

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON DISPLACED PERSONS COLLECTION, 1946-1950
1996.A.0454

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons collection

Dates: 1946-1950

Accession number: 1996.A.0454

Creator: Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons

Extent: 5 folders

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons collection consists of material created by the Committee in support of legislation concerning displaced persons in Europe. Editorials and press releases inform readers on the progress made on said legislation, while memorandum updates members and coordinating organizations of the Committee. Internal information consists of a variety of lists and news useful to members of the Committee. Also included is a report on immigration of European displaced persons to the United States.

Languages: English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Purchased from Schoen books in 2013. These collections originally lived as two collections, but have been combined into one. The accession number of the former was 2013.497.1, and has been unified into this collection (1996.A.0454).

Custodial history: Vendor obtained this collection from the American Jewish Committee, following de-accession from that organization's library. The bulk of the collection as obtained by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013, with the exception of the immigration report, which was acquired in 1996. The collections were merged together after both collections had been acquired.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Related material: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds the Earl G. Harrison papers. Earl G. Harrison served as chairman of the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons.

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, March 2015

Administrative history

The Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons was formed in the United States in 1946, by leaders of the American Jewish Committee and the American Committee for Judaism. This broad based group of noted Americans were gathered for the goal of influencing Congress so that it would pass legislation relaxing immigration quotas and permitting the entrance of displaced persons from Europe to enter the United States. In January of 1947, with Earl G. Harrison as chairman, the Citizens Committee announced its goal: the admission of 400,000 refugees from Europe over the next four years. The organization enlisted the support of labor unions, religious organizations, and prominent political leaders on behalf of their efforts, and worked closely with David Niles, President Truman's special assistant on minority affairs. Niles and the Committee worked with Congressman William Stratton of Illinois, to introduce the bill, which eventually evolved into the Displaced Persons Act in 1948. Following an amendment to that bill in 1950, the organization soon disbanded later in that year.

Scope and content of collection

The Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons collection contains material created by the Committee, in its attempts to assist with legislation in support of bringing displaced Jewish Europeans to the United States. Included are editorials and press releases, intended by the Committee to gain public awareness and support for the passage of the Displaced Persons Act. Memorandum contains information sent to cooperating organizations and members, updating them on the Committee's progress. Internal information consists of various information composed for internal use, such as lists of local citizens committees and radio program transcriptions discussing displaced persons. Also included is a report on immigration of European displaced persons to the United States created by the Committee.

System of arrangement

The Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons collection is arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Harrison, Earl Grant, 1899-1955
Niles, David, 1888-1952

Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons.

United States--Emigration and immigration.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.
Jewish refugees--Government policy--United States.
United States--Emigration and immigration--Government policy—20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons collection, 1946-1950

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Editorials, 1946-1947
1	2	Immigration report, approximately 1947
1	3	Internal information, 1947
1	4	Memorandum, 1947-1950
1	5	Press releases, 1947-1948