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United Jewish Appeal, United Palestine Appeal, National Refugee
Service, 1941.

CABLES: NACOMREF, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: BRYANT 9-2102

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

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

165 WEST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

January 16, 1941

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Executive Director

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

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

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Richard P. Limburg
Richard P. Limburg
Treasurer

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NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, Inc.

165 West 46th Street

New York City

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ALBERT ABRAHAMSON
Executive Director

ARTHUR D. GREENLEIGH
Assistant Executive Director

September 25, 1941

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

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Council on Refugee Aid has written to community leaders throughout the country, advising them of their program and requesting cooperation in arranging meetings to discuss various aspects of the refugee program. I am told that such a communication was sent to you.

We have recently had a number of inquiries about the Council. It is for this reason that I am sending you a copy of a letter which I wrote some time ago to an individual in each of the communities where it is planned to hold these meetings. This letter contains details concerning the Council about which you should be informed.

If you have any further questions on the matter, please feel free to write to me.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Abrahamson

Albert Abrahamson
Executive Director

COPY

July 18, 1941

Dear :

The National Refugee Service and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee have been requested to lend their assistance to the educational program presently contemplated by the Council on Refugee Aid.

The moving spirits in the Council on Refugee Aid are, among others, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Clarence Pickett, Executive Director of the American Friends Service Committee and Dr. Frank Aydelotte, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Mr. Roy Veatch is the professional director of these activities. The Council has undertaken to familiarize the country with the work of the various refugee organizations now in existence and with refugee problems the world over. We are advised that the Council does not intend either to engage in a fund raising campaign for refugee agencies, or to control, in any way, the functions of refugee agencies.

Since the National Refugee Service deals with the needs of Jewish refugees within the United States and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is concerned with many phases of the needs of refugees overseas, these two agencies consider the educational effort to be made by the Council on Refugee Aid as a step toward broadening the basis of understanding of the refugee problem. It is hoped to stimulate interest in the work of existing agencies and to secure a better understanding of the problem, especially among those groups who today are indifferent.

Accordingly, the National Refugee Service and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee have collaborated in supplying the Council on Refugee Aid with the names of a few community leaders throughout the United States who will be approached by this latter organization, to participate in a preliminary discussion of various aspects of the refugee problem. The names of the individuals in addition to yourself, suggested from your city are -----, -----,-----,-----,-----.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Abrahamson

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

October 14, 1941

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ALBERT ABRAHAMSON
Executive Director
ARTHUR D. GREENLEIGH
Assistant Executive Director

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
United Palestine Appeal, Inc.
The Temple
East 105 Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The 1941 United Jewish Appeal contract provides that negotiations for a 1942 United Jewish Appeal shall be commenced during the month of October, 1941. Accordingly, the Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc., a beneficiary of the 1941 United Jewish Appeal, adopted the attached resolution at its meeting on October 7.

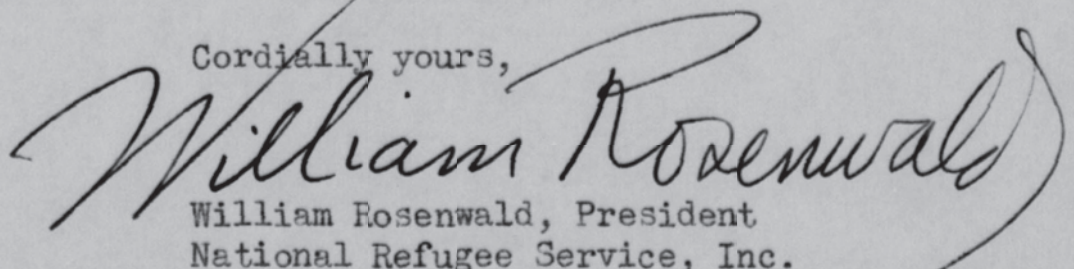
In adopting this resolution, the Executive Committee was fully cognizant of the fact that through the United Jewish Appeal substantial sums of money were raised this year, as well as in previous years, for its beneficiaries. As the agency charged by the American Jewish community with the responsibility for meeting the needs of refugees in the United States, the National Refugee Service is appreciative of the services and efforts of the United Jewish Appeal. However, it is equally concerned with the necessity of participating actively in all of the negotiations which, in no small measure, will determine the future of American efforts to deal with that part of the United Jewish Appeal program which is directly domestic in character.

