, but 369 new and old cases were added. The total cases under care by the Relief and Service Department during the month of December numbered 2,620, an increase of 113 over the previous month. When the number of temporary visitors' visa and intransit cases given temporary cash assistance by the Migration Department are added to this number, coupled with those aided in the Resettlement Department, the total number of refugee cases maintained in whole or in part by the National Refugee Service during December exceeds 3,000.

IV. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

As communities in all parts of the country became more fully aware of the character of services rendered by the special committees of the National Refugee Service, the demands upon these committees increased in character as well as number. Correlation of data collected through the Central Index File and by the Central Reception and Information Division was effected in November and December, making available a comprehensive body of information for the use of social agencies throughout the country.

Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment - Services were furnished 1,865 persons during the bi-monthly period. Of this number 1,140 availed themselves of the facilities of the division for the first time. Of the 2,284 requests for assistance received during the two month period, 1,104 refugees asked for instruction in English. Chief among the other services rendered were cultural entertainment, social contact and housing.

National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians - Through the cooperation of communities in many sections of the country, 26 physicians were resettled in November and December, all but two of them being placed outside of the New York area. In addition to this resettlement service, the committee provided facilities for medical training and financial help.

Self-Support Committee and Loan Activities - Loans to refugees for business ventures are arranged through the Self-Support Committee which refers the applicant to agencies having funds available for this purpose. The Capital Loan Committee provides funds for the development of refugee business ventures on a participating basis with individuals and cooperating committees. In November and December the Self-Support Committee negotiated 18 loans amounting to \$2,131. During the same period 123 repayments were received on old loans. From October 16 to December 30 the Capital Loan Committee made advances totaling \$48,045 on 151 individual enterprises. The resources of the Capital Loan Committee include funds derived from the Rosenwald Capital Outlay Fund, the National Refugee Service Grant for Retraining, the Paris Fund, and the Refugee Economic Corporation, as well as from other sources.

Agricultural Consultant - With the addition of an agricultural consultant to the staff of the National Refugee Service evaluation of farming projects as well as agricultural retraining of refugees is now possible. In the bi-monthly period 82 individuals were interviewed of whom 43 were referred to other organizations or departments within the National Refugee Service. Arrangements were made for the temporary placement of 30 individuals on farms, while permanent farm resettlement was effected for nine refugees.

Central Index - Data relating to operation of the Central Index File and the Central Reception and Information Division over relatively extended periods of time have been compiled. An analysis of these data has been included in this report to illustrate the efforts at centralization of functions effected since June, 1939.

The Central Index has cards on file for a total of 83,135 refugee cases, including cases still abroad as well as those already residing in the United States. These cases have received assistance from the National Refugee Service or from one or more of the 78 other social service agencies throughout the country with which reciprocal case clearance is maintained. The index has grown from a total of 18,765 cards in 1937, when the number of agencies using the exchange was only 34.

All cooperating agencies send "clearance slips" to Central Index when a case becomes known to them. This is known as an "inquiry". During the three years of its existence, Central Index has received nearly 100,000 inquiries from other agencies concerning refugee cases. More than half (54,613) were received during 1939.

If a case is not known to Central Index, the agency is so advised. If known, it is informed as to which other agencies have dealt with the case. These agencies, in turn, are informed that the case has become known to the organization which made the inquiry. This process is known as "notification." There were 29,714 notifications made during 1939, more than three times the 1938 figure of 8,044 and almost six times the 1937 total of 5,086. The index enables an agency or a department of the National Refugee Service to determine what service a client has previously received.

Central Reception and Information - Established to relieve the major departments of the pressure of initial interviews, the Central Reception and Information Division received approximately 18,000 persons during November and December. Some 7,300 of these had their requests answered immediately by the usher who supplied directional information. The remainder received further services by the division. Of those persons seen in the bi-monthly period, two out of every five (39 percent during November and 40 percent during December), obtained the information they sought without referral to other departments. This represented a marked improvement over October, when 23 percent of the cases were serviced without referral to other departments.

V. CONCLUSION

From the viewpoint of orderly adjustment of refugee immigrants in the United States, the year 1939 has been significant. Our experience indicates that it is possible to absorb our quota

immigration through an equitable distribution of refugees throughout the country. We know that refugees are making a rapid adjustment to their American environment and that the local committees in all states are prepared to carry on with even greater effectiveness during 1940.

