



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

Reel
73

Box
25

Folder
1614

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

C
O
P
Y

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

February 17, 1941

Mr. Harry L. Lurie
Council of Jewish Federations
and Welfare Funds
165 West 46th Street
New York City

Dear Harry:

At the meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds held in Atlanta the early part of this month, Mr. William Rosenwald, President of National Refugee Service accepted the suggestion that the minimum needs of the National Refugee Service be determined by the neutral members of the Allotment Committee of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal on condition that in advance of the study to determine such minimum needs, the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal agree to accept the decision which the Committee will make in this regard. The Executive Committee of National Refugee Service at its meeting held on February 11, approved the action taken by Mr. Rosenwald, as indicated above.

With best wishes to you,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Arthur D. Greenleigh
Acting Executive Director

P.S. If invited, the National Refugee Service is prepared to enter into further discussions with respect to the reconstitution of the 1941 United Jewish Appeal, provided the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal agree to enter into such further discussions.

1941 Campaign

National Refugee Service, Inc.

165 West 46th Street
New York City

Honorary Chairmen:

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN, New York
LOUIS E. KIRSTEIN, Boston
ALBERT D. LASKEE, Chicago

Associate Chairmen

MAX HIRSCH, Cincinnati
ROBERT LEHMAN, New York
DAVID de SOLA POOL, New York
MRS. NATHAN STRAUS, Valhalla, N. Y.
PAUL FELIX WARBURG, New York
MORRIS WOLF, Philadelphia

Chairman

WILLIAM ROSENWALD, Greenwich, Conn.

Treasurer

RICHARD S. GOLDMAN, New York

Campaign Director

EPHRAIM R. GOMBERG

Co-Chairmen

FRED M. BUTZEL, Detroit
MRS. MYRON S. FALK, JR., New York
ISIDOR LOEB, St. Louis
SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN, New York

Vice-Chairmen

ALFRED I. EBERG, San Francisco
HENRY MONSIEY, Omaha
ROBERT K. STRAUS, New York
EUGENE WARNER, Buffalo

February 18, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Friend:

Attached hereto is a copy of the formal application of the 1941 campaign of the National Refugee Service, Inc. for an allocation of at least \$110,000 from The Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland.

This application, as will be seen from an analysis of the supporting data, represents the minimum amount which must be obtained from your community if the national program of the N.R.S. is to be continued in 1941. The sum of \$4,342,150 required by the N.R.S. in 1941 is a conservative estimate of the amount needed to continue the basic and completely essential aspects of the refugee program.

Despite the fact that in 1940 the N.R.S. pared its program to an irreducible minimum, it ended the year with a large cash deficit. With refugee immigration rising to a point where it is expected to fill the limits allowed by the quota laws, 1940 expenditures are grossly inadequate to meet 1941 requirements. In spite of this fact, the 1941 budget represents but a slight increase over the three and one-half million dollars made available by the United Jewish Appeal in 1940.

Only the most urgent necessities have been provided for in the national program of the N.R.S. The number of individuals affected and the budgetary cost of the services to be given, as compared with actual expenditures in 1940, are set forth in the attached material.

Your generous consideration of this application is urgently asked. Meanwhile, we shall await word from you indicating the part which your community

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN
Chairman of the Board

DAVID H. SULZBERGER
Chairman of the Executive Committee

WILLIAM ROSENWALD
President

ALFRED I. ESBURG
WILLIAM K. FRANK
MORRIS WOLF
Vice-Presidents

RICHARD P. LINDBURG
Treasurer

PAUL FELIX WARBURG
Secretary

Mrs. MYRON S. FALK, Jr.

RICHARD S. GOLDMAN

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER

HARRY GREENSTEIN

JOSEPH C. HYMAN

S. MARSHALL KEMPNER

ALBERT D. LASKER

PETER I. B. LAVAN

SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN

CLARENCE E. PICKETT

ERICH M. WARBURG

ETHEL H. WISE

JONAH B. WISE

ARTHUR D. GREENLEIGH

Acting Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

MICHAEL G. APPEL, Brooklyn
MRS. MAX ASCOLI, New York
MRS. GEORGE BACKER, New York
PAUL BARNWALD, New York
WILLIAM H. BALDWIN, New York
EDGAR S. BARNBERGER, West Orange
WALTER H. BISHOPPING, Boston
JACOB BILLIKOFF, Philadelphia
JACOB BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore
ANNEA BRECHMAN, New York
DAVID M. BRESLER, New York
ALEXANDER BREST, Jacksonville, Fla.
ARTHUR BRIN, Minneapolis
JOHN S. BURKE, New York
BENJAMIN J. BUTTENWISER, New York
FRED M. BUTZEL, Detroit
LOUIS CAPLAN, Pittsburgh
DUDLEY CATES, New York
SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT, New York
BEN COKE, Greensboro, N. C.
DAVID DUBINANSKY, New York
G. A. EMBRYMSON, Indianapolis
MRS. SYDNEY B. ENLACHER, New York
JOHN M. FRANK, Chicago
ROBERT V. FRIEDMAN, St. Louis
HENRY J. FRIENDLY, New York
MRS. MAURICE L. GOLDMAN, San Francisco
MINOR GOLDWATER, New York
JOSEPH 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 B. KORN, Baltimore

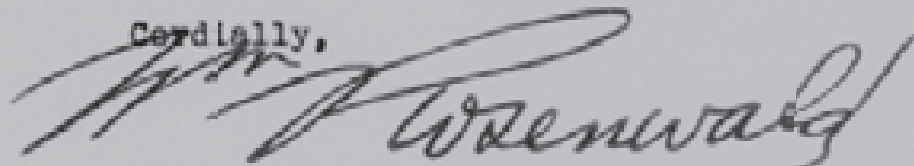
DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, San Francisco
FLORINA LASKER, New York
ROBERT LADARUS, Columbus, Ohio
ROBERT LEHMAN, New York
CHARLES J. LIEDMAN, New York
IRIDOR LOEB, St. Louis
JOSEPH P. LOEB, Los Angeles
RICHARD O. LOEWENBERG, New York
HERBERT MALLINSON, Dallas
JAMES G. McDONALD, Brooklyn
ARTHUR S. MEYER, New York
HENRY MONSIEY, Omaha
WILLIAM A. NELSON, Falls Village, Conn.
DAVID DE SOLA POU, New York
MICHAEL J. READY, Washington, D. C.
SIMON SANDOWITZ, Houston
EDGAR SALINGER, New York
LUDWIG SCHIFF, Los Angeles
EUSTACE SELIGMAN, New York
WILLIAM J. SHRODER, Cincinnati
JOSEPH SILVER, Cleveland
ABRAHAM SILVER, Cleveland
EDGAR B. STEIN, New Orleans
HUGH GRANT STRAUB, Brooklyn
MRS. NATHAN STRAUB, Valhalla, N. Y.
LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York
FRANK L. SULZBERGER, Chicago
WILLIAM B. THALHUMER, Richmond, Va.
JEROME L. UDELL, New York
F. FRANK VOENNER, Boston
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, New York
GEORGE L. WARREN, New York
ALBERT C. WEIN, Cincinnati
FRANK L. WEIL, New York
SOL WEINBERG, Philadelphia
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE, Emporia, Kansas
HENRY WINEMAN, Detroit
RALPH WOLF, New York

*National Refugee Service functions in cooperation with refugee committees
in more than 750 communities in the United States*

will play in dealing with a problem that carries with it such grave implications for the security and well being of the entire American community.

On behalf of the Officers of the National Refugee Service and its Executive Committee, I trust you will make it possible for our representative to appear personally before your Board or Budget Committee to explain the use to which the funds requested of your community will be put.

Cardially,



William Rosenwald, Chairman
1941 Campaign National Refugee Service



3342
1029

February 18, 1941

Mr. Joseph M. Berne, President,
The Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland,
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Friend:

Submitted herewith is the request of the National Refugee Service for an allocation of at least \$110,000 of the proceeds of your campaign for this year. On behalf of the Officers and Executive Committee of the N.R.S., I urgently ask that you present this request to the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland, and that an opportunity be given to a representative of our agency to meet personally with your Board or Budget Committee.

In order that you may evaluate this application in terms of the total needs of the N.R.S. for the year 1941, we are attaching hereto certain basic financial, budgetary and statistical material explaining the work of the agency in 1940 and the program, as it is already operating for 1941.

THE ROLE OF THE N.R.S. IN AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE

The American Jewish community has entrusted the N.R.S. with responsibility for caring for the thousands of refugees from racial and religious persecution who have found an asylum in the United States. Further, it is the clearing house to which distraught Americans take their problems as they relate to refugees both overseas and in this country.

Throughout the world, the doors of understanding, of humanity and of tolerance have been slamming shut. The door to America remains open for the suffering people of all lands. It will continue to remain open only so long as the Jews of this country continue to display statesmanship and farsightedness in overcoming the problems that refugee immigration brings to the United States. If we relax our

efforts for one moment - if we permit Jewish refugees to seek help of the Federal Government or from non-Jewish philanthropy - the repercussions will have a tremendous bearing on our own security and peace of mind, both as Americans and as Jews.

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE

Cold statistics and figures do not describe the heartaches and tragedies, the broken lives, the mental and physical wreckage with which the N.R.S. works every day. Lives of refugees must be remade, physical and mental handicaps overcome, patient guidance and direction given to groping people whose one desire is to forget the past and to become self-respecting and loyal American citizens. This is the work of the National Refugee Service.

The N.R.S. is a service organization. Each of the refugees who comes to the United States represents an individual problem. Each one is a human being who has faced tragedy such as few of us who have spent our lives here have ever known. To deal with these complex problems the N.R.S. requires the services of a staff of highly trained specialists and technicians. It is their task to probe into the very tragedies from which the refugees have escaped. This work must be done thoroughly. Individual care and treatment are essential. A Jewish refugee off tangent can quickly upset delicate group relationships in this country.

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

The United States received 37,000 Jewish refugees in 1940, the largest number to find a haven in any country. This brought to 150,000 the number of refugees with permanent and temporary visas who have reached our shores since 1933.

What of 1941? Here are the facts. There will be an immigration of approximately 55,000 refugees to the United States. This statement is made on the basis of confidential information and only after a most thorough check of the number of visas issued, and transportation accommodations presently available. American Consuls in the principal countries of refugee emigration have issued visas to the maximum permitted by the quota law. Visas are issued only to those who can obtain exit permits and transit visas, as well as transportation. These refugees are coming to the United States now. The N.R.S. is meeting their needs and hastening their process of adjustment to American life.

THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE IN 1940

Day after day come thousands of people - refugees and American citizens - seeking help in the offices of the N.R.S. In 1940 there were 321,295 such personal visits, each of them involving a problem requiring the most careful individual treatment. Some came for jobs, some for food, shelter and clothing. Others came to save their relatives in concentration camps abroad. Still others came asking for a new home somewhere away from the crowded port of entry. A summary of the tremendous volume of N.R.S. work in 1940 is to be found in the following figures:

321,295 individuals called in person for N.R.S. help
 300,000 written inquiries serviced
 17,900 individuals given financial aid
 24,604 refugees referred to jobs
 4,935 refugees placed on jobs
 5,109 refugees resettled
 78,370 immigration problems serviced
 3,429 refugees given business help and advice
 471 refugees given vocational retraining
 3,000 or more refugee children helped
 4,640 refugees helped to find living quarters
 709 refugees temporarily housed
 1,719 temporary jobs found for refugee musicians
 573 permanent jobs found for refugee musicians
 1,474 physicians evaluated
 346 physicians placed at work
 119 rabbis placed at work
 21,133 refugees aided in social and cultural adjustment

WHAT DID ALL OF THIS COST THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY?

In the year 1940, when the N.R.S. was a beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal, \$2,500,000 was allocated to it for its national program out of funds raised by the Jewish communities of America. An additional \$1,000,000 was made available by the Greater New York United Jewish Appeal to provide relief and other services for the refugees chargeable directly to New York City as its local responsibility. The Greater New York United Jewish Appeal made a further contribution to the national budget of the N.R.S. Thus, in the interest of efficiency and economy, the N.R.S. was given a dual responsibility - to serve the American Jewish community through its national program, and to serve the city of New York - the port of entry - through its local program.

It is a simple matter to divide \$3,500,000 by the number of personal refugee problems dealt with by the N.R.S. in 1940. Obviously, no such simple device can be employed in determining the financial needs of an agency. The 17,900 individuals who were given cash assistance consumed more than \$1,719,000 of the 1940 N.R.S. budget. Thus, an average of less than \$100 was spent for food, shelter and clothing for each refugee cared for during the year. Based on any standard, this is a very inadequate price to pay for the assurance that Jewish refugees will not become public charges, liable as such to deportation.

Last year the U.J.A. distributed its receipts in the following manner:

<u>J.D.C.</u>	\$6,350,000	<u>U.P.A.</u>	\$2,900,000	<u>N.R.S.</u>	\$2,500,000*
	or 52.9%		or 25.3%		or 21.8%

*Plus \$1,000,000 made available by New York City for its local refugee program, in addition to its contribution to the national budget of the N.R.S.

THE N.R.S. JOB IS BIGGER IN 1941

It has been pointed out that approximately 55,000 refugees will arrive in the United States this year. The visas for most of them have been issued, transportation facilities have been made available. These refugees are coming. Collectively they represent a tremendous challenge to the American Jewish community.

For 1941 the most conservative estimate of the cost of dealing with the refugee problem in the United States is \$4,432,150. As in 1940, New York City will be asked to contribute the cost of its local refugee needs and, in addition, its fair share of the national budget of the N.R.S.

What must be done to aid the refugees on this side of the Atlantic? Money spent for refugees in 1941 must save money in the long run. Money spent in 1941 must give the American Jewish community the assurance that the security of American Jews will not be jeopardized, that the difficult process of adjustment from refugee status to American citizenship will be judiciously and effectively expedited in these difficult times.

It is our fervent hope that you will examine the detailed budgetary analysis which is attached hereto and that you will recognize the extreme urgency of continuing, on the present minimal basis, the program of service of the N.R.S. in 1941.

Cordially yours,

Solomon Lowenstein, Co-Chairman
1941 Campaign National Refugee Service

Refugees, 1940

The Annual Report of
the National Refugee
Service, Inc.



Refugees . . . 1940

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE NATIONAL
REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
165 WEST 46th ST. NEW YORK CITY

APRIL, 1941

A Letter from the
*President of
the United States*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1941

Dear Mr. Rosenwald:

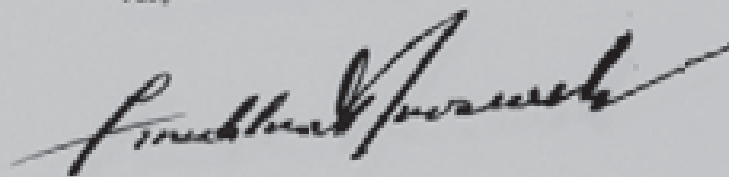
Every American must be proud that throughout these troubled years our country has held fast to its tradition of providing a haven of refuge for those who had to flee from other lands. It is necessary today, more than ever before, that this tradition of asylum be maintained.

Our responsibility to those who come to our shores to share our freedom and our democracy cannot end with the issuance of a visa. It is, therefore, fortunate that many agencies have assumed the responsibility of helping these new Americans to become good Americans.

