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CONSULATE GENERAL OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
OTTAWA

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URGENT

Ottawa, April 19th, 1941.

Sir,-

Acting upon instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to extend best appreciation on their behalf of the Canadian Government's understanding attitude towards our difficult problem of evacuating our refugees.

The Polish Government, however, has been unable to secure from the British authorities permission to effect a transfer of funds for the prospective evacuees who would be admitted to Canada for the duration of the war. For this reason the Polish Government is not in a position to guarantee the maintenance of this category of its nationals.

I have, therefore, been instructed to approach the Government of Canada with the request that they remove the condition attached to their permission to admit these persons to this Dominion, as was done by the Brazilian Government which has granted 2000 visas to Polish evacuees without guarantee of maintenance on the part of the Polish Government.

I would add that I have already approached - through our Consuls in Canada - the various Polish and Jewish organizations, and am in touch with refugee committees, in order to ascertain to what extent employment or maintenance could be secured for the prospective Polish evacuees. The Canadian Friends of Poland in Toronto are taking up the matter of material assistance with the National Council of the Canadian Red Cross.

The situation is serious and urgent, as Portugal, on April 1st, ordered the internment in camps of all refugees who up to May 1st fail to secure admission to other countries.

N.A. Robertson, Esq.,  
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