

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
COMING FROM GERMANY

Sentinel House, Southampton Row,
London, W.C.1.

October 29th, 1935

Felix M. Warburg, Esq.
52 William Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Warburg,

I have just had your letter of October 21st.

I am glad that you moved so promptly with Governor Lehman. Surely if there is any chance whatsoever of moving the President, it is now that he will respond. The matter could not have been presented to him more effectively than through Governor Lehman.

You and Governor Lehman should know that the Foreign Office here is considering the possibility of suggesting that the British and American Ambassadors in Berlin discuss together the question of informal representations to the German authorities. Yesterday in my talk with the Foreign Office I got the impression that the Government here will not go further than to authorize Sir Eric Phipps to use his discretion in cooperating with Dodd in calling the German Government's attention to the unfortunate repercussions abroad of its policy of intensified anti-Semitism. But even this not very courageous step may be dependent upon the willingness of Washington to approve of Dodd's participation in such a mild effort.

I hope therefore that if the President is unwilling to make strong representations, he will at least be prepared to authorize Dodd to go along with the British, as suggested above. I am not optimistic about the results of such representations, but if it is the most the Governments will do, then at any rate that much ought to be done.

However, there is another way in which the President could help, at once and for as long as there is need for such cooperation - and this without running any real political risk. Each time I talk with men or women who are directly engaged in the task of emigration from Germany, I am told of one or more instances where this or that American consul has been so strict in his interpretation of his instructions as to make the granting of a visa difficult or impossible. This obstacle would be made much less in all of the American consulates - not only in Germany but elsewhere - if the President were to instruct

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the Department of State to authorize a more lenient interpretation of the present regulations. Just as President Hoover, by administrative interpretation, in effect instructed the consuls to block immigration, so now President Roosevelt could, by relaxing further the requirements in the case of refugees, make easier the admission of a few thousand additional Germans a year.

In this matter, as you of course know, it is the President alone who can get the thing done, and he only if he is prepared to take personal responsibility to see that it is done.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) James G. McDonald.

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