

JEWISH REFUGEE COMMITTEE

To the  
Board of Directors of  
The Jewish Refugee Co.  
Manila, P. I.

<b>RECEIVED</b>	
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P. I.  
1940

*Philippines*

Gentlemen:

As I am about to depart for the United States and to resign my post as President of the Jewish Refugee Committee, I am pleased to render herewith a report on the activities of our Committee during my incumbency in office, for the period from December 5, 1938 to May 8, 1940.

I am endeavoring in this report to cover every phase of our work and am making such recommendations for your consideration as my close observation and extensive experience in directing this work have led me to believe to be the most suitable course to be followed.

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS, PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE.

When I arrived in Manila in November 1938, this Committee already thought that it was heavily engaged in refugee work. Our records, however, indicate that at that time there were but 133 refugees here, which included a number who had arrived from 1933 to 1936 and were thus, almost without exception, not in need of assistance from this Committee. It was just at this time, late in 1938, that heavier emigration began to take place and in the intervening 18 months our refugee population has increased to a total of about 700.

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It should likewise be pointed out that, with ever harsher regulations being put into force in Germany, each new group has arrived with fewer possessions and less ability for self support. The declaration of war in September 1939 put a stop to the heavy emigration, arising from the fact that passage money has to be paid for in foreign currency, so that those who wish to flee from Germany face increased and usually insurmountable difficulties in this respect. Visa recommendations by our Executive Committee for as at 150 approved cases are still outstanding. At present writing, we have approximately 850 emigres in the Country and to arrive very soon.

The figure, 850 is significant when taken in conjunction with the very small Jewish population in Manila. Prior to the refugee influx, we counted but 150 souls, including men, women and children. A number of these were many in the list who were Jews in name only, having no affiliation with our synagogue or other communal matters. It can be readily asserted that there are few, if any, places in the world that have undertaken bigger refugee burden in proportion to its former Jewish population than has Manila, and we may well congratulate ourselves not only on what we have attempted, but on what we have accomplished. It was gratifying to receive only last week a letter from Mr. Charles Liebman, President of the Refugee Economic Committee of New York, stating his recognition of the assertion which I have just made.



#### SEMI OFFICIALS STATUS OF THIS COMMITTEE.

The work of our committee in assisting immigration and in placing it on a selective basis has been much facilitated by our very cordial relations with the Office of the United States High Commissioner, as well as with many branches of the Philippine Government, notably with the Office of the President of the Commonwealth. These entities look to this committee as the sole source of information and advice, and recommendations for permitting the immigration of any refugee from any part of the world to this country. All such applications arriving in the Office of the U.S. High Commissioner or in any of the various branches of the Philippine government are routed to our committee for advice and action. It is indeed significant to note that there is not a single instance where our request for a landing permit, for the change of a temporary residence permit into a permanent one, or for the issuance of a visa, has not been honored, - and this, with wonderful promptness. This fact is well known, so that we have come to be recognized as having a semi-official status.

Through the Office of the U.S. High Commissioner, arrangements have also been made with the Department of State in Washington to assist in the policy of selective immigration. American Consuls throughout the world are under instructions to issue no visas for Manila to refugees without prior instructions from the State Department itself. The practical working follows substantially the following procedure. Our Executive Committee considers applications for immigration to the Philippines and makes its recommendations based on policies further described in a later portion of this report. Periodically we

send lists of approved names to the Office of the United States High Commissioner which, after consultation with the Office of the President of the Philippines, cables the lists to the State Department. This office in turn cables the various consuls involved, giving instructions to issue visas for the Philippines. Thus, with few exceptions, all arrivals during the past year or more, have come after their applications received the scrutiny and recommendation of this committee.

It is too early to state how the procedure, just described, will be affected by the passage by the Philippine Legislature of the new Immigration Act with national quotas.

While we cannot always be congratulated on the type of individual who has received our recommendation for visa, nevertheless we have successfully diverted from these islands literally thousands of applicants whose ages, occupations, or other factors would, if permitted to come here, have created a very bitter social and economic problem.

