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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal, National Refugee
Service, 1940 February - 1941 January.

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BARON DE HIRSCH FUND

220 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

New York February 23, 1940

Mr. William Rosenwald, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.
165 West 46th Street
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

At our meeting held on January 24th, we voted a gift to the National Refugee Service, Inc. of \$25,000. Our Trustees made this gift directly to the National Refugee Service, Inc. despite the fact that you asked us to make this contribution to the United Jewish Appeal, realizing that funds for the National Refugee Service, Inc. are to be raised this year through the United Jewish Appeal. We are, however, unwilling to make a donation to the United Jewish Appeal, as under our Deed of Trust our funds are to be used for aiding immigrants in this country, and the other participants in the United Jewish Appeal would not, therefore, be eligible for our assistance.

In previous years, we made contributions to the Greater New York Coordinating Committee. Last year we also made a contribution to this Committee, in spite of the fact that last year there was a United Jewish Appeal. We are now informed that, possibly, our 1939 contribution was turned over to the United Jewish Appeal. It was not our intention to assist the United Jewish Appeal, last year, nor is it our intention to do so this year. In acknowledging this contribution we must have your assurance that this gift will not be turned over to the United Jewish Appeal.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) Eugene Benjamin
Managing Director

Approved: J.B. Wise

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305 West End Avenue

July 25, 1940

Mr. William Rosenwald
122 East 42nd Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

As you know, I forwarded the copy of letter of Mr. David Sher addressed to Mr. Henry Ittelson, dated July 19th, 1940, and sent to me at Mr. Ittelson's request, to Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, at his summer residence in Maine. In response thereto I have received from Dr. Silver a letter dated July 21st, 1940, from which I am authorized to send you the following extract:

"If the Hoffheimer Foundation regards its pledge to the U.J.A. of 1939 as invalid and has accordingly repudiated it, then it is clear that no contribution can be expected from the Foundation for 1939 and therefore it is free to make whatever contribution it desires to the NRS for 1940. This contribution will of course not be used as an offset against allocations which the Distribution Committee will make to the N.R.S. in 1940."

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Morris Rothenberg

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.



QUARTERLY REPORT

OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1940

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

Quarterly Report of the Executive Director
July-September, 1940

I. THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

Certain trends which were apparent in the previous quarter's activities of the National Refugee Service became clearer in the July-September period. However, trends in connection with the work of the National Refugee Service must be interpreted cautiously, since any change in the world situation, any minor shift in the immigration policy of any nation, every new Nazi-inspired decree promulgated in the Balkans magnify themselves tremendously in their impact upon the refugee situation. Thus the NRS must survey its operations from month to month and quarter to quarter with the realization that any prophecies for the future made today may have to be reversed tomorrow.

During the period under review, immigration continued to fall and, moreover, a portion of its flow was shifted from New York, to the West Coast and to the ports of Miami, Montreal, and Boston. The reflection of this decline on the demands made upon the NRS was slight. The number of requests for advice, service, and information fell from a monthly average of 28,105 during the second quarter to an average of 27,925 during the third -- a drop of less than 1 percent. A decrease in the monthly average expenditure for the same periods, from \$305,000 to \$293,000 (the September figure was \$286,000) is more the result of increasing economies in almost every department than of any slackening in the demands for services.

Relief disbursements for all cases have declined from a monthly average of \$173,308 in the second quarter to a monthly average of \$164,187 in the July-September quarter. The decrease is explained largely by the reduction in the monthly budget grants made to families receiving financial assistance.

Despite the reluctance of some employers to hire aliens, and the intervention of the slack summer months, the number of employment placements showed a slight gain over the previous quarter.

In the first six months of 1940 the number of individuals resettled was 85 percent of the total for the entire year 1939. By the end of September resettlements were 71 percent ahead of the same period in 1939. But the last three months have shown a definite falling off in the rate of resettlement.

This is due in the main to the temporary decrease in immigration and the resistance of many communities to the acceptance of families willing to resettle but having some problem as to age, size of family, or health. This problem is being given the closest attention by the NRS and the cooperating communities.

Activities of the Capital Loan Department, which grants loans on a matching basis to communities for the establishment of small refugee enterprises for retraining and for the establishing of medical practice, increased notably during this quarter. In the second quarter the monthly average number of loans granted was 32 and the average monthly amount loaned was \$8,785. In this quarter the average number of loans granted was 50 and the amount loaned, \$13,034. These loans contribute toward a satisfactory solution of refugee employment and adjustment problems, and the National Refugee Service regards this increase as a long-run economy.

During the last quarter a number of organizational changes were effected with a view to greater economy in operations and the improvement of service to both the refugees and communities. The most significant change was the consolidation of the Resettlement and Field Service departments into a single unit.



II. THE IMPACT OF WORLD EVENTS ON THE WORK OF NRS

Migration Problems

Chaotic world conditions and swift changes in the international scene have naturally affected the work of the National Refugee Service. Federal immigration statistics for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, showed a decline in total quota immigration from all countries of 15 percent, from 88,998 in 1939 to 70,756 in 1940. Arrivals from the countries of refugee migration showed an even greater decline of 35 percent.

Following the fall of France, migration from continental Europe fell off considerably, with Lisbon remaining the only open port on the continent. Unheralded and occasional British ships continued to bring refugees, but most places were reserved for evacuated children. Now that the English government has abandoned the mass evacuation of children, adult refugee migration from Britain may be resumed. The Vichy government, which had steadily refused almost all requests for exit permits, has now begun to issue them to political refugees holding visas for the United States or other countries.

The flow of refugee migration, however, has shifted from the Atlantic to the West Coast ports. Faced with this situation, officers of the NRS conferred with representatives of West Coast communities on August 25 and made plans for the reception, immediate aid, and ultimate resettlement of these arrivals. In three months, six boats carrying 289 refugee families comprising 517 individuals have landed at Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, some coming from the overcrowded colony in Shanghai, others after the slow and arduous journey from Germany across Siberia to Japan. At least 100 of these refugee families have been resettled, chiefly in western, midwestern and southwestern cities and towns.

The Quanza

Typical of the conditions under which migration now takes place was the incident of the Portuguese steamer Quanza. Carrying 83 refugees who represented ten nationalities, the Quanza put in to Vera Cruz. Although nearly all the passengers had valid visas for various Central American countries the Mexican authorities refused to let them land. The Quanza started back to Portugal, first, however, putting in at Norfolk, Virginia for coaling. Representatives of the NRS, the American Committee for Christian Refugees and the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees who went to Norfolk, were finally informed by the State Department that a formula by which these refugees might be admitted for temporary stay had been found, and the Quanza passengers were able to land.

Alien Registration

The Alien Registration Act affects every refugee and consequently has received a great deal of attention from the NRS and other national agencies. Before registration started on August 27 representatives of the NRS and of other interested national agencies had met with Department of Justice officials and offered to act as advisors to the aliens. Continued meetings and communications between Federal officials and the social agencies have resulted in a clarification of many problems inherent in the registration procedure.

III. A QUARTER OF REFUGEE SERVICE

Relief Trends

A feature of the operations of the National Refugee Service during the third quarter was a slight decline in the relief load, both in number of cases and in total costs. Since the organization of the NRS the trend in relief has been a steady rise of approximately 100 cases per month. In the past three months the upward trend has not been maintained.

The actual decline is somewhat exaggerated due to changes in agency procedures during July. Consolidation of the budgets of families living in the same dwelling, and an over-all cut in monthly budgets resulted in the termination of relief in a number of cases. The comparison of the peak month of June (3,324 cases) with September (3,074 cases) gives a reflection of the total situation. A statistical study of the September relief load reveals certain trends. Most important of these are:

1. Age: In March, 1940 the average age of heads of families on relief was 46.3. In September it had risen to 48.3 years. This means that increasing efforts are needed to find employment and resettlement opportunities for the older group.
2. Origins: The decline in the number of those giving Germany as the country of last residence (26.6 percent) and country of birth (26.1 percent) continued. As country of last residence, 42.3 percent gave Austria; there were, however, slight increases in the number of those coming from Italy, Hungary, and other European countries, in comparison with March. Austria was also first as country of birth (30.7 percent), with Poland second (27.7 percent).
3. Length of Time on Relief: In October, 1939 the average time on relief of cases terminated was 5.7 months. In July, 1940 this figure had risen to 8.0 months; in September, to 9.5 months. Coupled with the rising age level of relief clients, this is an unwelcome sign.
4. Size of Families: About 1 out of every 5 families receiving aid from the NRS contain four or more persons. Since the average monthly budget for a family of three is about \$67, it will be seen that this relatively high proportion of large families accounts for the high average monthly grants. In September the average monthly grant was \$45.54 compared to \$49.53 in June, 1940. The high proportion of larger families adds to the difficulties of resettlement, since communities, on the whole, show considerable reluctance in assuming responsibility for the larger units.

Resettlement

Resettlement has declined in the three months under review, after climbing steadily throughout the earlier part of the year and reaching 115 percent of the 1939 total in 9 months. Two factors account for this reversal. First are the objections of many local communities to the acceptance of various categories of refugees -- Sabbath observers, elderly people, those with faulty English, large families, etc. The NRS has on its relief rolls many young,

energetic couples, some even with special skills, whom it has been unable to resettle because they are Sabbath observers. Second is the decline in immigration and the longer time that refugees receiving service have been in the country. A refugee who has been in New York for six months or a year begins to feel at home and develops definite resistance to resettlement.

The NRS has taken a number of steps to meet this situation. The Field Service and the Resettlement Department have been consolidated for speedier and more efficient operation. A series of articles on resettlement have been released to and widely used by the Anglo-Jewish press. Articles stressing the advantages of resettlement from the refugee's viewpoint are being issued to the language press in New York. Lectures and film-showings, directed along the same lines, are being used with increasing regularity.

Employment and Retraining

During the third quarter of 1943, the adverse reaction of some employers toward non-citizens, which was indicated in the last report, continued. Although it was expected that the decline in placements resulting from this fact might continue, there actually was an increase of 4.4 percent in placements over the previous quarter. This was in part due to the usual seasonal improvement, and in part to the increased efforts employed to meet the new situation.

During the quarter, a change in the general character of the applicant group occurred which markedly affected the occupational distribution of placements. Fewer professional and skilled workers have applied to the agency, resulting in a larger proportion of applicants with commercial backgrounds only. In most cases these individuals must, for practical placement purposes, be considered unskilled workers. Emphasis in job promotion must therefore increasingly be placed upon fields which can absorb large numbers of persons with no marketable skill.

Increased Retraining Efforts

Three new retraining projects have been initiated, all undertaken in cooperation with business, allied professional, and lay groups.

Dental Mechanics: Displaced European dentists constitute a difficult placement problem because they are usually ineligible for license examinations in this country until they have had several years of training in American professional schools. A course in dental mechanics of approximately six months has been organized to meet specifically the needs of this group, with instruction given on an individual basis. A representative of the New York Board of Education has evaluated candidates and defined the content of the course; a well known commercial firm is contributing its laboratory facilities, and NRS is paying the instructor and cost of materials. Ten candidates have been selected and it is planned to expand the number of retrainees within the next few months.

Building Maintenance and Handyman: A contrasting type of project is offered in the building maintenance and handyman retraining project undertaken jointly with the Edenwald School for Boys. This project has been designed specifically for those of our applicants over 45 years of age, having some mechanical aptitude, who are not likely to find employment in commercial or industrial fields. Prospects for future placement are good.

Accordingly, a group of seven is being instructed in the necessary skills at the Edenwald School. The course is given five days a week and will last from two to three months, depending upon the progress of the group.

Visiting Waitress Training: Visiting waitress positions are particularly desirable for married women who need to supplement the wages of their husbands. A group of 10 waitresses is being trained by two volunteers under the auspices of the New York Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. The instruction is given in an apartment under actual working conditions. After completion of six weeks' training, these re-trainees will be equipped for referral to openings received by the Employment Department.

Retraining Throughout the Country: Refugee committees in Baltimore, St. Louis, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, in cooperation with other organizations, are sponsoring retraining projects with gratifying results. Experience has shown that retraining at the point of potential employment can best meet specific community openings. A good deal of thought is being devoted to this and to other aspects of retraining with the hope that a decentralized program may be greatly extended.

Special Committees And Projects

During the period under review the National Committee for the Resettlement of Foreign Physicians was forced to make a reluctant decision. Due to the scarcity of opportunities for emigre physicians, the Committee decided to accept new applications and to continue training for only exceptionally qualified physicians whose possibilities for becoming self-supporting in a reasonable time are good. This has resulted in a considerable decline in the number of new applications, although actual placements have risen encouragingly. Efforts are being made to retrain physicians and dentists, for whom there seems to be little hope of a professional career in America, in several related fields as dental mechanics, laboratory or X-ray technicians, dieticians, etc.

Between July and September, the Capital Loan Department granted 147 loans totalling \$39,103. These were given for a wide range of activities -- to start a rooming house in a Southern town, to buy a poultry farm on the Pacific coast, to start medical practice in a little Midwestern town, to take a machine shop course in New York, to open a second hand clothing store in New England -- a list almost as varied as a classified telephone directory. Each one of these loans, though it may be for as little as \$50, means that some refugee is gaining a chance to show his worth and to make his own way in his new homeland.

Preparation for the High Holy Days caused a sharp increase in the number of referrals to the Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment, which handles tickets for services as one of its many activities. Congregations in New York and throughout the country were generous in opening their doors to the refugees for religious services, and the NRS was thus able to fill most of the requests made upon it.

Expenditures

Total expenditures for the third quarter showed a drop roughly proportional to the decline in relief costs, continuing an uninterrupted trend begun in June, 1940. The monthly average for relief declined by \$9,121; the monthly average for all disbursements, by \$12,572.

These savings, though welcome, are small in proportion to the total budget of the NRS and, on the basis of present cash situation, a serious financial situation confronts the agency. This is made more serious by the fact that there are many demands made for essential services which at the present time can be met only on a minimum basis. Some of these are:

1. Change of Status: Thousands of refugees now in this country on temporary visas have the possibility of becoming permanent residents if in accordance with requirements of the immigration law, they can travel to Canada, Cuba, Mexico, or some other nearby country and re-enter as quota immigrants, thereby making themselves eligible for employment. Change of status would enable these refugees to seek employment and would save the NRS a substantial part of the \$20,000 a month which it now spends in relief for temporary visa cases. However, their emigration for this purpose must be financed.
2. Vocational Retraining is an essential prerequisite for successful resettlement in many cases. The NRS must have the means to retrain at least 250 refugees each month.
3. Assistance is needed for several hundred physicians and dentists now licensed but in need of loans to set up practice in communities outside of New York.
4. Rehabilitation of refugee scholars and medical scientists. NRS has been successful in placing many of these men on subsidized scholarships which, in most cases, lead to permanent appointments. Lack of funds prevents expansion of this activity.
5. Establishment of small business enterprises has been found to be the most effective solution of the economic problem of many refugees. If the NRS is to continue this program, its revolving loan fund must have added capital.