To all those who have had a part in guiding the activities of our local refugee committees, to all men and women, lay and professional, who have had to deal with the human and financial problems involved - I wish to express my appreciation for their cooperation. As a result of their help the National Refugee Service is prepared to meet the problems of 1940 with confidence.



William Haber
Executive Director

To the Board of Directors
The National Refugee Service, Inc.
Preliminary Report of the President

The forthcoming meeting of the Board of Directors of National Refugee Service, Inc. will be called upon to settle many important questions of policy arising out of the present troubled world conditions as these affect the refugee situation. It will be asked to re-evaluate the services of our organization in the light of present events. It is the object of this report to review the present situation in terms of the experiences of the organization during the past six momentous months since National Refugee Service was formed to take the place of the National Coordinating Committee.

Ours is an organization most vitally affected by world events. It came into being as the result of a change in the government in Germany. Certain decrees passed in Nuremburg increased our problem tenfold. The assassination of a minor German official brought further catastrophe and placed still heavier burdens upon the organization. Today we are faced with a war in Europe and people have been asking quite naturally how this will affect our work. Heretofore, we have been concerned with the unique problem of refugees in a time of peace; inevitably the war will create a new refugee situation, will raise new problems.

Obviously, National Refugee Service does not exist to solve the whole problem. Private efforts alone, however extensive, cannot cope with it. Our responsibilities are rather well defined. The number of people we can aid is restricted not only by the limitations of private effort, but here in the United

States by the quota laws. The refugee problem affects millions of people. We deal in thousands. That is to say, we help only those who can be helped; but our responsibility to these is no less keen. And even though we reach the numerical peak of the problem, the pressure upon us can be increased or lessened by happenings abroad.

There were many who thought that the war in Europe would relieve the pressure upon us by curtailing immigration. It was assumed by some that we should have a breathing spell in which we could dispose of the existing problems before assuming additional burdens. This meant that we could complete our program of adjusting the refugees who were already in the United States; that we could shift our attention from the emergency aspects of our work to its more constructive side.

This theory suffered a rude shock. Refugees continue to arrive not only from in-transit countries, but, strangely enough, even from Germany itself. Quite naturally, their appeals to us are more frantic than ever before; the need to help them is greater than ever. The task is more difficult now. War-time complications have brought new complexities to the migration problem, which was never a simple one. Refugees from Germany must now have not only their visas, but ship's tickets paid in advance in neutral exchange (preferably American), and the permission of the German government to leave. Most ship lanes are closed and they arrive here by more circuitous and difficult routes.

They come from neutral countries as well, from European countries where they had sought temporary refuge, from Cuba and Central America. There is every reason to believe that the quotas from the countries of refugee emigration will be entirely filled this year.

To Greater Germany has been added Hungary and Italy as countries whose anti-racial laws have created a refugee population. German occupation of Poland has further opened the borders of the problem. This means not only that our organization is now concerned with refugees from these countries, but that many thousands of Americans with relatives abroad are drawn into the picture and appeal to us for counsel and aid.

The war-time situation affects more than our migration department. Relief and Service has felt the pressure since the newcomers arrive with even fewer resources than their predecessors. There has been a rise in the number of new applicants for emergency aid such as is offered by this department; a larger number than ever before apply to us immediately upon landing.

By the same token, the pressure is greater upon us to intensify our program of social and economic adjustment. The fewer the resources of the refugees, the more urgent it becomes that they be fitted into American life. We see need for intensification in our resettlement program, since resettlement offers the speediest and most logical means of adjustment.

At the same time that we are faced with these greater demands upon our services, we are compelled to give serious consideration to our financial problem. The \$2,000,000 which was our original share in the United Jewish Appeal has already been expended. An additional allocation of \$600,000 will be disbursed before the end of December. We do not, at present, have any funds with which to begin the year 1940. In addition, it is important that we recognize our budgetary requirements in 1940 in relation to the increasing demands upon our services, to carry out the obligations which the communities throughout the country expect of the National Refugee Service. We know that our needs in 1940

can be met only with a budget considerably larger than in 1939. More detailed reports and discussion at our meeting in Chicago will outline more specifically the basis for these conclusions.

It will be necessary for the Board to consider realistically ways and means to meet this situation. We cannot think in terms of limiting our program, and we must assume that we can rally the support of the communities throughout the country. The country is aware of the gravity of the problem and will make available to us the necessary resources to carry on.