In mentioning our close connection with the governmental offices, notice should also be given to our very close relationship with the two great agencies for Jewish relief in the United States, namely the Joint Distribution Committee and the Refugee Economic Corporation. We are in constant touch with both of these agencies and have received recognition from them in every possible way, - not the least of which has been put at our disposal substantial sums of money. The sums from the former are outright grants, while those from the latter are loans which may be revolved for the purposes of maintaining emigres while unemployed or aiding them to establish business or agricultural enterprises.



Without this backing, our work in Manila would indeed have been handicapped. We have every reason to believe that we can count upon their continued co-operation, though we have been advised that, because of the tremendously increased demand made upon them by the increasingly oppressive conditions caused by more countries becoming involved, they are unable to render the same assistance as heretofore. We can well understand both why their incomes are curtailed and why the demands on them have increased.

#### DIVERSITY OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF REFUGEES.

Three factors render our work to a certain extent non-sectarian. (1) I have already mentioned the fact that we are a semi-official organization to whom the governmental offices route applications for immigration. Such applications come from non Jews as well as from Jews, and we are duty bound to give conscientious consideration to all cases alike. Thus our "approved lists" have contained names of non-Jews. (2) The harsh laws of the Reich were levelled against Jews on the grounds of race and not religion, -hence many professed Catholics and Protestants of Jewish origin have been cast forth, and we count a large number of these in our community. (3) In addition to this should be mentioned the numerous cases of intermarriage, so that a really considerable percentage of our immigrants is non Jewish. I feel positive that I speak the complete truth in stating that we have shown absolutely no discrimination when offering assistance, although it must be admitted that most non-Jews after arriving in this country, do not look to us for aid.

## NEW PROBLEMS CONFRONTING JEWRY IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

New and complex problems have come into being as a result of the influx of immigrants. These problems are both economic and political and it behooves us to move with tact and circumspection in order to allay the new feeling of apprehension which has been aroused in the native population.

The threat of displacement in the native's employment has been unduly played upon, much aggravated by propaganda from obvious sources. There is a distinct effort being made to poison the mind of the public, seeking to arouse and intensify apprehension that the incoming Jews will displace Filipinos from employment. For the first time, anti-Semitic articles are to be found in periodicals that are widely read and that carry weight. My prompt action in lodging protests against the subversive articles has put a stop thus far to the most noteworthy of these articles but we must continue to be watchful for the reappearance of literature of this nature, the general trend of which has been to exaggerate the number of immigrants who are here and their effect on business and employment conditions.

## PROVINCIAL DISPERSION.

In order to relieve our own problems, as well as to allay public apprehension over the presence of what seems to be such a great number of Jews in a single place, -we have made a serious effort to encourage our immigrants to take up provincial residence. Small success can be recounted to date. Baguio has given us the most cause for gratification, where about thirty refugees are to be found, almost all gainfully, though modestly,



employed. Iloilo and Cebu have small new colonies, and here and there through the provinces are to be found scattered individuals. The process is rendered difficult by the scarcity of industries for the employment of Europeans in the provinces and also by the new comers' lack of knowledge of conditions of the country. However, we feel confident that, gradually, more and more of our refugees will find their economic salvation in provincial centers.

#### RELIEF.

The problem of relief is indeed a difficult one which, I am given to understand, continues to baffle even professional and trained social workers in all parts of the world. We, who are beginners at this sort of thing, have, thru trial and error, arrived at a satisfactory basis for relief. A large number of our immigrants require support and it is to be contemplated that, for some time to come, the number will not diminish. It is true that many find employment and become self sustaining. However others, who arrived with funds, fail to find work and ultimately have to come to the committee for support. While we are generously disposed, we have to consider the limited funds of our command and issue only what is actually necessary.

#### COMMUNITY HOUSES.

To meet the problem of maintaining our indigent immigrants in decency at a minimum expense, we have organized and are maintaining a number of Community Homes, in each of

which from twenty to thirty people living together have the advantage of some air that is fresh.