A similar letter and a copy of the enclosed resolution are being sent to Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

We look forward to an early and favorable reply.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Cordially yours,


William Rosenwald, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the office of The United Palestine Appeal, in New York City.

October 7, 1941

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Refugee Service, Inc. reaffirms the position it has unalterably maintained, that a united campaign is the most desirable medium for financing the great human undertaking of the beneficiary agencies of the 1941 United Jewish Appeal, and

WHEREAS, the National Refugee Service, Inc. is not now a partner in the United Jewish Appeal and no provision has been made for its direct participation in the negotiations for a 1942 United Jewish Appeal, and

WHEREAS, now, more than ever before, the general American community and the Jewish community in particular are concerned with the refugee problem in this country as directly related to the position of all aliens in a time of national emergency, and

WHEREAS, the National Refugee Service, Inc. has succeeded in enlisting from all sections of American Jewry unparalleled interest, effort and cooperation in providing temporary financial help, education, self-support, resettlement, employment, retraining and numerous other services for the refugee population, leading toward a planned adjustment for this group and their complete integration into American community life,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED as the sense of the Executive Committee of the National Refugee Service, Inc.

1. That the National Refugee Service, Inc., as the primary agency making possible the orderly provision of these important services on a national basis, as well as assistance and advice to refugees and to American citizens throughout the country on migration and other problems, and concerned with the public relations aspect of the refugee situation, should have the right to designate representatives in any negotiations which will take place with regard to a 1942 United Jewish Appeal, on the same basis as that accorded to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, and

2. That the National Refugee Service, Inc. should be granted partnership status equivalent to that of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal in any United Jewish Appeal to be formed in 1942, and

3. That, like the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal, National Refugee Service, Inc. should have representation on the Board of Directors and on the Allotment Committee of such a United Jewish Appeal; that, together with these agencies, it should share fully in all responsibilities and activities, enjoying all of the rights and privileges of a constituent member in a united drive.

**SUMMARY OF INVITATION CONFERENCE
NEW YORK, OCTOBER 18-19, 1941**

By Harry Greenstein

NOTE: The conference was called not for fund raising purposes, but for a candid examination of the refugee problem in the United States. An unusually fine and representative cross-section of American Jewish leaders was in attendance. Consideration was given to the immediate and long range refugee situation both here and abroad, to its potential impact on the status of the American Jewish community and to the problems raised by the prospect of war. Obviously, in a brief statement such as this, it is impossible to give a detailed account of the many things which were said. For the purpose of this summary only the significant points made are included.

Saturday Evening, October 18th

THE HONORABLE SAMUEL I. ROSENMAN, chairman of the Saturday evening meeting, opened the conference and indicated why it had been called.

THE HONORABLE HERBERT H. LEHMAN, Governor of New York, one of the principal speakers at the opening session on Saturday evening, underscored the fact that refugees can be a great asset to this country provided we have the vision and the good sense to utilize their capabilities. American Jews, he stated, have the following responsibilities in connection with the refugee problem:

1. To help refugees adjust themselves rapidly to our American life. Through education and example we must show them how to meet and discharge the responsibilities and duties which they must willingly accept in exchange for the privilege of citizenship.
2. We must accomplish, as far as is practical, a sound geographic distribution of refugees so that the impact of large numbers may not be felt in any one locality.
3. We must help establish an intelligent and reasonable distribution of newcomers by vocation, trade and profession, so that the impact of any substantial economic competition with older residents may be eliminated.
4. We should join other groups in counteracting discrimination in employment. This problem affects not only refugees but all aliens and is a particularly urgent one. Unless solved, it will inevitably result in increased racial and religious animosities.
5. Above all, we must see to it that none of the refugees become a charge on the general community.

MR. MARSHALL FIELD followed Governor Lehman and outlined the program of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, of which he is Chairman. He pointed out that the Committee has served and continues to serve as the only non-sectarian agency in America for sponsoring the entry of groups of refugee children under a simplified procedure authorized by the Government. It assures the proper care here of each child until he is 21 years old, in accordance with Government requirements.

