

**YOUR ATTENTION**

FROM Saul Hayes

January 14, 1947.

No. 68 CONFIDENTIAL1. Plenary Session.

The executive staff meeting which was held on Monday, January 13th, was devoted entirely to plenary session matters. We discussed possible recommendations to be made to the national executive committee as to the main theme for the coming session. While the various aspects of our work will have to be on the agenda, we feel that one problem should be chosen for main consideration. Such problem could be the organizational and communal structure of the Canadian Jewish community with particular emphasis on Canadian citizenship; the dedication to problems of world Jewry; the \$2,000,000 overseas relief quota; Jewish fate - indivisible, etc. The problems will again be traversed at the national staff meeting which was convened for January 21st.

We also discussed the possibilities of having prominent Jewish leaders address the sessions and several names were considered for this purpose; also the possibilities of arranging the sessions differently from the pattern which was followed in previous years so as to provide more time for the delegates to express themselves, to put forward suggestions and to introduce resolutions.

2. Shipping Instructions Re 1,000,000 Pounds of Kosher Meat.

We are clearing with the JDC the shipping of 1,000,000 pounds of kosher meat which we purchased from the Canada Meat Board. We expect the first 150,000 pounds to be ready for shipment by the end of January. The JDC advised us that they cabled to Paris in this matter and they congratulated our financial department on the successful handling of the project.

3. Good Clothing Needed in DP Camps.

Dr. B. Pliskin, in a lengthy conversation with the national executive director, stressed the great need of good clothing for the various DP camps in Germany. He gave us detailed information on the situation of the 225,000 DP's in Germany and Austria and he pleaded for a reexamination of the relief needs in Europe generally. He gave us also a critique of various organizations which are doing relief work in Europe. Dr. Pliskin stressed that the DP's are anxious to start working and any assistance which could be given to them in this direction would be most important; this would include the providing of machinery and tools, raw materials and payment for work. 40,000 people could immediately be put to work. The SOS collections should include articles of good quality. Dr. Pliskin felt that the collection for suits and coats which is now being run in Montreal serves a very useful purpose and the DP's will welcome this kind of assistance but that the fundamental tasks are rehabilitation and resettlement.

4. Acknowledgment of Clothing Shipments.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Rome acknowledged our shipment of a number of new woolen ladies' coats which we made on the SS "Herdis". The coats were distributed in the Hachsharot program. We were assured that these coats were received with a great deal of pleasure by the recipients as the clothing that is available in Italy is of very poor quality and very unsatisfactory. It is therefore always very good news to them when they receive shipments of clothing from abroad.

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We received acknowledgment also of the shipment of sewing machines which we sent to Italy in cooperation with the Federation of Polish Jews. They were also distributed to the Hachsharot where women and girls are being taught to sew and they repair old clothing shipped to the JDC. They are also using these machines for the making of sheets for hospitals. We were advised that the machines arrived in excellent condition and have been operating successfully in the Hachsharot since their arrival.

The OPEJ "Oeuvre de Protection des Enfants Juifs" in Paris acknowledged 8 cases of clothing which were donated by the Ezra Ladies Society in Montreal and which we shipped to them.

5. Dr. Everett Clinchy's Visit to Toronto.

The Canadian Conference of Christians and Jews sponsored the visit of Dr. Everett Clinchy to Toronto and a public meeting was arranged with Dr. Clinchy as guest speaker. The Joint Public Relations Committee in Toronto felt that a radio broadcast would enhance the value of his visit to Toronto. Dr. Clinchy was interviewed on January 9th on the CBC News Round-Up on the aims and raison d'etre of the Conference of Christians and Jews.

6. Welfare Board in Winnipeg Accepts New Relief Quota.

The Board of the Welfare Fund in Winnipeg accepted in principle the new quota of \$2,000,000 for overseas relief. The budget committee of the Welfare Fund will be meeting soon. We shall assist the Welfare Fund in reaching their objective and a national conference similar to the conferences held in the United States previous to the United Jewish Appeal campaigns is being considered.

7. Permits for Supply Shipments.

The Department of National War Services, Division of Voluntary War Relief, authorized us to acquire and ship overseas 250,000 pounds of used clothing in 1947. The Department approved also of our request for shipment of dental supplies valued at \$600 which a Toronto group wants to contribute and for various children's and infants' items in which a group in Montreal is especially interested.

8. Kol Nidrei in the Maritimes.

The Agudath Achim Society in Yarmouth sent in \$148 for the Kol Nidrei Appeal. Saint John sent in \$541 for the same purpose.

\$395 was received from Halifax to be added to the 1946 campaign; \$300 from Glace Bay and \$150 from the Bathurst Jewish community.

9. Houses for Lithuanian Refugees in Palestine.

The request of the Federation of Lithuanian Jews for a subsidy of \$6000 towards building houses for Lithuanian refugees in Palestine was approved in principle by the national budget committee. The transmission was postponed as we have been informed by the Anglo-Palestine Bank that the funds should be kept in the meantime in Canada. The Jewish Agency stated that since a question arose as to the proper legal form to be bestowed on this project and negotiations are now in process with a view to associating the scheme with some of the national institutions, it is preferable that the funds be kept in Canada until a further decision is made as to the form to be given to the scheme.

10. Iqud.

An allocation for \$2,500 was approved for the Iqud, Canadian Association of Hebrew Schools, for the year 1947. Further assistance will be given to the Iqud by way of services and office facilities.

11. Clothing Collection in Montreal.

Several hundreds of men's coats and suits and women's coats were already picked up as a result of the recent clothing collection; the collection was limited to these three articles only. The quality of the garments is very good.

12. Relief Map of Palestine.

We co-operated with students in a Jesuit college in Montreal in the preparation of a relief map of Palestine in Biblical times. The Zionist Organization and we provided them with books, materials and information in their work. The map was on public display and we were invited to view it.

13. Citizenship Week Celebration in Winnipeg.

Among the foreign born residents of the Province of Manitoba who were given citizenship certificates at a celebration of Citizenship Week on January 10 was the executive secretary of our Western Division.

14. Film Program.

A detailed report on our film program was prepared for the Provincial Conference of the Central Region which was held on January 12 in Hamilton. The report will also form part of the kit on Congress activities which is in preparation.