All of these houses are in good residential districts and in good buildings. - In fact I go beyond that in the selection of these houses. The places have been well equipped and we felt sure that the residents would find comfort and in their new homes.

The greatest disappointment which I have had to endure in connection with my work with this committee has arisen from the almost unanimous view which the dwellers in these houses have expressed. After careful investigation I have to conclude that the difficulty lies in the fact that practically all of the occupants of these community houses are unemployed and that slight incidents become exaggerated, that matters are magnified - instead of living in helpful and cooperative peace, there is constant quarrelling and complaining.

Despite this unfortunate experience to date, I feel that it is obligatory to persist in our policy. I estimate that by means of these community houses this committee has saved approximately fifteen thousand pesos, which money we have been able to use for the relief and maintenance of other refugees. Also I state that the cost of living in a Community House for a month is from \$15 to \$40 a month per person. - Individuals who are familiar with the high cost of living in Manila, will readily understand why I recommend continuing the operation of these houses. The houses now in operation in Manila are located at 288 A. Zubiri (Malate),



88 Calle Novales (San Miguel) in the same building with the Committee office, 131 Pina (Santa Mesa) and 380 Santol (Santa Mesa) and the most recently constructed one at Mariguina.

#### MARIQUINA HALL

Only a few weeks ago I, on behalf of our committee, dedicated the newest community house, known as Mariguina Hall, located in Quezon City, in a rural district near the provincial highway about six kilometers beyond the boundary of the city of Manila.

Undoubtedly the great interest shown in this project arises from the fact that the site, wherein the house was built, was placed at our disposal for a term of years by His Excellency, President Manuel L. Quezon. The land is his personal property and it is indeed a matter of deep significance that he made this generous offer. Due to his connection with the project, the place has received considerable publicity.

We constructed this building with the funds of this Committee according to plans, made under my supervision and I can truly state that every possible provision has been made for the comfort of the tenants. The entire equipment is "brand new" and every one who lives in this new home, so well equipped and standing at such a lovely spot, with constant breezes making the temperature at least ten degrees below that of Manila, ought to count himself fortunate.

It must be noted that when tenants of community houses find employment and set up their own establishments,

they live on a much more modest scale than was provided for them by us, but that in their own difficulties they evince every symptom of contentment.

It is sad commentary on human nature that refugees from perhaps the most heartless persecution in history, are unable to live together in peace and unity in community houses, and to evince to even a small degree a spirit of co-operation and mutual helpfulness.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Employment is the magic word which holds the solution for all of our problems. However the greatest patience has to be exercised while we wait for or provide opportunities for our unemployed.

On the bright side, we can point out with pride to the number of positions and jobs which we have obtained for our émigrés. These vary in type and remuneration. It cannot be gainsaid that advantage is being taken of an oversupplied market, and that many of our men and women work for incomes that are small in comparison to the former customarily accepted scale for Europeans. However, if we take into consideration the fact that Manila does not contain such a wide diversity of industries as other larger important cities, and that business conditions in general are from flourishing, -we have every reason to rejoice in considering the great number of refugees who have found substantial employment.

Consideration must also be given to the fact that a fair percentage of our newcomers ~~do not~~ seek employment, being persons of advanced age, supported by younger relatives here or in other countries.



Another consideration, offering less than no solace, is the fact that a small percentage of our immigrants are perhaps definitely unemployable. People of middle age have difficulty in overcoming the language handicap, in readjusting themselves to a new and completely different mode of life, and to taking up new lines of work. This last factor requires further consideration. Before the system of selective immigration was devised (as described in an earlier part of this report), American consuls in various German cities or in ports en route Manila, issued visas for the Philippine Islands without knowledge of local conditions and we find that at that time a large number of people came, whose callings in Europe could not be carried on in this country. - Even after the system of selective immigration was put into effect, difficulties have been encountered. Applicants are prone to overstate their qualifications, and vouchers and givers of certificates are evidently moved by humanitarian impulses to assist harassed people to leave the land of persecution. The same may be said concerning regularly organized and widely recognized agencies with whom applications are filed and checked. Perhaps we have been misled by the rather indiscriminate usage of the terms, "perfect", "expert" and "specialist", and thus have given visa recommendations to cases for whom we have been unable to find employment after arrival in Manila.