About 1,000 children from Britain are here under United States Committee auspices. Also, more than 200 Jewish child refugees have been rescued by the Committee from the Continent and, in cooperation with the German-Jewish Children's Aid, Inc., placed in homes here. The Committee hopes to rescue another 300 from Europe, many of them in acute danger, provided funds are available. It has undertaken a quiet, intensive campaign to raise funds for this purpose. Mr. Field called on all groups to cooperate in this effort.

THE HONORABLE ADOLF A. BERLE, Jr., Assistant U. S. Secretary of State, was the final speaker at the Saturday evening session. In the course of his remarks he traced the historical development of our country's immigration laws, the flow of refugees here and the reasons which led up to the recent modifications of immigration procedures and policies.

The Secretary pointed out that the State Department, by itself, has no solution for the refugee question. It looks to the American Jewish community, particularly the community's agencies, to provide the answers to the problem. This is in line with the historic policy of the Department. Our government has always looked to the representatives of religious or cultural groups already here to accomplish the speedy integration and Americanization of their new arrivals.

What the American Jewish community is doing today in behalf of refugees has been done several times before in American history. In 1848 the German refugees from Prussian oppression benefited by a remarkable program of assistance that was supplied both by individuals and organized effort. Large tracts of land were bought in the midwest and newcomers settled on them. American schools were promptly established and efforts made to discourage "separatist" tendencies and the retention of old world loyalties.

The Secretary pointed out that the problems of Americanizing and distributing today's refugee group must be solved by different means suited to the times. There is no longer free land. The solution must take the form of economic integration, social adjustment and planned resettlement, as is now being done.

The Secretary then went on to discuss certain implications of the refugee problem. He was quite frank in indicating his personal point of view with regard to some of the false assumptions which prevail in certain quarters. It is his personal opinion, for example, that the fear that refugees might include "Fifth Columnists" among their number is vastly overestimated and that the immigration policy of the country should not be based on this fear.

The additional fear that refugees have added to the anti-Semitic feeling in this country is also very much exaggerated. It would be more than unfair to limit the admission of refugees to America because of this particular prejudice. This country has gone through regular cyclical periods insofar as anti-alien feeling is concerned.

The prejudice against Jews today is in line with this general development and is no different from the prejudice which existed earlier in our history against the Irish, the Italians and other groups. The Secretary ventured the prediction that anti-Semitic feeling had reached its peak and in a few years would be on the downward curve.

The Secretary then discussed in some detail the situation which will face us after the war. In all likelihood, there will be an impetus toward greater immigration from war-torn Europe which will have to be guided; the forces at work involve as many as 30,000,000 persons, perhaps even more. Today, because our own immigration represents a trickle compared to what is ahead, we can handle it as we are doing. But when we look at the horrors abroad and recognize the inevitable aftermath, we should recognize that we must do a great deal of thinking and planning to meet a future situation. This planning should be done now and not later if the problem is to be met in a statesmanlike way.

Out of the present struggle will come a shift in population and an uprooting of people which none of us can now appraise. We are witnessing at the present time not only a war, but an economic revolution; not only a military struggle between nations, but an effort to mold the world of tomorrow. The United States is the principal country which can help to plan this new world, and all of us must help do our part. Obviously it will be impossible for private philanthropy to meet this gigantic task, but private philanthropy can make its contribution. The Secretary called attention to the Dominican Republic Settlement Association refugee colonization project financed through Jewish sources as one indication of how private effort could play its role.

The Secretary particularly emphasized the fact that dependent on how well the refugee organizations do their work in this country and to the extent that American Jews measure up to their responsibilities, will the decisions and the attitude of the American Government be affected with regard to its future immigration policies and procedures. He urged everyone present to support to the utmost the efforts now being made to care for refugees.

Sunday Morning, October 19th

MR. CARL AUSTRIAN served as chairman and opening speaker of the Sunday morning session, devoted to a discussion of the state of the public mind on the refugee problem, and the extent to which it is possibly related to a growth of anti-Semitism. Mr. Austrian stated that anti-Semitism in America, which we formerly regarded as a sporadic problem, has formed itself into a connected pattern. Anti-Semitic, Fascist and Isolationist groups cooperate and exhibit a common front. We are no longer dealing, however, with the irresponsible, soapbox type of anti-Semitic leader. Anti-Semitism has made recent appearances in so-called "respectable" places and under the sponsorship of "respectable" leaders. The article which recently appeared in the Atlantic Monthly and the leadership given anti-Semitic forces by such persons as Colonel Lindbergh and Senator Nye, were cited as examples of this trend.