12,572
150,000

Table I. Basic Statistics Covering Major Activities of
National Refugee Service, Inc.
July - September, 1940

Item	Month			Monthly Average	
	July	August	September	July-Sept.	Previous Quarter
1. Total Expenditures (all departments).....	\$300,879	\$292,736	\$286,115	\$293,243	\$305,815
2. Indices of Activity					
Central Reception - persons interviewed.....	6,033	6,035	5,898	5,988	6,693
Central Intake - appointments scheduled.....	1,265	1,169	1,140	1,191	N.C.
Employment Department - applications.....	1,822	1,570	1,574	1,655	1,809
Migration Department - services rendered.....	4,823	4,235	4,255	4,438	N.C.
Special Committees and Projects - persons interviewed....	4,341	3,736	6,570	4,882	4,623
3. Cases Receiving Temporary Cash Assistance					
a) Relief and Service Department.....	3,016	2,933	2,871	2,940	2,885
b) Central Intake Department.....	267	225	205	232	N.C.
c) Unduplicated Count of N.R.S. Relief Cases.....	3,283	3,158	3,074	3,172	3,190
d) Affiliated Agencies, Resettlement & Intransit Aid*....	380	302	324	335	N.C.
e) Unduplicated Count of All Cases Receiving Aid.....	3,578	3,417	3,357	3,451	N.C.
4. Amount of Relief Disbursements.....	\$167,908	\$169,117	\$155,534	\$164,187	\$173,308
Relief and Service Department.....	134,609	138,666	129,713	134,329	138,398
All Other Sources.....	33,299	30,451	25,823	29,858	34,910
5. Family Units Resettled.....	249	174	178	200	274
a) Number of Individuals Involved.....	447	337	323	371	489
6. Employment Placements**.....	327	409	434	391	374
Male.....	105	135	132	124	111
Female.....	222	274	304	267	263
7. Number Requests for Advice, Service, and Information.....	28,675	26,235	28,863	27,925	28,105

* The following number of cases received part of their relief in the same month from either Central Intake or Relief and Service and were accounted for in getting the unduplicated totals in (e):
July 85, August 43, and September 41.

** of the total, the following number were national placements included in the Resettlement count:
July 9, August 1, and September 7.

N.C. = Not Comparable data

Table II. Activities of Special Committees of the
National Refugee Service, Inc.
July - September, 1940

Item	Month			Monthly Average	
	July	August	September	July-Sept. Quarter	Previous
<u>1. National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians</u>					
Number of new applications for placement...	73	47	35	52	112
Number of placements.....	31	22	27	27	28
<u>2. National Committee for Refugee Musicians</u>					
Number of new applications.....	42	23	28	30	64.
Number of permanent positions found.....	22	28	24	25	91
Number of single engagements arranged.....	111	137	71	106	169
<u>3. National Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers</u>					
Number of new applications.....	7	16	7	10	11
Number of placements effected.....	10	11	21	14	7
<u>4. Capital Loan Department</u>					
Number of loans made.....	46	43	60	50	32
Amount of loans.....	\$12,665	\$11,375	\$15,063	\$13,034	\$8,785
No. cases on which repayments were made....	104	107	124	112	93
Amount of repayments.....	\$ 3,515	\$ 1,490	\$ 1,721	\$ 2,242	\$1,894
<u>5. Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment</u>					
Number of referrals	1,442	565	3,780	1,929	1,276
English classes.....	628	231	668	509	603
Social contacts.....	211	60	86	119	187
Arts, sports, lectures, temples.....	299	157	2,570*	1,009	245
Children's activities.....	60	31	21	37	46
Training and commercial courses.....	202	37	362	200	90
Other activities.....	42	49	73	55	105
<u>6. Housing Committee</u>					
Number of persons provided with lists.....	477	569	685	577	511
Number of persons temporarily housed.....	106	76	89	90	180
<u>7. Retraining Program</u>					
Number of retraining programs initiated....	35	22	55	37	42
a) with N.R.S. funds.....	30	20	26	25	28
b) with other funds.....	5	2	29	12	14

* Increase due primarily to 2,102 requests for tickets for Holy Day Services

IV. LOOKING AHEAD

Last spring the National Refugee Service and many other agencies working with non-citizens were fearful lest the alien would have to bear the brunt of all the anxiety which many Americans felt as a result of the international situation. The Alien Registration Bill has since become a law and has served to allay the fears of many who were apprehensive about the refugee. The loyal alien, the man who has escaped from Hitlerism and knows its full significance, is being accepted for what he can contribute to the national effort that lies ahead of us.

It is true that the refugees have suffered to some degree from the "fifth column" scares. Employment placements have been somewhat affected; resettlement has been reduced by this and other causes. There have been individual cases of harsh words and petty persecutions. The fairness of the Government officials, the essential sanity of the American people, and the exemplary conduct of the emigres themselves have all contributed toward minimizing these evils.

The present world situation is not conducive to thoughtful planning and long range perspectives. Yet the National Refugee Service must plan. To it and to the communities which cooperate with it has been entrusted the great responsibility of seeing that the thousands of refugees now in this country become good Americans, economically self-sufficient, adapted to the country and its people. The keynote of this program is resettlement.

The National Refugee Service is hopeful about the further development of the resettlement program. It is certain that the extra effort needed in the NRS and in the communities will be forthcoming. But the process is not an automatic one. It demands sustained effort. This must be realized by every man and woman working on the refugee problem; realized continuously and unremittingly.

It was mentioned on page 7 of the report that the National Refugee Service faces a serious cash situation. The budget of the organization for the year had been planned on the basis of its allocation from the United Jewish Appeal. Receipt of the total allocation, therefore, is dependent, ultimately, upon collections made by this fund-raising agency. Prompt payment of individual pledges to the United Jewish Appeal will help to relieve the present cash shortage and will enable the National Refugee Service to continue its vital work with the refugees from Nazi-dominated countries.

William Haber
Executive Director

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.



QUARTERLY REPORT

OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1940

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
165 West 45th Street
New York City

Quarterly Report of the Executive Director
October-December, 1940

I. THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

The last three months of 1940 proved especially difficult ones for the National Refugee Service. In the last Quarterly Report a note of warning was sounded concerning the serious financial outlook confronting the agency. A relief load far beyond that envisaged when the 1940 budget was prepared, and retarded cash receipts from the United Jewish Appeal, left the agency in a critical state. As early as July, 1940, relief allotments were cut to a subsistence level. In the October-December quarter, the staff of NRS was curtailed by nearly 20 percent. Total average monthly expenditures of the agency declined \$15,670, a drop of 5 percent. Despite these economies, the year ended with a cash deficit. Heavy borrowing was necessary to meet the current needs of the refugees during November and December. Nor are prospects for the opening months of 1941 bright. Money still due from the 1940 United Jewish Appeal will ease some of the strain, but the NRS must continue to operate with far too great a gap between budgetary needs and cash available. The financial situation is further complicated by the regrettable dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal and the necessity for the National Refugee Service in 1941 to engage in its own fund raising campaign.

The relief load declined but slightly in this quarter. The average number of cases totalled 3,163 as compared with 3,451 during the previous quarter; average monthly relief costs amounted to \$147,709 between October and December. However, the number of cases receiving assistance from the Relief and Service Department in December, 1940 was actually about 17 percent greater than in January of the same year. ✓✓

After rising noticeably in October and November, the number of family units resettled fell in December. This was largely due to curtailment of west coast immigration and to the fact that refugees who have recently arrived present problems based on age and other personal factors which defer their resettlement. Resettlement is expected to advance in 1941 as a result of anticipated increases in immigration up to quota limits.

However, the fact that must be faced that the refugees now receiving aid from NRS are older persons with larger families and with skills which cannot immediately become useful. The agency is preparing to face this fact and do what it can -- chiefly in the field of vocational retraining -- to increase their resettleability.

Activity in the Employment Department showed a gratifying rise during the quarter. Total placements for the three months were 1,427, a monthly average of 476 as compared with 391 for the previous quarter. A supervisor has been appointed to direct vocational retraining activities, in line with increased emphasis on this field during 1941. ✓

II. WORLD EVENTS AND THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

Migration

The closing quarter of 1940 saw a great deal of discussion and debate on various aspects of refugee migration; discussion which is only beginning to crystalize into definite action. Widely and somewhat prematurely heralded was the proposal to create a refugee haven in the Virgin Islands, a proposal which has been indefinitely postponed. During the quarter, however, the one refugee colony which has been established in our hemisphere, in the Dominican Republic, made steady gains and seems to promise much for the future.

It is likely that quotas will be filled in 1941. During the final quarter of 1940, special visitor's visas were issued to certain "political" refugees, mostly in unoccupied France, whose position was especially imperiled. The "unblocking" of visas, which permits the transfer of unused quota numbers to persons who can make use of them, is expected to increase the rate of immigration. About 3,000 such transfers will be made from London to Lisbon in 1941. Refugees who have sought temporary refuge in Marseilles, Shanghai, and in countries of the Western Hemisphere will also be affected. It is anticipated that 1,000 visas a month will be issued from inside Germany alone. In addition, the privilege of pre-examination has been reopened for those refugees in the United States on temporary visas who are eligible to change status. Canada and Cuba will be utilized for the change of status. A Community Service Release, already mailed, discussed procedures in connection with this and other phases of the migration problem. It is possible that several hundred refugees a month can change their status by this means. The effort will place added burdens on and create new problems for the agency.

Immigration to the west coast has been sharply curtailed since the Soviet Union has insisted upon receiving American dollars rather than German marks for passage across Siberia. Refugee immigration through all ports to the United States was about 2,000 a month during the closing quarter of 1940. Migration to Pacific ports rose rapidly in the preceding quarter, reaching a peak of nearly 500 a month in September and October. Thereafter it declined, and no more than 150 refugees entered by this route in December. In the last six months approximately 1,750 emigres have crossed the Pacific to America. Refugee immigration for the entire year totalled 38,000, only 15 percent less than during 1939.

III. A QUARTER OF REFUGEE SERVICE

The Trend of Relief

The very gradual decline in case load and costs which has characterized the NRS relief situation since June, 1940, continued in the fourth quarter of the year. Average case load for the October-December quarter was 3,163 compared with 3,451 for the previous quarter; expenditures for relief averaged \$147,709 per month.

Underlying this trend, however, were other factors presenting a less cheerful picture. A thorough analysis of the November relief load showed (1) the increasing age of persons receiving relief from NRS, with the attendant problems of greater difficulties in employment and resettlement; (2) a "residual" relief load, with its implications of the need for long-term assistance; (3) a relatively high proportion of relief cases which require aid after considerable time in this country.

In March, 1940, the median age of heads of families on relief was 46.3 years. In the eight months, March to November, this figure rose by 3 years to 49.3. The increase seems especially ominous when viewed against the background of the employment status of the group. There were 570 refugees employed but receiving supplementary relief. The median age of these was 37.3 years, 12 years below that for all relief clients. This fact illustrates the employment difficulties facing the 1,800 refugee relief recipients who are over 50 years of age.

The refugee receiving relief in July, 1940 had been in the United States, on the average, for 13 months. By September this figure had risen to 14 months, and by November, to over 15 months. Need for financial aid has ceased to be limited to the relative newcomer to this country; the NRS, in its planning, must take cognizance of a very large group of refugees for whom the period of dependency may be indefinitely prolonged. The number of months on relief has followed a similar pattern. In July, 1940 the NRS could say that very nearly half its case load had been receiving relief for less than 6 months. But in November, this group constituted only a little more than one-quarter of the total case load.

Thus, quite apart from problems created by new immigrants, the National Refugee Service finds its present relief load containing an increasing proportion of persons who require assistance for relatively long periods. There is no ready-made solution to this problem; continued emphasis on resettlement, employment, and retraining must be depended upon to remedy the situation.

The Trend of Resettlement

The average number of resettlements per month during the quarter showed a slight decline from the previous quarter due to the influence of the December total. October and November, however, showed a definite rise over the two

previous months. The December figure is directly traceable to the west coast situation which, in turn, reflects the slowing up of trans-Siberian and trans-Pacific immigration. In November, 43 units were resettled from the Pacific Coast; in December, only 13.

Stabilization of the resettlement rate at approximately 200 family units (375 individuals) per month may be expected unless more communities relax their current restrictions against the resettlement of older refugees, Sabbath observers, and larger families. A number of communities, appreciating the problems faced by the National Refugee Service, have already cooperated in this respect, but many more must follow their lead if the tempo of resettlement is to be accelerated.

To stimulate resettlement and to enable the refugee to have a more informed interest in the various American communities, a Resettlement Promotion unit was established by the NRS during this quarter. Here the refugee may study maps of the United States, see photos and slides showing the American scene, and read books descriptive of the country.

Employment and Retraining

The employment placement figures for the last quarter of 1940 reflect the special efforts which were made to meet the requirements of new refugees in finding self-supporting work. These efforts involved the reassignment of special groups for more intensive service and the introduction of job promotion methods planned particularly for the unskilled workers. A total of 1,427 placements were effected during the quarter, but a large proportion of older, less skilled, and less easily placeable applicants made the problem of job solicitation more difficult, despite generally improved employment conditions locally and throughout the country.

Nevertheless, the last three months of 1940 show an increase of 11 percent in the number of placements made compared with the same period of 1939. The occupational distribution of these placements reflect the change in the character of the applicant group. There was a decrease in the number of skilled and professional workers placed, which was offset by an increase in the number of persons who found work as manual and domestic employees.

The retraining program during this period has concerned itself particularly with the problem of displaced refugees in the professions. Group projects for retraining in dental mechanics have been launched for displaced dentists, who will be referred for employment outside of New York. Courses in dietetics and training as laboratory technicians have been initiated for displaced female and male physicians.

Financing the Refugee Program

Average monthly over-all expenditures by the NRS during the October-December quarter were \$276,573. Expenditures in November, 1940 were \$270,655, the lowest of any month since the previous January. The greatest part of this decline represents the savings from the drop in relief load. Despite these

savings, however, the NRS finished 1940 with a cash deficit which presented a serious financial situation. A request was made to the United Jewish Appeal for an increased allotment to meet additional needs and at the same time to provide campaign "receivables" as a basis for further necessary borrowing. Instead, the allotment committee of the United Jewish Appeal granted the National Refugee Service accelerated payments on its original allotment. Future payments by the United Jewish Appeal on the balance of the 1940 allotment will help offset these loans, but will leave a period between January and the date of first collections of the 1941 campaign which will require further borrowing.

Special Committees and Projects

The Central Loan Committee granted 140 loans totalling \$35,444 during the three months. These were granted for the establishment of small business enterprises by refugees, for retraining courses, and for setting up physicians and dentists in practice. During these three months the Collection Unit was successful in collecting \$7,860 on previous loans.

The Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment, during the quarter, made 6,757 referrals for varied purposes. An important achievement was the formation, in cooperation with other refugee agencies and with schools in New York, of a permanent committee to coordinate and expand activities for refugees in colleges and universities. The period also saw an expansion of the children's activities of the division.

The National Committee for Refugee Musicians, taking energetic advantage of the opening of the fall concert season, nearly doubled its placement average over the previous quarter. Engagements for Christmas and New Years made December an outstandingly good month. Permanent placements also rose, many of them having been made to orchestras.

The Housing Committee found its volume of work somewhat reduced with the end of the fall renting season. There was a considerable increase in the number of persons temporarily housed, reflecting, in part, the increase in resettlements during October and November, since temporary lodgings are provided for resettlement cases in the brief interval between their arrival in New York and their departure to a new home.

IV. THE YEAR AHEAD

The regrettable dissolution of the United Jewish Appeal, from which the National Refugee Service received its funds as a beneficiary and not as a partner during 1939 and 1940, has compelled the organization to take steps to conduct its own campaign in 1941. This decision was made by the Board of Directors at its meeting in Cleveland on January 18 and 19. The Board approved a budget of \$4,342,150 as the minimum amount on which the agency could continue its services during the year.

