MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Re: Congressional comment on a program of rescue for the Jews of Europe and Congressional criticism of the State Department in connection therewith.

The demand for concrete steps to aid the Jews of Europe has become insistent in Congress since reports of continued Axis persecution have elicited no official action. On November 9, 1943, Senator Guy M. Gillette (Dem., Iowa) in behalf of himself and eleven colleagues, Senators Taft, Thomas, Radcliffe, Murray, Johnson, Guffey, Ferguson, Clark, Van Nuys, Downey, and Ellender, introduced Senate Resolution 203 which was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee by Senator Gillette on December 20, 1943, with a recommendation for passage. This resolution, as amended by the Committee, reads as follows:

"Whereas the Congress of the United States, by concurrent resolution adopted on March 10 of this year, expressed its condemnation of Nazi Germany's 'mass murder of Jewish men, women, and children', a mass crime which has already exterminated close to two million human beings, about 30 per centum of the total Jewish population of Europe, and which is growing in intensity as Germany approaches defeat; and

Whereas the American tradition of justice and humanity dictates that all possible means be employed to save from this fate the surviving Jews of Europe, some four million souls who have been rendered homeless and destitute by the Nazis: Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the United States recommends and urges the creation by the President of a commission of diplomatic, economic, and military experts to formulate and effectuate plans of immediate action designed to save the surviving Jewish people of Europe from extinction at the hands of Nazi Germany."

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