MR. KENNETH CRAWFORD, Washington correspondent for the newspaper PM, commented on anti-Semitism and anti-refugee sentiment in the Washington scene. He stated that the same people in Congress who were opposed to all aliens, as well as refugees, were giving impetus to the anti-Semitic movement. Mr. Crawford took the position that we should not hesitate to help bring the problem out into the open for analysis and for discussion. It was his feeling that if Colonel Lindbergh were to repeat his anti-Semitic attacks these would result in complete revulsion on the part of a majority of Americans against this type of propaganda. Mr. Crawford also pointed out that the Congressional mind on alien matters is extremely unfavorable and that the situation is getting worse. This is due in large measure to the influence of certain Congressional leaders who find that open espousal of anti-alien sentiment automatically insures their re-election by their isolated, rural constituencies. The Hobbs Bill proposing certain alien restrictions in event of war was then discussed by Mr. Crawford. He said that while there were certain good points in the Bill, he felt on the whole it was vicious.

MR. READ LEWIS, Executive Director of the Common Council for American Unity, an organization dedicated to the interests of the foreign-born, stated that in his opinion the situation in Congress on alien matters was not getting worse and opposed Mr. Crawford's views on the merits of the Hobbs Bill. He called attention to the fact that the American Bar Association and other responsible groups have endorsed the Bill and added that, while in need of amendment, the Bill has much to commend it. (NOTE: Since the occasion of this discussion the House killed the Hobbs Bill, which had been submitted with its more liberal provisions stricken out.

MR. IRVIN BETTMANN of St. Louis served as chairman of the mid-morning session devoted to the implications of the refugee problem at the present time.

MR. MORRIS C. TROPER, Chairman of the European Committee of the Joint Distribution Committee, the first speaker of this session, discussed the trend of refugee immigration to this country and the situation here and abroad. Since July 1st of this year when new visa control regulations were adopted by the U. S. State Department, 5,000 applications for visas have been cleared by the Department, he indicated. Mr. Troper added that the history of immigration shows that despite restrictions and obstacles which seem almost insurmountable people have found ways to get to this country, and that this will continue.

Sooner or later the Fascist countries will force refugees across their borders into countries where there are American Consuls. This action will help dramatize the plight of the refugees for America and will undoubtedly result in strong public opinion which will call for liberalization of immigration procedures.

Mr. Troper then concluded with a stirring and eloquent plea that American Jews should change from their present negative attitude to a much more positive one with regard to refugees. The whispering campaign which is going on against refugees in this country should stop; we should never permit ourselves to forget the horrors through which these men and women have gone and that we need to be much more sympathetic and understanding.

MR. WILLIAM J. SHRODER, of Cincinnati, Chairman of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, then described the programs of the National Refugee Service, the HIAS, the National Council of Jewish Women, and local community refugee committees and pointed out the significant activities carried on by these organizations. The HIAS, and to some extent the National Council of Jewish Women, he indicated, are devoted principally to what may be called "port and dock work" and meet the short-term needs of the refugees.

He stated that in nine years 200,000 Jews from a dozen European countries have escaped from Hitler's tyranny to America. Last year, 1940, the American Jewish community through its refugee agencies spent an estimated \$5,500,000 meeting refugee needs. Of this amount \$1,500,000 was spent by local refugee committees, \$3,500,000 by the National Refugee Service and the remainder by other organizations. In these nine years not a single refugee has been deported as a public charge.

Through the National Refugee Service, he added, the American Jewish community now maintains a complete program for meeting the long-term needs of the newcomers so that they may be helped to become a part of American life as rapidly and effectively as possible. Through the work of the National Refugee Service and the other agencies a record of achievement has been made in refugee work for which American Jews may be truly grateful.

