

La prima pagina dell'*Ontario Chronicle* del 07.06.1945 su cui venne riportato il documento, già pubblicato il 1° giugno sull'*Oswego Palladium Times*, inviato al Presidente degli Stati Uniti e al Congresso.

Fonte: <http://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p16694coll19/id/153/rec/34>.

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MEMORIAL OF THE OSWEGO COMMITTEE

The Oswego Palladium-Times of Friday, June 1, 1945 has published a memorial signed by 27 members of the Oswego Advisory Committee. The memorial, which was sent to President Truman and Congress, reads as follows:

"In August 1944, 982 refugees, natives of 17 European countries were brought to Oswego, N. Y., as guests of the United States. Many of these people had been on the march since 1934, escaping over from Hitler's advancing power and persecution." Explaining that the refugees during the plight have lost most of the values dear and sacred to them, the memorial continues:

"These refugees have now lived in our land for almost a year. They have a tentative security, the friendship of the people of Oswego whom they have been able to meet, modest provision for food, shelter and medical care. But instead of the freedom they sought and of which they dreamed they have been closely held in a fenced area on the shores of Lake Ontario, with permission to be absent from the camp for only 6 hour periods, and without permission to visit relatives or friends beyond the limits of the City of Oswego. Instead of the opportunity to fashion a new life for themselves and their families, they have been deprived of a chance to work at any gainful or life building pursuits; and this in the face of local and national war manpower shortage of critical proportions."

Making allusion to the statement signed before our departure and stating that "it does not seem fair to enforce commitments which are inhumane and which are accepted only in desperation", the memorial continues:

"Concerning these people, less than one thousand of the distressed millions of the world, represents our nation of good will to all mankind." Such was our statement when we carefully selected them to be our guests.

"They are intelligent; the adults in their contacts through lectures, visits etc. have provided an intellectual stimulus to the city of Oswego. The children and young people in our schools and college rank high. All are cultured and talented; many of the group were business or industrial leaders; some are musicians of concert stage ability, artists, actors, writers, and members of the learned professions. They are law-abiding. Having so long been the victims of autocracy, they are imbued with the idea that democracy represents the good life. (Nineteen have sons in our armed forces; some even have wives and many brothers and sisters who are citizens of this nation."

CALLED OUR PROBLEM

"These 982, wisely & unwise, we have brought to our shores. They are now definitely our problem. We need to face it realistically. Regardless of what they have signed, they cannot all go back to their homelands, for in some cases they have been destroyed, and approximately one-third have been deprived of citizenship

in the countries of their origin. We cannot keep them confined for an indefinitely longer period, inactive and desperate to the point in some cases of insanity and suicide) as they see life slipping by with no opportunity to make plans for themselves and families in an ever-changing world.

"Stating that "less than one thousand in a population of one hundred and thirty-five million will not in any way disturb the economic life of our country" and saying that "we could permit them to stay in this country without conflict with our immigration quotas", the memorial concludes: "Unless we are to deny the very essence of what we are fighting now and have always stood for (life, liberty and pursuit of happiness), we should give our guests their freedom. If we do not this, our pledges of world good will indeed sound hollow."

The memorial was received by Rep. Hudson C. Fuller, who said he will probably present the memorial to the House on Monday, June 4th. Other congressional sources in Washington said that the memorial will probably go before the Senate also on Monday, June 4th.

NEW LIST OF LIBERATED JEWISH WOMEN

A list of Czechoslovak Jewish women liberated from the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen and a new information about Teresin (Teresienstadt) inmates is in possession of Leo Arnstein (Bldg. 17-58C) and may be checked there.