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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT ISSUED BY AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION  
COMMITTEE RE REFUGEES ABOARD SS ST. LOUIS June 7, 1939

A cablegram was today sent to the President of Cuba by the Joint Distribu-  
tion Committee which reads as follows:

"URGENT CABLE

TO THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA  
HAVANA

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WHEN WE WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS  
AS TO DETAILS OF THE POSSIBLE ADMISSION INTO CUBA OF THE REFUGEES ON  
THE STEAMER ST. LOUIS WERE PROCEEDING IN HAVANA WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT WE  
RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THOSE NEGOTIATIONS  
LAPSED stop WE RESPECTFULLY HASTEN TO ASSURE YOU THAT APPRECIATING  
YOUR DESIRE TO REACH PROMPTLY A JUST AND HUMANE SOLUTION OF THIS DIF-  
FICULT PROBLEM WE HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT HERE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY  
FUNDS TO COMPLY WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONDITIONS stop THIS HAS TODAY  
BEEN COMPLETED AND WE HAVE AUTHORIZED CHASE NATIONAL BANK HAVANA MAKE  
FOLLOWING PROPOSAL TO YOU ON OUR BEHALF stop WILL PROVIDE FIVE  
HUNDRED DOLLARS DEPOSIT EACH REFUGEE ON BOARD SS ST. LOUIS TO PERMIT  
ENTRY INTO CUBA UNDER APPROPRIATE CUBAN REGULATIONS ALSO LIKE AMOUNT  
IN RESPECT EACH REFUGEE SS FLANDERS AND SS ORDUNA SHOULD THEY ALSO BE  
PERMITTED ENTRY CUBA stop CHASE BANK HAS RECEIVED FUNDS FROM US  
AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PURPOSE stop IN ADDITION THIS COMMITTEE GUARANTEES  
THAT NONE OF THESE REFUGEES WILL BECOME PUBLIC CHARGE TO CUBAN GOVERN-  
MENT stop CONFIDENT THAT WHILE ST. LOUIS SAID TO BE ON WAY BACK TO  
GERMANY IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO RADIO TO HER TO RETURN TO HAVANA stop  
THIS WE BEG YOU TO DO stop WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY TO  
GIVE THE FOREGOING YOUR IMMEDIATE AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE  
100 EAST 42nd Street NEW YORK NY  
BY JAMES N. ROSENBERG, ACTING CHAIRMAN"

Commenting on the cablegram the officers of the J.D.C. stated: Up to the last moment we believed that the discussions which our representatives in Havana were conducting with those of the Cuban Government were proceeding satisfactorily. We were prepared to provide the \$500 per refugee required by the Cuban Government, and we were hourly expecting a report that the details had been satisfactorily arranged. In order to give the Cuban Government every possible assurance on this subject, we have deposited the required amount with the Chase National Bank. We are still hopeful that the Cuban Government may find it possible to admit these refugees, but whatever the outcome we will not be unmindful of the asylum which the Republic of Cuba has humanely afforded and still giving to refugees.

As to the refugees now in Cuba, none of them are public charges. 90% of these refugees are supporting themselves with their own funds or with funds supplied by friends or relatives, and we have been and are providing for the balance.

It is needless for us to express our concern for the people on the high seas, most of whom are women and children; a concern which has been shared throughout this country. We still hope that the matter may be solved to the satisfaction of all concerned. The SS. St. Louis can still be recalled to Cuba.

Alfred Jaretzki, Jr. Chairman, Committee on  
Refugee Aid in Central and South America

Joseph C. Hyman, Executive Director, J.D.C.

David M. Bressler, Vice-Chairman, J.D.C.

I. Edwin Goldwasser, Treasurer, J.D.C.