In the discussion which followed MR. SAMUEL A. GOLDSMITH urged the importance of organizing a full time research group in New York to explore all the ramifications of the refugee problem from the point of view of both the Jewish community and the larger American community. We know principally about those refugees who come to the refugee agencies. We need to take the American people into our confidence if we are to do the kind of educational job that will develop a wider acceptance of refugees in this country. This job has a distinct relation to the development of the "arsenal of spirit" so badly needed in American life today.

Sunday Afternoon, October 19th

The Sunday afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the problems raised by the prospect of war.

THE HONORABLE MORRIS ROTHENBERG chairman of the luncheon session, indicated that the problems under discussion were among the most serious facing the American Jewish community at the present time.

MR. LAWRENCE M. C. SMITH, of the Special Defense Unit of the Department of Justice, was the principal speaker at the afternoon meeting. He emphasized the fact that the aliens who are here and who will not interfere with our defense program have no cause for alarm. The Government regards this as not only a humanitarian but also a practical approach. There are five million aliens in America at the present time. Obviously it would be difficult, if not impossible, to attempt to deal with this number of aliens on a police basis.

The obligation of the Government is very definitely to protect alien groups against persecution and to see that they are assimilated into American life as quickly as possible. The place of private refugee organizations in the handling of aliens in the event of emergency, has not yet been clearly defined, but is becoming clearer. There is a growing conviction in Government circles that the alien is less a problem than certain types of native born and naturalized citizens.

It is important that the refugee organizations be prepared to cooperate to the fullest possible degree with the Government at all times, and recognize their responsibility to America as well as to the aliens. Any such cooperation with the government will probably be informal and will not result in any formal relationship or recognition. The plans of the Government in event of emergency obviously cannot be discussed at this time. The Department of Justice will in all likelihood handle aliens, but civilian rather than military forces will primarily meet the problem.

MR. GEORGE L. WARREN, Chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, who followed, said that there exists a positive job of winning without delay the loyalty of all aliens in America. The responsibility for this job is both the Government's and the people's.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH P. CHAMBERLAIN, Chairman of the National Refugee Service, and member of the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, stated that the refugee problem was one to which we must continue to bend all our efforts in order that a solution may be reached in behalf of those who are innocent victims of a world catastrophe.

MR. BENJAMIN ROBINSON, of Montreal, then discussed the Canadian experience with refugee internment. He indicated that none of Canada's refugees have been interned, but that the Canadian Jewish community has been called upon to meet the problems that followed the internment of 2,000 German-Jewish refugees brought from England to the Dominion. These are still under English governmental jurisdiction but the Canadian Jewish community, working with others interested in the problem, has attempted to secure the release of many of the group, and secure educational or work privileges for still others.

MR. PAUL FELIX WARBURG presided over the closing session of the conference which was devoted to a consideration of community responsibilities in the event of future emergencies. In the discussion which followed one important point made was that the care of refugees in a period of possible emergency will have to be undertaken by a national organization.

COLONEL MAX WAINER, of Philadelphia, pointed out that the communities must look to the National Refugee Service, which so far has met the problem skillfully and to the advantage of the entire community, for even greater help and guidance. The communities will have to bear their share but, unless they make every effort to preserve and improve their national agency for meeting the refugee problem, they will be at a loss to deal with it adequately in a period when greater difficulties may face them.

A final point was made that the care of the refugees is not only a Jewish problem but an American problem and that it is exceedingly important that we develop the broadest possible understanding of the refugee program on the part of the American people. In a larger sense the refugee problem is a problem of American democracy as we know and cherish it. The rescue and survival of the refugees is intimately connected with the rescue and survival of democracy itself.

CONFIDENTIAL

'A SUMMARY OF THE REFUGEE CONFERENCE '
' HELD IN NEW YORK CITY '
' OCTOBER 18, 19, 1941 '

The "Invitation Conference" called by the National Refugee Service was attended by community leaders from all sections of the country.

It was the desire of the sponsors not to identify the Conference directly with the National Refugee Service. Thus, the official program made no mention of the NRS, but contained only this explanatory note: "The conference has been called to provide an opportunity for a candid examination and discussion of the refugee problem in the United States, and its bearing on the well-being of the American Jewish community. The refugee problem will be projected against the background of group animosities, the world political scene, and the war."