The Board may wish to weigh whether we can afford to discontinue any of our services. We must ask, on the other hand, whether implications of the problem permit us to let up now. This is one of the most important issues which must be considered at this meeting of the Board of Directors.

A complete accounting of the activities of National Refugee Service will be rendered at the Chicago meeting. The report of the Executive Director, of the Budget Committee, of the Treasurer, and of the chairman of the several departmental and special committees will be available for your serious study and consideration. You will be asked to weigh these reports carefully, and to give us your best judgment and counsel as to our future course.

These reports will indicate a considerable progress, improvement in administration, greater efficiency in operation, a marked rise in the achievements of the operating departments. We are better equipped internally to face the problem. Everything depends now upon the support which we receive from the general community, upon its willingness to permit us to continue and to make progress. Our aim is increasingly towards wise and efficient expenditure of funds. We can

justify, in terms of the need that faces us, our many services, and the extension of our program. Are we to have the necessary resources?

In communities throughout the United States there is evidence of expanding interest in and support of our work. This is reflected in the increased energy exhibited by many local committees, in the greater number of communities cooperating with the national organization, and in the enlarged quotas for resettlement. These signs indicate to us that the country is aware of the vital issues and implications involved in refugee services. Out of this awareness will come our support for the future. We face 1940 with every confidence that we shall keep pace with the problem and contribute vitally to its ultimate solution.



AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

William Rosenwald
President

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I

The dramatic events which have transpired since the last meeting of the Board of Directors on July 21 of this year, have provided a full test of the structure and purposes of the National Refugee Service. Thousands of men and women have come to our offices each week, seeking direction, advice and assistance. They have just been saved from the wreckage and chaos that is Central Europe, and have come to us with the question, "What do we do now?"

These have also been months of crises: the European war, far from providing us with a breathing spell, created new problems and called for additional demands and services. To the refugees from Germany and Austria were added many from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Italy, and now Poland. The refugees who arrive now lack even the meager resources of their predecessors; they come to us for aid almost as soon as they land. The problems they bring are not simple. First, many need cash assistance - temporary aid to tide them over until they are able to make their own adjustment. This has been a large financial responsibility. Second, many seek assistance in employment and retraining - some direction in beginning their economic life in the United States. Third, an increasing number desire aid and advice on resettlement. Fourth, they bring to us the difficult problems of migration - inquiries concerning relatives and friends still abroad. Finally, they bring us the simple but important problems of adjustment - the learning of English and aid in the process of familiarizing themselves with the ways of America.

During the month of October (1939) alone, 29,540 persons came to our offices for one or more of the services indicated above. These are not unduplicated cases - hundreds, perhaps thousands, come many times with a variety of questions. Refugees as well as American relatives, distressed and disturbed, have come to look upon our organization as a central agency to assist them in response to their urgent questions. Since the war abroad has not reduced the number of refugees, we must continue to be prepared to meet the increasing demands upon our funds and services.

II

We are able to report that since the last meeting of the Board of Directors, definite progress has been made in increasing the effectiveness of our services, and in improving the functioning of the National Refugee Service, Inc. The large task of reorganization has, in all save a few minor details, been completed. We have completely reorganized the physical arrangements of our offices in order to provide for the large numbers in our waiting rooms, and for more efficient working quarters. These extensive alterations had to be carried on while we were servicing the needs of an average of 6,000 persons who came to our offices each week. There has been substantial improvement in the disposition of a large volume of mail - over 20,000 pieces per month - which came to us from all sections of the country, and from other countries as well. A closer working relationship has been established with the local cooperating committees in all sections of the country. A Field Service has been inaugurated which should make possible more rapid exchange of information and good practice among our local refugee committees, and a more ready availability of information and interpretation of national problems and policies. In order to keep members

of the Board, local committees, and community leaders in general, informed of our experiences, problems and operations, a Monthly Report has been issued. In addition, internal procedures have been simplified, and accounting and financial controls have been materially improved. The work of our special committees has been integrated with that of our regularly operating departments, and centralized control over all the operations has been established.

These impressive gains have been made largely during a period of reconstruction and change - when we have had to meet not one, but several crises. It is not possible to express progress of this kind statistically, but we are certain that the Board must be aware of the fact that the terrific pressure under which everyone has worked, has tested to the utmost both the structure of our organization and the loyalty and patience of our staff.

