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Williams J. Harell
Secretary to the President

June 8, 1944.

The President,
Executive Mansion,
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

In keeping with the "Free Ports" Resolution of our Congregation, a copy of which I am sure has already been submitted to you, I would beg leave to call to your attention the enclosed editorial, entitled, "Benevolent 'Concentration Camps'" as it appeared on historic June 6, 1944 in the Vicksburg Evening Post.

Respectfully yours,

Stanley R. Bray

Rabbi Stanley R. Bray

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WAR REFUGEE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WASHINGTON POST, TUESDAY JUNE 14, 1944

Benevolent "Concentration Camps"

The War Refugee Board, recently created in Washington by presidential directive, has his upon one of the happiest ideas that has come to our attention in a long while.

All of America has been reading with increasing horror the wholesale slaughter of Nazi victims in the extermination chambers of Europe. It has been inconceivable that this country could not do something for at least a few thousand of these victims who would find their way out of the clutches of Nazism.

Now the War Refugee Board advocates a plan of "free ports" whereby temporary haven may be provided for those who would otherwise be murdered to the last man. In effect, benevolent "concentration camps" would be opened near some of our ports of entry where these hapless and persecuted people—our allies and fellow-foes of Nazism—could be placed for the duration, and be provided at least the temporary sojourn and security we accord our enemies who are prisoners of war.

There is plenty of room for them aboard ships returning to these shores from Europe, and private organizations are scheduled to bear the expense involved.

Here is another opportunity for America—founded by refugees fleeing from religious persecution and racial bigotry—to express her native humanitarianism. No time should be lost in saving these lives otherwise destined for mass extermination, through such free ports, such islands of temporary rescue, upon the free and freedom-giving soil of this land.