

Staff

Memorandum for

YOUR ATTENTION

Inter-Office Information Service
about
from Saul Hayes.

CONFIDENTIAL NO. I.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

National Headquarters

1121 St. Catherine St. West
Oct. 1st, 1946.
Montreal — Plateau 6891

1. UN Economic & Social Council.

The sub-committee of the United Nations Economic & Social Council now meeting at Lake Success, decided on Sept. 23rd, by a slim majority, that all measures should be taken to repatriate child refugees to their countries of origin. We wired to the Hon. Paul Martin, head of the Canadian delegation stating that this decision constitutes "a cruel blow to the rehabilitation and rescue plans now carried on and envisaged for the future by private agencies. We believe that it is inhumane to uproot children and against their ultimate interest." We requested that the Canadian vote when the matter reaches the Economic & Social Council be aligned with the United Kingdom and the United States.

Mr. Martin replied immediately to this telegram reassuring us that "Canada voted in sub-committee against the decision" and "that we may count on sympathetic consideration of our views."

We communicated the contents of Mr. Martin's telegram to the World Jewish Congress in New York. Jewish observers at Lake Success will follow up this matter.

2. Immigration.

Two staff meetings have been had on the procedure to be suggested to the National executive committee in carrying out of the decision to have a delegation see the Prime Minister with a request to admit larger numbers of displaced persons to Canada. Representations will also be made for an extension of the Order-in-Council admitting relatives of Canadian residents by including married brothers and sisters and nephews and nieces older than sixteen.

3. Polish Soldiers.

We have wired to Mr. Jacob Trobe of the J.D.C. in Rome to inform us immediately on the steps taken to inform Jewish men in the Polish forces of the opportunity to come to Canada. We also asked for the names of those who have applied. We have wired Dr. R. Cantoni, the head of the Italian Jewish community for a similar report.

A group of Polish Jewish soldiers in Italy has complained to us that their applications for Canadian immigration has been stopped by General Anders. They also complained that the Polish Jewish chaplain is not helpful to them. We have immediately advised them by wire that the selection of candidates

is being made only by Canadian representatives in Italy and that they should not be deflected by discriminatory practices of the Polish officers. We have contacted Dr. Schwartzbart of the World Jewish Congress in New York, himself a member of the Polish Parliament in exile, and Jacob Trobo, asking them to take all steps possible to prevent discriminatory practices.

4. Report on Paris Conference.

The conference of representatives of Jewish organizations which was convened in Montreal for Sept. 30th to hear the report of the National Executive Director on the Jewish problems as they presented themselves at the Paris conference has adopted a resolution asking for admission of Jewish displaced persons to Canada. The resolution was prominently featured in the Montreal daily papers. The resolution stated that the claim of surviving Jews "to assistance and to the restoration of their lives in new homes has met with an indifference on the part of the great victorious powers that bespeaks a cynicism which is in itself a threat to the peace of the world." The resolution called upon the Government of Canada to take immediate steps "for the admission of a number of these Jews who so urgently seek new homes, a number which will be commensurate with the dignity of the Dominion of Canada."

The meeting convened by the Dominion Council of the Eastern Region, included representatives of Jewish organizations and electors of delegates to the last Plenary Session. The National Executive Director reported on the efforts of Jewish organizations at the Paris conference to secure the rights of Jews in Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Italy. Almost all organizations invited sent representatives and the attendance was of such an extent that many people had to remain standing because of lack of space. The conference was held at the Mount Royal Hotel in Montreal. The report of the National Executive Director stated that the atmosphere of peace-making today was far behind that of 1919 in regard to the willingness of the nations to protect the right of minorities. The report was followed by a question period.

5. Book Week.

Plans are being advanced in Montreal for having Book Week in the early part of December. A tentative program calls for an exhibit of books of Jewish interest, a series of meetings, school affairs, etc. The YMHA and the Jewish Public Library take a leading part in the preparatory work of Book Week together with the Congress.

6. Food & Clothing Collection.

Plans are being made to have a national campaign for used clothing in November. The campaign will be highlighted by an appeal for men's clothes and efforts will have to be made to restrict the collection as much as possible to only these items.

It appears that of foods available only fish can be collected for overseas. Dehydrated soups are not welcome in Europe and those with sugar cannot be obtained on account of the rationing. No concentrated effort will be made on food collection. However, organizations will be encouraged to undertake it as an individual project.

The Women's Committee of the Central Region is meeting right after the holidays to discuss plans for stimulation of the S.O.S. campaign which will include canned and boxed foods.

7. Survey of Jewish Community of Winnipeg by Louis Rosenberg.

Over a hundred requests were already received for Rosenberg's survey of the Jewish community in Winnipeg. Most of the orders come from Winnipeg. Out of a total of 84 requests, 60 are from Winnipeg.

The study was very favourably reviewed by B.G. Sack in the "Eagle" and in syndicated column by Phineas J. Biron. The Rosenberg study is the first one in a series of similar studies now contemplated by the Bureau of Social & Economic Studies.

8. Visiting of D.V.A. Hospitals.

The request of the Central Division that chaplains visiting military hospitals should also visit D.V.A. hospitals was referred to the National Religious Committee of the Congress.

9. J.D.C. Relief Work in Russia.

The J.D.C. has shipped \$285,858.00 worth of medical supplies (including 180 vials of penicillin and various hospital equipment) to the Soviet Union through the American Medical Association for Russian relief. The shipment was made in August. Other supplies shipped in August were directed to fourteen European countries and totalled 1,974,000 lbs. and were valued at \$1,090,000. The supplies consisted of foodstuffs, wearing apparel and other necessities.

10. Public Relations Staff.

Mr. Alfred Zimmerman of Montreal has been added to the Public Relations staff of Congress. Mr. Zimmerman was recommended by the National Executive Director to fill the post of director of the public relations work for the Western Region with headquarters at Winnipeg. He will spend several weeks in the national office to study Congress thinking on public relations. Afterwards he will proceed to New York for about one month to acquaint himself with the programs of the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee and American Jewish Congress.

Mr. Zimmerman was engaged in law practice from 1940 to December, 1942 when he joined the army. He was overseas from August, 1943, to May, 1946.

11. Press Relations Pamphlet in Toronto.

A draft of a press relations pamphlet submitted by the Central Division of Congress has received endorsement of prominent newsmen and writers. Plans are being made to have the pamphlet endorsed by the C.B.C., C.P., Canadian Association of Broadcasters, Canadian Association of Daily Newspapers and similar organizations. The pamphlet will be revised to follow certain suggestions received from some editors.