The meetings were held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel on Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon. A number of the guests stayed over until Sunday evening, when they were tendered a banquet at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria by Mr. James M. Rosenberg in behalf of the Dominican Republic Settlement Association campaign for \$600,000.

The Saturday evening meeting was presided over by Justice Samuel I. Rosenman. Governor Lehman told the delegates that the refugees had much to offer to America, and that it was essential that they be quickly integrated into American life, if they were not to become the focal point for anti-Semitism.

Mr. Marshall Field, speaking as the President of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children, emphasized the possibilities of transporting additional young refugees from Europe and giving them haven in the United States.

Adolf A. Berle, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, traced the history of anti-Semitism in the United States and compared the present outcropping of it to the periodical waves of intolerance which have, in the past, roughly coincided with the trends of immigration. He attempted to show that anti-Semitism today is no more serious from a long-term point of view, than was the anti-Irish sentiment of a century ago. He spoke of the 30,000,000 refugees who would have to find new homes after this war is over and discussed the possibilities of opening up new territory in South America and in other parts of the world. There was no mention of Palestine in his speech.

He pointed out that the integration of the refugees after the war will require the utmost cooperation of the Government and all its citizens, and asked for a realistic approach to the problem in order that study may be given it now. He said, also, that it is up to private agencies to handle the refugee problem with a minimum of incident in order that the foreign policy of the country may not be prejudiced.

In the Sunday morning session, Carl Austrian took exception to Mr. Berle's analysis of the anti-Semitic problem, pointing out that the present wage of anti-Jewish feeling has serious implications for American Jews which they cannot minimize.

Morris C. Troper, of the Joint Distribution Committee, spoke of the possibility of giving the Jews a "bad name" because of their treatment of, or their identification with the refugees.

Samuel Goldsmith of Chicago emphasized the need for a national organization of highly competent professionals to carry the refugee problem directly to each community. His remarks implied that there is now no national approach to the refugee question.

Mr. Mordecai Ezekiel in a discussion from the floor, called for a broad program of re-education of the refugees. He said that they have no great love of democracy, inasmuch as most fervent democrats and anti-Fascists have been weeded out by our State Department before they obtain American visas. He argued that the thinking of the average refugee who comes here is adjusted to a political way of life which we knew ten or fifteen years ago. The average refugee, he said, is ready to forget the persecution he has undergone and to return to his own conception of normality.

Immediately, exception to these remarks was taken by Day J. Apte of Miami and Harry A. Frankel of Peoria. The latter admitted that many of the refugees in Peoria have shown little gratitude for the help which has been given them. But, he insisted, "We don't want their gratitude." Peoria, it seems wants only to make a speedy adjustment of the refugees who come there.

Mr. Edmund I. Kaufman said the refugees who have come to the United States are the saved Jews. Those who are still in Europe are the trapped Jews. We must give thought to the problem of those trapped Jews and must work out a long range program for them. Is this solution San Domingo? If it is, we must gauge our thinking in terms of San Domingo. Is it Palestine? In that case, we must consider Palestine.

Mr. James M. Rosenberg of New York spoke of the anti-Semitic campaign in this country, and of his own preoccupation with the San Domingo project. He emphasized that he is not the type of Jew who is interested in one Jewish enterprise to the exclusion of all others. He said that he is a member of the Board of the Central Cooperative Bank of Palestine, which has granted more than \$25,000,000 in loans to Palestine Jews. He mentioned his connection with the Palestine Economic Corporation, as well as his long interest in Joint Distribution Committee work. "If you told me that you had \$1,000,000 and asked me whether to give it to San Domingo or to the National Refugee Service, it would break my heart, but I would tell you to give it to the NRS. They need it much more." He thereupon invited the delegates to attend his San Dominican dinner that night.

At the luncheon meeting, over which Judge Morris Rothenberg presided, Mr. Benjamin Robinson of Montreal, Canada, described at great length some of the experiences Canadian Jews had had with the Government and with the internment of refugees. He said that the Canadian Jewish community took pride in the fact that not one refugee who had been in Canada at the outbreak of the war had been interned by the Government. He emphasized, however, that Canada had accepted a number of refugees who, in many cases, were indiscriminately mixed with bona fide war prisoners, and had, therefore undergone much needless suffering. Without going into detail, he did say that the Canadian Government had made a great number of mistakes in relation to its treatment of the refugees.