The fact must be faced that a certain number of our immigrants will never make adjustments and we must look forward to their being permanently on relief. This in turn brings us back to what I stated when discussing relief and the community

houses. Cases of this class must be supported on the most modest scale, consistent with decency and good health.

#### EMPLOYMENT

(adjustment and adaptability)  
SCHOOLS FOR ENGLISH

One of the major handicaps in seeking and securing employment is the inability to speak English. Many of our immigrants come without the slightest preparation in this line. Others come with varying degrees of proficiency; a few, with good mastery. In order to assist in this very important matter, afternoon classes are held (except Saturday and Sunday) in the Temple and Annex. Depending on enrollment, two, three or four very competent teachers have rendered excellent service.

I am unable to account for the failure of some of the immigrants to make full use of the opportunity which has been placed at their disposal. It is strange to note the large attendance of aged persons, all beyond the period of employment, and the efforts which they put forth to learn a new language. On the otherhand, a number of the younger persons, who so badly require English instruction, absent themselves from classes. They have been advised and admonished in vain.

#### EMPLOYMENT (Professionals).

The foregoing discussion of the general features of the employment situation leads us naturally to another phase thereof, namely the obstacles placed in the way of high grade professionals following their callings here. It is but fair to mention that the spirit of nationalism that is so rife in the Philippines



today, is only a part of a phenomenon existing throughout the world. The protection of nationals from foreign competition has spread to cover not only products and industries, but also professions.

While we have placed practically all of our engineers in positions, these are all of a subordinate nature. The higher positions can be filled only by licensed engineers, and licenses are available only for citizens of the Philippines and the United States.

The situation without doctors and dentists has proven difficult beyond description and is so familiar as probably to make it unnecessary for recounting here. However it should be pointed out that about a dozen doctors and three dentists have come here, all with the hope and expectation of establishing themselves in practice. They were at once confronted by the "Reciprocity" section of the code dealing with the practice of medicine and dentistry. The law specifies that, with exceptions to be noted later, doctors and dentists can practice only after successfully passing the regular state examinations. These examinations are open only to foreign doctors coming from countries which permit Filipinos to practice in the said countries. Since Filipinos cannot practice in Germany, Germans are debarred from the local examinations.

I took this up with the authorities, notably with the President of the Commonwealth himself, and it was ruled that our refugee doctors are not citizens or subjects of Germany and hence not to be restrained by any regulations as lying to such citizens or subjects. On this basis, our doctors prepared for the examinations

and were permitted to take same. However, before their grades could be published, a case was brought into court by an officer of the Manila (Philippine) Medical Association restraining the Board of Medical Examiners from giving out the results of the examination of the refugee doctors and requiring the said Board to account for its alleged breach of the Law. The case (P.Gil et al vs. M. Cruz, Chairman etc.) is still in the court, where the Solicitor General of the Philippine Islands defends the action of the Board of Medical Examiners in permitting the refugee doctors to be examined. Decision is expected at an early date, but until the matter has been favorably resolved, our doctors cannot practice their profession. Over a year has been consumed in this matter and they, quite naturally, though unjustifiably, are resentful and tend to blame this committee for lack of activity in furthering their cause.

The case of the dentists impinged on that of the doctors. Meantime for various reasons only one dentist is in Manila seeking practice and, as he has enrolled as a special student in an accredited dental college, he can at least busy himself sufficiently to retain his professional skill.

The law of this country provides for a committee to examine the credentials of doctors of medicine who wish to practice in this country without taking the examination. Where it can be shown that such candidates are of international repute, recognized specialists, or similarly distinguished, recommendation can be made for their securing the license to practice without examination.