The work which the National Refugee Service, Inc. has been doing to facilitate the adjustment of the refugees who have come to the United States has been most constructive. Its resettlement program, which seeks to distribute these newcomers away from the large cities on the eastern seaboard, is especially significant. Such resettlement is of value not only to the immigrant himself, but to the Nation also. It may well be that the experience which you have had in providing for an orderly adjustment of the refugees who have come to our shores in recent years, may provide a model of constructive absorption of immigrants into our economic and social life.

With all good wishes in this excellent work, I am

Very sincerely yours,



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

Table of Contents

	<i>Page</i>
A Letter from President Roosevelt.....	ii
Table of Contents.....	iii
A Friend Comes to You.....	iv

	<i>Page</i>
Search for Sanctuary.....	1
Food . . . Shelter . . . Clothing.....	3
A Man Must Work.....	7
Teaching Skills America Needs.....	9
Refugees Discover America.....	10
Special Jobs for Specialists.....	13
Americans First.....	15
A Stitch in Time.....	16
The Chapters Ahead. A Closing Note by William Haber.....	18
A Letter from Joseph P. Chamberlain.....	19
How NRS Operated—A Message from William Rosenwald.....	20
An Account of Careful Stewardship.....	23
The Statistics Behind the Story.....	25
The Organization Chart of NRS.....	28
Officers and Directors of NRS.....	Back Cover

A Friend Comes to You . . .

WHAT KIND OF JOB DID THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE have to do in 1940?

It wasn't the kind of job that lends itself to dramatic retelling. It was the sort of thing you would do if an old friend came to you, a man you knew to be a decent, hard-working fellow who, through no fault of his own, was out of a job, broke, hungry, dispirited, battered around.

Certainly you'd give this man whatever you could spare to help him feed, clothe, and house himself and his family. You'd ask around among your friends to see if you could find him a job. You'd try to cheer him up. If you thought he could make a new start in some other city you'd try to help him get there, write to your friends there, and ask them to keep an eye on him for a while.

Multiplied by thousands, this is the job the American Jewish community did for the refugees in 1940. Because the size of the task passes the limits of individual bounty, it had to be handled by the National Refugee Service. But it remains, fundamentally, a simple job of neighborliness, of decency, of helping people when their backs are to the wall.

"Refugees . . . 1940" is a report of the things Americans of Jewish faith, through the National Refugee Service, did to help the refugees last year. Primarily it has to be a statistical report, couched in terms of thousands of refugees, tens of thousands of interviews, hundreds of thousands of services. But these thousands are made up of individual human beings. The National Refugee Service, even under the terrific pressure of day to day work, must try to remember that. In presenting its report of the statistics behind the people for 1940, the National Refugee Service has attempted also to give a picture of the people behind the statistics.



Search For Sanctuary

The Problems of NRS Migration Service

SECURE AMERICA CAN HARDLY UNDERSTAND the cruel spurs that drive the refugees.

1940 was a grim year. It saw the spread of war through western Europe, the fall of France, the closing of every port in continental Europe save Lisbon. "Migration is too difficult now," America thought, "Few refugees will come to this country." But what actually happened?

Here are the figures from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, the quotas for Central Europe were full for the first time since Hitler came to power. A total of 51,033 Jewish refugees entered this country, including those on "temporary visas."

In the fiscal year 1940 there was a slight decline—42,424 Jewish refugees reached America. Between June, 1940 and March, 1941, 41,000 visas have been issued.

Considering the almost incredible difficulties of migration in recent months, these are astonishing statistics. Behind them lie sagas, adventures almost epic. Behind them is the story of "sealed trains" crawling for tortuous days across Siberia, of the arduous trip across Manchukuo, to Japan and across the Pacific. Behind them are the tragedies, as yet untold, of refugee ships leaving England, sighted by submarines. . . . Behind them are tales of escape from internment in France, of journeys across the snow-capped Pyrenees, of furtive flight through Spain to Lisbon.

They manage to escape. They come to America, not on the stately Cunanders of yesterday but on little Greek and Portuguese steamers, on American tramp freighters, on English ships, convoys and camouflaged. They come a dozen on this boat, twenty on that, here perhaps fifty. But in the month of October, 1940, alone, 3,329 refugees reached this country on 53 boats. In 1941 refugees will come not only



from Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland but also from France, Holland, Denmark, Rumania, Hungary, Belgium, England, Cuba, and Shanghai. Annual quotas for lands which today may be called "countries of refugee migration" total 55,000.

The repercussion of every event in Europe is felt by the Migration Department of the National Refugee Service. Here, in 1940, through more than 8,000 individual interviews, through the 30,000 letters received, through tens of thousands of phone calls, telegrams, and cables, the complex problems of the prospective immigrant were handled; anxious relatives in the United States were guided through the procedures necessary to help brothers, sisters, or parents abroad; stranded refugees in ports throughout the world were advised of possible routes to safety.

There are three essentials of a successful migration service by the NRS. The first is finger-tip mastery of a tremendous number of details—procedures on admission to this and other countries, up-to-the-minute knowledge of transportation facilities, costs, bond requirements, the function and scope of refugee committees throughout the world. The second is a sense of responsibility to coordinating agencies throughout the country, keeping them informed on migration procedures and developing this local ability to deal with migration problems. Informational bulletins and correspondence on specific situations

achieve this end. The third essential is speed of operation, ability to meet a situation, evaluate it, and find a solution to a problem in which a day's delay may mean the difference between life and death for an individual or for scores of individuals.

The story of the "Quanza" illustrates this last essential. The "Quanza," a Portuguese steamer, sailed from Lisbon for Vera Cruz, carrying nearly a hundred refugees with visas for Central and South American countries. Upon arrival at port, Mexican authorities refused to allow the passengers to land for re-embarkation to the countries of destination, and so, bearing its unhappy cargo, the "Quanza" headed back to Europe—a voyage of doom for its passengers. First, however, the vessel put into Norfolk, Va., for fuel. Migration experts from the National Refugee Service, along with officials of the American Committee for Christian Refugees and the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees arrived on the scene. For three anxious days the "Quanza" waited while these refugees' representatives worked out an arrangement with government officials. Finally the proper formula was found, and the "Quanza" passengers were permitted to set foot on the free soil at which they had gazed for so many fear-stricken hours.

Less dramatic but of importance for the total program of the National Refugee Service was the immigration arriving at the west coast ports, after the long journey from Berlin to Moscow, across Siberia and Manchukuo, to Japan, and thence across the Pacific. In July, 1940, this immigration assumed sig-

nificant proportions. An emergency meeting was called in San Francisco by the National Refugee Service and an agreement reached between the National Refugee Service and the refugee agencies in Pacific port cities for aid to these new arrivals. Nearly 2,000 refugees reached the United States via the Pacific in the last six months of 1940.

The close of 1940 found the State Department preparing to "unblock" visas; that is, issue visas only to those prospective immigrants who can show definite evidence of securing transportation. This means, essentially, that fewer visas will be issued in Germany and Poland, but more in Lisbon, Canada, Shanghai, Cuba, Southern France, and certain South American countries now serving as temporary havens for refugees. There is, as a consequence, every reason to believe that the quotas will be filled for the fiscal year 1940-41.

In the migration field NRS faces a new and tremendous task in the months ahead. This relates to "change of status" for immigrants now in the United States on temporary visas. Since permanent visas cannot be issued on American territory, these refugees must go to Canada, Cuba, Mexico, or some other nearby country, to re-enter the country with permanent status and the right to work. This is perfectly legal procedure—in fact the government expedites change of status for certain classes of aliens by "pre-examination." The initial cost is relatively high, although, in the long run, it will mean an actual saving. The National Refugee Service will require \$300,000 to expedite change of status in 1941.

Parent in Exile

The tragedy of Mr. C's situation was not his son's plight—the son had been a prominent doctor in Italy but was now ruined by racial legislation—but that of C. himself. A comparatively wealthy man, retired, living in a small town, he had felt that life was serene. Then the anguished letters began to come from his son . . . "Save me!" But the son had been born in Rumania and the Rumanian quota was blocked for years.

Mr. C's money, his local prestige, meant nothing. It could not bring his son to the family hearthside. Mr. C came to New York, a voluntary exile from home and family, pledging never to go back till he had achieved his son's escape. For weary weeks C. haunted the offices of the NRS.

This story might be the duplicate of hundreds where nothing could be done . . . where devotion, money, hard, patient work were fruitless. Fortunately the NRS was able to guide Mr. C. into the right path. A college contract was secured, admitting his son as a teacher on a non-quota basis. The day the contract was forwarded Mr. C. came in. He might have been profuse but he said simply . . .

"Now I can go home."

Food . . .

Shelter . . .

Clothing . . .

First Aid for First Needs

NEARLY 150,000 REFUGEES FROM TOTALitarianism have found sanctuary in the United States in the last eight years.

Some of these we need no longer classify as "refugees." They are the man who works at the next desk to you; the smiling couple who run the neat little delicatessen down the street; the cheerful girl who teaches languages at a private school; the efficient, hard-working doctor in the small town.

But there are other thousands.

There is the man who stepped off the boat last month, still young, but shattered by a year in a concentration camp. In time his tattered nerves will mend, he will learn the language, adjust to America. But meanwhile he must be helped . . .

There are the old man and his wife, bewildered by years of semi-starvation and continued humiliation in a land they had once proudly called "home." Shaken by the ordeal of flight, they find it difficult to make a living here. The old man is trying—he sells candy and cigarettes from office to office. Not much money in it, and they must be helped . . .

There is a lawyer, a man respected and prosperous in other days. Now he manfully faces the fact that he must learn a new job, re-

build his life on a reduced pattern. And meanwhile he must be helped . . .

There is a woman with her child, alone in this country. Her husband is still in Europe, desperately seeking to join her. She too must be helped . . .

There is a man, a skilled worker, able to earn his way. But he has come here on a visitor's visa and is forbidden to work. If he can take advantage of the rather expensive "change of status" procedure he can become self-supporting. Meanwhile he needs help . . .

These are the people—the thousands of people—who were aided by NRS cash assistance in 1940. The NRS supplied cash aid for food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for nearly 18,000 individual refugees.



In 1939 the average number of cases receiving cash assistance was 1,893 monthly, exclusive of aid to resettlers. Total costs of relief for that year were \$1,342,666. In 1940 the monthly case load average was 3,162, an increase of over 60 percent. Total expenditures were \$2,024,679. In 1941 the NRS anticipates that it will be necessary to spend \$2,101,400 on this item.

In previous years and during the early months of 1940 the refugee relief problem as a whole could be considered a very temporary one by the NRS. In October,



The interview, the evaluation of the refugee's needs and possibilities by a worker skilled in social problems, is the heart of every NRS activity. Treating the refugee as a man with a personal difficulty, important to him, aids his self respect, fosters his self reliance.

1939, the average duration of relief to refugee families was 5.8 months. But by January, 1941, this average had risen to 12 months, a shift which reflected the changing character of the whole problem.

A glance at the following table will show a major factor in this change.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

	1936-1940				
	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Under 16 years.....	16.4	17.4	17.1	16.9	14.8
16-44 Years.....	66.4	64.7	63.5	59.9	55.3
Over 44 years.....	17.2	17.9	19.4	23.2	29.9

The young came first. They were able in many cases to transfer money and valuables. They were more employable, quicker to learn the language, and easier to resettle—these refugees who came to Ameri-

ca in 1936, 1937, 1938, and in the early months of 1939. Now the older group is coming—older, longer suffering under the Nazi heel or longer wasted through forced inactivity in a country of temporary haven. They have created a complex, increasing, and cumulative problem. Despite the most careful examination of applicants, appeals to affiants and relatives, and continuous review, the tendency grows toward a residual relief load of older, hard-to-place refugees.

This stabilization in the NRS relief load is reflected in the upward trend of costs. With a residual load of from 1,200 to 1,500 cases and with the added tasks of caring for new arrivals, the National Refugee Service cannot expect any decline in the relief load during the coming year.

A composite picture of the average refugee receiving aid from the NRS today would show a man almost 50 years old, the head of a family of 3 persons. He was born either in Germany, Austria, or Poland. Formerly he may have been either a professional, merchant, tradesman, or businessman. He has been in the United States for a year and three months and has been aided by NRS for two-thirds of that period.

What would happen to this man and his family were it not for NRS? Possibly he could get along for a time, borrowing from friends, snatching at a few odd jobs. Ultimately he would have to turn to public relief and this would be a very serious thing. Serious for the refugee because, by becoming a "public charge," he renders himself liable to deportation. It would be equally serious for the Jewish community which would find itself charged with importing indigents to America under the false pretense that they would be cared for. Once this charge were levelled it would jeopardize the lives of thousands of other refugees still a road. Visas would not be granted if it became known that a stable, reliable agency were not prepared to assist the newcomers if necessary.

Does NRS give these refugees who knock at its doors anything beyond a "dole"? In the past they were self-sufficient, self-directing people... now they seek to re-establish their lives. Generally this re-establishment will have to come on a lower economic level. Every one of them needs someone who can give him advice and guidance, and, more important, a renaissance of interest and belief in himself. Especially do the older refugees, more shattered by their experiences, need a longer period of reassurance, a more patient rebuilding of their reserves of strength. This rebuilding is a task for NRS—"social service" in the best sense of the words.

An NRS worker may, by listening sympathetically to the refugee's account of his bitter experience in flight and by trying to direct his thoughts to the future rather than to the past, do much to ease his reorientation. But the process cannot be completed in the half-hour or hour a week that the worker can devote to the individual emigre. NRS realizes that the refugee needs the supporting hand of a friend in his daily life. It seeks the help of his affiants or relatives, trying to enlist not only financial aid (although this is important) but sympathy and help for the refugee as well. An interpretation of the refugee's needs and of the difficult tasks he faces in adapting himself to a new land often arouses the lagging interest of an affiant or relative and leads him to renewed interest.

Relief is granted on a budget basis scientifically worked out by a home economist. Relief is given in cash to cover the basic necessities of life; food, rent, clothing, utilities, household incidentals, carfare. Help needed may include dental and medical care, or getting furniture out of storage. All NRS assistance is given as loans. Refugees once established may be able to reimburse the agency and thus help other newcomers. Equally important is the psychological effect; the avoidance of the pauperizing effect of an open dole.

NRS cooperates with family service agencies in New York to avoid duplication of effort. Cases of refugees with especially severe emotional problems, requiring intensive casework treatment are handled by the Jewish Social Service Association and the Jewish Family Welfare Society. Problems of single refugee women are handled by the N. Y. and Brooklyn Section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The actual meaning of these services may be best understood from actual cases. There is, for example . . .

The Case of the K Family: Mrs. K. had spent far too much of her life a fugitive. Years ago she fled from Russia to Germany. Then in 1938 she and her young son and her sister fled to France. Then to Lisbon. Then to Casablanca, Morocco. Finally, with the aid of NRS migration service, they reached the United States on temporary visas. Mrs. K. came in sight of the Promised Land but failed to reach it—she died on Ellis Island. Both the boy and his aunt applied for help from the NRS, both suffering from

long-term malnutrition and from an ailment, as yet unclassified, which might be termed "refugee shock," the trauma of flight. Both were hospitalized, and later the boy was sent to a convalescent home. Meanwhile, the aunt is being retrained by NRS as the support of this shattered family.