III

Our expenditures have not decreased: on the contrary, since it now appears that the immigration quota, filled for the first time in 1938-1939, will be fully utilized again in 1939-1940, the demands upon our services are bound to increase.

The Monthly Report for September-October, which was mailed to the members of the Board on Wednesday, November 22, summarizes the current operations of the National Refugee Service, Inc. A careful reading of the material in that report will reveal several significant facts. Among these:

1) Our relief problem: the total number of families receiving cash assistance, rose from 895 in January, to 1,957 in October. While most of

these are in need of but temporary aid (75% of those being aided leave our lists within six months or less) our load has been increasing each month, since the beginning of the year. Despite every effort to refer applicants to relatives and affiants, the expenditures for cash assistance have increased, and there is no justification for anticipating a reversal of this trend in the months immediately ahead.

2) Much more encouraging and constructive -- our employment activities have shown constant improvement. This is of course, to a large extent, the result of improved economic conditions. But in addition, more effective methods in dealing with the problem have also been responsible. A total of 4,058 refugees have been assisted in finding gainful employment during the first ten months of 1939 - an average of over 400 placements have been made per month in our New York office. This is an excellent record, since our Department does not engage in competitive solicitation for jobs, and is particularly cautious in emphasizing that American workers should not be displaced.

Equally encouraging is the fact that, contrary to general expectation, a relatively small proportion of the placements are in the field of domestic and personal services. For the month of October, for example, 26% of our placements were professional, technical and skilled workers.

A more recent activity of our Employment Department, is the provision of assistance for refugees who need retraining in order to prepare themselves more adequately for such employment opportunities as may be found.

3) The demands upon our Migration Department have increased with each intensification of the European crisis. The Department deals naturally with difficult and technical problems. The volume of its work can be seen in the

mere citation that during the first ten months - from January through October - more than 42,000 inquiries on migration problems were answered by this department. Not all of these came from refugees - a great number were from Americans concerned with the fate of their relatives abroad. The correct answers are in no instance an easy matter; they have to be extracted from a maze of technicalities, and upon their correctness frequently depends the fate of many human beings.

The problems resulting from the war have imposed unusually heavy demands upon the many services of this department. Among these we may cite: the increased demands resulting from the transfer of quota numbers formerly held within Germany to refugees now in England, and particularly in Cuba; the renewal of temporary visas by refugees whose admittance to the United States was only for a short period of time; the inquiries made by relatives and friends concerning the purchase of steamship tickets for those within Germany.

4) The results of our Resettlement activities have been particularly gratifying during recent months. During September, October and November alone, over 600 families have been resettled in dozens of communities throughout the United States. In the first ten months of this year - from January through October - this department effected the resettlement of 1,655 families, representing 2,675 individuals. This represents an increase of over 350% over the record for the entire year of 1938.

On the basis of the present operations, we can predict a substantial increase in our activities in this direction. This is possible, however, only if we continue to receive the cooperation of the local committees who recognize that through resettlement the most effective adjustment of the refugee to the

American community can be facilitated.

5) The work of our Social and Cultural Adjustment Department has been of increasing effectiveness in assisting the refugees in the difficult problems of adjusting themselves to the American scene. This department explores and makes use of existing services - educational and social - which are available to the immigrant; it cooperates with the organizations prepared to offer courses in English and orientation; recreational and social contact opportunities; participation in artistic and religious endeavors, and a great variety of activities of a similar nature. Naturally, its activities have been centered in New York City, but it is currently working on a comprehensive program which, when completed, will be made available to all communities.

6) The Special Committees concerned with physicians, scholars, musicians, artists, rabbis, and other groups, as well as the German Jewish Children's Aid and the Capital Loan Committee, have been expanding their activities in the provision of specialized services to refugees. The problems of the Physicians' Committee have been particularly difficult in view of the restrictive regulations prevailing in most states.

IV

The variety of activities reviewed above indicates the comprehensive program of the National Refugee Service, Inc. This program has been made necessary not only by the pressing needs of the refugees themselves, but also because their problems have far-reaching implications, and are of vital concern to the whole community.

Numerically, and in terms of past waves of immigration, the problem is

not large; in terms however, of the present economic conditions, it is quite complex. Hostility to the alien prevails in certain circles and threatens to spread. In view of these prejudices, it is of primary importance that we speed the task of assimilating the new immigrant to American life. With such assimilation there will be a greater feeling of security for him, and the country will gain a constructive asset.