Under this section of the law, this committee was successful in assisting in the securing licenses for Doctors Alfred Zinner,



Alfred Markussohn, William Hahndel and Walter K. Frankel, Similar permission was secured for Dr. Erich Ruttin, who unfortunately died before even receiving the news of his permission. Dr. Hans Heydemann preferred to accept an appointment in Australia rather than in the Philippines, under this section of the law.

We pushed the claims of the eleven doctors, referred to in the preceding section, with as much vigor as possible and it is noteworthy that the Office of the President of the Commonwealth was influential in convening a committee to determine their eligibility to receive licenses without examination. That such permission was not granted was regrettable, but the attitude of the government, in lending all possible support, was gratifying.

#### EMPLOYMENT (Professional - Academic).

This Committee submitted to the University of the Philippines and to the National Economic Council the credentials of a number of scholars and professors and it is a pleasure to note the appointments of Doctors Hans Kowitz, Eugene Stransky, Rudolf Friedmann, Robert Wilhelm and William Niederland to the University of the Philippines or to the Philippine General Hospital, and of Dr. Maximilian Silbermann to the National Psychopathic Hospital. I am confident that the work which they are doing will pave the way for further appointments of a similar nature.

In addition to the above, three of the refugees are engaged by the University of the Philippines, Hans Steiner and Alfred Schwersenz as instructors of French and German, and Prof. Theodor Brings as professor of Physics.

The Adamson School of Industry, Chemistry and Engineering utilizes the services of Dr. Oskar Falek as Research Professor

of Physics; and of Felix Somer as instructor in German.

**EMPLOYMENT: (business) LOAN COMMITTEE.**

A number of our immigrants are not of the salary or wage earning type, having been business men in their homelands and anxious to engage in trade here. In order to assist the establishing of small business, a Loan Committee was appointed, at present consisting of Mr. S.H. Schechter, Chairman, and Messrs. K. Nathan and E. Gabermann, Members. Funds to be loaned for this purpose have been furnished by the Refugee Economic Corporation and are handled on a strictly business basis. Interest bearing notes are taken for any advances made and the Committee retains the right to supervise the businesses that have received capital assistance.

It is too soon to note any striking successes but several establishments already provide modest livings for their owners and it is hoped that more will follow. We have, on the otherhand, to point out certain failures, probably due to encountering new and unusual conditions.

We have added to our staff an experienced accountant to make weekly inspections and reports on all enterprises under our supervision, so that we can at all times be apprised of their current activities.

**STAFF AND OFFICE.**

At first practically all of the work of the Committee was taken care of in the office of my predecessor, my brother Philipp Frieder. I sought to do as he did, but with the rapidly rising tide of immigration and ever mounting mail from Europe, a staff of refugee assistants was gradually taken on. Several, with typing,



stenographic and translating abilities, were engaged.

As the burden of work continued to grow constantly, I was under the necessity of having a full time assistant, a person familiar with local conditions and with the entree to business and governmental offices. In March 1939, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, I placed Morton I. Netzorg, a prominent member of our Jewish community with over 25 years residence here, in charge of the office staff. Thereafter I was thus relieved of a great deal of the detail work, and could devote my time to the larger and more vital phases of the refugee work.

The volume of work continued to increase and I felt fortunate when I was able to rent the building adjoining my office for the use of the Committee. This building not only contains our Committee offices, but also serves as a community home with accommodations for six single men.

In December of 1939, Dr. Kurt Marx, Secretary of the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai, visited Manila for a conference. As our volume of work was still on the increase and as we were under the necessity of beginning recruiting for the Mindanao Project, -the Committee prevailed on Dr. Marx to remain in Manila and give us the benefit of his experience in handling mass immigration.

Our present staff consists of Messrs. Netzorg and Marx, as just noted, with six refugee assistants, who handle translations, typing, stenographic work, accounting and other office routine.

In addition to this staff, the accounting department of the S. Frieder & Sons Co. supervises the accounting requirements.

