

Staff
Memorandum for

YOUR ATTENTION

about Inter-Office Information Service.

from Saul Hayes.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

Confidential No. II.

National Headquarters

1121 St. Catherine St. West
Montreal — Plateau 6891

Oct. 2nd, 1946.

1. I.L.O. Meetings.

The problem of discrimination in migration has long been a serious concern to the I.L.O. which has appointed an Inter-Governmental Committee to study this question. Our Research Department has drawn up a memorandum which we have presented to the current I.L.O. conference in Montreal. The memo deals with restrictions based on personal disqualifications, on disqualifications because of race, religion, nationality or country of birth and disqualification because of lack of proper travelling documents. We stressed in particular that restrictions based upon ethnic origin have led in many countries to unjustifiable practices by which Jews have not been admitted as immigrants under the same conditions as other citizens of the same countries who are not of Jewish origin. We requested that migration laws should not be subject to confidential administrative regulations and directives unknown to the general public. We have sent our memo to Mr. Arthur MacNamarra, the Canadian Government delegate, Mr. Humphrey Mitchell, who chairs the current conference, and to D.C. Tait, General Employment & Migration Section of the I.L.O. Copies of the memo with an explanatory letter were sent to the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Conference and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

2. French Visas for Polish Jews.

The French Government has granted 5,000 visas for Polish Jews. The World Jewish Congress representatives in France were advised that only those persons will be eligible who have either immigration visas or a definite promise of such a visa and whose stay in France is not to exceed six months. A very small fraction of these refugees will ultimately be able to settle in France.

3. Social Credit Party.

The Canadian Social Creditor, the official weekly of the Social Credit Party in Canada has recently carried an anti-semitic item pointing out that "out of the 24 persons accused of espionage in Canada, no less than 19 were Jews". An editorial attacks the so-called Anglo-Jewish monthly magazine "Today". In its article on the Jews among those accused of espionage states that "communistic heads were appointed to positions in leading Jewish organizations."

Our Research Bureau has completed an analysis of the results of the general election in 1945 as an index of the extent and prevalence of anti-semitic prejudice in Canada. The analysis includes several tables summarizing the population of each of the federal constituencies in Canada, total number of voters, number of votes actually polled and the number of votes polled for the Social Credit and Bloc Populaire parties, both campaigning on a program which fomented anti-semitism and racial prejudice. The analysis shows that while these parties succeeded in electing candidates in the Provinces of Alberta and Quebec only, they had sufficient wide-spread support in practically every area in Alberta, in the major portion of Quebec, over considerable areas in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba and to a smaller extent in Ontario and New Brunswick.

4. Adult Education.

Interviews were held with heads of the Y.M.H.A. in Montreal in regard to coordinating activities of various groups interested in adult education. Our office has prepared suggestions of what could be done in this direction and we are calling a meeting of the interested groups for Nov. 5th. Preliminary survey of the existing facilities is being made.

5. JIAS.

The National Executive Director has put before the Jias the decision of the National Executive to have standing committees supervise the agreements between the Jias and Congress in Montreal and Toronto and to have a functional committee in Winnipeg. The Jias is to clarify its stand shortly.

6. Immigration of Relatives.

Several Polish Jews have during the occupation assumed Aryan names. Their relatives in Canada who are entitled to sponsor their immigration met with difficulties on account of the difference of the names of their kin in Poland. We have now received communication from the American Jewish Joint Distribution in Warsaw whom we have contacted in this regard, that they approached the British Consul in Warsaw and they were assured that there would be no difficulties in granting entry-visas to Canada only because the name of the visa applicant differs from that of his sponsor in Canada.

We have also similar statements from Dr. M. Sommerstein, the former chairman of the Central Committee of Polish Jews and from Dr. I. Schwartzbart, former member of the Polish Parliament in Exile. Dr. A. Fiedorkiewicz, the Polish minister to Ottawa has on our request stated the view of the present Polish government in the question of the Polonization of names of Jews in Poland during the war. The government has permitted the Jews to retain their assumed Polish names.

7. Luncheon with John P. Humphrey.

John P. Humphrey has been appointed Director of Human Rights Division of the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations. We are trying to arrange a luncheon at which a number of leading Jews in New York would meet Mr. Humphrey for the purpose of introducing to him the heads of the various Jewish organizations.

8. United Nations Meeting in New York.

The National Executive Director will attend the Sessions of the UN in New York which start on Oct. 23rd.

9. Campaign Receipts.

The Jewish community of New Waterford has contributed \$870.00 for overseas relief. \$2,500.00 were received from the Congregation Agudath Achim in Sherbrooke. The Jewish Federation in Edmonton has sent in \$7,000.00 being an additional amount towards the allocation for the current year.

10. Restitution of Property in Czechoslovakia.

We have received from the J.D.C. a copy of the Restitution Law passed on May 16, 1946, in Czechoslovakia. It is now possible for an individual to make an application to the court for restitution of property taken from him by the Nazis. A proof of political reliability is required. For Jews who have German or Hungarian nationality it may be difficult to recover their property. Also those Jews who had declared themselves of Jewish nationality but had attended German schools may meet with difficulty. Because of the policy of nationalizing large businesses it will be impossible for Jews who owned such businesses to get them back. Consideration of each application involves considerable delay in view of documents required to show proof of political reliability, etc.

11. Paris Conference.

We have received from Dr. N. Barou in London a copy of a report about a conversation had with Mr. Vishinsky of Soviet Russia. A rift occurred among the Jewish delegation in Paris. The World Jewish Congress was criticized and held responsible for its having been singled out in the press reports on the submission to the Paris Conference. The incident was most likely wholly inadvertent.

12. A. Easterman's Visit to Canada.

Mr. Alex Easterman, the secretary of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress is coming to Canada at the end of October. He will be in Toronto and Montreal and will meet with the officers of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

13. Public Relations Work in Labour Field.

The sub-committee of the National Joint Public Relations Committee in charge of work among labour groups has met with representatives of the Jewish Labour Committee. We have advanced suggestions for close cooperation. The final agreement will have to be made by the National Committee which is expected to convene shortly. Details of the proposed agreement will be included in one of the coming memorandums.