We have assumed large and necessary responsibilities. Without discussing in detail the problem of expenditures at this time, it can be stated quite simply that the \$2,600,000 available for 1939 will have been completely expended before the end of December. We need immediate consideration of the budgetary situation for 1940 in relationship to our expenditures in the past, and the greater needs in the future.

V

It is the hope of your Executive Director that the program of the National Refugee Service, Inc. will be subjected to the most careful scrutiny of the National Board of Directors. Our program in 1940 must be predicated upon the requirements of the refugee group and the willingness of the American community to make provision for it. It is important that our work be appraised in the light of the requirements of the existing situation. This report presents a hurried summary of our program, activities and expenditures.

We wish to record our sincere personal appreciation for the full cooperation and assistance which has been provided by our Officers, members of the Executive Committee, Board members and community leaders in all sections of the country. The unselfish work, the fine sense of public service, the zeal and

devotion which our leaders have given to this work throughout the land, has been a constant source of inspiration to us and our associates on the staff.

November 25, 1939

William Haber
Executive Director



CABLES: NACOMREF, New York
TELEPHONE: BRYANT 9-2102

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CARRY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND CERTAIN OF ITS AFFILIATES

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

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RESETTLEMENT
JACOB H. KRAVITZ
Acting Director

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

January 17, 1940

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Enclosed herewith is a summary of the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Directors of National Refugee Service which were held at the Standard Club in Chicago on Saturday, December 2. Brief summaries of the discussions which took place at the luncheon meetings on the same day are also attached.

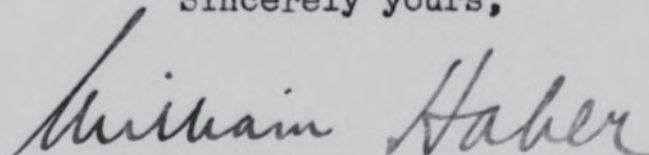
You will be pleased to note that the discussions indicated that the country at large is continuing its active support and interest in our program. There were repeated assertions that the funds necessary to provide for the refugee program in the United States should have a prior claim over other needs.

There has been no decrease in the number of immigrant quota arrivals, and those who come to us for advice and assistance are faced with even more serious problems than heretofore. In the light of these facts, the resolutions adopted at the meeting are fully justified and represent a conservative expression of problems we shall face in 1940.

I shall welcome any comments or suggestions which you may have after reading this material.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



William Haber

Confidential

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of the
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
Held in Chicago, Illinois
Saturday, December 2, 1939
at The Standard Club

Executive Session

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service, Inc. was held on Saturday, December 2, 1939, at 9:30 A.M. at the Standard Club, 320 Plymouth Court, in Chicago, Illinois. Present at the Executive Session were thirty-two members of the Board from all parts of the United States. Mr. William Rosenwald, President, welcomed the Board members and Mr. Morris Wolf of Philadelphia, Vice-President, presided.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of July 21, 1939 were considered as read and approved, as was the summary of the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee from July 21, 1939, to November 21, 1939, copies of which had been mailed to members of the Board in advance of the meeting.

Upon being duly nominated the following were unanimously elected to membership on the Board of Directors: Mr. Abner Bregman of New York City, Mr. Alexander Brest of Jacksonville, Florida, Dr. Philip Jessup of New York City, Mr. Peter I. B. Lavan of New York City, Mr. Ludwig Schiff of Los Angeles, California, and Mr. Sol Weinberg of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. William Haber, Executive Director, called attention to the fact that the Executive Committee, at a special meeting in New York on November 28, 1939, discussed the implications of the fact that a substantial proportion of the expenditures of National Refugee Service are for direct cash assistance. He indicated that after full discussion the Executive Committee concluded that the budget for 1940 must, as a minimum, make it possible to continue the services now being provided. In order to explore the possibility of securing funds for local refugee needs in New York City the Executive Committee authorized the appointment of a sub-committee to discuss the problem with representatives of the New York Federation and of the local United Jewish Appeal. The Executive Committee authorized the borrowing of funds in anticipation of income during the early months of 1940. The Board approved the action of the Committee.