The policy of our staff is to give full and sympathetic hearing to all cases. All applications for immigration pass thru this office for translation, condensation and preliminary consideration, so that they can be presented to the Executive Committee with a minimum of superfluous detail.

All immigrants are registered, with details as to antecedents, educational, professional and business qualifications, etc. Strong efforts are made to assist them in finding employment. Requests for loans, clothing and furniture are received and investigated. Certified translations are furnished when required. Pledges and contributions are collected and the repayment of loans effected where possible.

Rabbi Joseph Schwarz is present during the interviewing hours in order to assist with advice and counsel.

It should be pointed out that the office has served as a sort of training school and it is my policy not to interfere with the opportunities of the staff to secure work in commercial firms. Several former members of our staff have obtained substantial positions of this nature. As quickly as this occurs, we replace them with other refugees.

FUTURE IMMIGRATION POLICY FOR THIS COMMITTEE (recommendations for).

Taking for granted that this Committee will continue to receive the same financial support which it has had in the past and also that the same quasi-official relationship with the govern-



mental entities of this country will persist, it behooves us to consider the attitude which we shall assume toward continued and further immigration. This is indeed a matter of vital importance, not to be decided without fullest consideration from all possible angles.

Consideration must be given, first of all, to the ability of this country to absorb European immigrants, with reference both to the economic conditions of the country and the adaptability of the newcomers. In addition to this, we must always keep in mind the necessity of acting in a manner that will prevent the crystallization or creation of a "minority problem", - something sedulously to be avoided.

We must continue along the lines followed during the past few months, that is, one of extreme caution in recommending applications for visa. Before we feel moved to give our recommendation, three factors should be present:

First: There should be a very substantial affidavit for the support of the applicant, whereby we have ample guarantee that he will not become a public charge;

Second: There should be a cash deposit in the Committee Trust Fund of a sum sufficient to cover a minimum of one year's support;

Third: We should feel sure that the applicant has the qualifications to establish himself locally and to become self-supporting within a reasonable time.

In cases of applications for temporary residence, while awaiting permission to proceed to some other country, we should

have analogous assurances to fit the case, notably:

First: A cash deposit ample to cover two year's support;

Second: A further cash deposit or sufficient guarantee of passage money to proceed to the country of ultimate destination.

Third: Adequate affidavits of support to supplement the cash deposits.

However, I recommend that the above conditions be waived in cases of applicants, applying directly from Europe, who, in the opinion of our Executive Committee, possess the training and experience and are within the desirable age limits, which will permit them readily to find opportunity for gainful employment.

In all cases where this Committee gives its recommendation and thereby obligates itself to look after the interests of immigrants on arrival, there should be required a payment to cover cable and administrative expenses, as has been established by us. This condition need not necessarily apply to the direct European applicants, referred to in the foregoing paragraph.

In connection with affidavits of support signed by persons not in the Philippines, I regret to report that we have had several cases where affiants have resolutely refused to make good their sworn promises. To avoid the repetition of such instances, I recommend that in the future foreign affidavits of support should be acceptable only when sent through a Jewish refugee or relief organization, located in or near the place of residence of the affiant, with a formal statement by such organization concerning the ability and willingness of the affiant to make good on his promise, and undertaking to see that he will fulfill the obligation which he assumes.



Maintaining the above noted policy of caution in reference to visa recommendations, we shall constantly run into difficulties with immigrants already in Manila who, moved by natural impulses, which we all understand and even admire, are so insistent in attempting to help members of their family to follow them here. Despite the appeal made to our emotions, we must endeavor at all times to maintain a cautious and practical attitude, remembering our moral and perhaps legal obligation to the Philippine government that no Jewish refugee shall become a public charge. We shall have to be resolute in our refusal to recommend visas where we are not reasonably sure that the applicant can maintain himself and the dependents for whom he is interceding. Furthermore, we have to keep in mind that all positions and employments held by refugees must, without exception, be deemed of a temporary nature. This last consideration arises from the fact, already noted in this report, namely, that the newly aroused and rapidly growing sentiment of nationalism, already makes it difficult for employers to hire and retain refugees and at some future time may make it incumbent on them to discharge refugees already employed. How far this movement may go, there is no way of determining, but it will be wise to proceed on the assumption that employment held by any refugee should be considered as of a temporary nature.