During the course of his address before the Board, at the Cleveland meeting, Dr. Frank Kingdon, chairman of the Emergency Rescue Commission, stated that the refugee problem in America "constituted one of the major battle lines for freedom in the world today." One of the most important forces on that battle line is the effort which is being made today by the local refugee committees and the entire American Jewish community. Here in America we can offer one of the few remaining opportunities for freedom which are left to the victims of Hitlerism. Our problem will be with us in 1941 in greater volume and in even greater complexity than in the past. It is an American problem which must be met in an American way. A successful meeting of the problem will do more than aid the refugee group. It will promote the general welfare of our country and the democratic ideal everywhere.

So long as refugees can reach free America, we, as Americans, have an obligation to them. It is a gratifying obligation in a world beset with war and oppression. It is doubly gratifying because we have the opportunity of seeing the result of our efforts reflected in men and women given a new chance for useful and peaceful living.

William Haber
Executive Director

Table I. Basic Statistics Covering Major Activities of
National Refugee Service, Inc.
October - December, 1940

Item	Month			Monthly Average	
	October	November	December	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
1. Total Expenditures (all departments).....	\$277,121	\$270,655	\$281,944	\$276,573	\$293,243
2. Indices of Activity					
Central Reception - persons interviewed.....	4,571	4,917	4,817	4,768	5,988
Central Intake - appointments scheduled.....	1,046	840	867	918	1,191
Employment Department - applications.....	1,476	1,104	1,202	1,261	1,655
Migration Department - services rendered.....	4,405	4,324	4,548	4,426	4,438
Special Committees and Projects - persons interviewed....	4,625	3,720	4,010	4,118	4,882
3. Cases Receiving Temporary Cash Assistance					
a) Relief and Service Department.....	2,807	2,787	2,666	2,753	2,940
b) Central Intake Department.....	190	166	131	162	232
c) Unduplicated Count of NRS Relief Cases.....	2,997	2,943	2,895	2,945	3,172
d) Affiliated Agencies, Resettlement & Intransit Aid*....	284	283	289	285	335
e) Unduplicated Count of All Cases Receiving Aid.....	3,255	3,179	3,055	3,163	3,451
4. Amount of Relief Disbursements.....	\$148,709	\$143,625	\$150,793	\$147,709	\$164,187
Relief and Service Department.....	126,033	118,813	122,113	122,320	134,329
All Other Sources.....	22,676	24,812	28,680	25,389	29,858
5. Family Units Resettled.....	200	303	152	185	200
a) Number of Individuals Involved.....	380	374	275	343	371
6. Employment Placements**.....	444	475	508	476	391
Male.....	122	131	127	127	124
Female.....	322	344	381	349	267
7. Number Requests for Advice, Service, and Information.....	24,798	22,176	22,875	23,283	27,925

* The following number of cases received part of their relief in the same month from either Central Intake or Relief and Service and were accounted for in getting the unduplicated totals in (e):
October 26, November 47, December 31.

** of the total, the following number were national placements included in the Resettlement count:
October 8, November 4, December 5.

Table II. Activities of Special Committees of the
National Refugee Service, Inc.
October - December, 1940

Item	Month			Monthly Average	
	October	November	December	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
<u>1. National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians</u>					
Number of new applications for placement	44	39	38	40	52
Number of placements	33	21	33	29	27
<u>2. National Committee for Refugee Musicians</u>					
Number of new applications	41	39	38	39	30
Number of permanent positions found	43	33	50	42	25
Number of single engagements arranged	127	208	242	192	106
<u>3. National Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers</u>					
Number of new applications	11	5	6	8	10
Number of placements effected	14	7	10	11	14
<u>4. Capital Loan Department</u>					
Number of loans made	51	53	31	47	50
Amount of loans	\$13,285	\$11,880	\$10,279	\$11,815	\$13,034
No. cases on which repayments were made	144	172	218	178	112
Amount of repayments	\$ 2,085	\$ 2,759	\$ 3,016	\$ 2,620	\$ 2,242
<u>5. Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment</u>					
Number of referrals	<u>2,652</u>	<u>1,770</u>	<u>2,335</u>	<u>2,252</u>	<u>1,929</u>
English classes	453	378	387	406	509
Social contacts	177	326	257	253	119
Arts, sports, lectures, temples	1,514	709	1,105	1,109	1,009
Children's activities	32	26	68	42	37
Training and commercial courses	184	201	242	209	200
Other activities	292	131	276	233	55
<u>6. Housing Committee</u>					
Number of persons provided with lists	568	431	376	458	577
Number of persons temporarily housed	126	152	121	133	90
<u>7. Retraining Program</u>					
Number of retraining programs initiated	32	50	35*	39	37
a) with NRS funds	24	30	12	22	25
b) with other funds	8	20	23	17	12

*Decrease in number of referrals for December caused by internal reorganization

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NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

165 WEST 46TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

November 1st, 1940

Mr. Henry Montor, Executive Vice-Chairman
United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs
342 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Montor:

Reference is made to your letter of
October 21st.

Since the three foundations mentioned
in the letter from Klein, Hinds & Finke dated October
19th, copy of which you forwarded to us, may not, by
virtue of provision in their charter or established
policy, contribute towards work outside of the United
States, the grants which have been made to us by these
foundations are properly within the provisions of
paragraph 8 of the agreement constituting the 1940
United Jewish Appeal as grants and contributions not
to be included or considered part of the United Jewish
Appeal.

We attach, for your convenience, copy
of the letter from the Baron de Hirsch Fund dated Feb-
ruary 23rd. (which you already have in your files) and
also copy of the letter dated July 25th written by
Mr. Morris Rothenberg to Mr. William Rosenwald with
reference to the Nathan Hofheimer Foundation.

In connection with the New York Founda-
tion, we quote an excerpt from a work entitled "American
Foundations for Social Welfare" published by the Russell
Sage Foundation, New York, 1938:

"Purpose: To receive and maintain a fund or
funds and to apply the income thereof to
altruistic purposes, charitable, benevolent,
educational or otherwise within the United
States of America, as the Trustees may de-
termine".

Cordially yours,

(signed) I. Speiser

cc: Klein, Hinds & Finke

WILLIAM ROSENWALD
103 WEST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Strictly Confidential

November 22, 1940.

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You, as an outstanding leader, should be apprised of the critical situation confronting the achievements which the American Jewish community has been attaining through the National Refugee Service.

William Haber's letter to me, a copy of which is enclosed, states the facts. It indicates the steps which must be taken in order to prevent the early collapse of this strategic work.

The continuation of the refugee program at our doorstep must be of primary concern to us, as citizens, as well as to the refugees who count on us.

We urgently need your assistance in meeting this problem. Your advice and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

William Rosenwald
William Rosenwald

Dr. Silver - Please read the attached brief statement - its importance deserves your attention. Greetings. William Rosenwald

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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CLARENCE E. PICKETT
ERICH M. WARBURG
ETHEL H. WISE
JONAH B. WISE

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

November 20, 1940.

Mr. William Rosenwald,
122 East 42nd Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

A critical situation now confronts the American Jewish community's national program in behalf of refugees as carried out through the National Refugee Service. Grave uncertainties regarding the sources of the organization's support during the next four or five months make the immediate problem a most alarming one. It requires the immediate attention of those who are concerned with the needs of the 130,000 refugees already here and the two to three thousand who are arriving monthly.

The continuing demands upon the essential services of the National Refugee Service are of a magnitude unequalled in the long history of Jewish communal effort to assist newcomers. The responsibilities which the American Jewish community has entrusted to the National Refugee Service are today more vital than ever.

During the month of November alone, the organization is providing financial assistance for more than 9,000 individual refugees, consisting of nearly 3,500 family units, in the City of New York, at a cost of over \$170,000 per month for this item alone. We are giving employment service to over 5,300 individuals who are registered on our employment rolls; over 400 refugees are being placed in jobs each month. The Resettlement Department has resettled 4,479 individuals, included in 2,479 family units, during the first ten months of this year and is adding to this number from 400 to 500 individual refugees with each passing month. Since the beginning of the planned resettlement program, over 10,000 people have been aided in leaving New York City and in getting a fresh start in hundreds of communities all over the country.

November 20, 1940.

Mr. William Rosenwald - Page 2.

Additional thousands of recent immigrants are being aided each month by our Migration Department, the retraining program, the Social and Cultural Division, the housing service and by the several committees concerned with the specialized problems of physicians, rabbis, scholars, dentists, musicians and similar groups.

There is an immediate danger that these vitally necessary activities may suddenly cease. Funds presently on hand and anticipated will make it possible for the National Refugee Service to continue its work only until the end of December. This can be done only if we succeed in obtaining an extension on a bank loan of \$300,000 which falls due on December 16th and, furthermore, if we are not pressed for the repayment of \$250,000 which we borrowed elsewhere. If we manage somehow to carry on until the end of the year, these financial troubles will start all over again on the first of the new year. I should be remiss in my duty if I did not frankly warn you that at that time our doors will literally have to close unless arrangements for financing our program can be completed in the meantime.

Such is the immediate situation facing the refugee program of the American Jewish community as carried out through the National Refugee Service. The essential facts can be stated very briefly:

The National Refugee Service had no funds with which to begin its work in January, 1940. Consequently, it was necessary to borrow substantial sums in order to provide about \$500,000 per month, representing the restricted operating budget of the agency. Income from the United Jewish Appeal during the past six months permitted us to retire some of these loans and to meet the current operating expenditures of the agency.

The discrepancy between "cash income" and "operating expenditures" is again a widening one. This explains our present financial crisis. While the National Refugee Service was granted an allocation of \$2,500,000 from the National United Jewish Appeal and an additional \$1,000,000 from the Greater New York United Jewish Appeal for 1940, there was no cash priority in the distribution of funds from the National campaign (as had been generously accorded the National Refugee Service in 1939). Present indications are that the National Refugee Service will receive in cash only \$2,640,000 during 1940 against a total allocation of \$3,500,000. We therefore found it necessary recently to borrow \$250,000, and in addition we now owe the bank \$300,000.

November 20, 1940.

Mr. William Rosenwald - Page 3.

Even if we succeed in having the bank loan extended, the National Refugee Service will have no funds with which to begin the year 1941. We shall start with an indebtedness of \$550,000. How are we to finance this work during the first three or four months of the new year? To be sure, there will be due to the National Refugee Service approximately \$860,000 from the 1940 United Jewish Appeal (in addition to whatever further grants we may receive from the Allotment Committee, or from other sources). However, our estimates indicate that the amounts to be made available to the National Refugee Service during each of the first four months of 1941, on account of the 1940 allocation, will be far from sufficient to meet estimated expenditures of \$1,140,000 for these months.

In short, if the relief and service activities in behalf of refugees are to continue uninterruptedly, a working fund of not less than \$1,000,000 must be provided before we can begin to plan our work for 1941. Unless this can be done, the continuing program of the agency will be constantly endangered. I am aware of the difficulties involved and the efforts which have been made thus far to find a solution to this problem. However, failure to make immediate provision for an adequate working fund (or other method of financing) places in jeopardy the whole effort of American Jews to care for the refugees who are here and are coming here monthly.

At this point, it is in order to mention briefly the repercussions which would result if the National Refugee Service were compelled to close its doors even temporarily, or to curtail substantially its minimum financial assistance to thousands of refugees. The organization's abovementioned activities in resettlement, employment, retraining, migration, social and cultural adjustment, etc., would, of course, cease immediately. Left without any resources, the 9,000 individuals who are receiving direct financial aid from the National Refugee Service would be forced to make application to the public welfare agencies, in New York City, and to private family welfare organizations, particularly the Jewish Social Service Association and the Brooklyn Jewish Family Welfare Society. The receipt of aid from tax-supported sources would expose the refugee to the risk of deportation, would create a dangerously unfavorable public reaction toward refugees in general and would cause incalculable damage to the Jewish community throughout the country. The American Jewish community has thus far successfully avoided these risks. It is my opinion that it is still determined to do so.

November 20, 1940.

Mr. William Rosenwald - Page 4.

I have given you the above facts in all frankness because of the belief that the leaders of the American Jewish community in New York City and throughout the country are not fully aware of the scope and extent of the services provided by the National Refugee Service.

No mention has been made in this letter of the many additional things which we know we should be doing were it possible to finance them; increasing activity in obtaining permanent immigration status for those who are here on temporary visas; increased attention to the problems of the physicians, scholars and other intellectuals; an increase in the funds available for constructive capital loan activity and for the expansion of our vocational retraining program; and among many other items, the further extension of our advisory field service to the seven hundred communities cooperation in the National Refugee Service program.

I am taking the liberty of attaching to this letter a table indicating the work load of the National Refugee Service for 1940 as compared with 1939. The facts are there. The slight decrease in immigration has not curtailed the demands for assistance made upon the National Refugee Service to any appreciable extent. As a matter of fact, our program during the last six months of 1939 was abnormal in the sense that the number of refugees arriving was larger than the normal flow over a more extended period. Present arrivals, numbering between two and three thousand a month, give us a basis for normal functioning.

Of the 130,000 Jewish refugees estimated to have entered the United States during the past several years, approximately 75,000 are now located in New York City. Many of these refugees are employed; others are supported by relatives, affiants and friends; but a very considerable number, as the attached table shows, rely upon us for financial aid, advice and service. This responsibility cannot be set aside under any circumstances. It has been assumed by the American Jewish community. It is more urgent at this time than it ever has been.

The National Refugee Service represents the determination of the American Jewish community to provide the necessary aid to the refugees who have already come here and to those who are continuing to arrive. Our program is such that no phase can be said to be more important than another. These indispensable services must continue and the only way in which this can be accomplished is to provide adequate financing. A large organization like the National Refugee Service, which attempts to meet the needs

November 20, 1940.

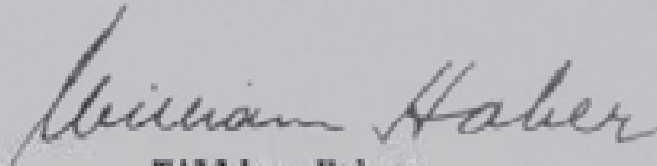
Mr. William Rosenwald - Page 5.

of thousands of individuals, many of them utterly penniless, cannot operate on a hand-to-mouth basis. Funds must be obtained both to meet the immediate problem and to provide working capital for the first four months of 1941.

To sum it all up, this organization is actually threatened with forced suspension of its activities unless the situation which I have here set forth is met within the next thirty days.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



William Haber
Executive Director



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

ACTIVITIES IN 1940*

COMPARED WITH 1939

	1940		1939	
	Annual Total	Monthly Average	Annual Total	Monthly Average
I. Requests for service, advice, and information**	325,800	27,150	318,000	26,500
II. Financial aid to clients				
A. Persons receiving finan- cial aid***				
1. Number of families	7,580	3,270	4,730	1,970
2. Number of individuals	17,900	8,020	10,980	4,815
B. Relief expenditures (Includes loans)	\$2,052,960	\$171,080	\$1,258,200	\$104,850
III. Employment activity				
A. Number of placements in jobs	4,800	400	4,912	409
B. Number of referrals for jobs	26,100	2,175	20,640	1,720
C. Number of individuals registered	16,000	6,230	14,900	5,850
IV. Persons resettled out of New York City				
A. Number of family units	3,180	265	2,400	200
B. Number of individuals	5,525	460	4,080	340
V. Migration services				
A. Number of services rendered (By correspondence and interviews)	53,112	4,426	Not Comparable	
VI. Total expenditures for all purposes	\$3,485,000	\$290,417	\$2,470,000	\$205,834

* November and December figures estimated.

** Includes requests by individuals appearing in person in all departments of the agency. One person may be counted more than once during a day in one or more departments, and several times during a month in the same department.