The G Family Record: Sometimes we think of cash assistance as a "dead end" proposition, seemingly an interminable future of financial problems. But time solves a lot of these problems, and if money will keep a family group together and enable the children to learn to earn, it is well spent.

There was the case of the G. family—a long term relief problem. Mr. and Mrs. G. and two daughters, 14 and 17, came to this country in 1936. Their background had been typically German middle class, until a Nazi partner gobbled up Mr. G's business. For a man of 60 and a wife of 50, both in ill health, planning a new life is difficult. At various times business and resettlement plans were made for Mr. G. but they all fell through. He made a few dollars a week peddling cigarettes, but the mainstay of the family for four years was relief granted by the JSSA and, after its establishment in 1939, by the National Refugee Service.

The elder daughter had a job—the sort that pays \$8 or \$10 a week. The family could not live on



The records of a hundred thousand potential tragedies fill these files. Thanks to the efforts of NRS most of the stories have a happy ending.

this and the NRS realized that if the girl lacked training she could never do much better. So it was arranged that she take a nursing course. The younger daughter attended high school.

In the course of years the documents of the case of Mr. G. grew into a thick folder. His many illnesses and those of his wife were noted; the family problems raised by the relationship of parents and children (so different in America and Germany) were discussed and to some extent solved. Finally the eldest daughter graduated from nursing school, the younger from a vocational high school. They quickly got jobs. Now the older girl makes \$100 a month as a nurse, the younger from \$60 to \$75 a month as a dress-maker, a fairly adequate income for the family. Moreover the younger—who had been very reluctant to do factory work—began to take an interest in her job, studied designing, and seems to have definite

potentialities. Soon they will be in a position to repay the NRS for past assistance.

* * *

Just as the relief budget is the major part of NRS expenditures, so the relief problem is one of major gravity. Yet it is not, essentially, an insoluble problem. The greater part of the thousands of individual refugees who make up these totals will find the solution that will make them self-sustaining Americans. Some will get jobs in New York. Some will resettle in other communities, where they have a good chance of finding work. Some will, with NRS aid, start small stores or businesses that will make them a living. Others will see sons and daughters grow up to take care of them.

Then these, too, will pass out of the "refugee" category into that broader category—"Americans."

The Helping Spirit

"I am grateful to the organization, and to you as my social worker and friend, for what you did for us. I wish I could express my feelings towards you, a person with great ability to understand human suffering when we are in need, and with your gentle kindness tried to encourage us. It matters not how much aid we received from you, but the helping spirit in which it was given. This spirit is the main thing that counts in a distressed life. Be strong enough to be able to help the people, but in a different way."

A Plea From Darkness:

"You will be amazed to hear from me. My wife and I are in a camp. We are cold and have nothing to eat, no clothing and nothing. My daughter is in the Rhineland. However, I do not know whether she is still there."

"I often heard from my late grandfather that we have friends in America coming from Herchweiler. Perhaps you could locate them and they might help us. I should be very grateful. Please do your best to locate them and when you find them to let me know. It is very urgent. My mother-in-law who is over 70, is also here. The women are separated from the men. We have no underwear and no money."

"Can nobody help us?"

A Man Must Work

Finding Jobs For Refugees

WHERE CAN I GET A JOB? Discussions of adjustment and integration into the life of America are rather futile unless the National Refugee Service can answer this question. It is to the Employment Department of the National Refugee Service that the refugee turns seeking the answer.

Employment placements in 1940 totalled 4,935 compared to 4,912 in 1939. But these figures are only comparable arithmetically. From both sides of the job problem — prospective employer and prospective employee — placements in 1940 required much more intensive efforts. On the employer's side, the anti-alien sentiment which swept the country in the spring of 1940 caused considerable reluctance in the hiring of refugees. Despite the fact that aliens are legally barred only from secret, confidential, or restricted Government contract jobs, many employers in enterprises on the far fringes of the American defense effort refused to hire them.

Complicating factors found among the refugee applicants themselves were the increasing age level, lack of usable skills, and the effects of long periods of inactivity in transit countries. The table below indicates the percentage of job placements by NRS during 1940 in relation to the ages of the persons placed.

	MALE Percent	FEMALE Percent	ALL PLACEMENTS Percent
	Total	Total	Total
20 years and under	24.3	9.5	13.5
21-30 years	29.2	27.4	28.0
31-40 years	21.0	32.8	29.6
41-50 years	15.0	24.1	21.6
Over 50 years	10.5	6.2	7.3



About three out of every ten placements involved people over 40. This is a remarkably good showing in a country where the "over 40" problem presents a grave social problem. But with the average age of the heads of families receiving cash aid from NRS at about 50 years, the difficulties of any substantial reduction of the relief load through employment can be seen.

The change in the character of the applicant group during 1940 is reflected in the decreased number of professional and skilled placements. A corresponding increase came among the manual and production workers. This shift, which may be studied in the following table, represented both increased difficulties in securing job openings and the problems presented by a less employable group.

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	1939		1940			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	MALE	FEMALE
Professional and Administrative*	312	6.4	220	4.6	146	74
Craftsmen and Skilled Workers	927	18.9	830	16.8	418	412
Salespeople and Clerical	460	9.3	326	6.6	173	151
Service—Domestic, Personal, Institutional	2,532	51.5	2,470	50.0	209	2,261
Manual Production Workers	681	13.9	1,089	22.0	413	676
Total	4,912	100.0	4,935	100.0	1,361	3,574

*In addition to the professional and administrative placements listed above, the following placements were made through the specialized committees:

1940 Placements of physicians	346
" Placements of rabbis	119
" Placements of musicians	607

A 30 Day Chance . . .

The firm was very unwilling to take refugees to man its machines. Finally NRS persuaded them to give Mr. T. a 30 day trial at 45 cents an hour. There are 1,300 employees in the plant but Mr. T. managed to stand out above the average. Now he's been made an inspector at \$35 a week. His success has encouraged the firm to employ 15 other refugees.

Horatio Alger Boy

It was a shaky firm, just starting in business, and a poor job, paying only \$12 a week. But young refugee H. told NRS he was willing to take it. He was only 22 and it meant a start in life. A year passed. The firm has grown and the staff—originally H. was the sole employee—now numbers 15 workers. H. is the foreman and makes \$30 a week.

P. S. — He Got The Job

Unusually modest about his abilities was Mr. Z., refugee architect. When the employment worker of NRS discovered an opening for him as a designer of store fronts and interiors, Mr. Z. shrank from applying without some samples. The interview was only an hour away—but the worker urged Mr. Z. to sit down in an NRS waiting room and make some sketches. Mr. Z. was very skeptical but he tried it—and those quick sketches got him a \$35 a week job.

Teaching Skills America Needs

H E'S AN ABLE MAN, THIS REFUGEE, good raw material. He has education, intelligence, energy, a will to work, a sense of values gained from the harsh schooling of past suffering. What can the American Jewish community and the National Refugee Service do with him? We can easily make him a messenger boy, a sweeper, a house-to-house peddler, a package wrapper, and then say, "If he's got the right guff in him he'll come to the top." Perhaps he will—some refugees have. But alternatively, we can say "This fellow's been through a lot. We want him to become a good American, not only taking from but giving to America. Let's offer him a real opportunity to learn the job his capabilities can master." That means retraining.

Retraining is a field which the National Refugee Service only began to explore in 1940. It is a complex field in which opposing schools of thought tread hard on each other's heels. The NRS has been doing experimental work during 1940, retraining 500 refugees, some in private trade schools, others in courses operated or sponsored directly by the agency. In 1941 the NRS feels ready to launch a retraining program on a scale commensurate with the needs of the refugees.

There are two principal directives 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 have been retrained as dental mechanics; physicians, as X-ray technicians. In the second group are persons given short, intensive courses in household management, domestic and personal service, and other occupations where employment possibilities are increasing.

In 1941, 1,500 refugees will be given vocational retraining. Courses set up under direct NRS auspices, in progress or projected, included dental mechanics, domestic service, millinery, printing, baking, restaurant cooking, furniture repair, upholstery, auto body and fender repair, accounting and income tax work.

Cleaning and repairing ancient paintings is an Old World skill—almost an art in itself. This refugee has brought this skill to the New World—only one of the many unique crafts America has gained from the refugees.

In addition to such direct retraining, decentralized projects will be fostered, by evaluating the potentialities for retraining of refugees who are resettled and by supplying information, technical assistance, and financial aid to communities wishing to establish refugee retraining projects.

One form of retraining well worth mentioning is that carried on in the National Youth Administration resident training centers, where 250 young refugee boys and girls have worked and learned with American youths. Expenses for these refugees, which average about \$25 a month, are paid by the NRS and by local refugee committees. The *Jewish Exponent* of Philadelphia in a series of articles on refugees and the NYA, said: "Economic adjustment is the primary need of any boy or girl—American or refugee. Hardly of secondary importance, however, is the need for social integration; a need doubly important to these refugees who have, during their impressionable years, lived as outcasts in the land they knew as 'home'. America has taken these hunted and haunted youths to its heart; in NYA centers, and in the nearby towns where they spend their hours of recreation they learned again the meaning of kindness and friendship. America has learned, too—learned to like these kids from overseas, learned to forget its suspicions of the alien when confronted by frank and open-faced boys and girls so like the boys and girls on the Main Streets of a thousand towns."





Refugees Discover America

The Promise of Resettlement

IN 1940 THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE resettled 5,113 refugees from New York throughout the country.

This brought to 10,311 the cumulative total of refugees resettled by the National Refugee Service since 1937. Many thousands more, passing through New York in transit to other parts of the country, were given service by NES.

These are not large figures against the background of millions of wanderers in the world or of the refugees in America. But they are vitally important to each individual within the total. Each is a man who has, after harried years, once more found a place and friends in a neighborly community; a woman who no longer need suffer humiliation as a member of an outcast group; a child who may grow up in the light of freedom.

The American Jewish community, in establishing the National Refugee Service, made resettlement its pivotal program. It said, in effect, "Let us try to avoid the natural tendency of the refugees to huddle together in New York, the port of entry, to associate only with emigre friends, to continue speaking and thinking in a foreign language, to dream of the past

rather than build for the future. Let us send the refugee out, on a carefully planned program, into the smaller cities and towns throughout the United States, where he will soon think of himself as an American."

The adequate performance of this task requires a staff of trained men and women equipped with an intimate knowledge of the potentialities of the various communities. It requires a field staff to maintain continuous contact between the National Refugee Service and the more than 900 local committees cooperating in resettlement. It requires state and regional committees which act as coordinators and as distributing centers for resettled refugees. It requires a steady flow of letters, bulletins, releases, information of all kinds, between the National Refugee Service and the leaders in community effort. It requires scores of meetings each year at which professional and lay workers can exchange experiences. And, above all, it requires the energy and enthusiasm of thousands of men and women who believe that the solution of the refugee problem is worthy of the hardest and best work they can give to it.

The first step in resettlement is convincing the refugee of its desirability for him. At first glance this might appear easy, but often a man who has been a homeless wanderer, who has just recaptured peace and comparative security, will not be eager to embark on a new adventure.

During 1940 a new unit for resettlement interpretation was established by the National Refugee

Service in New York. This unit maintains a library of "Americana"—books, maps, photographs, and slides. Here, in an informal atmosphere, the refugee can study the United States and gain some foreknowledge of its scenic, economic, and social aspects. Furthermore, this unit takes an active role as the interpreter of America. Its speakers go out nightly to refugee groups and clubs to discuss problems and to answer questions.

The destination of any individual resettler represents a compromise between his desires, the possible openings, and the resettlement worker's best judgment on the most practical course. Then he goes out on a voluntarily imposed "quota" which a particular town or state has agreed represents its absorptive capacity at a given time. In his new home the refugee

finds advantages which are impossible in New York. He finds people who will take a close personal interest in getting him a job, in making him feel like a member of the community, in finding a home—in short, all the things one speaks of as "neighborliness."

"Heads of families" for resettlement average 38 years of age—although boys of 18 and men of 60 have been successfully resettled. The average resettlement family consists of two persons.

The essence of successful resettlement is wholehearted community cooperation. In general, the resettlement efforts of the National Refugee Service have received this cooperation. But in the latter months of 1940 increasing difficulties began to appear. With the rapidly rising age level of the average



In the Resettlement Promotion Unit this refugee thumbs through a picture book of America. Perhaps in some corner of this magic land he will find his place, his new home.

"That's your new home, son." This lad might have led a blighted life under the terror of Nazism. Instead he will grow to a useful manhood in free America.



newcomer, the NRS found it had in New York numbers of refugees anxious to resettle but unacceptable to its local committees. Some were getting on in years, and it was difficult to find them employment rapidly. Some lagged in learning English, and were slower to adapt to the folkways of a new community. Some were in poor health (after years of deprivation and suffering) or required extensive vocational retraining. They were, in short, not immediately resettlable. These restrictions contributed to a decline in the volume of resettlement in the last six months of 1940.

Workers in the refugee program and leaders of the local communities have seriously discussed techniques for "unblocking" resettlement. Agreement has been reached on a basis for resettlement in 1941 whereby refugees representing a fair cross-section of

the emigre community in New York will be accepted by those communities which have the services and financial resources to handle them. The NRS, for its part, agrees to give maximum effectiveness to the resettlement program by expanding its vocational retraining, self-support, and agricultural projects, as well as its field and informational services.

Resettlement is a unique contribution of the National Refugee Service. Its primary values lie in more than 10,000 refugees who, through the efforts of NRS and the communities, have found new homes everywhere. But of scarcely less value is the fund of information and experience which NRS has built up around the problem. It is a fund that can and will be freely drawn upon in the years to come by agencies, public and private, which must deal with the settlement of the multitudes of wanderers on the earth.

Scrap Metal Man

Mr. V. was a middle aged man; a former dry goods merchant in Germany, a man of unconfined energies and enthusiasm. NRS resettled him in a city in Southern Illinois. Mr. V. got a job but he kept it only long enough to look around for an opportunity. A business loan, half from NRS, half from the community, enabled Mr. V. to buy a second-hand truck and begin a scrap metal collecting route. The business progressed. Mr. V. bought another truck. Now he clears an adequate income, runs a car, and employs two men to pick up the scrap metals which he "spots."

The Little Bookkeeper

Forty years of Mr. K's life had been passed in the most peaceful spot imaginable—in a little town in the Austrian Tyrol, a village that looked like one of the gay toys its native woodworkers carved. Mr. K. had been a bookkeeper. He made a meagre living but he was happy . . . especially when he could sing with a group of kindred spirits.

Then came Anschluss. . . .

The thoroughgoing ruthlessness of the Brownshirts did not overlook the little bookkeeper. He was a Jew; there was no room for him in Austria. He spent six months in a concentration camp; was released to flee to the safety of America, a refugee.

Mr. K. tried hard in New York. But he couldn't make a go of it. His life had never been adjusted to the tempo, the noise, the overwhelming throngs of a great city, nor had his months in a concentration camp helped his nerves. NRS resettled Mr. K. in a small town in the South. He had his difficulties there, too. For a year he could find only odd jobs despite the best efforts of the local refugee committee.