#### FINANCIAL

As members of the Board of Directors, you are familiar with the financial aspect of the Committee's work through our monthly

reports, which are compiled with extraze detail. However, I should like to invite your attention to certain figures (taken from our statement of March 31, 1940).

Total loaned (to date)

Maintenance	P 45,925.63
Business	8,934.16

Repayments (to date)

Maintenance	P 15,271.12
Business	1,759.30

It should be borne in mind that all funds issued for maintenance are deemed loans to be repaid when the receiver is gainfully employed. This not only serves to give some assurance of repayment, but also tends to preserve morale. In theory, we give no money, but only make cash advances.

From the above data it can be seen that we have assisted a large number of emigres, either to maintain themselves until they could become self-sustaining or until they could establish small business enterprises. Sufficient time has not elapsed to permit the recipients of our financial aid to make substantial repayments; and while, in some cases, we have encountered resistance in obtaining repayments, on the whole it is pleasing to report the willing desire on the part of the emigres to repay their loans as quickly as is consistent with their financial condition. In this connection, it should be borne in mind that, since passage money to assist relatives to come to this country must now be paid in gold currency, those who secure such visa recommendations, in many cases use their funds to purchase passage which prevents them from repaying their loans to us.



A consideration of the sources of our income reveals interesting information.

Funds raised locally-

(from January 1st, 1939 to March 31st, 1940)

Pledges	\$ 38,818.20
Donations	2,801.52
Fees and contributions in connection with visas	16,181.71

Funds from New York-

Joint Distribution Committee	\$ 40,000.00
Refugee Economic Corporation	\$ 50,000.00

Balance of these funds on hand-

Joint Distribution Committee	\$ 25,833.84
Refugee Economic Corporation	\$ 55,134.24

These figures confirm my statement earlier in this report, to the effect that without the help of the two great organizations our work would have been of a much less elaborate nature.

MINDANAO.

I am pleased to report that both the American and Philippine governments have agreed in principle to a resettlement project in Mindanao for 10,000 refugee immigrants. The Refugee Economic Corporation made possible a thorough and exhaustive survey by a highly competent committee of lands desirable for European colonization. This committee determined upon tracts located in the Province of Bukidnon, Mindanao.

Negotiations with government entities necessarily involves long delays. This has been the condition which we have gone through. But I am happy to state that at a conference this week, all differences were ironed out and that contracts for all lands under option to us and contracts for the utilization of these lands will be terminated within a few days.

This project, when in operation, should mark one of the great milestones in the history of the resettlement of our co-religionists, necessitated by the terrible Diaspora of the Twentieth Century.

Before closing, I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the members of our Board of Directors, who have so willingly offered their time and services; and to our Executive Committee whose members have never failed to sacrifice their time and energy to be present at our long weekly conferences and on numerous other occasions, necessitated by the pressure of important matters. Also I wish to thank our staff and the ladies of the Auxiliary Association, who have done a great deal toward meeting the needs of the refugee families and their children and otherwise helped to solve their domestic problems.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation also go out to the Refugee Economic Corporation and to the Joint Distribution Committee for their most helpful support.

Finally, and perhaps most of all, I must express my gratitude to the two United States High Commissioners and their staffs, and to the President of the Philippine Commonwealth and to the numerous lesser functionaries thereof from whom I and my co-workers have such unfailing and sympathetic support.

I trust that the same measure of support will continue to be given by all to my brother, Mr. Herbert E. Frieder, who succeeds me in the presidency of this committee

Respectfully yours

*Alex Frieder*

ALEX FRIEDER

President

The Jewish Refugee Committee