*** Annual figures estimated.

VII. Activity of Special Committees during 1940

A. Capital Loan Committee	
1. Number of loans*	480
2. Number of applicants for loans	410
3. Number of cases given business advice	3,230
B. Retraining services**	
1. Number of individuals for whom retraining was initiated	240
C. Agricultural Consultant	
1. Number of farm loans	35
2. Number of scholarship loans	30
D. German Jewish Children's Aid	
1. Number of children arrived	95
2. Number of active cases	1,890
E. Housing Committee**	
1. Average number of available premises listed each month	2,190
2. Number of persons provided with lists of available premises	5,035
3. Number of persons temporarily housed	810
F. Musicians' Committee	
1. Number of applicants	555
2. Number of permanent positions found	575
3. Number of single engagements arranged	1,470
G. Physicians' Committee	
1. Number of applicants	920
2. Number of referrals for evaluations and placements	1,465
3. Number of placements	345
H. Rabbis' Committee	
1. Number of applicants	140
2. Number of placements	120
I. Social and Cultural Adjustment Division	
1. Number of services rendered	21,080

* Includes more than one loan to the same client

** Formed as a service committee on April 1, 1940

Department of Information and Statistics
November 15, 1940

CABLES: NACOMREF, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: BRYANT 9-2402

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

November 2nd, 1940

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN
Chairman of the Board

WILLIAM ROSENWALD
President

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ERICH M. WARBURG

ETHEL H. WISE

JONAH B. WISE

WILLIAM HANER
Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
East 105th St. & Angel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

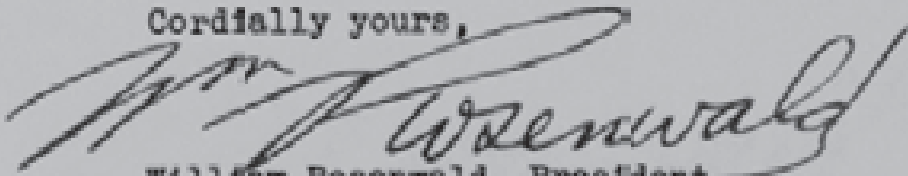
The Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc. has set Saturday and Sunday, January 18th and 19th, 1941, as the dates of the winter meeting of the Board of Directors. The meeting will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, or in some mid-western city. The decision respecting the place of the meeting will be made within the next few weeks.

Will you, therefore, arrange to set aside these two days for this purpose since matters of the utmost concern require your thoughtful consideration. Those of you who attended our Board meeting in Chicago a year ago, will realize the importance of the January meeting in terms of national policy and planning in the field of refugee activities. Your community and your state look to you for an adequate interpretation of their problems and points of view in planning the work of the National Refugee Service for the coming year. It is through your participation that regional and sectional implications of the refugee problem can be reflected in national planning.

The National Refugee Service needs your counsel and advice in dealing with the recent and contemplated developments concerning refugee immigration to the United States, and particularly the adjustment and absorption of those who have already arrived. Please save January 18th and 19th for the meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,


William Rosenwald, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.

CABLES: NACOMREP, New York
TELEPHONE: BRyant 9-3102

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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New York City

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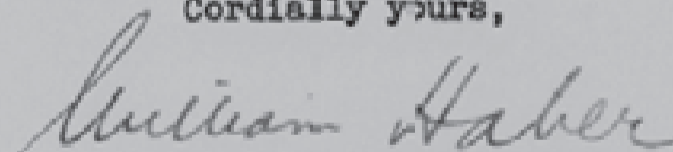
January 10, 1941

TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the tentative agenda for the meeting of the Board of Directors on January 18 and 19 at the Hotel Statler in Cleveland, Ohio. We are also enclosing a copy of the draft report of the President to the Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service, Inc. for the year 1940. It is intended that this report be incorporated as a section of the forthcoming annual report of the agency. Your suggestions as to changes in, or additions to, the present draft would, therefore, be appreciated.

Additional data regarding the major activities of the organization will be available in Cleveland. There will also be a verbal presentation by the President of the problems facing the National Refugee Service during the current year.

Cordially yours,


William Haber

TENTATIVE AGENDA

MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

January 18-19, 1941

Hotel Statler
Cleveland, Ohio

Saturday, January 18

5:00 P.M. - Informal Reception for Members of Board and Guests - Salle Moderne Annex
7:00 P.M. - Dinner and Opening Meeting - Salle Moderne

Chairman -- Joseph P. Chamberlain, Chairman of the Board of Directors,
National Refugee Service, Inc.

Speakers -- Harry Greenstein, Baltimore
William Haber, NRS.
William Shroder, Cincinnati

Sunday, January 19

10:00 A.M. - Business Meeting Board of Directors* - Euclid Ballroom

1. Meeting called to order ----- William Rosenwald
2. Report of Nominations Committee; Elections
3. Report of the President ----- William Rosenwald
4. Report of Executive Director ----- William Haber
5. Report of Treasurer ----- Richard P. Limburg
6. Report of Budget Committee ----- I. Edwin Goldwasser
7. 1941 Campaign plans ----- Solomon Lowenstein

12:00 Noon - Luncheon - Pine Room
Introduction ----- William Rosenwald

Guest Speaker -- Dr. Frank Kingdon, Chairman Emergency Rescue Com-
mittee, former President of the University of Newark

2:00 P.M. - General Meeting - Board of Directors - Euclid Ballroom

Chairman --

1. Major Problems and Issues ----- Officers of NRS.

Discussion

2. 1941 Campaign ----- Joseph Silber,
Vice Chairman, Ohio State
Committee for Resettle-
ment of Refugees

*The Sunday Business Meeting 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon is for Board Members only. Other meetings open to all invited guests.

TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

It is intended that the attached Draft Report of the President to the Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service be incorporated as a section of the forthcoming annual report of the agency. Your suggestions as to changes in, or additions to, the present draft would, therefore, be appreciated.

There will be a presentation by the President, at the meeting of the Board of Directors in Cleveland, on January 18 and 19, 1941, of the financial problems facing the organization during the current year.

CABLES: NACOMREF, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: BRYANT 9-2182

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

WILLIAM K. FRANK

DAVID H. SULZBERGER

MORRIS WOLF
Vice-Presidents

RICHARD P. LIMBURG
Treasurer

PAUL FELIX WARBURG
Secretary

MRS. MYRON S. FALK, JR.

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER

HARRY GREENSTEIN

JOSEPH C. HYMAN

S. MARSHALL KEMPNER

SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN

CLARENCE K. PICKETT

ERICH M. WARBURG

ETHEL H. WISE

JONAH B. WISE

WILLIAM HABER
Executive Director

January 14, 1941

Dear Board Member:

The enclosed folder contains the reports of the officers of the National Refugee Service, Inc. covering the major developments of 1940, and the agenda for the Cleveland meeting of the Board of Directors.

May I suggest that you give careful attention to this material so that your decisions for the coming year may be thoroughly grounded in our experiences in the past.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

William Haber

William Haber

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE FOLLOWING:

MICHAEL G. APPEL, Brooklyn
 MRS. GEORGE BACKER, New York
 PAUL BARNWALD, New York
 WILLIAM H. BALDWIN, New York
 EDGAR S. BAMBURGER, West Orange
 WALTER H. BIERINGER, Boston
 JACOB ELLIKOFF, Philadelphia
 JACOB BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore
 ARNER BREGMAN, New York
 DAVID M. BRENNER, New York
 ALEXANDER BRIST, Jacksonville, Fla.
 ARTHUR BRIN, Minneapolis
 JOHN S. BRYCE, New York
 BENJAMIN J. BUTLER, New York
 FRED M. BUTLER, Denver
 LOUIS CAPLAN, Pittsburgh
 DUDLEY CARR, New York
 SAMUEL MCCALL CARR, New York
 BEN COOK, Greenville, S. C.
 C. A. EPROYTHORN, Indianapolis
 MRS. SYDNEY B. FALANCA, New York
 ALFRED I. ELLER, San Francisco
 JOHN M. FRANK, Chicago
 ROBERT V. FRIEDMAN, St. Louis
 HENRY J. FRIENDLY, New York
 MRS. MAURICE L. GOLDMAN, San Francisco
 RICHARD S. GOLDMAN, New York
 ADOLPH HELD, New York
 DAVID M. HEYMAN, New York
 MAX HIRSCH, Cincinnati
 MAX S. HIRSCH, Portland, Ore.
 PHILIP C. JESSUP, New York
 ALVIN S. JOHNSON, New York
 MRS. ELY J. KAHN, New York
 LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN, Boston
 MARTIN D. KOHN, Baltimore
 DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, San Francisco
 FLORENA LASKER, New York

PETER L. B. LAYAN, New York
 ROBERT LALANUS, Columbus, Ohio
 ROBERT LEHMAN, New York
 CHARLES J. LIERMAN, New York
 ISIDOR LOEB, St. Louis
 JOSEPH P. LOEB, Los Angeles
 RICHARD O. LOEWENBERG, New York
 HERBERT MALLINSON, Dallas
 JAMES G. McDONALD, Brooklyn
 ARTHUR S. MEYER, New York
 HENRY MONNET, Omaha
 WILLIAM A. NICHOLS, New York
 DAVID DE SOLA PONT, New York
 MICHAEL J. ROSEN, Washington, D. C.
 KATHY VAN SITT, Boston
 FRANK K. SCHLES, New York
 HENRY H. SCHLAAP, Brooklyn
 JACOB SCHLES, Los Angeles
 LEONARD SCHLES, New York
 WILLIAM J. FINKEL, Cincinnati
 JEROME SILVER, Cleveland
 ANNA HIRSH SILVER, Cleveland
 EDGAR B. STERN, New Orleans
 MRS. MARION R. STERN, New York
 HUGH CRANT STRAUSS, Brooklyn
 MRS. NATHAN STRAUSS, Valhalla, N. Y.
 LEWIS B. STRAUSS, New York
 FRANK L. SULZBERGER, Chicago
 WILLIAM B. TELLINGER, Richmond, Va.
 F. FRANK VORBERG, Boston
 EDWARD M. M. VASSBURG, New York
 GEORGE L. WARREN, New York
 ALBERT C. WEINER, Cincinnati
 FRANK L. WEIL, New York
 SOL WEINBERG, Philadelphia
 WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE, Emporia, Kansas
 HENRY WINEMAN, Detroit
 RALPH WOLF, New York

Officers Reports and Agenda
for
Meeting of the Board of Directors

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Cleveland, Ohio
January 18-19, 1941

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AGENDA

MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

January 18-19, 1941

Hotel Statler
Cleveland, Ohio

Saturday, January 18

5:00 P.M. - Informal Reception for Members of Board and Guests - Salle Moderne Annex

7:00 P.M. - Dinner and Opening Meeting - Salle Moderne

Chairman -- Joseph P. Chamberlain, Chairman of the Board of Directors,
National Refugee Service, Inc.

Speakers -- Harry Greenstein, Baltimore
William Haber
William Shroder, Cincinnati

Sunday, January 19

10:30 A.M. - Business Meeting of the Board of Directors - Euclid Ballroom *

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Report of the President | William Rosenwald |
| 2. Report of the Executive Director | William Haber |
| 3. Report of the Treasurer | Richard P. Limburg |
| 4. Report of Budget Committee | I. Edwin Goldwasser |

12:45 P.M. - Luncheon - Pine Room

Guest Speaker - Dr. Frank Kingdon, Chairman, Emergency Rescue Com-
mittee, former President of the University of Newark.

2:30 P.M. - General Meeting of the Board of Directors - Euclid Ballroom

Chairman - Joseph Silber, Cleveland

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Major Problems and Issues | Discussion |
| 2. 1941 Campaign | Discussion |

*Sunday, January 19

9 A.M. - Breakfast for the Board of Directors to consider the formal
business of the conference - Lattice Room.

Message from
Professor Joseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman of the Board of Directors
National Refugee Service, Inc.

The events of the past year have intensified the problem which faces the National Refugee Service. The swastika has thrown a lengthening shadow over Europe, and wherever that shadow falls there appear the evil plants of oppression and racial intolerance which we know so well. As a consequence more and more people who felt themselves rooted to the soil on which their families had lived for many generations must leave their native lands and seek elsewhere an opportunity to establish a safe home for themselves and their families. They are turning to the few free countries left in the World and particularly to those in this hemisphere. Our organization must therefore look for a continuation of its work and perhaps even an intensification of its efforts as one government after another is forced to bow to Berlin.

The menace of forced emigration is one of the threats of oppression which follow the Nazi banner. The recent eviction of at least 10,000 people, mostly elderly, from their homes in the upper Rhineland to the desolation and discomfort of the camps in the mountains in southeastern France is perhaps only a foretaste of a situation that may become widespread and will require careful consideration as to its repercussions here and abroad. This is a time which calls for clear heads as well as for sympathetic hearts, and nowhere more than in the councils and among the workers of those in our service from top to bottom, who are striving so to do their share in this continuing crisis.

Our work is done within the boundaries of the United States. Other great organizations, notably the Joint Distribution Committee nobly carry the burden overseas. The organization which preceded the National Refugee Service,

the Coordinating Committee, was set up largely with the purpose of forming a link between private organizations and government agencies, particularly the State Department and the Immigration Service. In the difficult years during which it has carried out this task, it has developed not only a group knowledge but, more than that, an understanding between the individuals who carry on its relationships with government offices, a knowledge of immigration law and procedure which is certainly not surpassed in any organization, and an acquaintance with government officers which constitutes the asset of good will so important in carrying on affairs, whether they be in business or in governmental relationships. You are all familiar with the importance of good will to a business concern. It is no less important to an organization like ours, and constitutes a precious asset for the philanthropic work to which the National Refugee Service is devoted.

Nor have there been fewer difficulties to cope with in the past year. The increasing awareness on the part of the American people of the dangers which confront them with the extension of the war in Europe and its repercussions in this hemisphere and in Asia have very naturally created situations in respect to immigration and aliens which have required consideration on the part of our Executive Committee and officers, conscious as they are of their duty, both to the refugees whom they are serving and to our own country. There is no prospect that these anxieties will be lessened in the difficult year ahead of us, nor will the value of the knowledge and skill of our experienced officials be less in the coming twelve months.

Draft Report of the President of the National Refugee Service, Inc.

For the Year 1940

"These refugees, representing the new immigration to the United States, came from all social and economic levels; they had been subjected to terrific spiritual and economic punishment - many, even, to physical and psychological torture. Ours became the responsibility, therefore, to provide that guidance and assistance which would make new immigrants into new Americans." --- ("Refugees ... 1939", Annual Report of the National Refugee Service, Inc.)

Since the middle of 1938, the United States has been absorbing a sizable stream of refugees. Throughout this period, the problems of general unemployment in the country have continued to be of major concern. From the meeting of these two forces, one might have expected some repercussions - especially during the temporary wave of anti-alien sentiment which cropped up in the middle of 1940; for it was at this time that German invasions, in one country after another, precipitated an atmosphere of suspicion towards newcomers here. The American community, and the refugee committees throughout the land, should be proud of the fact that the stream of refugees stirred scarcely a ripple in public reaction. This is largely attributable to the fine efforts of the individuals and groups working, and cooperating, with the National Refugee Service.

A number of other factors have contributed towards a healthy atmosphere. The enrichment of American cultural life, by persons of outstanding talent, is being increasingly appreciated. Since 1933, the public has welcomed distinguished European scientists, scholars and artists. In the economic field, favorable comment greeted the introduction of new refugee enterprises. A recent article in "Business Week", described several of these enterprises, stressed the new employment opportunities thus generated, and mentioned some of the commodities which were, previously, imported, and which are now being produced here. Moreover, studies reveal that, as a result of current immigration, an expanded purchasing power is created; and that this increased purchasing power calls for additional workers - probably exceeding, in number, the positions which may be held by refugees. Also, refugee committees have, on the whole, succeeded in placing newcomers in such a way as to avoid causing dislocations. In most cases, the refugees themselves, their affiants, relatives, and friends have taken the initiative in effecting their integration with new surroundings. Primary credit must be given to their efforts; yet, even in such cases, immigration and adjustment is often facilitated through the services extended by the National Refugee Service or its affiliated committees.

