

**Cerimonia di apertura del campo di Fort Ontario – 6 agosto 1944** (da Greenberg, Karen J., cit., pp. 173-176; primo di quattro fogli). Saluti di Smart e Meyers.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

STATEMENTS OF GREETING TO REFUGEES AT FORT ONTARIO  
(August 6, 1944)

(Introduction by Mr. Joseph H. Smart, Director of the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Fort Ontario)

MR. SMART:

This Emergency Refugee Shelter is the only one of its kind in the United States. The President gave the responsibility for its administration to the War Relocation Authority, an agency of the United States Department of the Interior. This agency has administered similar programs during the past several years and thus has some experience which should prove invaluable in the present situation.

The War Relocation program has been one of outstanding success, due I believe, to the wisdom and leadership of the national director of the War Relocation Authority, from whom we shall now hear. It gives me pleasure to present our Director, Mr. Dillon S. Myer.

MR. MYER:

The Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, The Honorable Harold L. Ickes, has asked me to read the following message of greeting from him to our refugee friends. I quote:

"On behalf of the United States Government, I extend to you a hearty welcome to this refugee shelter for the duration of the war, or until you can be safely returned to your homelands across the sea.

I hope that this haven from the intolerance, suffering, and persecution that you have undergone will in some measure ease your tragic memories.

The United States has become a great republic and a strong democracy through the peaceful intermingling of all races and creeds. Let me assure you that we shall endeavor to make your sojourn at the Oswego center as comfortable as it is possible to make it, and to this end, we solicit your full cooperation.

I hope from my heart that the time which you spend in this retreat will bring you each renewed strength and faith with which to face a future in which the dignity of the individual man will be recognized and assured everywhere."

That is the end of Mr. Ickes' statement.