Gradually, slowly the new peace Mr. K. found in this little American town did its therapeutic work. His jangled nerves quieted, he forgot the horrors he had lived through, he began to smile again. Then he got a job as a bookkeeper. Not such a good job but enough for Mr. K's simple needs. He has formed a choir, too, and sings at religious services.

Special Jobs for Specialists

Physicians — Musicians — Rabbis Scholars — Scientists

SOLICITOR GENERAL FRANCIS BIDDLE speaking. "Here is America's chance, our spiritual opportunity to be kind, to be gentle, to be tolerant. . . . If we are wise and generous we may be infinitely enriched by the artists, the craftsmen, the scholars who are taking refuge on our shores. . . . It is a magnificent opportunity."

These artists, craftsmen, and scholars . . . What shall be done with them? Must their talents be wasted? Or shall they be given the opportunity to adapt their gifts to America, to utilize them for the advancement of America? The NRS has answered "yes" to the latter question, and has set up a number of special committees and projects to implement its answer.

The National Committee for Resettlement of Foreign Physicians handles the difficult problems of the refugee physicians who have reached this country. The ideal of the physicians committee has been the placement of these doctors in the vast areas of the United States where medical care is inadequate or completely lacking. Unfortunately there are restrictive laws and medical board regulations in 43 states which effectively prevent most emigres from resuming practice.

The physicians committee has enlisted the valuable support of distinguished American doctors for making its evaluations. Since the opportunities for refugee doctors are so limited, these evaluations are stringently made, and only physicians of unusual qualifications are aided by NRS during the period of intensive study prior to licensing examinations. Retraining, employment, and resettlement plans are arranged for those physicians who the committee feels, will be unable to continue practice in this country.

Musicians coming to NRS are carefully evaluated. Those with outstanding talent will be placed in jobs; those whose major abilities lie in teaching will be aided to establish themselves.

In 1940 the physicians committee made a total of 346 placements. Nearly 1,500 referrals were made for evaluation and placement. The number of applicants seeking services in 1940 was 895.

The Committee on Refugee Jewish Ministers has been of aid to refugee rabbis. During 1940, 119 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 Nere Israel College.



Refugees . . . 1940

The Committee on Refugee Musicians was able, during the course of the year, to make 607 placements and to arrange for single engagements in 1,937 instances. Over 1,000 cases of refugee musicians were active on the committee's lists during 1940.

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. \$70,000 is budgeted for 1941 to aid in securing fellowships for distinguished or promising refugees.

The Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Medical Scientists was similarly aided during 1940. This committee will receive a subvention of \$35,000 from NRS in 1941.

German Jewish Children's Aid was formed in 1934, at a time when Hitler's exclusion of Jewish children from all educational facilities inspired

a number of Americans to bring children to this country. Last year GJCA brought 99 children to the United States. It has 1,879 active cases on its records.

A Place to Live: 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 temporary low-cost housing at residence clubs for 775 emigres receiving temporary assistance from the agency. In addition, a total of 5,035 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 for Emigres from Central Europe.

Emigre physicians, these, many of them once leading specialists. All they ask of America is a chance to use their healing skills to help build American health.



Americans First

The Social Adjustment of Refugees

IN THE OLD LEISURED DAYS THE ASSIMILATION of the immigrant was a matter of a generation or two. There were plenty of jobs, plenty of room, plenty of time, no hurry.

Today both the refugee and the National Refugee Service know that those times are past. Today adjustment must be streamlined else both the emigre and his friends will suffer. But that is a broad, sweeping term—"adjustment". Practically, it breaks down into half a hundred questions . . .

"Where can I learn English?"

"How can I meet American people?"

"Where can my little girl meet American children?"

"What temple shall I attend?"

"Where can I get information about scholarships?"

"Can I get my boy out of the city this summer to a camp?"

"What concerts . . . museums . . . lectures . . . can I go to free?"

It was to answer these flooding queries that the National Refugee Service established its Division for Social and Cultural Adjustment. The need for it is seen in the record of its services—in 10 months of 1939 it made over 11,000 referrals; in 1940, its individual services numbered 21,000.

Basic to its program is the teaching of English, essential prerequisite to job-getting and to all other adjustments. In 1940 referrals to English classes totalled 6,918. In addition, 1,979 referrals were made for other educational opportunities.

A great deal of the work of this Division revolves around children's activities. Places in day nurseries were found for 400 refugee children during the year, many of them institutions established after NRS made the need for them known, where children could be cared for while their parents worked. In cooperation with the Jewish Vacation Association and other groups, the division was able to place nearly 500 children in summer camps, while summer play schools and recreation centers took care of another hundred.

The burden of flight often bears down most heavily on these refugee children. Rene came to America with his mother in April, a genuine case of shell shock, terrified when he heard any sound resembling an air-raid alarm. An unhappy, unhealthy child, totally unable to get along either with other children or with adults. Rene was sent to a summer camp. In a month he was hardly recognizable; he had filled out, taken on a gay and open expression. Now he has started school, where his progress is excellent.

George is the five-year old son of a refugee couple who are starting a business. In their terrific drive to solve their economic problems, George was neglected to the point where he became a problem both in health and disposition. The distraught parents appealed to NRS, and George was placed in a kindergarten. His first few days were a series of battles with teachers, parents, and other children. But finally the lad's good sense asserted itself and he adapted himself happily to his new surroundings.

A brief survey can hardly do justice to the manifold activities of the Social and Cultural Adjustment Division. Because it meets the refugees without previous appointment and because of its flexibility, it is able to perform many minor services that smooth the path of the refugee, to secure opportunities for people who do not come within the province of other NRS departments; in short, to fill in the chinks and crannies in the organizational structure of NRS. To cite only a few of these varied services . . .

. . . arranging for translation of books and technical papers.

. . . finding classes for adults to study Yiddish so they may teach in Jewish schools.

. . . arranging bar mitzvahs for boys whose parents are on relief or otherwise unable to pay.

. . . arranging contacts for chemists and engineers.

. . . making arrangements for musicians to practice on piano, organ, etc.

. . . forming an English class for the hard-of-hearing.

. . . stimulating clubs, congregations and other groups in New York to organize classes and other activities for refugees.

A Stitch In Time

A CANDY SHOP IN A SOUTHERN COLLEGE TOWN, one of those sparkling places where students foregather for afternoon dates . . .

A smart milliner's shop in a small Texas city . . .

A restaurant in the Midwest specializing in Viennese cooking . . .

A photographer's studio on the Pacific coast . . .

A clothing store in a Mississippi River town . . .

A dairy farm in New Jersey . . .

A delicatessen store in New England . . .

. . . and scores of other enterprises scattered throughout the United States were helped to start by timely loans from the Capital Loan Fund of the National Refugee Service.

To many refugees, business people in their former homelands, the establishment of a business presented the best possible method of solving an economic problem. Those who came in former years — up to 1939 — were often able to bring a small percentage of their capital with them. They founded hundreds of new enterprises, frequently manufacturing articles which had previously been imported into this country. Sample surveys made by the National Refugee Service covering 500 such enterprises have shown that:—

. . . such varied items as filtermass and malt for brewing, ski equipment, glass and glass products, costume dolls, photographic equipment, and scores of other products, formerly imported, are now "Made in U. S. A."

. . . annual production of individual refugee firms ranges as high as \$200,000.

. . . thousands of American workers have found employment in these enterprises. Three Americans are employed to every refugee.

The refugee who came later, after the November, 1938 pogroms, could bring little capital beyond the clothes he wore. It is for these, often capable and energetic business people, that the National Refugee Service set up its loan funds. Loans are

often made on a matching basis with local committees in the community where the refugee is resettled. In 1940 the NRS made 211 loans for business men and farmers amounting to \$67,134 from its own funds





NRS Aids Refugee Enterprise

Capital Loan also lends money to doctors to establish themselves in practice, to refugees to pay for retraining courses, and for other projects designed to help the refugee to help himself. The following table lists all loans:

Type of Loan	Number	Amount
Business or Farm	211	\$67,134*
Student Scholarships, etc.	64	19,753
Physicians	393	69,640
Retraining Loans	228	16,023
Total	896	\$172,551

*Includes monies from the Refugee Economic Corporation, Emmanuel Fund, American Joint Reconstruction Foundation, other loan funds.

These loans are not mere luxuries, trimmings around the edges of the refuge problem. They are an essential element in the adjustment of many refugees, emigres who might otherwise waste unhappy years on the relief rolls of NRS. For this reason the National Refugee Service is anxious to make loans available to increasing numbers of refugees.

Refugees on the Land—The National Refugee Service program of agricultural retraining and farm settlement for newcomers was initiated in 1940. During the year, the Agricultural Consultant, working in close cooperation with the Jewish Agricultural Society, arranged farm training for 30 refugees and assisted 25 other emigres to settle themselves on farms. A total of \$12,000 was loaned to farm settlers in amounts ranging from \$200 to \$1,000.

A review of the types of farms worked on or operated by these emigres reveals that 9 out of 10 of them were poultry and dairy enterprises.

and funds put at its disposal. Granting a loan is not, of course, merely a matter of writing a check. A careful evaluation of the project must be made, defects corrected and a continuing interest taken in it after its inception.

The Chapters Ahead

A Closing Note

by William Haber,
Executive Director, NRS during 1940.

IN THE FOREWORD OF THIS REPORT WE spoke of the problem the National Refugee Service faces as, essentially, an individual problem multiplied thousands of times. If this report has succeeded in giving you even a glimpse of these people, refugees from a terror we cannot conceive, and an impression of the work the National Refugee Service is doing to rehabilitate and rebuild, then it has achieved its purpose.

The National Refugee Service is never satisfied. Its problem is too new, too big, too changing ever to be completely resolved. Its goal is great enough so that no amount of effort, no expenditure of money and energy, will ever quite meet it. This is a healthy sort of dissatisfaction. It sends us ever seeking new techniques for meeting the needs of the refugees, new methods of integrating them into the American scene, new ways of assuring that our country shall reap all the benefits that can be gained from this influx of people seeking safety and liberty. As an agency of the American Jewish community the National Refugee Service has been charged with definite tasks. But as an agency operating within, and having faith in that greater community—the American democracy—its tasks are as broad as America, as unlimited. It must, in short, make new Americans into good Americans.

It is in this spirit that we have worked in 1940. It is in this spirit that we face 1941. We believe that immigration is going to be heavy in 1941. We know that the load of the National Refugee Service—relief, employment services, the tasks of migration and resettlement—are continuing and increasing. We have outlined a number of jobs we consider essential of fulfillment if we are to meet our obligations. The expansion of retraining is one of these. "Change of status"

for refugees now in this country on temporary visas, a procedure which not only gives the emigre a secure status but actually saves money for the NRS by allowing him to seek employment, is another. Expansion of our loan program to make many otherwise unemployable refugees self-sustaining and self-respecting is yet another.

The National Refugee Service met more than 321,000 requests for service, advice and information made by refugees here and abroad and by their friends and relatives in America, in 1940. It spent a very large sum of money in meeting these requests. In 1941 the National Refugee Service is asking for an even larger sum. It asks quite honestly and straightforwardly. In this and other publications the NRS has said, "Here is the job American Jews must do for the refugees. Here is why it must be done. Here is how it will be done. Here is what it will cost."

There were some who believed a year or so ago that refugee migration formed a threat to the security of the Jewish community—that it would breed new difficulties, new antagonisms. This threat has never materialized, partly because the refugees themselves dissipated it by their innate good-sense and character; partly, also, because the whole refugee problem has been handled with skill and tact. Friction and discord have been reduced to an almost invisible minimum. But the constructive elements of the job cannot be abandoned in mid-passage.

The request of the National Refugee Service for a budget of \$4,342,150 in 1941 is not an "appeal." It is a simple citation of fact, of needs which every man and woman of Jewish faith in America agrees must be met.

Columbia University
in the City of New York

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING RESEARCH FUND
310 MENT HALL

To Members of the Board of Directors
National Refugee Service, Inc.:

You and I and all men who believe in the tenets of freedom and human decency passed through a disheartening year in 1940. We saw the lights go out in lands we had always thought of as staunch fortresses of enlightened culture and innate liberalism.

And yet we have also been fortunate in this past year because we could do something to fend off a portion of the hate engulfing the world. Ours was the constructive job of aiding the victims of totalitarianism in their efforts to find new lives and new homes in America.

Every American may well be proud of his country for its unswerving tradition of sanctuary. Most Americans realize that it is this very tradition that has made America a great land built by generations of immigrants. But what is not so widely understood is the refugee's desperate need for education in American folkways--all the things that are summarized under the rather inadequate term "adjustment". In the National Refugee Service we have understood and met these needs. We have done our part to make "new Americans into good Americans".

We have also helped American citizens in this country who have sought advice on immigration problems and have aided people abroad who were seeking to establish contacts with relatives or friends here.

The issuance of an annual report is a good moment in which to step back and look at the National Refugee Service in proper perspective. We can see the pressing tasks that confront us in 1941. And, chiefly, we can see the work of the National Refugee Service not as a specialized agency dealing with a specialized group but as a functioning part of American democracy, carrying on a great American tradition, building new lives in and for America.

Sincerely yours,

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

How NRS Operated

A Message From William Rosenwald

"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 sizeable 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. In the spring of 1940, an 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 jobs 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 many

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.

In the work of the past year, it became apparent that the new arrivals were of a more tragic character—older, shaken by harrowing experiences in war-torn countries, weary from months of uncertain wait-

Faces are intent as these refugees learn the ABC's of a new language. They realize that their future hinges on a mastery of English. And they learn fast!



ing 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. 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 resettlement 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. The 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 the 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, the officers 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, and the organization ended the year with a cash deficit of \$301,000. Despite "accelerated payments" accorded the organization by the 1940 United Jewish Appeal and its Allotment Committee, with the helpful cooperation and effectuation by the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, 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, 1940, 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

Refugee children play in a nursery school while their parents work at the first job in a new country. NRS has stimulated many clubs and groups in New York to organize play schools and kindergartens.



Refugees . . . 1940

led 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. Other philanthropies assisted the National Refugee Service with 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 employ-

ment activities require increased efforts. Vocational retraining and capital loan projects must be greatly expanded, as must be 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 1941. Only by a generous response can the 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.



21,000 requests for advice, service and information came to NRS in 1940. All personal requests first passed across this desk in Central Information. From there anxious questioners were routed to one of NRS departments or committees.

An Account of Careful Stewardship

LOEB & TROPER

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

FIVE TWENTY ONE FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

SIMON LOEB, C.P.A. (N.Y.)
MORRIS O. TROPER, C.P.A. (N.Y.)

February 24, 1941.

National Refugee Service, Inc.,
165 West 46th St.,
New York, New York.

Dear Sirs:-

We have examined the accompanying Statement of Financial Condition of the National Refugee Service, Inc., as of December 31, 1940 before closing, showing Resources and Liabilities arising from cash transactions; and the Statement of Income and Expenditures of the National Refugee Service, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1940, before closing, showing Cash Income and Cash Expenditures; inclusive of the explanatory and qualifying notes made a part thereof.

We have reviewed the system of internal control and accounting procedures, and without necessarily making a complete detailed audit of the transactions have examined or tested the accounting records and other supporting evidence by methods and to the extent we deemed appropriate.