These needs, in addition to the needs of those who required full assistance, grew in the first few months of 1940 and reached a peak during the spring. In May, there were 27,600 personal requests and 22,100 pieces of incoming mail - placing an almost overwhelming burden on the staff. (Of course, these figures greatly exceed the number of individual cases requiring service.) While the rate of immigration decreased since July, the demands made upon your organization have been but slightly reduced. Recent trends, however, indicate mounting needs again during the early months of 1941.

In the work of the past year, it became apparent, too, that the new arrivals were of a more tragic character - older, shaken by harrowing experiences in war-torn countries, weary from months of uncertain waiting in lands of temporary asylum. They required more intensive assistance in adjustment. The impact of this change was accentuated by the fact that previous placement activities tended to leave New York City with a residual relief load, and that there was an increase in the average age, size of family, and "length of time" on relief. These trends, first manifested in the spring, have continued since. Cooperating committees have indicated an understanding of the problem by accepting, for resettlement, a few Sabbath observers, and a few family units in which the breadwinner is middle-aged, or in which there are four (or more) family members. More must be done, and more is being done, to increase resettlements of this type.

A careful study of the National Refugee Service's finances indicated that there would have to be a reduction in individual relief budgets. Since August, these individual relief budgets have been approximately at, or below, the "public relief standards" prevailing in New York City. Your organization realizes that such standards may sometimes be inimical to the welfare of those it is seeking to help. However, the only alternative to a reduction in individual relief budgets was the exclusion of certain types of needy cases. This alternative was rejected, in order to maintain the record that no refugee has been deported for being a public charge.

Unfortunately, financial problems continue to be of major concern to the National Refugee Service. Although your organization started the past year with negligible liabilities, it had negligible cash on hand, and only \$100,000 receivable from the 1939 United Jewish Appeal. During the first four months of 1940, and until campaign receipts covered operating disbursements, your officers

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tried to make ends meet by concentrating on borrowing the necessary sums. At the peak of borrowing, \$1,300,000 was due creditors. The shortage of cash again became acute in December, 1940. Despite "accelerated payments" accorded your organization by the 1940 United Jewish Appeal and its Allotment Committee, there was a bank debt of \$300,000 payable as of December 31, 1940 (but with "1940 campaign receivables" somewhat in excess of this sum). For the first four months of 1941, even with the above-mentioned bank borrowing (and with a continuation of the special "accelerated payment" arrangement), it is estimated that there will be a gap of upwards of \$500,000 between "cash in sight" and "estimated expenditures". It is imperative that the National Refugee Service receive support in 1941 on a scale adequate not only to carry on, and to extend, present essential activities, but to meet budgetary requirements during the early months of the following year.

It is interesting to note that all of the internal administrative changes contemplated in Mr. Harry Greenstein's report, "Reorganization Study of the National Coordinating Committee and its Affiliated Agencies", were completed before June, when the National Refugee Service celebrated its first "birthday". During the early part of the past year, "relief" and "reception and intake" were centralized, as was, also, the handling of mail. There were, of course, many additional administrative improvements. For example, in the fall of 1940, the Field Service and the Resettlement Department were consolidated. Legislative (and governmental administrative) changes also affected the activities of certain departments. Toward the end of the year, the organization was functioning satisfactorily on a more concentrated basis.

In acknowledging assistance, first mention must go to Professor Joseph P. Chamberlain, the Chairman of the Board. His wisdom, his courage, and his

indefatigable devotion to the task in hand, since its inception, have inspired those who are privileged to know him, and to work with him. To all who lead in, contributed to, and worked for, the 1940 United Jewish Appeal goes credit for the National Refugee Service's basic financial support. The New York and Hofheimer Foundations, and the Baron de Hirsch Fund, also provided impetus by means of grants and loans. Lay leaders, volunteers, and professional workers, both in the National Refugee Service and in cooperating committees throughout the country, have helped to make possible the achievements mentioned in this report.

Yet, what has been accomplished until now represents but a minimum goal. Former relief standards should be reinstated. Resettlement and employment activities require increased efforts. Vocational retraining and "capital loan" projects must be greatly expanded, as must the activities for special categories of refugees: musicians, rabbis, scientists, physicians, scholars, and others. Social and cultural services, as well as those in more elementary fields, such as housing, merit new emphasis, as does, also, increasing the advisory visits to cooperating committees.

Confronted by these rising requirements, the National Refugee Service faces the challenge of its first fund-raising campaign. Only by a generous response can your organization hope to carry on. With your help, and with the help of every American community, it will be possible to pursue, successfully, this vital and constructive work.

William Rosenwald

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE IN 1940

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CLEVELAND, OHIO
JANUARY 18 - 19, 1941

I

THE PROBLEM IN REVIEW

The annual report of the Executive Director is of necessity a statement containing the facts concerning the day-to-day operations of the agency, statistics about the volume of work, the number of people helped and the amount of money spent. This is such a statement. But the work being performed by the National Refugee Service cannot be adequately presented in statistical and accounting terms alone. Its work is intimately bound up with the hopes and fears and ultimate fate of thousands of newcomers who, in their distress, come to the offices of the National Refugee Service and look to its social services as a resource which must help tide them over a difficult period of adjustment in a new country. Statistical data on the number of families which have been resettled, the thousands who have been given cash relief, or aided in finding a job, or retrained for fresh pursuits - all this is significant. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that it is not statistics we are dealing with, but men, women and children. These must be seen, patiently listened to, advised, at times argued with, and finally persuaded that the advice given them will contribute to the solution of their problem.

There is drama in every elevator load bound for our seventh floor Central Information waiting room. The types of problems brought to the National Refugee Service are in essence what they have always been. They

range from the simple requests for temporary financial assistance to problems requiring the most sensitive adjustments. But the events of the past year have intensified the need for service both to immigrants arriving in 1940 and those here previously. As the map of Europe has changed with the Nazi advance, it has become necessary for us to make our services available to refugees from nearly all countries on the European continent. There are few immigrants today who are not refugees.

We have had to adjust our work to the changing requirements of the international situation. In mid-summer it became apparent that an increasing number of refugees were making the long hop to freedom via the trans-Siberian route and the Pacific Ocean. The National Refugee Service, working in cooperation with West Coast committees, accepted the full responsibility for the port-of-entry problems arising from this immigration on the West Coast. When necessary, the National Refugee Service assumed the responsibility for reception and other arrangements. In all instances it met the full financial responsibility of the direct immigration to Seattle and San Francisco. Many of the west coast arrivals were resettled in the western states - in communities west of the Rockies - thereby heading off a number of families who would otherwise have gone on to the eastern cities and to New York. Port-of-entry problems at Boston and Miami were also met by the National Refugee Service in a similar manner.

The National Refugee Service as yet has had no real opportunity to take careful stock of its work. Events have moved too fast. But a hasty glance back over traveled roads indicates definite progress in several respects.

Among the gratifying accomplishments of 1940 was the achievement of certain objectives within the structure of the organization. About a year ago we were beginning to weld a unified national agency from the loosely federated

organizations then concentrating largely on services to emigres in New York, the main port of entry. Throughout 1940, we have strengthened our organization, with the result that we now have an integrated agency offering its services not only locally, but to an increasing extent, on a national scale, to groups in all parts of the United States engaged in aiding refugees.

While a major share of the 1940 activity was still concerned with emergency needs, the agency's preoccupation with constructive services grew, and new benchmarks were reached in the resettlement program, in the development of a field service, in the extent and number of capital loans granted to refugees, and in the work of the special committees concerned with the adjustment of physicians, scholars and other professional groups. In addition, a retraining program, begun on a modest scale, attacked the problem of shaping and sharpening foreign experience for productive use in the United States.

In the areas of migration, relief and service, and employment, working procedures have been simplified, coordinated, and more logically applied. But limitations inherent in the world and national situations, and in the make-up of our present client group, have presented specific difficulties in the job that is being done.

This report will review briefly the major phases of the agency's problem.

II

THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT ON MIGRATION

1940 was a grim year. It saw the spread of the European war to Scandinavia and the Low Countries, the fall of France, and the intensification of racial persecution in larger and larger areas of the old world. Immigration was heavy during the months when Europe's ports were still open, and the early

Spring saw frantic, last-minute efforts on the part of many refugees to migrate while there was still time. As the war entered a new phase, more and more ports were closed, and escape from the continent became possible only through Lisbon or via the arduous trans-Siberian route. European refugees already in England were, of course, to a certain extent, still able to cross the ocean.

In spite of these migration difficulties, the decline in the number of Jewish refugees who came to the United States in 1940, was only 15% from the refugee immigration peak reached in 1939, when quotas were filled for the first time since the advent of the Nazi regime. The United States Immigration Bureau reports that 36,945 Jewish immigrants entered the United States for permanent settlement in the fiscal year ending June 1940. In the previous year, ending June 1939, a total of 43,460 Jewish refugee immigrants entered the United States. Temporary visitors are not included in these figures.

At the present moment the outlook for those in Northern France, in Lisbon and in other parts of the European continent who have, or are awaiting visas to the United States, is not encouraging. We have often been helpless in responding to the pleas of inquirers in this country concerning relatives or friends trapped in countries occupied by the Nazis. Obstacles appear to be increasing with every passing hour.

At the same time, we are making our plans on the most reliable information at our disposal. This is to the effect that the number of visas to be issued in 1941 will be the full amount permitted by our immigration laws. Quota numbers blocked in Europe are to be released to emigres in other parts of the world - in Cuba, in Shanghai and elsewhere. We must make our plans accordingly.

III

ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE COME

The Relief Problem of the National Refugee Service - If there has been no important difference in the quantitative aspect of migration, the same cannot be said of its qualitative factors. A lengthened period of persecution, compounded by a war situation, has left its mark on those who have emigrated in the past year. Recent arrivals have come with even less in the way of resources than those who preceded them. Perhaps most significant in the nature of the present immigration is the marked increase in the percentage of older people. A glance at the following statistics on Jewish immigration during the past five years, shows an increase in the admission of individuals over 44 years of age to the point where they constitute virtually 30 per cent of the newcomers.

Age Distribution of Jewish Immigration to the United States 1936 - 1940

	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>
Under 16 years	16.4	17.4	17.1	16.9	14.8
16 - 44 years	66.3	64.7	65.4	59.9	55.3
Over 44 years	17.3	17.9	17.5	23.2	29.9

These facts and their implications for our program are significant. The possibilities for adjustment of older people are more limited in every respect, and consequently services for these people must be more intensive and must be maintained for longer periods of time at greater expense.

The extreme difficulty encountered by the older group in its effort to become self-supporting, is reflected in the nature of our relief load. The

average age of the head of the family on relief has shown a continued rise, from 43.9 years in October 1939, to 49.3 in November 1940. A partial explanation of this can be found in the record of job placements for the first eleven months of 1940, indicating that less than 30 per cent of placements were in the age group over 40 years of age.

The age factor has also been a serious problem in our resettlement program. Precisely because the older group is difficult to place in employment and generally more difficult to adjust in a total sense, there has been an understandable reluctance on the part of committees throughout the country to accept these people for resettlement. This reluctance in turn creates a large and stubborn relief problem in the port of entry and throws a financial and adjustment burden on the resources of the National Refugee Service that should perhaps be more equitably shared by the Jewish communities in all parts of the United States.

The relief problem in the New York port of entry is consequently one of our most immediate and pressing concerns. It has been an increasing, cumulative problem. Despite the most careful examination of cases - pressure on affiants and relatives, and continuous review - we recognize the tendency toward a permanent residual relief load.

The average number of relief cases per month, for whom cash assistance has been necessary, excluding those receiving temporary aid for resettlement and for in-transit situations, was 1,893 in 1939. The comparable figure for 1940 rose to 3,163, an increase of 67.1 per cent, although it has shown some slight reduction in recent months. The trend can be seen from the following table showing the total number of cases receiving relief directly from the National Refugee Service or from affiliated agencies receiving reimbursement from the National Refugee Service.

Number of Refugee Families Receiving Relief Grants
January - December 1940

January	2,798	July	3,490
February	2,787	August	3,344
March	2,908	September	3,269
April	3,023	October	3,185
May	3,518	November	3,083
June	3,527	December	3,050*

In addition, it should be emphasised that those who receive relief assistance, tend to require it for a longer period of time. The "turnover" in our relief load has been decreasing. This is reflected in the following table showing the average number of months a family has been on relief with the National Refugee Service.

Average Duration, in Months, of Relief
to Refugee Families
1939 - 1940

October, 1939	5.8
March, 1940	6.9
July, 1940	8.5
September, 1940	9.5
November, 1940	10.8

The age factor and lack of resources of recent arrivals, continue to place a strain on the agency's purse. We know, for example, that 35 per cent of the new applicants for service who came to our offices during a two-week period between October 29 and November 11, 1940, had been in the United States for less than a month. More than half of these families or individuals were referred to our Central Intake Department- an indication that they required immediate case work assistance, usually involving relief grants.

* Estimated

But equally significant is the noticeable increase in the dependence on the agency of the refugee who has been here for a year or two. His failure at adjustment gives rise to problems fully as acute as those confronting the newcomer standing on the dock with only a valise and a dream of freedom. The study cited above indicated that 37 per cent of the new applicants for service had been here more than a year, and that 15 per cent had been here for more than two years. The problem of preserving and strengthening the ebbing morale of those whose situation has finally forced them to come to the National Refugee Service for assistance, is a challenging one, calling for all the tact and skill at the agency's command.

The National Refugee Service provided cash relief assistance to approximately 17,900 separate individuals during 1940, including those given cash assistance for transportation, resettlement, and retraining. This compares with 10,980 in the previous year. This problem must be seen, not only in relation to the large expenditures of money which have been necessary, but also in relation to the effect on the employment and resettlement activity of the agency.

IV

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

The job placement activities of the National Refugee Service are largely confined to New York City. Some efforts have been made toward national placement, and increasing assistance is being given to local communities to improve their refugee placement services.

The employment services of the agency are available to the entire refugee group and are not limited to those who need financial aid.

The total number of refugees placed in 1940 was approximately equal to the number placed in 1939, but the occupational distribution shows a sharp change. In order to meet the needs of a less employable group of applicants, it has been necessary to solicit more openings for domestic and unskilled workers. On every score the year just completed required more intensive and more specially directed efforts in the placement of emigres.

Actually, the maintenance of the 1939 level of employment placements represents signal achievement in the face of the continuing hesitation on the part of some employers to give jobs to non-citizens. Restrictions against the employment of aliens in defense work are definitely limited by legislation. Nevertheless, there has been much popular reluctance to employ them. It is hoped that in 1941, as the reservoirs of native unemployed workers are increasingly drawn into defense industries, the resulting labor shortage may diminish this anti-alien sentiment and lead to an increasing employment of immigrants, particularly in non-defense industries.

Another fact revealed by the record of employment placements for 1940 is the disproportion in the number of placements between men and women. This past year, 72 per cent of all persons placed were women. This is accounted for, in the main, by the large number of women placed in domestic and personal service.

Despite the relatively high proportion of refugees with professional backgrounds, our placements in the professional-technician-administrative category, account for only 4.4 per cent of all placements. Openings found for sales persons account for only 1.6 per cent of all placements. Positions were found for clerical workers in 4.6 per cent of the placements; skilled workers were placed to the extent of 17.7 per cent; production workers, 15.2 per cent.

