FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

A cablegram was today sent to the President of Cuba by the Joint Distribution 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 DIFFICULT 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 GOVERNMENT 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 REG YOU TO DO stop WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR EXCELLOCY 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 hope an end will be reached 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 Refugees Aid in Central and South America
Joseph C. Hyman, Executive Director, J.D.C.
David M. Breslau, Vice-Chairman, J.D.C.
I. Edwin Goldwasser, Treasurer, J.D.C.