

ABOUT Inter Office Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

48 CONFIDENTIAL

Dec. 13th, 1946.

1. Provincial Conference of the Ontario Region.

The Provincial Conference of the Central Region will convene in Hamilton at the Royal Connaught hotel on January 12th, 1947.

2. International Rescue and Relief Association.

We discussed with Mr. Francis Adams Henson, the director of the International Rescue and Relief Association in Paris, the extent of the help which they could extend to Jewish war victims. The association specializes in helping intellectuals and political leaders who became victims of totalitarian regimes in Europe and to their families.

3. \$100,000 Quota Adopted for Mo'Ess Chitten.

The Central People's Relief Committee in Montreal met yesterday. \$100,000 quota was adopted for this year's Mo'Ess Chitten. The annual conference of organizations for the Mo'Ess Chitten will take place on January 19th, 1947. Each organization affiliated with the Central People's Relief Committee will again set a sub-quota for itself. The Federation of Rumanian Jews was the first one to announce that it will contribute \$12,500 for this year's Mo'Ess Chitten. This Federation brought in last year the amount of \$7,000. Last year's Mo'Ess Chitten resulted in over \$60,000.

4. Privy Council Decision on Citizenship.

We discussed with Mr. Hugh O'Donnell, one of the Government Attorneys, the implication of the recent Privy Council decision on the cancelation of citizenship. Mr. O'Donnell furnished us with background information on the subject matter.

5. Clothing Collection in Montreal.

A collection of men's suits and coats and women's coats has been launched in Montreal. A letter under the signature of Mr. Monroe Abbey, chairman of the U.J.R. in the Eastern Region, has been mailed to the entire community; the letter reads as follows: "Urgent requests for men's suits and men's and women's overcoats have been coming to us from various parts of Europe. It is very important that these requests be met promptly. I know that you feel deeply the sufferings which have befallen our people there and that you will wish to do all in your power to make them as comfortable as possible. We have made arrangements to collect such suits and overcoats for them and I know that you will want to take this opportunity of participating in this fraternal project. Please do not delay answering this call. We know that you want that suit or coat of yours to be of the greatest service to some Jew in Europe during these cold days." The National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, the Federation of Polish Jews and all synagogues cooperate fully in the collection. In addition, an appeal is being made to manufacturers and retailers for new articles of clothing.

National Headquarters: CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS
1121 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal; Tel. PLateau 6891

6. Communal Survey of Jewish Education in Toronto.

A communal survey in the field of Jewish education will be conducted shortly in Toronto. The Jewish welfare Fund established a committee consisting of three representatives of the Welfare Fund and three of Congress. The Toronto executive committee approved of the project and appointments of the Congress members on the committee will be made by the president of the Central Region.

7. Chief Rabbis Memorial Foundation.

We have been asked to act as patrons for the memorial appeal which has been launched by the Chief Rabbis Religious Emergency Council as a memorial to the late Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregation of the British Empire, Dr. Joseph Hertz. In our reply we stated that the Canadian Jewish Community has for some time felt the need for clarification on the issue of the appellation, "Chief Rabbi of the British Empire". During Dr. Hertz' regime we felt that we could not raise it as it might bring him face to face with some discomfort which none of us were prepared to initiate. Now, however, the matter is something which ought to be decided since it is a cause very often for embarrassment. The autonomy of the Canadian Jewish community plus its lack of formal adherence to any particular synagogical authority makes it difficult to justify the title "Chief Rabbi of the British Empire" to include Canada. We stressed that none of these matters of principle in the least attenuate the very high regard in which the Canadian community held Dr. Hertz. We asked for clarification for the points raised.

8. Communities Advised of Safe-Guarding Jewish Rights in Rumania and Hungary.

A report on the adoption by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Jewish recommendations in regard to the Peace Treaties with Rumania and Hungary is being mailed to community leaders throughout the Dominion. We are indicating in the report that the provisions adopted by the Great Powers are very far from being all which we requested or even all those which we considered vital. However, we are encouraged by the measure of our successes to date and we shall certainly continue our efforts in regard to the other treaties in consideration particularly that with Germany and other instruments for the assurance of the rights of Jews in Europe. Canadian Jewish Congress, in its efforts in the matter of the status of the Jews in post-war Europe joined other boards as the World Jewish Congress, American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Community, Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Vaad Leumi of Palestine, etc. The Peace Treaties with Rumania and Hungary will include a number of requests which we have suggested in a joint memorandum as specific provisions for the rights of the Jewish population of Rumania, provisions to assure that the property of Rumanian and Hungarian Jews of which they had been deprived by anti-semitic regimes will be restored to them and when restoration is impossible, the Jewish owners will be compensated for the losses; that a fair assessment of the value of the property of Jews who cannot be located, presumably because they have been killed or have emigrated and do not present claims, will be used for the relief of Jewish war victims through local Jewish organizations. In all this work we were fortunate in having the very friendly interest of the Canadian Government's diplomatic representatives in Paris and New York.