In the absence of Mr. S. Marshall Kempner, Treasurer, the report of the treasurer, which had been mailed to the members in advance of the meeting, was read by Mr. Haber and approved. He pointed out that since October 31st, the date of the report, the Allocations Committee of the United Jewish Appeal had allocated \$600,000 in addition to the sum of \$2,000,000 originally provided for the National Refugee Service, Inc. The National Refugee Service, Inc. has borrowed the sum of \$150,000 from the Joint Distribution Committee which is to be repaid when receipts on account of the supplementary allocation of \$600,000 will permit.

The report of the Budget Committee, which had been sent to the members in advance of the meeting, was read by Mr. I. Edwin Goldwasser, Chairman, and approved.

The reports of the chairmen of advisory committees on resettlement, migration, relief and service, employment, social-cultural adjustment, and public relations, which had been mailed to the members in advance of the meeting, were considered as read and approved.

The proposal of Mr. G. A. Efroymsen of Cincinnati, Ohio, that discussion of the budget for 1940 and the financial needs of the National Refugee Service be held in general session, was accepted by acclamation. Accordingly the Executive Session was concluded and the meeting of the Board was resumed in General Session before 175 members and guests.

General Session

Mr. William Shroder of Cincinnati, Ohio, presided.

Mr. Rosenwald supplemented his report as President, copies of which had been mailed to the members in advance of the meeting, as follows:

The war in Europe has created new refugee populations, and immigrants to the United States continue to exhaust quota allowances of countries of emigration. The irregularity of the resulting flow, however, creates special problems and taxes the capacity of the National Refugee Service, Inc. to the limit. In order to meet special problems arising from the current sources of immigration, an office of the National Refugee Service, Inc. is to be opened in Miami, Florida, to lend assistance to refugees waiting in Havana, Cuba, whose quota numbers for entry into the United States are soon to be called.

Mr. Rosenwald indicated that if the National Refugee Service, Inc. is to be charged with responsibility for meeting the varied demands placed upon it by the refugee population in 1940, the people of the country must be prepared to provide not less than \$4,000,000. Such a sum would permit but a small enlargement of the present scope of activities, no increase in current refugee requirements and it would leave no reserve to meet the financial needs in the first few months of 1941 - - in anticipation of that year's fund raising efforts.

Mr. Rosenwald expressed the appreciation of the National Refugee Service, Inc. for the encouragement and interest in the work displayed by the country at large.

Mr. Haber supplemented his written report as Executive Director, which had been mailed to the members in advance of the meeting, emphasizing the following aspects of the activities:

The work of the National Refugee Service, Inc. cannot be stated in statistical terms alone. We must be aware of our problem in terms of the human beings involved and the responsibilities which these people have placed upon us for decisions. The new immigrant, - that is the refugee

who has come to us in recent months, is more disturbed and distressed than was true a year ago. He is totally without resources. As a result, in excess of 50% of our funds are spent for direct case assistance, thus decreasing the resources with which we can do constructive work. However, it is encouraging to note that a vast proportion of those who come to us for financial assistance receive it but for a short time -- from four to six months. The refugee has shown unusual capability for making a rapid adjustment to the American economic and social scene.

Mr. Haber indicated that short of a drastic reduction in our relief allowances such as to endanger the very existence of those we are now serving, it does not appear possible to reduce expenditures at this time. The organization is exploring every opportunity for securing assistance from friends, relatives and affiants. In spite of this, however, in excess of 2,500 families are being given direct aid at present.

Our resettlement procedures, Mr. Haber pointed out, have now been organized in such a manner that further national support for this aspect of our work is necessary. During 1939, 2139 families representing 3546 persons have been resettled. If this work is to continue in 1940, local communities must accept a broad resettlement program on a non-selective basis and must avoid indicating detailed specifications as to age, training, experience, size of family and similar restrictions.

Mr. Haber spoke of the success in finding job opportunities for refugees and emphasized the need for thinking in terms of a large scale retraining program, particularly in the case of professional people for whom employment opportunities in this country will not be available.

The discussion which followed reflected the country's insistence that the National Refugee Service, Inc. continue to function without curtailment of its present program. Mr. Fred M. Butzel of Detroit, Dean Isidor Loeb of St. Louis, Missouri, and Mr. Alexander Brest of Jacksonville, Florida, among others, urged expansion of resettlement activities. Mr. James N. Rosenberg of New York, declared that the work of the organization must take priority over the other needs of national and international agencies, saying in part: "Our first duty as humanitarians is to see to it that the National Refugee Service is amply supported during the coming year so that it can undertake the task required of it with increased efficiency."