The category with the largest number of placements was in domestic and personal service, which accounted for almost half of all placements.

The problem of the older person, representing a substantial proportion of recent immigration, has been an important influence on the number and type of placements. Economic insecurity and dependence are most pressing in the case of the older group. It is definitely more difficult to place and to adjust the older immigrant worker. Moreover, the long period of inactivity spent in transit countries has had a devastating psychological effect upon the refugee and has made the task of job finding or other economic activity, a more difficult one.

The figures below indicate the number of job placements in relation to the age of the person placed. It can be seen that only 29.1 per cent of the persons placed were over 40 years of age.

Age Distribution of Refugee Job Placements 1940

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 years and under	23.5	9.6	13.5
21 - 30 years	29.8	27.0	27.8
31 - 40 years	21.6	32.6	29.6
41 - 50 years	14.7	24.4	21.7
Over 50 years	10.4	6.4	7.4

These facts indicate continuing need for improving our placement methods. It is particularly important to secure additional lay participation, since, to a considerable extent, "fitness for the job" will not alone result in placing many refugees now receiving relief.

V

RETRAINING

Unless a substantial investment is made in retraining refugees now receiving relief and others not able to find productive work, we shall be

creating a large dependency problem for the future. Without specific retraining, many refugees will remain unemployable. This is, to a great extent, true of the older group. It is also true of many who have been idle for some years, in camps or in in-transit countries. Physicians and lawyers who will not be able to practice their professions in this country are as much in need of occupational retraining as those who have never had a trade and need to be prepared for work for the first time.

There are two principal directions to our work in retraining. One is to utilize the previous skills of the refugee and to make his adjustment to a new occupation easier; the other is to train refugees for employment in fields where there is at present a shortage of labor, or where job opportunities are available. In the first category, for example, former dentists and physicians have been retrained as dental mechanics and x-ray technicians. In the second group are persons who have been given short intensive courses in household management, domestic and personal service, and other occupations where employment possibilities are increasing.

This part of our work is relatively new. During the second half of 1940, retraining plans for 468 individuals have been put into effect, with financial assistance for tuition and instruction where necessary.

The Executive Committee has directed that this activity be enlarged and consideration is being given to group projects and to developing local retraining projects in several communities.

VI

RESETTLEMENT PROBLEMS

There is as much need for an aggressive resettlement effort today as there ever was. About 135,000 Jewish refugees have come to the United States

as permanent immigrants since 1933; most of these have entered since 1938. While a census of their distribution throughout the country is not available, it is estimated that about 50,000 are distributed in all sections of the land, and that about 85,000 remain in the port of entry.

However, the same factors that complicate our efforts to place refugees in positions in New York are at play on a national scale in our resettlement program. Restrictions imposed by local committees against the resettlement of older refugees, Sabbath-observers, people with health problems, large families, or those lacking fluency in English, have limited our adjustment possibilities for these emigres. Similarly, the most resettlable emigres in the eyes of the communities are generally the most employable in New York.

If we may assume that the distribution of refugees, to avoid their concentration in the port of entry, is just as pressing now as it was when this work was inaugurated, then the resettlement effort must be reviewed in the light of the problems indicated above. It is important to consider whether we wish to send out of New York only the most employable persons. Or do we wish to ask all the communities to accept a portion of the total group, whether fully employable or not? These are vital questions.

Emphasis on these restrictions should not detract from the real progress which has been made in resettlement during 1940. During 1940, the National Refugee Service, with the cooperation of its 750 local committees, was able to resettle 2,881 families comprising 5,226 individuals. This represents an increase over the 2,400 families involving 4,080 individuals resettled in 1939.

In recent months, the trend of resettlement has been downward. This

can be attributed in part, to the decrease in immigration during the last six months of 1940, already referred to, and to factors incidental to that immigration which have previously been mentioned. A second factor has been the reluctance of refugees to leave New York for a variety of reasons. Some are sensitive to the feeling against aliens which, on the basis of their experience abroad, they believe exists in smaller towns. To remove fears and doubts, and to interpret to refugees in New York the opportunities available to them through resettlement, an orientation unit maintains a library of information on life in the United States, and through various methods informs the refugee community so that potential resettlers will be better prepared to meet the economic and social problems in their new surroundings.

The economic and social adjustment of the refugee has been furthered by the devoted work of the local refugee committees in all sections of the country. In the absence of an intensive inquiry, it is our view that the economic adjustment of the refugee has been most rapid in the smaller communities. Active lay participation has contributed to the finding of jobs for the newcomer. The resettlement work of the National Refugee Service has received the fine cooperation of our local committees. This program could not have been carried out without the willingness of these local committees to direct us to "send them on".

There is increasing evidence to show that local committees have been successful in the social and economic assimilation of the families which have come. The first emotional response has worn off, and has been replaced by a more business-like approach. Those seeking to find employment for refugees have learned that the best results are achieved by efforts that are both systematic and intensive.

Contact with Communities - Working closely with local committees in their development of placement and other techniques, are the field representatives of the National Refugee Service. Our field service program, which was set up 15 months ago, was devoted in its earlier stages to the promotional aspects of resettlement - organizing committees, obtaining quota pledges, and putting in motion the methods of operation. Greater emphasis is now being placed on the service phase of field work.

The field representative is the liaison person between the local community and the various departments of National Refugee Service; he is prepared to give counsel on the adjustment of individual cases and provide guidance for relief, migration, employment and other problems when he arrives at a community on his itinerary. In order to bring about a closer working relationship between the field representatives and the resettlement workers in New York, our Field Service and Resettlement Departments were consolidated early in October.

The need for a more highly developed resettlement program is being met to a large extent by the organization of regional programs. These call for distribution of refugees to smaller peripheral towns and cities from a larger center equipped to provide service to the committees and resettlers in the area. There are now 30 regional areas operating in this way. Fourteen of these have the services of a trained, full-time worker who functions as field secretary for the region.

It is important to keep our cooperating committees and agencies informed of the latest developments in the refugee program and to bring back to national headquarters the questions that are being encountered locally. During

the past year National Refugee Service has participated in more than 100 state and regional meetings at which there has been discussion of problems of mutual interest. In addition to the meetings held under the sponsorship of the National Refugee Service, there have been many conferences held under the joint auspices of the National Refugee Service, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. Recently the National Refugee Service field staff actively assisted in arranging two institutes for workers engaged in refugee work in the areas surrounding Milwaukee and Indianapolis, in connection with the east and west central regional conferences of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. These institutes provided an opportunity for a vital exchange of opinion and served to cement the working relationship between the National Refugee Service and the regional organizations. National Refugee Service Field Representatives have been helpful in assisting local committees with port of entry problems at Miami, Boston and especially West Coast ports.

Supplementing the more analytical Quarterly Reports, we have been issuing informal monthly Community Bulletins with news on local and national developments. From time to time we have sent out more specialized Community Service Releases covering up-to-the-minute migration information, and new employment and retraining developments.

This work is carried on by the Department of Information and Statistics, the result of a merger of the Information Service and the Department of Statistics and Research. The new unit prepares all National Refugee Service publications and issues interpretive material appearing in the Anglo-Jewish newspapers and magazines.

VII

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

Special provision has been made for meeting the problems presented by refugees whose needs require specialized treatment.

1. The refugee physician has had to face many difficulties. The National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians deals with one of our most serious problems - that of the highly trained professional person whose adjustment to his field of work in America is a costly, time-consuming process, complicated by legal and other barriers. Despite confining restrictions in 44 states, the Physicians Committee achieved a total of 325 placements during the year. 1,465 referrals were made for evaluation and placement. The number of applicants actively seeking service was 920.

Nearly 400 physicians are receiving relief from the National Refugee Service. Many of these are also being aided in preparing themselves for admission to practice. In view of the restrictions against the refugee physician and the small possibility that many of this group will be enabled to practice medicine at any time, the Advisory Committee has been evaluating each case and encouraging preparation for medical practice only in those instances where successful adjustment as physicians is a reasonable likelihood. Employment, resettlement or retraining plans are made ~~for~~ those from whom the Committee's sponsorship has been withdrawn.

2. The Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers has been of aid to refugee rabbis. During 1940, 120 rabbis and other synagogue functionaries, were placed in cities and towns throughout the country. A small subvention was also provided for training of refugee rabbis by the Jewish Theological Seminary and Ner Israel College.

3. The Committee on Refugee Musicians was able, during the course of the year, to find permanent positions for 575 persons and to arrange for single engagements in 1,470 instances. Over 550 refugee musicians are registered on the committee's lists.

4. The Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars continued its work during 1940, receiving a subvention from the National Refugee Service for the placement of refugee scholars in American universities and research institutions.

5. The Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Medical Scientists was similarly aided during 1940.

6. The German Jewish Children's Aid, Inc. in 1940 was administered by the National Refugee Service in cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women. During the year there were 1,890 active cases, involving children placed in foster homes under the sponsorship of this agency. 95 children arrived during the year.

7. The Capital Loan Committee increased its activities in the granting of business loans to refugees during 1940. Funds were advanced in 480 instances, sometimes involving more than one loan to the same client. Many of these loans have been provided on a 50 per cent matching basis with local committees in other cities, and have been instrumental in aiding resettled refugees to become self-supporting. The Committee, in addition to making loans to refugee enterprises, to physicians setting up practice and to other refugees, gave business advice in more than 3,200 interviews during 1940.

This has been a highly constructive venture and there is already considerable evidence that many of the enterprises will be successful. Repayments of loans are increasing.

8. Another aspect of our developing national service is provided by our agricultural consultant, who arranged during 1940, for 35 farms and 30 scholarship loans. Arrangements have also been made for the settlement of a number of families on farms, in some instances made available by interested individuals on a long-term repayment plan.

9. The Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment has served as a clearing house for information on the educational and cultural resources of New York, and has stimulated community interest in the adjustment of the refugee. During the year under review, this Division has rendered 21,000 services to individuals. The importance of this work should be viewed in its relation to employment, resettlement, relief - our whole program of helping the refugee become a part of the American community. The elementary factor of knowing English has a direct bearing on a refugee's ability to find a job, in New York or elsewhere; this in turn affects his possibilities of total adjustment. The Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment has not only assisted refugees to learn English, but has provided a wide variety of services designed to adjust the newcomer to our way of life.

10. Housing - An important service, resulting in considerable economies to the agency, is provided by the Housing Committee, which began operation early in 1940. This committee has arranged for the temporary low-cost housing at residence clubs of 775 emigres receiving temporary assistance from us. In addition, a total of 5,335 persons were provided with lists of available apartments and furnished rooms. An average of 2,300 inspected premises were listed each month by the Room Registry, operated in conjunction with the Self Help of Emigres from Central Europe.

VIII

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION - VOLUME OF WORK

Certain other developments of the past year, which have contributed greatly to the agency's effectiveness in carrying on its day to day work and in dealing with the new situations, are detailed below:

A Central Intake Department was organized in April to permit a more careful analysis of the needs of clients applying to the agency, and to determine their presumptive eligibility for services offered by other departments. An average of 1,068 initial appointments were made each month and 2,060 interviews held each month by workers in Central Intake. The waiting room of the Central Reception and Information Division of Central Intake serves as a "port of entry" for National Refugee Service clients and visitors, and its ebb and flow provides an indication of the demands being made upon the agency at any one time. Here the first impact of the needs of new clients is felt. An average of 8,879 persons came to this division alone, each month of 1940. Of this number 5,764 were interviewed and given service by the Division and 2,572 were referred for more specialized care to Central Intake or other departments.

All matters relating to personnel, clerical and office procedures of the National Refugee Service, have been centralized in one department, with the result that a definite improvement in service has been achieved. A major result of this move was the consolidation and review of some 150,000 case records in a central filing system. Mail service has been improved and efficiency studies have brought about the introduction of certain other economies.

In line with the agency's limited financial resources, some slackening of work in certain departments, and general improvement in efficiency, the total staff of the agency was reduced by nearly 100 persons, from the peak reached in 1940.

A rough index of our activity for the year is provided by our traffic count. This indicates that there were 320,000 requests for service, advice and information - a total slightly higher than for 1939. While not all of the inquiries required specialized attention, a monthly average of almost 27,000 requests, gives some indication of the pressure.

From all indications, there will be little drop in demands for service from the National Refugee Service in the months to come. Previous trends, insofar as they can be called seasonal, indicate that if anything, there will be a pickup in requests for service during the Spring months. Requests for service at Central Reception and Information in 1940 hit their high point in the months of April and May.

We can gauge the pressure of demands for employment service from the fact that in each month since January, 1940, there have been between 5,600 and 7,200 applicants actively seeking work through the National Refugee Service. This, however, is not as significant as the fact that during the same period new and reopened applications for employment never dropped below 1,100 cases a month and ranged as high as, 2,652. The placements that have been made do not reduce the active list of about 4,500 job-seekers at the beginning of each month. Here is a continuing problem in which we have thus far not been able to make a serious dent.

Nor has there been a slackening of the demand for advice and assistance on immigration problems. Interviews and correspondence have averaged 4,400 for each of the past six months, with no indication of any decrease. And so it goes.

We must be prepared to carry on in 1941, at their present level, all of the services currently being extended. In addition, there are certain areas in which we definitely are planning an expansion of operation, long felt to be advisable.

IX

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM

An allotment of \$3,500,000 was made to the National Refugee Service by the National and New York United Jewish Appeal for 1940. In spite of this, the agency operated on a hand-to-mouth basis for most of the year. Inadequate cash at the beginning of the year made it necessary to engage in extensive borrowings during the early months of 1940. This procedure had to be repeated later in the year. The cash outlook in mid-summer made it necessary to reduce the budgets of relief clients to a level below that of the Jewish Social Service Association of New York.

The expenditures fluctuated each month but increased in comparison to 1939. In 1939 we spent \$2,453,896 for all purposes. In 1940, total expenditures reached \$3,464,221. The following tabulation, showing total expenditures and expenditures for relief only, reveals the monthly trend:

TOTAL AND RELIEF EXPENDITURES FOR 1940

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RELIEF</u>
January	\$283,417	\$163,729
February	264,499	155,767
March	289,383	172,883
April	310,045	168,181
May	300,036	173,892
June	307,365	177,850
July	300,879	167,907
August	292,763	169,118
September	286,115	155,536
October	277,121	148,709
November	270,655	143,625
December	281,943	150,792

An upward trend in total expenditures to June and then a steady decline to December is evident. Expenditures increased slightly in December, and the year end trend seems to be upwards.

The expenditures made in 1940 will not be adequate to meet the demands upon the organization during 1941. Certain improvements in efficiency and simplification in procedures may result in a slight reduction in outlay for personnel and for administrative expenses. But it would be short-sighted to anticipate any immediate decrease in relief disbursements. Monthly allowances per case have already been reduced so that they are practically below those of the Department of Welfare in the City of New York. And the case load appears to be increasing.

In addition, if a constructive job is to be done, and expenditures in the long run are to be reduced, it is necessary to increase the allocation of funds for certain activities. Among these, more adequate provision must be made for vocational retraining and for capital loans to refugees setting up small businesses. In addition, funds will have to be made available to meet the cost of transportation and other expenses to accomplish "change of status" for temporary visitors now in this country, who will have to leave temporarily in order to re-enter as regular immigrants. As temporary visitors they are not permitted to engage in gainful employment and many have had to apply for cash assistance from the agency. Nearly 5,500 refugees entered this country as temporary visitors during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1940. The provision of adequate funds will make it possible for a considerable number of visitors who would otherwise need assistance from us to qualify as employable.