In our opinion, subject to our final audit report and our comments herein, these statements, with the aforesaid explanatory and qualifying notes, present fairly the financial status, before closing, as of December 31, 1940 and the results of operations, before closing for the year ended December 31, 1940, respectively, (Both on a Cash Basis) in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Respectfully,

Loeb and Troper
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

SL:ME.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (CASH BASIS)
(BEFORE CLOSING, SUBJECT TO FINAL AUDIT REPORT)
JANUARY 1, 1940 to DECEMBER 31, 1940

<u>Income</u>	
1940 United Jewish Appeal, Inc.....	\$1,992,500.00
1940 Greater New York Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.....	950,000.00
1939 United Jewish Appeal, Inc.....	100,000.00
Contributions from Foundations.....	83,750.00
Refund: from Clients, relatives and affiliates; and recoveries on Bonds.....	56,028.52
Legacies and Bequests.....	1,712.50
Contributions-1938 Campaign National Coordinating Committee Fund, Inc.....	
TOTAL.....	895.24
<u>Expenditures</u>	
Relief and Service Department-Financial Assistance and Social Services-(includes New York and Brooklyn Sections of the National Council of Jewish Women) Central Reception and Intake Department - (Instituted May 1940).....	\$2,024,679.12
Resettlement and Field Service to Communities.....	196,406.01
Migration Department(Relief Activities transferred to Relief and Service Department April 1940)	344,447.02
Employment Department.....	123,777.50
Special Committees Servicing Professional Refugee Groups (including Administration of Loan Funds).....	96,961.61
Special Projects Within the National Refugee Service - Tuition and Resettlement of Foreign Physicians and Dentists; Vocational Retraining; Appropriations for Loans to Refugees; Effecting Change of Status.....	81,346.32
Subventions to Other Organizations Aiding Refugees: Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars..	170,473.89
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Medical Scientists.....	\$65,000.00
National Council of Jewish Women - Council of Service to Foreign Born.....	35,000.00
Sundry Organizations.....	65,000.00
Statistical, Accounting, Executive and Public Information Departments.....	24,984.77
Office Expenses (unallocated).....	189,064.77
TOTAL.....	162,617.42
Deficit for Year January 1, 1940 to December 31, 1940 (Cash Basis).....	\$3,476,693.18
NOTES:*	\$ 301,806.92

- (a) - Conforming to requests and also to the recommendation of the Allotment Committee Inquiry Staff, the above statement has been prepared on a "Cash Basis" including only income and expenditures arising from cash transactions. In the following footnotes, reference is directed to income and expenditures to be received and paid, respectively.
- (b) - The above income is exclusive of \$567,500 still due on allotments from the National Campaign and the Greater New York Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc., and a balance of \$31,250 due on grants from the New York Foundation. The above expenditures are exclusive of unpaid charges for supplies and service approximating \$34,500; and a commitment of \$25,000 to the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars.
- (c) - From funds contributed by communities, the United Jewish Appeal, Inc. (National) by agreement, allotted \$2,500,000 to the National Refugee Service, Inc. In addition, the only community to make a direct allocation of funds to the NRS was New York City which allotted \$1,000,000 from the 1940 Greater New York Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, Inc.
- (d) - Expenditures shown for various functional departments include direct disbursements to, or on behalf of, clients; and all departments include direct and distributable salaries of central servicing departments, rent, and other distributable items.

The Statistics Behind the Story

TABLE 1

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES
July, 1933—June, 1940

Fiscal Year	Immigrants	Non-Immigrant* Temporary Visa	Total
1933	2,372	1,762	4,134
1934	4,134	2,838	6,972
1935	4,837	2,935	7,772
1936	6,252	4,312	10,564
1937	11,352	5,699	17,051
1938	19,736	5,827	25,563
1939	43,450	7,583	51,033
1940	36,945	5,479	42,424
Total	129,078	36,435	165,513

*Excludes government officials and returning residents.
Includes visitors, tradesmen, students and individuals
with transit visas.

TABLE 2

VOLUME OF ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES
JANUARY, 1939—DECEMBER, 1940

Month	1939		1940	
	Number of Relief Cases	Number of Individuals	Number of Relief Cases	Number of Individuals
January	1,088	2,378	2,798	6,698
February	1,320	2,903	2,767	6,618
March	1,411	3,127	2,908	6,989
April	1,429	3,178	3,023	7,293
May	1,679	3,748	3,518	8,261
June	1,940	4,356	3,527	8,315
July	1,983	4,445	3,490	8,389
August	2,214	5,030	3,344	8,026
September	2,306	5,256	3,269	8,112
October	2,397	5,505	3,185	7,927
November	2,421	5,560	3,123	7,649
December	2,524	5,788	2,989	7,327

TABLE 3

CHARACTERISTICS OF AVERAGE REFUGEE FAMILY
RECEIVING RELIEF FROM NRS
Selected Months of 1940

Characteristic	March	July	Sept.	Nov.	Dec.
Size of Family	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7
Age of Head of Family	46.3	48.4	48.8	49.4	NS
Number of Months in United States	11.3	13.0	14.0	15.1	NS
Number of Months on Relief	6.9	8.5	9.5	10.8	11.4

NS—Not Studied

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF UNITS AND INDIVIDUALS RESETTLED
BY DISTRICT OF RESETTLEMENT
JANUARY, 1939—DECEMBER, 1940

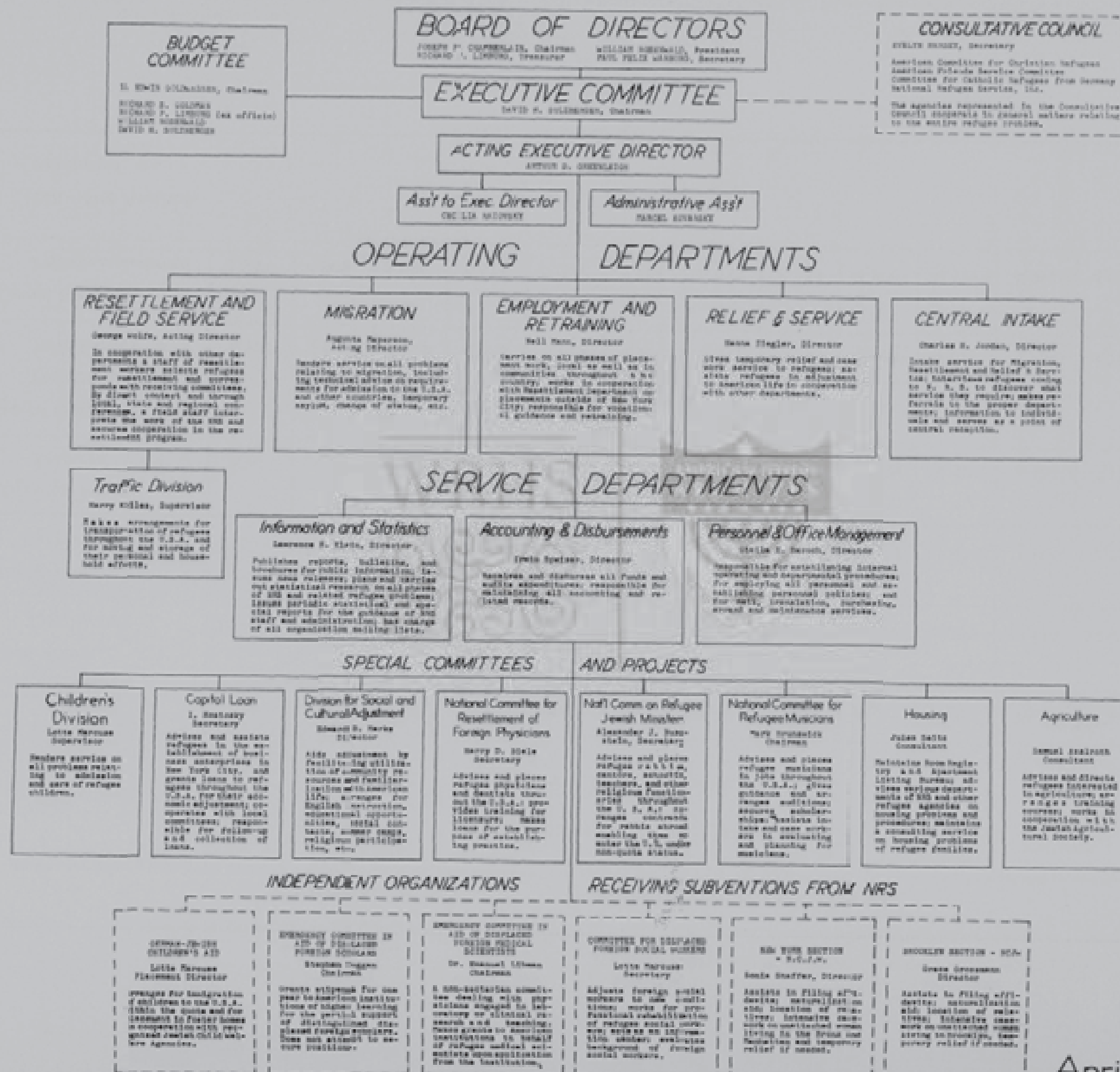
District	1939		1940		Percent of Total Units	
	Units	Individuals	Units	Individuals	1939	1940
Total All Districts	2,139	3,546	2,826	5,113	100.0	100.0
Northeastern District	491	749	513	953	23.0	18.1
East Central District	334	560	457	823	15.6	16.2
Southeastern District	209	296	162	268	9.8	5.7
North Central District	478	849	667	1,221	22.3	23.6
West Central District	293	514	283	512	13.7	10.0
Southwestern District	110	173	160	254	5.1	5.7
Western District	224	405	384	1,082	10.5	20.7

TABLE 5

NRS INDICES OF WORK LOAD

January—December, 1940

Activity	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Traffic Count Departments	24,995	29,867	28,494	28,677	27,771	27,866	28,675	26,235	28,866	24,798	22,176	22,875	321,295
Employment Applications	2,652	1,758	1,738	1,837	1,959	1,630	1,822	1,570	1,574	1,476	1,104	1,202	20,322
Migration Services Rendered	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,520	7,130	6,260	6,289	6,510	6,390	6,714	78,370*
Special Committees and Projects—Persons Interviewed	6,500*	6,000*	7,170	7,328	6,209	4,428	4,341	3,736	6,570	4,625	3,720	4,010	64,640*
Central Reception Persons Interviewed	5,837	4,898	5,896	6,574	7,741	5,764	6,033	6,035	5,896	4,571	4,917	4,817	68,979
NA—Not Available													
*Estimated													



The Organization Chart of NRS

April, 1941

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, Inc.

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN
Chairman of the Board

WILLIAM ROSENWALD
President

DAVID H. SULZBERGER
Chairman of the Executive Committee

ALFRED I. ESBERG
WILLIAM K. FRANK
MORRIS WOLF
Vice-Presidents

RICHARD P. LIMBURG
Treasurer

PAUL FELIX WARBURG
Secretary

MRS. MYRON S. FALK, JR.

RICHARD S. GOLDMAN
SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH
I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER
HARRY GREENSTEIN
WILLIAM HABER
JOSEPH C. HYMAN
S. MARSHALL KEMPNER
ALBERT D. LASKER
PETER I. B. LAVAN
SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN
CLARENCE E. PICKETT
ERICH M. WARBURG
ETHEL H. WISE
JONAH B. WISE

ARTHUR D. GREENLEIGH
Acting Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Officers, Members of the Executive Committee and the following:

MICHAEL G. APPEL, Brooklyn
MRS. MAX ASCOLI, New York
MRS. GEORGE BACKER, New York
PAUL BAIRWALD, New York
WILLIAM H. BALDWIN, New York
EDGAR S. BAMBERGER, West Orange
WALTER H. BIERINGER, Boston
JACOB BILLIKOFF, Philadelphia
JACOB BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore
ABNER BREGMAN, New York
DAVID M. BRESSLER, New York
ALEXANDER BREST, Jacksonville, Fla.
ARTHUR BRIN, Minneapolis
JOHN S. BURKE, New York
BENJAMIN J. BUTTENWIESER, New York
FRED M. BUTZEL, Detroit
LOUIS CAPLAN, Pittsburgh
DUDLEY CATES, New York
SAMUEL MCCREA CAVERT, New York
BEN CONE, Greensboro, N. C.
DAVID DUBINSKY, New York
G. A. EFROYMSON, Indianapolis
MRS. SYDNEY B. ERLANGER, New York
JOHN M. FRANK, Chicago
ROBERT W. FRIEDMAN, St. Louis
HENRY J. FRIENDLY, New York
MRS. MAURICE L. GOLDMAN, San Francisco
MONROE GOLDWATER, 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 B. KOHN, Baltimore
DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, San Francisco

FLORINA LASKER, New York
ROBERT LAZARUS, Columbus, Ohio
ROBERT LEHMAN, New York
CHARLES J. LIEBMAN, New York
ISIDOR LOEB, St. Louis
JOSEPH P. LOEB, Los Angeles
RICHARD O. LOENGARD, New York
HERBERT MALLINSON, Dallas
JAMES G. McDONALD, Brooklyn
ARTHUR S. MEYER, New York
HENRY MONSKY, Omaha
WILLIAM A. NEILSON, Falls Village, Conn.
DAVID DE SOLA PCOL, New York
MICHAEL J. READY, Washington, D. C.
SIMON SAKOWITZ, Houston
EDGAR SALINGER, New York
LUDWIG SCHIFF, Los Angeles
EUSTACE SELIGMAN, New York
WILLIAM J. SHROBER, Cincinnati
JOSEPH SILBER, Cleveland
ABRAHAM HILLEL SILVER, Cleveland
EDGAR B. STERN, New Orleans
HUGH GRANT STRAUS, Brooklyn
MRS. NATHAN STRAUS, Valhalla, N. Y.
LEWIS L. STRAUSS, New York
FRANK L. SULZBERGER, Chicago
WILLIAM B. THAEHIMER, Richmond, Va.
JEROME I. UDELL, New York
F. FRANK VORENBERG, Boston
EDWARD M. M. WARBURG, New York
GEORGE L. WARRIN, New York
ALBERT C. WEIHL, Cincinnati
FRANK L. WEIL, New York
SOL WEINBERG, Philadelphia
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE, Emporia, Kansas
HENRY WINEMAN, Detroit
RALPH WOLF, New York

CABLES: NACOMREF, New York
TELEPHONE: BRYANT 9-2112

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

165 West 46th Street

New York City

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN
Chairman of the Board

WILLIAM ROSENWALD
President

DAVID H. SULZBERGER
*Chairman of the
Executive Committee*

ALFRED I. KARRIG

WILLIAM K. FRANK

MORRIS WOLF
Vice-President

RICHARD P. LIMBURG
Treasurer

PAUL FELIX WARBURG
Secretary

MRS. MYRON S. FALK, JR.

RICHARD S. GOLDMAN

SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH

I. EDWIN GOLDWASSER

HARRY GREENSTEIN

WILLIAM HANER

JOSEPH C. HYMAN

S. MARSHALL KEMPNER

ALBERT D. LASKER

PETER I. B. LAVAN

SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN

CLARENCE E. PICKETT

ERICH M. WARBURG

ETHEL H. WISE

JONAH B. WISE

ARTHUR D. GREENLEIGH
Acting Executive Director

May 16, 1941.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
E. 105th St. at Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

You have indicated that it will not be possible for you to be present at either the annual meeting of the Members and Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service, Inc., on Sunday, May 25th, or the informal dinner at the Hotel Warwick, which is to be held on the preceding evening.