Mr. Lawrence C. Smith of the Department of Justice was the principal speaker at this meeting. He said that the Government has no intention of undertaking a wholesale roundup of refugees in the event that the country goes to war. He pointed out that there are 5,000,000 aliens in the country and 160,000 police officers. These, he ~~said~~ *said*, are thoroughly inadequate to deal with the entire problem. He is of the opinion that restrictions against the alien in employment and in legislation will only serve to drive them into the Fifth Column.

The great problem of sabotage and subversive activity lies not in the alien but in naturalized citizens, he feels. He pointed to the spy trial now going on in Brooklyn, where 23 out of 29 defendants are American citizens.

He was frankly critical of the policy of the British Government in placing refugees wholesale into concentration camps. In this connection he pointed out that the internment camp now going up at Camp Upton, New York, is not meant as a center for refugees, but rather for enemy aliens of the type picked up by the Navy when the German radio expedition was captured in Greenland.

Mr. Smith emphasized that the camp is going up under the control of the War Department and not of the Department of Justice which would have jurisdiction over aliens now here.

He pointed to the administration of Attorney-General Jackson and of the present Attorney-General Biddle as examples of the concern of the Government with the preservation of all civil liberties.

The Government, he said, would have cause to call upon a number of private agencies in an unofficial way in the solution of the question of aliens. He cautioned, however, against private surveys and hysteria-inspired investigations by non-Governmental groups. He advised private agencies to "keep their skirts clean" so that the Government need have no hesitation about using their services.

There was an ensuing discussion from the floor regarding concrete steps to be taken following the conference. Nothing definite emerged, but subsequently a letter went out to those present from Paul Felix Warburg, advising them that Professor Joseph Chamberlain of the

President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees and Chairman of the Board of the National Refugee Service, had been asked to form a Committee to plan for further activities.

Mr. Harry Greenstein of Baltimore summed up the topics discussed. He was careful to point out that the Conference had a broader purpose than a mere discussion of the tasks of any one agency. He emphasized that although the NRS had often been mentioned during the Conference, there were a number of other organizations dealing with the refugee problem which could not be neglected in any comprehensive survey of the question.

There were 280 delegates present, of whom more than half were from outside New York City.

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NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, INC.

165 WEST 46TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

October 27, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Chairman
United Palestine Appeal, Inc.
41 East 42 Street
New York City

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Allotment Committee of the United Jewish Appeal at its recent meeting, without seeking to minimize the desperate cash situation of the National Refugee Service, felt, either rightly or wrongly, that the question did not come under its jurisdiction. It was the Chairman's suggestion, however, that we immediately address the constituent members of the United Jewish Appeal in order to advise them of the absolute necessity of National Refugee Service receiving cash priority if its work is to be maintained.

Since representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Palestine Appeal will meet on Wednesday of this week, we are calling your attention to the serious cash position of National Refugee Service in the expectation that you will take action at this meeting.

During the first ten months of 1941, National Refugee Service has had a most difficult time in financing its operations because of the lack of cash. According to the estimates of the office of the United Jewish Appeal, we cannot expect more than \$1,760,000 this year on account of our 1941 allotment. At the end of December, our cash deficit will be over \$900,000. Substantial sums have already been borrowed, including a loan of \$200,000 from the Manufacturers Trust Company which must be repaid immediately.

Because the allotment just granted the National Refugee Service has provided merely for the limited budget of the last two and a half months and does not make allowance for the replacement of the working capital we had at the beginning of 1941, we cannot show any available funds with which to carry on during the first part of 1942. Therefore, no bank will grant us a further loan.

It is for these reasons that we are asking you, as one of the two partners in the 1941 United Jewish Appeal, to grant priority to the National Refugee Service up to \$900,000 of the cash received from the 1941 campaign. A similar letter is being

October 27, 1941

sent to Mr. Edward M. M. Warburg, Chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Our situation is most urgent and it is essential that a favorable decision be reached at your Wednesday meeting.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

Wm Rosenwald

William Rosenwald, President
National Refugee Service, Inc.



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

NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, Inc.