The budgetary needs of National Refugee Service, Inc. for 1940 were fully discussed and upon motion duly made and seconded the Executive Committee was directed to determine a budget for 1940 at a figure not less than \$4,000,000 and was authorized to request from the United Jewish Appeal such a sum in excess of that as the minimum needs of the organization require.

Those participating in the discussion which preceded adoption of the resolution included Mr. Shroder, Dr. Solomon Lowenstein of New York, Mr. Goldwasser, Mr. Joseph P. Loeb, Los Angeles, Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith of Chicago, Mr. Haber, Mr. Butzel, and others.

Mr. William Allen White of Emporia, Kansas, expressed his deep interest in the problem and complimented the National Refugee Service, Inc. on its work.

Luncheon Meeting

At the close of the morning session, Board members and their guests attended luncheon meetings for a more comprehensive discussion of specific problems involved in work with refugees. An abstract of the discussions at these luncheon meetings is attached to this summary.

General Session - Afternoon

Mr. Rosenwald presided at the afternoon general session.

Dr. Lowenstein opened the discussion on the question of the responsibility of New York City toward providing for local refugee needs in New York. He explained that New York does not have a welfare fund and that if provision for local refugee needs is to be made, it can readily be done through setting aside a certain proportion of the funds of a local United Jewish Appeal for that purpose. He called attention to the fact that the Executive Committee of National Refugee Service, Inc. is consulting with representatives of the New York Federation and the local United Jewish Appeal in order to work out a practical method for providing for such needs. He strongly opposed turning over any portion of the responsibility for providing for refugees now being administered by the National Refugee Service, Inc. to local agencies in New York City, since that would bring about a situation such as prevailed at the time of the Greenstein report.

Mr. Goldsmith urged that it is unwise to segregate refugee groups by providing for them separately in organizations specifically established to deal with their problems.

After considerable discussion it was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the action of the Executive Committee in appointing a sub-committee to study the New York problem and particularly lines of demarkation between the local and national work, be approved.

Mr. Walter H. Bieringer of Boston was asked to speak briefly on the work of the Resettlement Department in which he has been very active and Miss Ethel H. Wise of New York spoke on the problem of social and cultural adjustment. These remarks were followed by the adoption of resolutions:

Resolution on Resettlement

The Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service, Inc., after thorough discussion of its Resettlement program, at its meeting on December 2, 1939, in Chicago, unanimously agreed that:

It is to the best interest of the refugee and of the organization to increase as rapidly as possible, the number of persons being

resettled throughout the country. To that end, it is necessary that the National Refugee Service, Inc. should expand its resettlement program in order to make possible a substantial increase in the volume of resettlement each month.

It is essential to continue the present non-selective basis, and therefore the cooperation of all local committees is essential, in order to avoid any deviation from the non-selective basis of resettlement now prevailing. The National Refugee Service, Inc. is not able to exclude any group on account of age or other factors from the resettlement program and communities throughout the country must share in receiving such refugees as are available for resettlement.

In order to avoid a concentration of refugees in urban centers, the present tendency toward decentralization is highly desirable and its wider adoption throughout the country is recommended, in order to make possible the distribution of refugees through larger cities into the small surrounding communities.

The field service of the national organization should be used to assist communities in these plans for a decentralized resettlement program.

Resolution on Adjustment of Refugees

Whereas it is agreed that social adjustment of new immigrants is one of the most important phases of the newcomers' integration into the American community, and

Whereas it is agreed that full use of existing local agencies equipped for and experienced in this adjustment work should be employed, and

Whereas the spontaneous character of some programs has resulted in a duplication of services,

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED as the sense of this meeting on December 2, 1939 at the Standard Club in Chicago that the National Refugee Service, Inc. through its Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment and its Field Service recommend to local committees that:

1. They serve as clearing bureaus for agencies presently equipped to deal with the social adjustment of new immigrants.
2. They undertake to avoid duplication of services.
3. They undertake to stimulate those services not now undertaken in their respective communities.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 o'clock.

Summary of Luncheon Meetings of the Board of Directors of
The National Refugee Service, Inc.
at the Standard Club, Chicago, Ill. Saturday, Dec. 2, 1939.