Your inability to attend is regretted because of the very important matters which will be discussed at both meetings. It had been hoped that you would be able to give your advice and guidance on the problems facing us. However, since you cannot be present, you will find enclosed a regular proxy form which is to be returned as soon as possible.

You will also find enclosed for your information, copies of the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held in Cleveland on January 18th and 19th, as well as a summary of the activities of the Executive Committee. Your comments or suggestions concerning the matters referred to therein would be most welcome.

Sincerely yours,



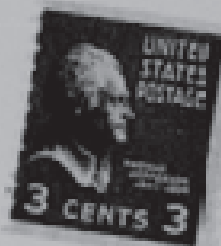
William Rosenwald, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

MICHAEL G. APPEL, Brooklyn	FLORINA LAUREN, New York
MRS. MAX ASCOLI, New York	ROBERT LAUREN, Columbus, Ohio
MRS. GEORGE BACKUS, New York	ROBERT LEHMAN, New York
PAUL BARKWOLD, New York	CHARLES J. LIKEMAN, New York
WILLIAM H. BALDWIN, New York	JACOB LORE, St. Louis
EDGAR S. BARNES, West Orange	JOSEPH P. LORE, Los Angeles
WALTER H. BIRKINGER, Boston	RICHARD O. LOUGHEAD, New York
JACOB BOLLINGOFF, Philadelphia	HERBERT MALLINSON, Dallas
JACOB BLAUSTEIN, Baltimore	JAMES G. McDONALD, Brooklyn
ANNE BREIDMAN, New York	ARTHUR S. MEYER, New York
DAVID M. BRENNER, New York	HENRY MONKEY, Omaha
ALEXANDER BRESL, Jacksonville, Fla.	WILLIAM A. NELSON, Falls Village, Conn.
ARTHUR BAIN, Minneapolis	DAVID DE SOZA POOL, New York
JOHN S. BURKE, New York	HUGH J. W. W. WASHINGTON, D. C.
BENJAMIN J. BUTENWITZER, New York	ELMER SCHWARTZ, Boston
FRED M. BUTLER, Detroit	JOHN SAMUELSON, New York
LOUIS CAPLAN, Philadelphia	JOHN SCHWARTZ, Los Angeles
DUPRE CATER, New York	JOHN SCHWARTZ, New York
SAMUEL MCCARTHY CAYEN, New York	JOHN SCHWARTZ, Cincinnati
REX COVE, Greensboro, N. C.	JOHN SCHWARTZ, Cleveland
DAVID DUBINACKY, New York	JOHN SCHWARTZ, New Orleans
E. A. EMMERSON, Indianapolis	JOHN SCHWARTZ, Newark, N. J.
MRS. SYDNEY B. ELLMAN, New York	MRS. ROBERT SCHWARTZ, Mahwah, N. Y.
JOHN M. FARRER, Chicago	LEWIS L. SCHWARTZ, New York
ROBERT V. FRIEDMAN, St. Louis	FRANK L. SCHWARTZ, Chicago
HENRY J. FRIENDLY, New York	WILLIAM B. THALHIMER, Richmond, Va.
MRS. MAURICE L. GOLDMAN, San Francisco	JEROME I. URELL, New York
MOORE GOLDWATER, New York	F. FRANK VOLKMEYER, Boston
ANNIE HEIN, New York	EDWARD M. M. WARREN, New York
DAVID H. HEYMAN, New York	GEORGE L. WARREN, New York
MAY HIRSCH, Cincinnati	ALBERT C. WONG, Cincinnati
MAY I. HIRSCH, Portland, Ore.	FRANK L. WIEL, New York
PHILIP C. JESSUP, New York	SOE WILKINS, Philadelphia
ALVIN S. JOHNSON, New York	WILLIAM ALGER WHITE, Emporia, Kansas
MRS. ELY J. KAHN, New York	HENRY WINEMAN, Detroit
LOUIS E. KIRKBY, Boston	RALPH WOLF, New York
MARTIN B. KOHN, Baltimore	
DANIEL B. KORNBLAU, San Francisco	





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

Room 1621

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

HOTEL STATLER - CLEVELAND, OHIO

JANUARY 18th - 19th, 1941

The meeting convened on Saturday morning, January 18th at the Hotel Statler, Cleveland, Ohio, with a professional workers' conference.

Opening Session

The Board of Directors convened Saturday evening with a welcome by Joseph Berne of Cleveland. William Rosenwald, President, called upon Professor Joseph P. Chamberlain, Chairman of the Board of Directors, to preside at this session.

Professor Chamberlain congratulated the Board members on the development of the agency and its program. Harry Greenstein of Baltimore, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, stressed the importance of maintaining the National Refugee Service program without any curtailment.

Dr. William Haber, Executive Director of the National Refugee Service, spoke of some of the problems facing the organization. He stated that there were some current misconceptions regarding the National Refugee Service that should be clarified. In summary, he said that:

1. Immigration is still continuing.
2. Relief to refugees in the United States must be administered in accordance with American standards.
3. Instead of a cash surplus, the National Refugee Service closed 1940 with a cash deficit of more than \$500,000.
4. The cost of maintaining National Refugee Service can only be calculated in terms related to the type of services rendered and the necessity for them.
5. Improved economic conditions, due to defense production, do not end the need for refugee assistance. Aliens are the last to be employed by industry, even if the age and employability factors are eliminated.

In the course of his remarks, Dr. Haber outlined the volume and character of the work of the National Refugee Service.

William J. Shroder of Cincinnati, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Welfare Funds and Federations, stressed the responsibility of the American Jews for the successful handling of the refugee problem in America. He stated that American Jewry would be judged by the manner in which the problem is handled and particularly, the manner in which the refugees are assimilated into American life. In this connection, he said

"We, all of us, are going to be judged, in our American life, by our success or failure in handling the refugee problem. I am not touching upon the human appeal - the fact that we owe it to these newcomers

as human beings, to do all that we can for them. I pass over that completely. I am not touching upon the natural pity that we should feel towards those who have suffered deeply. I am putting the problem to you upon absolutely selfish ground - that if we want to protect our future in America, we must do whatever is necessary to see that these newcomers do not, and cannot, become a burden upon the American economy, or upon the general way of life in America. If we do not, we permit a sore spot to fester into a social ill. We are going to be held responsible for the things that are bound to happen unless we now make the sacrifices necessary to prevent their happening."

Sunday Morning - Executive Session - January 19

William Rosenwald, President of the National Refugee Service, presided at the Executive session. The actions taken at this meeting follow:

1. All acts of the Executive Committee, directors and officers of the corporation were approved.
2. All authorized borrowings were approved.
3. The by-laws referring to the Executive Committee were amended to provide for the establishment of an Administrative Committee to be appointed from among the members of the Executive Committee. This Administrative Committee will serve for the length of time and for the purposes outlined by the Executive Committee, to which it will be responsible.
4. The following people were unanimously elected to membership on the Board of Directors:-

David Dubinsky, Monroe Goldwater, Jerome I. Udell, and Albert D. Lasker of New York City.

5. The following were unanimously appointed to membership on the Executive Committee:

Albert D. Lasker, Richard S. Goldman and Peter I. B. Lavan of New York City.

Sunday Morning - General Session - January 19

Fred M. Eutzel of Detroit, presided at the general session, which convened at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday.

Mr. Rosenwald commented on the problems facing the National Refugee Service in 1941. He expressed appreciation for the work of the members of the Executive Committee. He indicated that one of the most pressing problems the organization faces during the coming year

is concerned with rebuilding the confidence of relief clients. He pointed out, immigration will probably be at least at the same rate as last year. However, many more older people are coming in, bringing with them medical problems which, with the inadequate allowance in the relief budget for medical aid, creates a grave problem. He stated that it is becoming increasingly difficult for refugees to secure employment; that emphasis must be placed on re-training as an agency activity. He also pointed out that in 1941, increasing attention will be given to the problem of changing the status of refugees from that of visitors on temporary visas to that of immigrants with permanent visas.

Dr. Haber then gave his annual report, in which he stressed the following points:-

1. Probably fewer than 10% of the current relief load can be resettled. In this connection, he pointed out that the average age of the head of a resettled family is 38, as compared with the average age of the head of a family on relief in New York City, which is 50.
2. Resettlement has increased substantially over 1939. However, the Board must consider a policy on resettlement with respect to the tendency of local communities to accept only employable units.

In the absence of Rickard P. Limburg, the Treasurer's Report was given by Dr. Haber.

The reports of the President, Executive Director and Treasurer were then approved.

I. Edwin Goldwasser, presented the report of the Budget Committee, explaining in detail the items in the 1941 budget, which totalled \$4,342,150. Following a discussion of this matter it was agreed to give further consideration at the afternoon session to the budget and to campaign organization. The meeting then adjourned for the luncheon session.

Sunday Luncheon Session - January 19

Dr. David de Sola Pool presided at the luncheon meeting at which Dr. Frank Kingdon was the principal speaker.

Sunday Afternoon Session - January 19

At the afternoon meeting, the motion previously made by Dr. Solomon Lowenstein at the morning session to approve the budget of \$4,342,150 and the campaign organization necessary to raise such a sum, was unanimously passed.

Mr. Goldwasser requested that the record show that the \$50,000 item for the German-Jewish Children's Aid be held in reserve, contingent upon the latter requesting the National Refugee Service to administer its program.

The Board approved the principles stated in the resolution adopted by the professional conference. It then discussed the implications of that resolution in terms of what constituted a cross-section of the group being handled by the agency.

Alfred I. Esberg of San Francisco, nominated Mr. Rosenwald as Campaign Chairman. Mr. Rosenwald was elected by general acclamation. The meeting was adjourned.

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

DECEMBER 17, 1940 THROUGH APRIL 8, 1941

The Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc. meets at the offices of the organization every other Tuesday. Since the last meeting of the Board of Directors on January 19, 1941, the Executive Committee has had nine meetings. In addition to reviewing the 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 Board of Directors as part of their ratification of all actions of the Executive Committee.

1. - Financing of the National Refugee Service Program for 1941

In accordance with the decision that there would be no United Jewish Appeal for 1941, the officers of the National Refugee Service, as authorized by the Board in January, made arrangements for financing the program of the National Refugee Service for 1941. This involved authority to open national and New York City campaign offices and to make whatever arrangements might be necessary. Several meetings were held with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and it was agreed that the New York City campaign should be a joint NRS-JDC campaign, but that the national fund raising efforts of these two organizations should be independent, in accordance the Executive Committee approved resolutions with this recommendation and appointed a New York City Campaign Committee and a National Campaign Committee.

At the meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds held in Atlanta in February, Mr. William Rosenwald, on behalf of the National Refugee Service, accepted the suggestion that if there was to be a 1941 United Jewish Appeal, the minimum needs of the National Refugee Service should be determined by the neutral members of the Allotment Committee of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal, on condition that, in advance of the study to determine such minimum needs, the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal agree to accept the decision which the Committee would make in this regard; also, that the National Refugee Service would be willing to attend any meeting called by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds or the neutral members of the Allotment Committee of the 1940 United Jewish Appeal, with a view to reconstituting the United Jewish Appeal for 1941. The Executive Committee approved Mr. Rosenwald's action.

2. - 1941 Budget

The Executive Committee, on January 4th, authorized a budget of \$4,342,150. It was the Committee's view that, in fixing the allocations to be requested from various communities the Campaign Committee should aim at securing somewhat more than 50% of this budget from New York City.

The Committee gave thought to the question as to whether the monthly budgets for the first few months of the year should be based on a consideration of the fact that there was no indication as to what the income from the 1941 campaign would be. The Budget Committee was instructed, for the present, to continue to base the budget on the requirements of the present minimum program of aid.

In March the United Jewish Appeal was reconstituted. The National Refugee Service will receive \$2,000,000 out of the first \$8,800,000 which the United Jewish Appeal raises. Sums raised in excess of \$8,800,000 will be distributed by an Allotment Committee. Since the National Refugee Service budget for 1941 is \$4,542,150, the question as to what procedure to follow, in view of these facts, was raised. It was decided to continue operation as at present.

3. - Proposal to Establish a National Budgetary Advisory Service

At the Atlanta meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds held in February, resolutions were passed approving a proposal for the establishment of a national budgetary advisory service, this proposal to be submitted to the member agencies of the Council for referendum.

The Executive Committee indicated that it would welcome any procedure which would present to the Welfare Funds throughout the country complete data from agencies and an evaluation of such data. It further expressed the hope that the Welfare Funds throughout the country would confirm the action of the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, with regard to the establishment of such a national budgetary advisory service.

4. - Approval of Bank Resolutions for Borrowing and Approval of Loans

The Executive Committee approved resolutions authorizing the borrowing of \$500,000 from a banking institution. Loans from other sources amounting to \$50,000 on April 8, 1941 and \$50,000 on April 14, 1941 also were approved by the Executive Committee.

5. - Authorization for New Bank Accounts and Procedures Pertaining Thereto

The Committee gave specific approval of the establishment of proper bank accounts, authorized signatures on its checks and vouchers, and on surety bonds which the National Refugee Service has given or will give to the Government.

The Executive Committee authorized the Treasurer to work out some procedure for the endorsement by the United Jewish Appeal of checks received by the United Jewish Appeal and drawn to the order of the National Refugee Service.

6. - Affiliation with the Jewish Welfare Board

The Executive Committee accepted the invitation of the Jewish Welfare Board for the National Refugee Service to become one of its affiliates, with the understanding that no cost is involved in such affiliation; it was understood also that the acceptance of this invitation was not to be construed as setting any precedent or policy regarding affiliations with organizations.

7. - German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc.

At a meeting of the German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc., held on February 27, 1941, the members of that organization asked the National Refugee Service to supervise its activities and to assume responsibility for securing funds required for its budgetary requirements after 1940 and until further notice by either party. Plans for the reorganization of the German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc. are now under way.

8. - Co-Chairman of the Employment Department

Alfred I. Esberg and Paul Felix Warburg have consented to act as Co-Chairmen of the Employment Department.

9. - Public Relations Policy of the National Refugee Service

The Executive Committee gave careful consideration to the public relations policy of the organization. It was the consensus of opinion that the National Refugee Service should publicize its program and activities to a much greater extent than heretofore; that great care should be taken to provide that any material which is circulated should interpret to the country the positive, constructive program of the agency; that the emphasis be on directed (rather than general) publicity.

10. - Quarters for National Refugee Service, Inc. After September, 1941

Since the lease of the present quarters of the National Refugee Service expires in September, 1941, consideration was given to negotiations for a reduction of rental in the present quarters or for space elsewhere. A sub-committee was appointed, with authority and responsibility for bringing such negotiations to a conclusion.

11. - Annual Meeting of the Members and Directors of National Refugee Service, Inc.

The Executive Committee authorized the holding of the Annual Meeting of the Members and Board of Directors of the National Refugee Service in New York City on May 25th.