165 West 46th Street

New York City

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Executive Director

ARTHUR D. GREENLEIGH
Assistant Executive Director

November 21, 1941

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Ansel Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

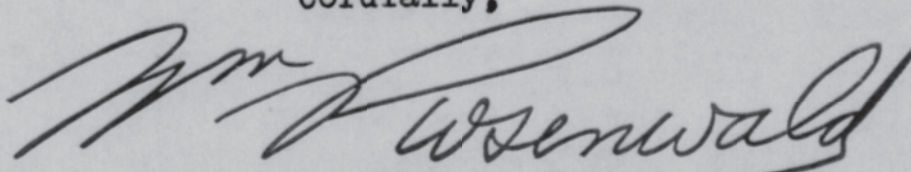
Dear Rabbi Silver:

The gist of a really important meeting is here in the attached digest of the October 18-19 Invitation Conference. It has been prepared by Mr. Harry Greenstein whose brilliant summary presented at the conference, itself, will be remembered by all who attended. It includes speakers' remarks with their permission.

As you may already know, a national planning committee is being formed to carry out the suggestions of the conference. Members will be selected in consultation with leaders throughout the country. You may be sure that you will be kept informed of developments.

Meanwhile, should your reading of the summary suggest further thinking you would care to contribute on the refugee problem, I would be delighted to have your views.

Cordially,



William Rosenwald

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MEMORANDUM

Date November 27, 1941

To Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

From Mr. Henry Montor

Subject

May I call your attention to certain figures compiled from the reports issued by the National Refugee Service, showing the rate of its expenditures from January through September 1941, with the trend in relief expenditures.

	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
Total Expenditures (all departments)	<u>\$268,437</u>	<u>258,967</u>	<u>249,004</u>	<u>258,830</u>	<u>247,292</u>	<u>255,727</u>	<u>260,978</u>	<u>244,402</u>	<u>255,431</u>
Amount of Relief Disbursements	<u>151,190</u>	<u>140,337</u>	<u>133,923</u>	<u>133,874</u>	<u>125,886</u>	<u>122,204</u>	<u>127,658</u>	<u>114,304</u>	<u>109,856</u>

It is interesting to note that while expenditures remained at a pretty static level, the amounts disbursed for relief decreased by nearly \$40,000 in nine months.

Would this indicate that relief is being granted the refugees from sources other than NRS, or that the refugees are becoming sufficiently integrated to have become self-supporting?

HM:FE

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

December 2, 1941

Mr. Frederick F. Greenman, Chairman
Allotment Committee
1941 United Jewish Appeal
20 Pine Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Greenman:

At its meeting on October 17, the Allotment Committee of the 1941 United Jewish Appeal adopted the following resolution, allocating to the agencies participating in the 1941 U.J.A. the \$2,800,000 available at that time for distribution:

"To	J.D.C. -----	\$1,275,000
	U.P.A. -----	800,000
	N.R.S. -----	725,000*

*\$50,000 of this amount is earmarked for the specific purpose of permitting refugees with temporary visas to leave the country and return on permanent visas. If the State Department fails to issue new regulations in this regard before December 31st, the \$50,000 reverts to the Allotment Committee for distribution."

Enclosed is a copy of Volume 6, Number 227, of the Federal Register which contains, on pages 5927 to 5934, new regulations issued by the Department of State on November 14, 1941, and effective December 1, 1941, with regard to the control of persons entering and leaving the United States. Paragraphs g and h under #58.23, on page 5927 of these regulations, are particularly pertinent.

As a result of the issuance of these regulations, it is the understanding of the National Refugee Service that this \$50,000 contingent grant now becomes an unconditional grant to the National Refugee Service for the purpose of providing change of status for aliens in this country on temporary visas.

I shall appreciate receiving a letter from you confirming this understanding.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Abrahamson

CC: Dr. Eli Ginzberg, Director of Research

Section 58.23 - Aliens exempted from obtaining permits
to depart

Page 5927

- (g) Aliens who have received communications from an American consular officer in foreign contiguous territory to the effect that the documents submitted by them to the consular officer are sufficiently in order to warrant the alien's personal appearance at the consular office in connection with an application for an immigration visa;
- (h) Aliens who present valid re-entry permits issued with the concurrence of the Secretary of State as to destination;