I

CONCLUSION

We have attempted, in the preceding pages, to cover the main highlights of National Refugee Service activity in the year under review. The agency's annual report, soon to be made available, will contain a more detailed analysis of statistical and financial data.

But, as indicated at the outset, facts and figures must necessarily fall far short of giving an adequate picture of the National Refugee Service and what it does. The significance of this human undertaking extends not only to the refugee group which is directly assisted, but to the entire American Jewish community.

From the first, the refugee problem has had this connotation. The refugees from Nazi persecution came here at a time when our own country was beset by serious economic problems. Anti-alien sentiment was prevalent and the public mind was uncertain and critical. It has been necessary to treat the different aspects of refugee work - employment, relief and adjustment - in a manner so as not to complicate the public relations problems in the country. In our belief, the work of the National Refugee Service has contributed significantly to that achievement.

The Executive Director hopes and expects that the work of the agency will be carefully examined by the Board of Directors in the light of the requirements of the situation as it exists today. While we recognize fully the continuing need to provide emergency assistance, we view this as only part of the total program. Methods used to deal with the long-term objectives of our task must be constantly re-appraised. It is our considered conviction that the potentialities of the refugee group amply justify an increased emphasis on the constructive and rehabilitative aspects of our program.

It is not possible to express adequately the Executive Director's appreciation to the many men and women who have contributed generously toward the work of the agency. We are indebted to the officers who have always been on hand to grapple with the day to day decisions which had to be made; to the members of the Executive Committee, a number of whom, in addition to their regular attendance at fortnightly meetings, have devoted countless hours of service as departmental advisory chairmen; to the zeal and spirited interest of many active members of the Board of Directors, as well as the chairmen and members of local committees.

A special note of gratitude should be added for the cooperation of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which has at all times exhibited a thorough understanding and support of the refugee program in the United States.

Finally, thanks must be extended to the members of the professional staff, both in the local organizations and in New York, who have come to appreciate the special difficulties under which the work has been carried on and have met all the requirements of the task.

The combined efforts of all of these have made it possible to do the job that needed doing in 1940.

Report of the Treasurer, National Refugee Service, Inc.

to the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Cleveland, Ohio

January 18 and 19, 1941

Although I have been Treasurer of the National Refugee Service, Inc. only since June 1, 1940, this report deals with the entire year in order to present a complete picture for 1940.

As of December 31, 1940, it is possible to give estimates for the entire year for both income and expenditures. The books of the organization, of course, will not be closed in time for the final audited figures to be presented here.

We anticipate the cash income to be \$3,192,000. Of this amount, \$2,932,000 represents receipts from the 1940 United Jewish Appeal Campaign; \$100,000 as balance due from the United Jewish Appeal 1939 Campaign; and approximately \$85,000 from foundations and legacies. The balance is made up of miscellaneous receipts, including refunds from affiants, relatives, etc.

The total to be received from the 1940 United Jewish Appeal is \$3,500,000. There is therefore still due slightly more than \$560,000. The Allotment Committee of the United Jewish Appeal at its meeting December 7, 1940, due to our cash position, voted acceleration of payments to us at the rate of 50 percent of the total amounts distributed to the three organizations until the balance due us is paid.

The budgetary expenditures for the year will approximate \$3,450,000. During the course of the year we have borrowed the following sums:

from foundations	\$450,000
from the Joint Distribution Committee	\$980,000
from the Public National Bank & Trust Company	\$500,000
from the Manufacturers Trust Company	<u>\$300,000</u>
or a total of	\$2,230,000

We have repaid as follows:

Foundations	\$450,000
Joint Distribution Committee	\$980,000
Public National Bank & Trust Co.	<u>\$500,000</u>
or a total of	<u>\$1,930,000</u>
leaving a net balance we still owe of	<u>\$300,000</u>

This amount represents the loan from the Manufacturers Trust Company, which is payable on June 27, 1941.

The formal statement for the year 1940 will be available after Loeb & Troper, our auditors, have completed their examination of the books and records and have issued their report for the calendar year 1940.

Richard P. Limburg
Treasurer

Summary of the Minutes of the
Meetings of the Executive Committee of the
National Refugee Service, Inc.
May 16 through November 26, 1940

Since the last meeting of the Board of Directors on May 21, 1940, the Executive Committee has had six meetings. In addition to reviewing day-to-day operations of the organization, reviewing decisions of the Budget Committee, authorizing the opening of new bank accounts and procedures pertaining thereto, accepting 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) Expansion of Retraining Activities

The Executive Committee voted to expand retraining activities of the National Refugee Service, authorizing expenditures up to \$15,000 for this purpose in the final quarter of 1940 and indicating the approval of increased activity in this area during 1941. A relatively short period of activity in this field indicated that assistance in retraining has been provided for 468 persons, of whom 315 were financed directly by NRS and 153 through other sources. Dr. Joseph Samler has been engaged as Supervisor of Retraining in the Employment Department.

2) West Coast Port of Entry Problems

The summer of 1940 initiated an increase of immigration at the ports of Seattle and San Francisco of refugees travelling via the Trans-Siberian route.

It was agreed that NRS assume responsibility for costs arising as a direct result of Pacific coast port of entry immigration. The Executive Committee confirmed the arrangements concluded at a meeting of representatives of the NRS and west coast communities in San Francisco on August 25, 1940. The agreement provided that:

- a. in so far as possible, immigrants who enter west coast ports are to be distributed to the west coast ports and cities of the western states;
- b. the resettlement quotas for these cities are to be filled first from west coast port of entry arrivals;
- c. those west coast port of entry arrivals who are not resettled in these communities, or are not resettled in other communities throughout the country, or who cannot be resettled because of age or other disabilities, are, as far as possible, to remain on the west coast. Expenses incurred by the local communities for the support of these families who are not resettled are to be borne by the National Refugee Service, Inc.

This understanding was approved for the balance of 1940 and authorized for 1941 subject to the financial condition of the NRS in 1941.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on November 26, 1940, Mr. Haber reported that according to the latest information, refugees would be coming here through Lisbon rather than via the Trans-Siberian route. They would, therefore, come direct to New York rather than to the west coast. He also indicated that since refugees are coming direct to New York now from Cuba, instead of by way of Miami, it has been found unnecessary to maintain an office in Miami any longer.

3) Report on Affiant Contacts

An affiant study prepared in September and distributed to members of the Executive Committee indicated that in 91.5 percent of the cases being given direct financial assistance, affiants or relatives had been contacted; in 22.5 percent of the cases, some kind of financial assistance was provided by the

affiants or relatives. Following a discussion of possible methods of handling difficult cases, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that a credit bureau should be used in cases where this method seems advisable, and that when this is inadequate, information should be obtained informally through other means. The Executive Director was authorized to take whatever steps might be feasible to obtain financial assistance from affiants.

4) Analysis of Functional Activities and Staff Requirements of NRS

A sub-committee of the Executive Committee has been giving careful study to various activities of the NRS with a view to reporting whether, and to what extent, any of these can be contracted. Pending a final report, arrangements have been made not to replace staff members with the organization on a temporary basis or those who may resign. There have been a number of internal administrative changes in the interest of economy. A reduction of over 80 employees was made during the last six months of 1940.

5) Memorandum of Personnel Practices

The Executive Committee approved a memorandum setting forth the personnel practices of the organization as presented by a sub-committee composed of Messrs. Paul Felix Warburg, David H. Sulzberger and William Rosenwald.

6) Trends in Resettlement

The Executive Committee discussed the problem presented by a considerable decline in the number of family units resettled and considered to what extent this may be due to restrictions imposed by local cooperating committees. The Committee gave consideration to the question as to whether refugees receiving relief in the port of entry should be resettled and maintained at the expense of the NRS in the city of resettlement. A sub-committee of the Executive Committee is studying this question.

7) Relief Budgets Reduced to Meet Agency's Cash Situation

A critical budgetary situation facing the agency was the chief reason for the action taken by the Executive Committee on June 18 in instituting a reduction in food allowance and other budgetary items now included in NRS relief grants, beginning in July, 1940. The decrease is such that the agency's budgetary allowance for food now approximates that employed by the Department of Public Welfare, rather than that employed by the Jewish Social Service Association and other private agencies.

No action was taken on a further proposal to reduce maintenance grants to refugees being resettled, in line with the reduction of regular relief grants.

8) 1941 Campaign

The Executive Committee authorized a committee of officers of the NRS, if they deem it advisable and necessary, to arrange for a separate fund-raising campaign for 1941, or for a campaign together with other organizations. At an earlier meeting the Executive Committee adopted a resolution directing its officers to indicate that, in the event of a 1941 UJA, the NRS request that it be included as a constituent member as well as a beneficiary.

9) Reciprocal Arrangement with Council of Federations and Welfare Funds

In line with a request by Mr. Sidney Hollander, President of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, it was decided that the NRS would designate a representative to attend all sessions of the Board of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and that the Council be permitted to name a representative of its organization to participate on a reciprocal basis with the NRS. The Council is extending a similar invitation to the JDC and the UPA.

10) Definition of "Refugee" and New Agreement with the JSSA

Because of extended Nazi domination in Europe, many changes have taken

place in the refugee situation since August 31, 1939, when Executive Office Memorandum #19, embodying the definition of a refugee eligible for NRS service, was issued. A considerable number of requests for financial and other assistance have been made in recent months by citizens of countries not falling within the scope of NRS responsibility as outlined by this definition. The Jewish Social Service Association quite definitely did not consider these cases to be its responsibility, and considerable confusion and hardship for the individuals have resulted. To clarify this situation, the Executive Committee voted adoption of a new definition as follows:

"A refugee is an alien in the United States less than five years who was forced to emigrate because of anti-racial laws or regulations in his country of last permanent residence or is unable for the same reasons, or because of loss of nationality, to return to the country of his birth or citizenship."

In line with this definition, a new basis for the division of responsibility between the JSSA and the NRS seemed desirable. The Executive Committee, at its meeting on July 16, recommended a revision of the present relationship with the JSSA and the Jewish Family Welfare Society on the following basis:

"that such cases which the JSSA and the JFWS may now be carrying under Executive Office Memorandum #19 be accepted by National Refugee Service on the basis of the definition now suggested; that the JSSA and the JFWS accept the responsibility for such refugee cases now being carried by National Refugee Service which require intensive case work treatment; that for all such cases as are accepted by the JSSA and the JFWS for intensive treatment as well as for such cases as are already being carried by these organizations and now being paid for by NRS, the full responsibility, both for relief and also for the cost of administration, shall be borne by the JSSA and the JFWS.

The distribution committee of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies has approved this agreement in principle, indicating that funds will be available to the JSSA for additional relief which will be necessitated under the proposed understanding. The agreement now only awaits

the approval of the JSSA board to be put into effect.

11) Subvention to the National Council of Jewish Women for 1941 and Responsibility for the German Jewish Children's Aid

The subvention of \$65,000 made available to the NCJW for the work of its Department of Service to Foreign Born in 1940 represents, to some extent, a duplication of the work of the migration services performed by the NRS. The Executive Committee agreed to subsidize the NCJW in 1941 for its port and lock work and naturalization work, i.e., for activities in the refugee field in which the NRS is not engaged. Acting on the recommendation of a sub-committee which has studied the problem, the Executive Committee stated that it would not finance activities such as international case work which the NRS carries on. The NCJW has indicated that no request for a subvention from the NRS in 1941 would be made.

The Executive Committee also voted to assume responsibility for the \$55,000 budget of the GJCA for 1941.

12) Meetings with Representatives of Immigrant Groups

Several members of the Executive Committee and of the staff of the NRS have attended meetings with representatives of immigrant groups for the purpose of unifying activities of these groups and dealing with their problems.

13) Responsibility for Auditing

The Executive Committee approved a resolution specifically placing the responsibility for an appropriate audit upon the auditing firm engaged for that purpose. The Committee directed that a further inquiry be made with a view toward reducing the total cost of auditing.

14) Chairman of the Executive Committee

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on June 4, 1940, Mr. David

H. Sulzberger was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee.

15) Provisions for Financing the Work of the NRS

The Executive Committee has had to give frequent consideration to the problem of borrowing funds to finance current operations pending the receipt of cash from the UJA. Funds were borrowed from certain foundations early in 1940, from the JDC and from a New York bank. These loans were repaid with the receipt of UJA funds after the spring campaigns. In the fall, however, further borrowing was necessary, and was approved in accordance with the authorization of the Board of Directors. The absence of a working fund to finance operations during the first few months of the year, when campaign income is not available or is inadequate, has been a serious problem, and much time and energy of the officers and Executive Committee have been absorbed in the consideration of ways and means for providing such funds by borrowing. A total of \$2,230,000 was borrowed during the year, as authorized.

(C O P Y)

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

165 West 46th St.
New York, N.Y.

January 16, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, National Chairman
United Palestine Appeal
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

On behalf of the National Refugee Service, I wish to express our appreciation for the action of the United Palestine Appeal in making possible the acceleration of payments from the 1940 United Jewish Appeal to the National Refugee Service. This action has been of assistance to us in conducting our current operations. We recognize that in doing so you have temporarily sacrificed funds for your own work during the month of December, 1940 and the early months of 1941.

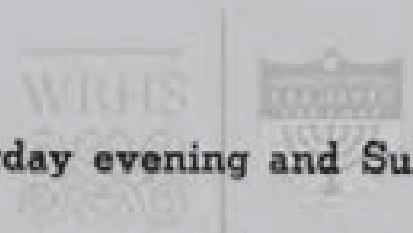
With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Richard P. Limburg
Treasurer

MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

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Saturday evening and Sunday

January 18-19, 1941

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HOTEL STATLER
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Program

MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Saturday, January 18, 1941

5:00 p. m.—Informal Reception Salle Moderne Annex
7:00 p. m.—Dinner and Opening Meeting Salle Moderne

Invocation . . . Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner

INTRODUCTION: William Rosenwald
President
National Refugee Service, Inc.

CHAIRMAN: Joseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman of the Board of Directors
National Refugee Service, Inc.

GREETINGS FROM CLEVELAND: Joseph M. Berne
President
Jewish Welfare Federation
Cleveland

SPEAKERS: Harry Greenstein
Executive Director
Associated Jewish Charities
Baltimore

William Haber
Executive Director
National Refugee Service, Inc.

William J. Shroder
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Council of Jewish Federations and
Welfare Funds

4:00 p. m. — Parlor E

*Special Meeting of the Executive Committee
of The Ohio State Resettlement Committee*

Sunday, January 19, 1941

9:00 a. m.—Breakfast Lattice Room

For the members of the Board of Directors to
consider the general business of the Conference.

10:30 a. m.—Open Business Meeting Pine Room

1. Report of the President William Rosenwald
2. Report of the Executive Director William Haber
3. Report of the Treasurer David H. Sulzberger
4. Report of the Budget Committee I. Edwin Goldwasser

12:45 p. m.—Luncheon Euclid Ball Room

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Frank Kingdon

Chairman, Emergency Rescue Committee
Former President, Newark University

2:30 p. m.—General Meeting Pine Room

CHAIRMAN: Joseph Silber

Vice-Chairman
Ohio State Resettlement Committee

1. Major Problems and Issues Discussion
2. 1941 Campaign Discussion

National Refugee Service, Inc.

Officers and Executive Committee

Joseph P. Chamberlain
Chairman of the Board

William Rosenwald
President

Alfred I. Esberg

William K. Frank

David H. Sulzberger

Morris Wolf
Vice-Presidents

Richard P. Limburg
Treasurer

Paul Felix Warburg
Secretary

Mrs. Myron S. Falk, Jr.