The Executive Committee also recommended that the Board of Directors be increased and that there be appropriate amendment of the by-laws and certificate of incorporation.

12. - National Refugee Service Resettlement Program

The Executive Committee discussed the present policies of the organization concerning agency-imposed restrictions which might be responsible for decreasing the number of families resettled each month. It was the feeling of the Committee that, as far as possible, these restrictions should be modified and a greater flexibility introduced.

13. - Resettlement of Refugee Physicians

A proposal for the resettlement of refugee physicians in certain communities on an experimental basis and the acceptance by the National Refugee Service of the financial responsibility for supporting such physicians in the community of resettlement for a limited period of time, was considered. The Executive Committee voted that the Physicians' Committee be permitted to place physicians in internships and, where necessary, provide for part of their expenses in such connection, details to be worked out by a sub-committee of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee approved a grant of \$15,000 for the year 1941, for the purpose of resettling on Indian reservations, a selected number of refugee physicians and dentists receiving subsidies from the National Refugee Service, with the understanding that the matter be reviewed at a later date with a view to further financial assistance. A contract between the Department of the Interior and the National Refugee Service has been found satisfactory by attorneys for the National Refugee Service. As soon as the Indian Affairs Medical Council meets, a definite decision will be reached on the matter.

14. - Appointment of National Resettlement Committee

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors at its meeting in Cleveland on January 19, with regard to the resettlement program of the National Refugee Service, the Executive Committee authorized the Chairman to appoint a committee to review the resettlement program of the National Refugee Service and New York's financial and functional responsibility for the refugee program. Accordingly, a National Resettlement Committee has been appointed, consisting of: Chairman; William J. Schroder, Cincinnati; Co-Chairman; Harry Greenstein, Baltimore; Walter Bieringer, Boston; Alfred I. Esberg, San Francisco; Virginia C. Frank, Chicago; Samuel Gerson, St. Louis; Maurice B. Herter, New York City; Kurt Peiser, Philadelphia; Harold Silver, Detroit; Maurice Taylor, Pittsburgh; Sidney Trattner, Richmond; Ex-officio, Erich M. Warburg, New York City.

15. - Implementation of the Retraining Program

The Executive Committee received a report that, in accordance with the action taken by the Board of Directors at its meeting in Cleveland on January 19, a start has been made toward implementing the retraining program.

It is planned to assist three or four communities immediately in setting up appropriate retraining projects, the National Refugee Service being prepared to assist with technical services and, where temporarily and absolutely required, with minimum financial assistance to share in the cost of such projects. It was indicated, however, that under no circumstances is this financial assistance to include any maintenance costs for refugees during the retraining period, whether recruited from the group already in the community or sent through the resettlement program. Two weeks' maintenance given resettled refugees will of course, continue to be granted.

A National Retraining Advisory Committee has been appointed consisting of: Walter H. Bieringer, Boston, and Sol Weinberg, Philadelphia, Co-Chairmen; Mortimer Adler, Rochester; Mrs. Ely Jacques Kahn, New York City; Meyer Kestnbaum, Chicago; Robert Lazarus, Columbus, Ohio; Philip N. Lilienthal, Jr., San Francisco; Richard O. Loengard, New York City; J. A. Rosenkranz, Los Angeles; Sidney Trattner, Richmond; Max R. Warner, Philadelphia; Erich M. Warburg, and Paul Felix Warburg, New York City.

16. - Use of National Refugee Service Retraining Facilities by Clients of American Christian Committee for Refugees

The American Christian Committee for Refugees requested permission for its clients to use the National Refugee Service vocational retraining facilities.

The Executive Committee voted to put the retraining facilities of the organization at the disposal of the clients of the American Christian Committee on a case-by-case basis and instructed that the possibility of the American Christian Committee contributing toward such costs as would be involved should be explored, since its present budget includes some funds for vocational retraining.

17. - Work Project for Housing

A group of prominent persons in the field of housing, including a representative of the National Public Housing Conference, indicated their interest in a new work relief housing project and requested the cooperation of National Refugee Service in such a project. They asked that the National Refugee Service make available the services of a number of relief clients who have a European housing background to undertake research jobs with outside non-profit organizations. The group would supplement, by a small amount, the relief budget of these persons.

The Executive Committee authorized that such a housing relief work project be tried with a limited number of people - six at most - for a period of three months, at which time it is to be reconsidered.

**18. - Responsibility for Cost of Change of Status for
Persons in Communities Outside New York City**

A number of local communities have recently requested the National Refugee Service to pay the costs involved in effecting change of status for persons in their communities who are in the United States on temporary visas.

The Executive Committee felt that the National Refugee Service should assume some of the cost for such cases. The inadequacy of the initial \$2,000,000 allocation from the United Jewish Appeal (with the possibility of an additional grant from the United Jewish Appeal Allotment Committee) when the National Refugee Service needs for 1941 are \$4,342,150, makes it impossible to assume such financial responsibility except on a case-by-case basis, and then only in participation with local communities.

The Executive Committee therefore authorized the Executive Director to make such decisions on a case-by-case basis, the community sharing in the costs.

19. - Committee for Intellectual Refugees

The Executive Committee authorized the formation of a new committee to be concerned with the problems of refugees who, because of their professional or intellectual vocations, require special consideration. The Chairman of the committee is to be a member of the Executive Committee.

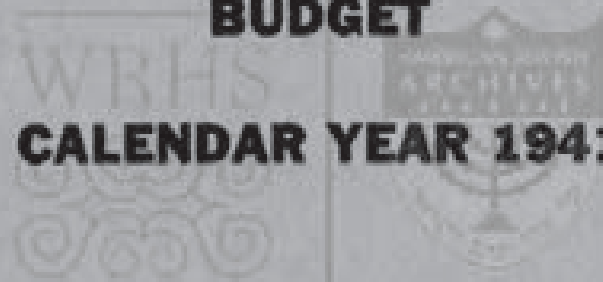
**20. - Participation of National Refugee Service Clients
in the Food Stamp Plan**

The Food Stamp Plan is a device of the Surplus Commodity Division of the United States Department of Agriculture to utilize surplus products. Up until recently, the Food Stamp Plan was available only to relief clients of public agencies. The Welfare Council of New York City has now asked the National Refugee Service to participate in the Food Stamp Plan. The question arises as to whether participation in such a plan constitutes receiving public assistance. The matter was discussed in Washington and it was indicated that participation in this plan does not constitute receiving public relief. A committee was appointed to study the question and to seek written corroboration of this opinion. When such written corroboration has been secured the matter will, again, be reviewed.

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, Inc.

BUDGET

CALENDAR YEAR 1941



NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

165 WEST 46th ST.

NEW YORK CITY

BUDGET -- 1941

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BUDGETARY ANALYSIS.....	Page 1
ACTIVITIES IN 1940 COMPARED WITH 1939.....	Page 10
FACTS ABOUT THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.....	Page 12

BUDGET ANALYSIS

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
1. <u>NATIONAL RESETTLEMENT AND FIELD SERVICE</u>	\$321,140	\$305,331

The complexities of life in New York City require intensive, almost artificial efforts to bring about the real integration of the refugee into the community. The very presence of many other refugees adds to the difficulties of making an adjustment. The picture is quite different in other American towns and cities. It is on this difference that the refugee resettlement program is based.

"Resettlement" is not a static program that operates routinely. It is developing and is constantly being improved by lay and professional leaders. In its essence resettlement represents the most effective solution to the problems presented by today's immigration.

The nature of contemporary immigration to this country has led to certain inescapable conclusions. To blind oneself to these conclusions is a grave disservice not only to the refugee but to the Jewish community and the nation as a whole.

One conclusion is that we cannot allow a refugee "ghetto" to be formed in New York or anywhere else - a place where refugees cluster, clinging to the mother tongue and the customs of a lost homeland, spending their days in dreams of the past rather than hopes for the future.

Another conclusion is that the process of assimilation and integration into American life - which used to be a matter of generations - must become a matter of months.

Still another conclusion is that the economic and psychological reconstruction of the refugee can best be accomplished through neighborliness, friendship, the personal touch of the small community rather than through the institutional methods and impersonal techniques which must be applied in a busy metropolis.

To the National Refugee Service these conclusions have pointed a clear road, the road of resettlement. We say, "Let us send them to the smaller cities and towns throughout the United States on a planned basis. Let's send them to places where they have a better opportunity to find work, where they have an even chance to make friends, where they will meet America."

Last year 5,109 individuals were resettled throughout the nation. More than five times this number of refugees were interviewed and only the youngest and those most likely to succeed were sent out. Of the amount spent for this service in 1940, the greatest part went in direct cash grants to refugees.

Each refugee who was resettled received two weeks' maintenance when he left for his new community, his transportation was paid and, after his arrival, his baggage was shipped to him. This was exclusive of transportation and similar charges paid or arranged by the Central Intake Department described later. Included in the resettlement program was the retraining of 118 young men and women who were sent to National Youth Administration projects at the expense of the N.R.S. Through its field service, the N.R.S. brought all of its technical resources to more than 1,000 communities during the year.

In 1941 efforts will be made to resettle approximately 6,500 refugees, as well as to increase the number of young refugees in Federal N.Y.A. camps. The average cost of resettling the 5,109 refugees who left New York last year was approximately \$60 per individual.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u> <u>1940</u>
2. <u>NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE</u> <u>OF MIGRATION DEPARTMENT</u>	\$83,125	\$98,173

Highly technical immigration problems requiring the services of experts flow into the N.R.S. daily. These trained workers deal with questions concerning the status of people abroad, circumstances of transportation, validity of affidavits, extension of visitors' visas, transportation of personal effects, and substantiation of financial responsibility on the part of affiants. The workers must have fingertip knowledge of changes in United States government regulations and the changes in regulations of foreign countries. They must be alive to the quota limitations for each country, to the status of individuals in waiting countries, and to the financial requirements of persons admitted to waiting countries.

In 1940 the migration staff worked on 78,370 specific cases, many of them fraught with tragedy, each one of them of tremendous personal concern to the refugees as well as their American relatives and affiants. More than 25,000 crisis situations, many of them involving life and death, were included in the total. With 1941 immigration rising to the quota ceiling, reduction in the budget estimate from expenditures in 1940 is accounted for by the transfer of temporary visa relief cases to other departments.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
3. <u>TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PERSONAL SERVICES</u> (including New York and Brooklyn sections of the National Council of Jewish Women).....	\$2,056,380	\$1,976,129
Financial assistance is given to refugees on a minimum		

basis, and only to those who are absolutely stranded without funds. Where relatives cannot be located, or are themselves on relief, or who, after careful investigation, are financially unable to provide for refugees, assistance is given. But first, every resource of the refugee client must be exhausted. The problems of the refugee must be studied sympathetically and thoroughly. Inquiry must be made into family status, number of children, ability to work and other important details. Housing, schooling, medical care, care of the aged, all play their part in the careful analysis of each individual case made by the trained workers. With the investigation completed, relief is provided only to the most needy of the thousands who apply.

During the past year, food, shelter and clothing was provided for 17,900 individual refugees at an average cost of less than \$100.00 per person cared for during the year. The number of individuals given financial assistance increased from 10,980 in 1939 to 17,900 in 1940, despite the fact that Jewish refugee immigration into the United States declined in this period from approximately 43,000 to 37,000. Those who came last year were older, in more desperate financial straits, and therefore required cash aid almost immediately.

Provision is made in 1941 for temporary cash relief for approximately 20,000 persons. Such provision is necessary in the light of the facts. In 1936, 17% of the Jewish immigrants were over 40 years of age. In 1940, 30% of the total Jewish refugee immigration was over 40 years. The average age of the heads of the families now receiving relief is almost 50 years. For them the future holds little promise of employment. For them there can be no public relief. Their only hope is the National Refugee Service and the food, shelter and clothing it provides for them.

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>
4. <u>CENTRAL RECEPTION AND INTAKE DEPARTMENT</u>	\$207,280	\$177,718

Central Intake receives the first impact of refugee immigration. Here the refugee is interviewed and his needs discussed in relation to the services of the other departments. Aid is given to the thousands of American Jewish communities in investigating relatives and affiliates of refugees with whom they are concerned. More than 75,000 requests for assistance were serviced by this Department in 1940.

Immediate temporary financial assistance pending transfer of cases to the Relief and Service Department is made available through Central Intake. In 1940 more than one half of the total disbursements of this department were made for such temporary relief. The budgetary increase in 1940 is made necessary by the same facts which compel more adequate provision for temporary financial assistance and personal services -- older age of refugees

applying for aid, difficulty of finding them employment, increasing number of health and related problems. The department was created in May of 1940 and consequently the figures for 1940 and 1941 are not strictly comparable.

Included within this department's estimate, are funds for assisting refugees to complete their migration to communities of final destination.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
5. <u>EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT</u>	\$78,895	\$82,349

Defense industries do not make jobs for refugees. It is perfectly clear that the refugee group will be the last to feel the effects of the national business recovery stimulated by the defense industries. But equally as important is the fact that the refugees who are seeking employment are older and more difficult of placement. The files of the employment department represent a mass of information, listing clients as to professional or business capacity, skilled and unskilled work. Employers are listed in the same systematic division, with present and probable future openings noted. Part of the staff is always in the field interviewing employers to find opportunities for refugees. With many of the jobs that are found, a saving is effected in the temporary financial assistance that otherwise would have to be made available.

Twenty-five thousand refugees were referred to prospective employers in 1940 and 4,900 of them were employed. The average cost of each referral was approximately \$3, a remarkably low expense that does not take into consideration the technical services provided in giving vocational advice to thousands of refugee clients.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
6. <u>SPECIAL COMMITTEES SERVICING PROFESSIONAL GROUPS</u>	\$62,860	\$63,574

Refugees with highly trained skills require special handling, and N.R.S. has special committees to deal with their problems. This budget item includes the cost of administering the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RESETTLEMENT OF FOREIGN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS and the CENTRAL LOAN FUND, but excludes actual relief and loans in these two categories which are dealt with under SPECIAL PROJECTS described later. The committees and the work they did in 1940 follow:

A. COMMITTEE ON REFUGEE MUSICIANS places artists in permanent positions, arranges special performances for them and assists them with funds to continue their musical

studies. Hundreds of refugee artists have been presented to American concert-goers through the efforts of the committee. During 1940, permanent positions for 573 musicians were found. Single engagements numbering 1,719 were arranged on the concert stage and with orchestras, for other refugees. The committee started the year 1941 with 550 refugee musicians looking to it for placement.

B. COMMITTEE ON REFUGEE JEWISH MINISTERS places refugee rabbis and religious functionaries in permanent and temporary positions, obtains contracts for rabbis, thus enabling them to come to this country with their families under non-quota status. Through the efforts of the Committee 119 refugees were placed as rabbis or functionaries during 1940. Special training classes for rabbis are made available at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

C. AGRICULTURAL SERVICE: During 1940, hundreds of refugees were interviewed with a view to their placement on farms. Dozens of farming projects were evaluated by the agricultural consultant and loans were arranged for the farm resettlement of 25 families, while an additional 30 loans were given on a scholarship basis for farm training.