EFFECT OF THE WAR ON MIGRATION

Presiding - Mr. Samuel A. Goldsmith
Discussion Leader - Mr. William Rosenwald
Professional Consultant - Miss Cecilia Razovsky

War has not bottled up refugee migration; it has only increased its difficulties. Among the impediments placed in the path of the immigrant seeking haven in the United States as described at the luncheon meeting were:

1. Non-German steamship companies will no longer accept marks for passage.
2. Persons within Germany who have visas cannot leave unless they have tickets purchased with foreign-preferably American-currency.
3. There has been a general tightening up on the part of American Consuls in regard to affidavits: they insist upon proof that affiants will actually take care of immigrants upon arrival.
4. The State Department, because of the difficulty of leaving Germany, has deemed it advisable to issue visas only to those persons reasonably certain of using them.
5. Priority is now based on date of registration rather than upon quota number, and a world-wide control has been established: e. g., all persons who registered on a certain day will be called, regardless of where they are living at the time. They will report to the nearest American Consul for examination.

The best available information indicates that immigration in 1940 will not be less than during the previous year.

It is illegal for a committee or agency to pay transportation for an immigrant. Only an individual can provide such funds. However, marks deposited in Germany by the immigrants are used by local committees in Germany, and dollars are advanced outside Germany to pay for transportation.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE REFUGEES

Presiding	-	Miss Ethel H. Wise
Discussion Leader	-	Mrs. Maurice Goldman
Professional Consultant	-	Mr. Edward Marks, Jr.

Cultural and social readjustment of refugees requires a technique completely different from that used in administering employment and relief services. Extreme care should be taken not to "make a fetish" of refugees. They should be neither lionized nor ignored, but rather treated as newcomers in the community.

Considerable interest developed in regard to the organizational structure of local resources assisting in cultural and social readjustment. The broadest possible base for such activities was accepted as fundamental.

Each community must develop the type of adjustment committee best suited to local conditions. Such a committee should serve as a clearing agency and not a functioning committee in its own right.

This thesis relating to the structure of the committee in local communities was further implemented by a description of Chicago activities, where 35 organizations co-operate under the coordinating direction of one committee acting as a clearing agency.

Resolution adopted presented elsewhere.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Presiding	-	Mr. Fred M. Butzel
Discussion Leader	-	Mr. Morris Wolf
Professional Consultant	-	Mr. Ephraim R. Gomberg

Facts are infinitely less harmful than rumors. Without exception instances of adverse community sentiment engendered by the presence of refugees is chargeable to lack of information and to dissemination of half truths.

The most frequently recurring charge against the refugees is their alleged displacement of American workers. In every case where such charges have been made and investigation of them has been possible the facts of the case have disproved the charges. But the delay in publicizing the facts has indicated the need for utilization of national facilities. Those present called upon the National Refugee Service to make available to local committees not only the factual information which would disprove similar charges, but the machinery for disseminating the truth.

More important among methods suggested for publicizing the facts were the following:

1. Addresses before service clubs and civic organizations
2. Investigation of charges by official government bodies
3. News releases based on facts and figures
4. Speedy investigation of rumors circulated by Jews as well as non-Jews
5. Introduction of refugees to local service and civic organizations
6. Utilization of proffered cooperation by non-sectarian organizations
7. Frank and immediate explanation to personnel of employment of refugees and the standard of wages paid them.

EMPLOYMENT

Presiding	-	Mr. Frank Sulzberger
Discussion Leader	-	Mr. David H. Sulzberger
Professional Consultant	-	Mrs. Nell Mann

National Refugee Service accepts only those job orders which conform to legal wage minima, where they have been established, or to fair wage scales as established by current employer practices or by workers' organizations. This policy is the best answer to the charge that refugees lower wage standards of American workers.

Some communities favored routine referral of all refugees as soon as they were registered with the specialized Jewish agency, while others recommended selective procedure because of the public relations factor.

The occupational retraining program of the National Refugee Service at the present time is based on general shortage in various skilled trades and crafts. Local committees should acquaint the directors of this program with the specialized employment needs of their local communities.

RESETTLEMENT

Presiding	-	Mr. William Haber
Discussion Leader	-	Mr. Erich M. Warburg
Professional Consultant	-	Mr. Jacob H. Kravitz

Opportunities in smaller communities should be most thoroughly explored, so far as resettlement is concerned. Despite difficulties experienced by committees in small cities in accepting refugees on a selective basis, the National Refugee Service should not be required to guarantee selectivity. In the main, it must be a "pot-luck" affair.

The demand on the part of local committees for a selective process in filling quotas has resulted in a definite slowing up of resettlement throughout the country.