Samuel A. Goldsmith

I. Edwin Goldwasser

Harry Greenstein

Joseph C. Hyman

S. Marshall Kempner

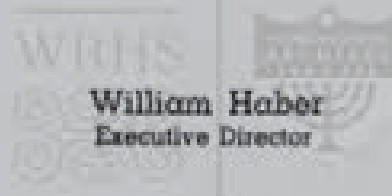
Solomon Lowenstein

Clarence E. Pickett

Erich M. Warburg

Ethel H. Wise

Jonah B. Wise



CLEVELAND HOSPITALITY and ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Arrangements Committee

JOSEPH SILBER, Chairman

The Cleveland Hospitality Committee are prepared to make special provisions for out-of-town visitors who care to visit points of interest in Cleveland. A member of the committee will be at the Reception Desk on the Mezzanine at all times.

Hospitality Committee

MRS. HARRY AFFELDER, Co-Chairman

MRS. EDWARD L. ROSENFELD, Co-Chairman



WRHS
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MR. EDWARD M. BAKER

1289 UNION COMMERCE BUILDING

CLEVELAND, OHIO

I shall be glad to avail myself of the kind invitation of the officers of the Joint Distribution Committee and will attend the Buffet Supper and Meeting which they are planning for Sunday evening, January 19th, at 6:30 o'clock at the Oakwood Club.

for One (1)

Two (2)

Rabbi A H Silver

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.



QUARTERLY REPORT

OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JANUARY - MARCH, 1941

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

Quarterly Report of the Executive Director
January-March, 1941

I. THE QUARTER IN REVIEW

The welcome reconstitution of the United Jewish Appeal in March has obviated the necessity of the NRS engaging in its own independent fund-raising campaign. The discrepancy, however, between the UJA allotment to NRS of \$2,000,000 out of the first \$8,800,000 raised and the minimum need of the agency for \$4,342,000 creates a financial problem which may result in curtailment or cessation of vital portions of the 1941 program.

Within the organization the quarter was featured by a steep rise in the demands for migration services. Quarterly average of such services rendered was 7,226 compared with 4,426 in the previous quarter. This, of course, reflected the tremendous anxiety of people in America to rescue friends and relatives from the spreading war, as well as from the greatly increased difficulties of achieving such rescues. A total of 40,000 visas have been issued in the first nine months of the Federal fiscal year (to March 31, 1941). If transportation can be made available, quotas for most European countries will be virtually filled. The steady decline which has continued for almost a year in immigration, especially in Jewish immigration, was still in evidence. As the NRS has pointed out before, this represents not a lack of anxious men and women waiting to come to this country and not any insuperable difficulty in securing visas but the lack of transportation facilities caused by the war.

Total monthly expenditures during the quarter averaged \$259,000 as compared with \$277,000 during the previous three-month period. Average monthly expenditures have declined by about \$35,000 since the July-September, 1940 quarter, reflecting staff curtailments and relief budget cuts. The relief caseload averaged about 3,000 families a month, with practically no fluctuation from month to month.

Resettlements out of New York City numbered 852 individuals during the three months. The Employment Department placed nearly 1,500 refugees in jobs in the same period, a significant increase over the previous quarter. Expansion of the agency's vocational retraining program resulted in the assignment of 309 refugees to courses in 30 different occupations.

The unremitting demands made upon the agency for cash relief and migration services, the steady increase in the average age of the heads of families on relief (from 45.8 years in March, 1940 to 48.9 years in March, 1941) and the marked tendency of cases to remain on relief for longer periods of time (from 6.9 months in March, 1940 to 12.6 months in March, 1941) have caused vexing and difficult problems. They are made all the more difficult because the agency must relate its minimal program to its uncertain cash position. Expenditures in March were \$251,632. NRS started the month with \$134,405 on hand. Cash receipts during the month amounted to \$5,663. The deficit was met by borrowing \$200,000 which brought the total owed by the agency at the end of the quarter to \$500,000.

II. A QUARTER OF REFUGEE SERVICE

The Trend of Relief

Activity in the Relief and Service Department for the January-March quarter continued on practically the same level as previously. The unduplicated count of all cases for the last quarter of 1940 averaged 3,170 per month; for this quarter it was 3,039 per month. (The average relief family has 2.6 persons). There were fewer "permanent visa" applicants for assistance as against a marked increase in the number of "temporary visa" applicants, primarily because of the possibility of NRS aid in effecting change of status. Expenditures for relief during the January-March quarter averaged \$141,817 a month.

A preliminary study of the March, 1941 relief load indicated a continuation of the trend previously noted toward a residual relief load composed of older, less adaptable people. The following facts from the study should be emphasized.

1. About 48 percent of the relief load has been receiving aid for a year or more. In March, 1940, this category accounted for only 11 percent of the entire caseload.
2. In March, 1940 the median age of heads of families on relief was 45.8 years. In March, 1941 this had risen to 48.9 years.

Another study completed during the quarter gives an interesting picture of the intake problem of NRS today. It is an analysis of 1,450 applicants for services at NRS in December, 1940. Three out of every five of these applicants were previously known to NRS; that is, they had received service from NRS or some cooperating agency in the past. The median age of heads of families applying was 43.6 years; 43 percent of them had been in the United States more than one year. Of the initial requests made by these applicants, 30.5 percent were for financial assistance; 30.1 percent for employment in New York; 7.4 percent for change of status aid; 6.8 percent for resettlement aid. The group was composed largely of persons of middle age, nearly half of whom are unable to meet their economic problems after a year or more in the United States, facts which do not promise well for a speedy ending of the relief problems to be met by NRS.

A new case review committee has been set up in the Relief and Service Department, composed of professional and lay people from the community. This committee examines such possibilities as resettlement; in some cases, interest of the lay people is enlisted in accepting a responsibility to make self-support contacts for the case discussed.

Trend of Resettlement

During the quarter 852 individuals were resettled. It is to be noted that resettlement was formerly most active with people just arrived in New York. Now more prospective resettlers must be drawn from the ranks of those who have been here for a year or more, who have established roots, made friends, and show greater resistance to the idea of moving once more. However, the percentage of resettlements out of intake has increased because of more

intensive efforts and better interpretation, and the review of the caseload has resulted in a greater number of employable relief families resettled.

The new resettlement promotion unit has arranged 105 interpretation meetings in the NRS offices for more than 1,000 people, sent speakers to address 6,000 persons at 68 outside meetings, and interviewed 1,426 possible resettlers. The results of this work are rather intangible and must be viewed from a longer perspective than a three month period. However, they are already apparent in a greater familiarity shown by New York's refugee population with the ideas and the mechanics of resettlement.

The NRS has participated in more than 50 state and regional meetings throughout the country between January and April, 1941. To stimulate resettlement further, a resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Board of Directors of NRS in January, designed to gear every department for community service, and to make field service available on a more intensified and consistent basis. A national committee composed of leaders throughout the country has been selected to study resettlement and related activities. An NRS staff committee has been organized to collect data for the committee.

Employment and Retraining

There was an upward trend of employment in the first quarter of 1941. To a limited extent this has followed generally improved business conditions. The industrial activity produced by the defense program, however, is reflected only indirectly in the placement figures of the Employment Department. Since refugees are not in general qualified for highly skilled mechanical jobs, openings in this field cannot be filled. But the impetus which better business conditions gives to other fields has increased the number of placements to 1,498 for the first three months of 1941 as compared with 1,214 for the same period last year.

This quarter witnessed a considerable expansion of the retraining programs in New York and in many communities throughout the country. In New York 254 men and women were started in various retraining courses leading towards more than 30 different occupations. Group projects were organized in millinery, dental mechanics, printing, baking, domestic retraining, accounting and income tax, and upholstering.

During these three months many communities reported increased activity in retraining. Projects in power-sewing, machine operating and glove operating predominate. Philadelphia, Rochester, Milwaukee, Boston, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Baltimore have organized their own retraining projects in these fields.

At present the Department of Information and Statistics is making a detailed analysis of employment placements, industrial job orders, and the characteristics of individuals registered for employment. A preliminary analysis of some of the results obtained, based on 1940 data, indicates the following:

1. About 45 percent of all males registered in the department were formerly business men of professional or administrative workers. Another 22 percent had sales experience.

2. Of all persons registered for employment, 54 percent were 40 years of age or over; among males, the ratio was 61 percent.
3. Roughly, one-third of the job orders received in 1940 were from manufacturers of wearing apparel and other fabrics.
4. An analysis of wages received on job orders, excluding domestic service, showed hourly rates to average 40 cents and weekly wages to average \$17.

Special Committees and Projects

The Capital Loan Committee granted 441 loans totaling \$53,398 for establishing small business enterprises (especially for refugees residing in local communities), for retraining courses, and for setting up physicians and dentists in practice. During this period the committee collected \$10,623 repayments on previous loans. The committee noted that improvement in business conditions all over the country is reflected in the increase in repayments on loans.

The Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment reports 6,121 requests for service during the period under review. There was a considerable increase in the number of services offered for children -- especially information about educational resources of all kinds. A new committee was set up separately within the division for summer placement of refugee children, a six months project ending in the fall. Greater resources have been developed in cooperation with homes for the aged and various agencies and organizations serving older people for the more elderly group of clients.

The Housing Committee, during this quarter, made referrals of 1,313 cases to furnished and unfurnished premises. The total is slightly lower than that of the previous quarter, but there was a marked increase in referrals for unfurnished apartments. This reflects a trend toward more permanency in housing at lower rentals for those persons for whom resettlement is not contemplated. There was also a decrease in the number of referrals to the Residence Clubs for temporary housing, although the total occupancy remained approximately the same. On the other hand, there has been an increase in the number of clients requesting assistance on other housing matters pertaining to leases, rental deposits, etc.

The National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians, between January and March saw a period of intense activity of new applications, referrals for evaluation and placement, actual placement, and in loans authorized for setting up practices.

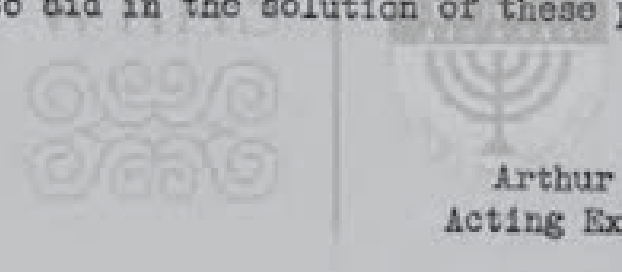
Placements made in this quarter exceeded the previous period by 30. There is a much brighter outlook for placement in states hitherto closed to emigre physicians. Instead of flat refusal, some states are now accepting physicians who have completed internships in approved institutions and have passed national board examinations. One state has agreed to accept 20 physicians a year approved by the committee, and another has this plan under consideration. Several state boards may approve the plan of placements in areas where there is demonstrable need for physicians.

III. THE OUTLOOK

The year 1941 will be a crucial one in the history of the National Refugee Service. The refugee problem faces us just as urgently as before, but its impact has been dulled because it is no longer new, because we have become used to reading and discussing it, but most of all because the American Jewish community has developed, through the NRS, the means of coping with it. The pressure of the war and the ever-widening tide of human suffering tend to push it even further away from the consciousness of our individual responsibility. But as time goes on we realize that no one of us has been personally untouched by the tragic situation and its implications.

The American Jewish community, through the National Refugee Service, in cooperation with local and regional committees, has made it possible to handle this problem quietly and efficiently. What might have proven a storm center of racial antagonism -- of additional maladjustment and human suffering -- has been sensibly and effectively dispelled. It has needed delicate handling to absorb these unfortunate fellow human beings.

On May 25, 1941, the Board of Directors of NRS will meet again. They must face and solve serious problems -- the problem of financing the refugee program and of meeting a large and growing deficit; problems of policy and the future course of NRS in a war-torn world. The job of NRS is not finished. The problems it was formed to meet, and which it has met over the last two years, still exist. It has been and still is the personal responsibility of every American Jew to aid in the solution of these problems.



Arthur D. Greenleigh
Acting Executive Director

Table I. Basic Statistics Covering Major Activities of
National Refugee Service, Inc.
January - March, 1941

Item	Month			Monthly Average	
	January	February	March	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
1. Total Expenditures (all departments).....	\$268,437	\$258,967	\$249,004	\$258,803	\$276,573
2. Indices of Activity					
Central Reception - persons interviewed.....	5,205	5,173	5,027	5,135	4,768
Central Intake - appointments scheduled.....	953	595	524	691	918
Employment Department - applications.....	1,325	1,029	1,338	1,231	1,261
Migration Department - services rendered.....	6,593	6,571	8,514	7,226	4,426
Special Committees and Projects - persons interviewed...	4,742	4,101	4,455	4,433	4,118
3. Cases Receiving Temporary Cash Assistance					
a) Relief and Service Department.....	2,719	2,734	2,633	2,695	2,753
b) Central Intake Department.....	174	154	120	149	211
c) Unduplicated Count of N.R.S. Relief Cases.....	2,855	2,849	2,733	2,812	2,912
d) Affiliated Agencies, Resettlement & Intransit Aid....	264	276	259	266	293
e) Unduplicated Count of All Cases Receiving Aid.....	3,080	3,082	2,955	3,039	3,170
4. Amount of Relief Disbursements.....	\$151,190	\$140,337	\$133,923	\$141,817	\$147,709
Relief and Service Department.....	128,854	120,840	114,961	121,552	122,320
All Other Sources.....	22,336	19,497	18,962	20,265	25,389
5. Family Units Resettled.....	144	161	143	149	185
a) Number of Individuals Involved.....	265	313	274	284	343
6. Employment Placements*.....	494	450	554	499	476
Male.....	141	112	163	138	127
Female.....	353	338	391	361	349
7. Retraining Programs Initiated.....	74	112	68	85	39
NRS Funds.....	72	100	66	80	22
Other Funds.....	2	12	2	5	17
8. Number Requests for Advice, Service, and Information.....	22,622	22,182	23,110	22,638	23,283
9. Volume of Incoming Mail.....	25,399	19,617	22,426	22,481	19,590

* Of the total placements, 17 in the previous quarter and 13 in the current quarter were national placements included in the resettlement count.

Table II. Activities of Special Committees of the
National Refugee Service, Inc.
January - March, 1941

Item	Month			Monthly Average	
	January	February	March	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
<u>1. National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians</u>					
Number of new applications for placement...	84	112	58	85	40
Number of placements.....	33	31	53	39	29
<u>2. National Committee for Refugee Musicians</u>					
Number of applications.....	35	41	29	35	39
Number of permanent positions found.....	53	24	17	31	38
Number of single engagements arranged.....	156	52	58	89	192
Number of scholarships and loans.....	22	1	0	8	4
<u>3. National Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers</u>					
Number of applications.....	13	19	10	14	8
Number of placements.....	9	7	13	10	11
<u>4. Capital Loan Department</u>					
Number of loans made.....	179	127	135	147	N.C.
Amount of loans.....	\$16,302	\$18,419	\$18,677	\$17,799	N.C.
No. cases on which repayments were made....	212	234	239	228	178
Amount of repayments.....	\$ 3,114	\$ 4,219	\$ 3,290	\$ 3,541	\$2,620
<u>5. Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment</u>					
Number of referrals	2,495	1,709	1,917	2,040	2,252
English classes.....	404	381	298	361	406
Social contacts.....	485	33	402	307	253
Arts, sports, lectures, temples.....	803	621	662	595	1,109
Children's activities.....	115	53	38	69	42
Educational opportunities.....	281	117	83	160	209
Other activities.....	407	504	434	448	233
<u>6. Housing Committee</u>					
Number of persons provided with lists.....	471	401	441	438	458
Number of persons temporarily housed.....	98	119	109	109	133

N.C. Not Comparable