D. THE DIVISION FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT made its services available in 21,183 cases in 1940. The Division serves as a clearing house, an information center and an agency for utilizing educational and communal resources. It assigns refugees to English classes taught by the W.P.A., the Board of Education and volunteer teachers. Reading lists are prepared and full information is made available and assistance is given to local communities in formulating and carrying through their programs of refugee adjustment.

E. THE HOUSING COMMITTEE deals with the difficult task of providing accommodations for the newly arrived refugee. In addition to providing temporary housing for 709 refugees during 1940, another 4,640 refugees were aided in finding suitable quarters.

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>
<u>STATISTICAL, INFORMATION, ACCOUNTING</u>		
<u>AND EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS</u>	\$135,270	\$137,727

An organization like the N.R.S. requires exceedingly careful controls for efficient operation. Into its offices comes a vast amount of information from all of the Jewish communities in the country. Its files contain more than three-quarters of a million records on refugees, their relatives and affiliates, both here and abroad. The N.R.S. is the repository of the most comprehensive

information in the country on the new refugee immigration. It is through the analysis and study of this information that progress can be made in the handling of this difficult problem. Such studies are made available to Jewish communities throughout the country, to departments of the United States government, to schools and libraries everywhere.

The accounting department issues the relief checks and keeps the records in thousands of cases involving temporary cash assistance. Through its collection units, approximately \$60,000 was recovered in 1940 in repayment of loans and other advances made to refugees.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
8. <u>OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u>	\$240,100	\$276,151

This is the "overhead" item in a service agency such as the N.R.S. In a supplementary report now being prepared, certain of the expenses included herein will be pro-rated to the various departments of the N.R.S., affording an even clearer picture of the cost of their operations. Included is the cost of rent (\$75,000 for approximately 94,000 square feet), telephone, postage, telegrams, stationery, printing and electricity. In 1940 some 300,000 letters and telegrams were received at the N.R.S. Each involved further correspondence, exchange of telegrams in the United States and frequent cables overseas. In spite of high rentals in New York City, the floor space necessary to meet with and to discuss the personal problems of some 30,000 people a month is relatively inexpensive in comparison with other available quarters. Also included are the traveling expenses of the field staff and interest on loans.

On the basis of the 1941 budget, the overhead represented in this item is approximately 5½%, an already low figure that will be reduced substantially when expenses are pro-rated to the respective departments.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
9. <u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u>	\$263,000	\$138,480

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
1. <u>CENTRAL LOAN FUND</u>	\$165,000	\$53,300

Loans granted to refugees for the establishment of small business enterprises make a definite social and economic contribution to American life. Scores of communities throughout the United States have obtained N.R.S. help in setting refugees up in small businesses. This was done on a

fifty percent matching basis and, in every case, the community thereby made rehabilitation, rather than relief, the solution of a refugee problem. During 1940, funds were advanced in 603 cases. Repayments of loans are on the upgrade, but requests for loans for self-support enterprises in communities all over the country are increasing in number. In 1941 provision has been made to meet approximately 1,500 community requests for refugee loans. The Central Loan Committee, through a panel of business and professional volunteers, assisted 3,429 refugees last year in setting themselves up in business at their own expense.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
B. <u>TUITION AND RESETTLEMENT OF</u> <u>FOREIGN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS</u>	\$98,000	\$85,180

The 2,700 refugee physicians who have come to the United States present a problem far more serious than their numbers would indicate. Restrictions have been imposed on their right to practice in 44 out of the 48 states. Despite this fact 346 professional placements were made in 1940. Another 1,474 refugee physicians and dentists were evaluated and referred for placement. Approximately 400 refugee physicians and dentists will be enabled to carry on their careers in 1941 under the provisions made in this item.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
10. <u>VOCATIONAL RETRAINING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>	\$295,000	\$30,443

The older refugees and those possessing little or no capacity for work in America present a serious problem to American Jewish communities. Communities everywhere have asked the N.R.S. for an answer. While there appears to be no immediate or all inclusive solution in terms of complete rehabilitation, the N.R.S. instituted an experimental retraining program in 1940. During the past year 471 refugees were given vocational retraining at the port of entry alone. Some 50 different skills were taught. Employment was thus made possible for refugees who otherwise would have cost the country a vast amount of money in terms of direct cash relief. Idle, and unprovided for, these refugees might indeed create a situation that the American Jewish community would obviously be most eager to prevent.

To permit continued resettlement of refugees at the rate of approximately 6,500 persons in 1941, the retraining program instituted by the N.R.S. in New York must be expanded. Otherwise the communities of the country will be receiving refugees on a resettlement basis for whom economic placement will be much more difficult, if not impossible. N.R.S. therefore proposes to attack

the problem both in New York and in several other communities in the country through the establishment of vocational retraining opportunities. The nature and location of certain of these projects have been studied and steps must be taken immediately to make this service available. Vocational guidance will be extended to more than 1,500 persons in 1941.

The following are some of the courses now being offered or soon to be initiated by the Vocational Training Service: dental mechanics, domestic work, cooking, millinery, printing, baking, upholstery, furniture repair, accountancy, auto body, fender work, microphotography, x-ray operation, machine shop work, beauty culture, welding and pattern making.

Provision is made under this item for expanded services in the fields of resettlement, employment and migration through an enlarged field service functioning within the communities of the country.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
11. <u>EFFECTING CHANGE OF STATUS</u>	\$300,000	\$1,550

The 15,000 refugees living in the United States on temporary visas are forbidden by law to seek gainful employment. The Immigration Law requires that the holder of a temporary visa must leave the country and obtain a permanent visa outside its limits before he can re-enter the United States.

Arrangements have just been made with the State Department to effect this change through temporary asylum in Cuba, Canada or other countries, so that these refugees may become self-supporting. Last year, when \$1,550 was expended for this purpose, these arrangements had not yet been made. In 1941 the N.R.S. must financially assist at least 3,000 refugees here on temporary visas to leave the United States. While here on a temporary basis they are real or potential relief clients. Once here on a permanent visa basis, employment may be found for them. The average cost for this service is approximately \$100. per refugee.

	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>1941</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u> <u>1940</u>
12. <u>SUBVENTIONS</u>	\$127,100	\$189,064

When the National Refugee Service was created it took over administrative responsibility for a large number of functional organizations dealing with refugees. The program of each of these organizations is supervised by the N.R.S. and each agency deals with an aspect of the work that is not duplicated by the N.R.S. Certain subventions have been eliminated in the budget of 1941. The more important ones provided in 1941 follow:

A. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE IN AID OF
DISPLACED FOREIGN SCHOLARS.....\$70,000

This Committee has financed the placement of several hundred of the greatest scholars of Europe in American institutions of learning. Colleges and universities throughout the United States have benefited as a result.

B. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE IN AID OF
DISPLACED MEDICAL SCIENTISTS.....\$35,000

Refugees whose contributions in scientific fields have established them in the academic world, are assisted by this committee to find permanent teaching opportunities in colleges and universities.

C. OTHER SUBVENTIONS.....\$22,100

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>
13. <u>PROVISION FOR GERMAN JEWISH CHILDREN'S AID AND RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES</u>	\$170,000	\$ <u>NONE</u>

The sum of \$50,000 must be held in reserve for a subvention to the German Jewish Children's Aid during 1941, pending final decision as to responsibility for financing the program. The National Refugee Service assumed administrative responsibility for German Jewish Children's Aid in 1940 and by special arrangement with the Federal government, permission was granted to bring a limited number of refugee children to the United States to be placed with private families.

A reserve of \$10,000 per month must be established to meet unforeseen contingencies and increased demands. Sudden fluctuations due to change in immigration regulations, temporary staff increases, accelerated relief requirements and concentration of refugee immigration during certain portions of the year are examples of the uses to which a contingency fund is put.

TOTAL 1941 BUDGET OF NEEDS.....\$4,342,100

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 *	321,295	26,775	318,000	26,500
II. Financial aid to clients				
A. Persons receiving financial aid **				
1. Number of families	7,580	3,270	4,730	1,970
2. Number of individuals	17,900	6,020	10,980	4,815
III. Employment activity				
A. Number of placements in jobs	4,935	411	4,912	409
B. Number of referrals for jobs	24,604	2,050	20,640	1,720
C. Number of individuals registered during year	17,100	6,282	14,900	5,850
IV. Persons resettled out of New York City				
A. Number of family units	2,826	236	2,139	178
B. Number of individuals	5,109	426	3,546	296
V. Migration services				
A. Number of services rendered (By corres- pondence and interviews)	78,370	6,530	Not comparable	

* Includes requests by individuals appearing in person in all departments of the agency. No written or telegraph requests are included.

** Annual figures estimated.

VI. Activity of Special Committees during 1940

A. Central Loan Fund	
1. Number of loans *	603
2. Number of applicants for loans	378
3. Number of cases given business advice	3,429
B. Retraining services **	
1. Number of individuals for whom retraining was initiated	471
C. Agricultural Consultant	
1. Number of farm loans	25
2. Number of scholarship loans	30
D. German Jewish Children's Aid	
1. Number of children arrived	99
2. Number of active cases	1,879
E. Housing Committee **	
1. Average number of available premises listed each month	2,268
2. Number of persons provided with lists of available premises	4,640
3. Number of persons temporarily housed	709
F. Musicians' Committee	
1. Number of applicants	552
2. Number of permanent positions found	573
3. Number of single engagements arranged	1,719
G. Physicians' Committee	
1. Number of applicants	895
2. Number of referrals for evaluations and placements	1,474
3. Number of placements	346
H. Rabbis' Committee	
1. Number of applicants	134
2. Number of placements	119
I. Social and Cultural Adjustment Division	
1. Number of services rendered	21,183

* Includes more than one loan to the same client

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

Facts About the National Refugee Service

The National Refugee Service is the successor agency to the National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees and Emigrants Coming from Germany, which was formed in 1934, when a trickle of refugees first found their way from Hitler's Germany to freedom in the New World. For several years the National Coordinating Committee served to bring together the work of more than a score of organizations offering service of one kind or another to refugees. As refugee immigration increased, however, it became apparent that a loosely knit federation of agencies was no longer capable of meeting the infinitely complicated questions which arose. A functional agency was necessary to deal with the varied problems of immigrants from the increasing toll of nations under Nazi domination, as well as from Germany itself.

Established one and one-half years ago, the National Refugee Service set out to consolidate under a centralized administration activities formerly carried on by separate groups. Today it may be described as the chief instrumentality of the American Jewish community for assisting refugees already here, whether as permanent immigrants or as temporary visitors, and those who are continuing to emigrate to the United States.

Although modified from time to time to meet new conditions, the program of the agency is basically designed to enable newcomers to become a self-supporting and constructive part of their new homeland as quickly as possible. In addition to giving service to refugees arriving at the main port of entry -- New York -- and other ports on the East and West coasts, the National Refugee Service has assisted in the organization and development of local committees throughout the country for the twofold purpose of meeting the needs of refugees already

settled in those sections and receiving additional refugees on a planned resettlement basis.

Since 1933 an estimated 135,000 Jewish refugees have entered the United States as permanent immigrants. In addition, 15,000 persons are currently in the country on temporary visas. The total number is not large. In terms of the country's population, it amounts to about 1/10 of 1%. But this immigration has come about at a time when the country was beset with serious economic problems and as a result public opinion has been unusually sensitive to the new influx. This factor, coupled with the recent rise of anti-alien feeling in certain sections of the country, has made it essential that care be exercised at every stage in the handling of the various aspects of the refugee problem -- employment, relief, and adjustment. From its inception, the National Refugee Service has attempted to meet this task.

Despite inadequate funds, we believe that creditable results have been achieved on the greater part of the program undertaken thus far. Following are some of the indicia of National Refugee Service performance in the year just ended.

321,295 personal requests for service, advice and information were answered.

78,370 migration services were rendered.

17,900 individuals in 7,580 families were given financial assistance.

5,109 individuals were resettled.

4,935 job placements were effected.

Additional thousands of recent immigrants were aided by capital loans and retraining, by the housing service and the social and cultural division, and by the several committees concerned with the specialized problems of physicians, dentists, rabbis, scholars, musicians, agriculturists, and similar groups.

The task of the National Refugee Service has grown cumulatively

more difficult. For the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1940, Jewish immigration figures of 36,945 were slightly below the 1939 total of 43,460 because of the difficulties of war-time transportation. But there was no slackening in the volume of interviews and correspondence handled by the Migration Department -- an average of 6,550 for each of the past six months, and the problems raised by anxious inquirers have increased in complexity. Forced to flee to second and third countries of temporary refuge, refugees are virtually land-locked in a European continent where Lisbon is the only open port.

Plans for 1941 are being made on the most reliable information at our disposal. This is to the effect that the number of visas issued during the year 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, - Cuba, Shanghai, and elsewhere.

Since 1938, the younger emigres and those able to leave Europe with some possessions and even capital, have been decidedly in the minority. An older group, with extremely meager resources, now forms the bulk of refugee immigration. These factors, plus an increase in new applications for assistance for refugees here one or two years, have marked a tendency toward a permanent residual relief load. In October, 1939, refugee families were on relief for an average duration of 5.3 months. This has shown a steady increase and by November, 1940 had reached 10.8 months. In the same period the average age of the heads of families on relief rose from 43.9 to 49.3 years with corresponding implications for our employment and resettlement programs. It would be shortsighted to anticipate any further reduction in relief disbursements. Monthly allowances per case have already been cut 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.

Employment placements were slightly above last year's level, despite added difficulties brought on by the less favorable constituency of the group and the reluctance of many employers to give jobs to non-citizens. However, the placements made did not reduce the active list of 4,600 job seekers at the beginning of each month.

New barriers limiting severely the placement of professionals of all kinds, especially in the physician's category, call for a further intensification of training and placement efforts.

Resettlement of 5,109 persons was achieved in 1940 as against 3,546 individuals in 1939. Estimates for 1941 contemplate an increase in the number of persons resettled, with a corresponding rise in the expenses necessary for transportation of persons and furniture, provision of two weeks' maintenance in communities of resettlement, and cost of N.Y.A. training programs for refugee youth.

During the past year strides have been taken in perfecting the internal organization of the National Refugee Service, with a view to maximum efficiency of operation and service to affiliated committees. Certain improvements in efficiency and simplification in procedures have resulted in a slight reduction in outlay for personnel and for administrative expenses. But the basic minimum needs for service to operating departments of NRS remain at their present levels.

And so, all along the line, indications are that 1941, with its anticipated rise in immigration and increase in relief needs, will require a minimum budget in excess of last year's expenditures. The services performed by the agency in the past must continue, and the only way in which this can be accomplished is to provide adequate finances. In addition, the 1941 budget, as approved, provides for certain expansion of our constructive services with the expectation that long term economies will result.

Among these objectives are the following:

- (1) More adequate provision for a vocational re-training program.
- (2) Increased funds for capital loan activity.
- (3) Greater attention to the training needs of physicians and dentists.
- (4) Provision of funds for effecting a change of immigration status for 3,000 temporary visitors now in the United States so that they may be permitted to engage in gainful employment.



Officers Reports and Agenda
for
Meeting of the Board of Directors

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

Cleveland, Ohio
January 18-19, 1941



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 27,800 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

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 43,450 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 emphasized 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.

Y

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 PROBLEM

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 5,229 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 5,035 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.

Lumberg - not present

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

Goldwasser.
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 dock 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 \$65,000 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 NBS

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.