

ABOUT Inter Office Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

69 CONFIDENTIAL

Jan. 15th, 1947.

1. Children's Emigration from Europe Directed to Palestine Only.

Dr. B. Pliskin, representative of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in Germany, addressed a meeting of the Dominion Council of the Eastern Region on January 14th. He made a plea for special consideration to be given to the children in the DP camps and suggested that the women's organizations initiate sending individual parcels to these children, entering into correspondence with them and giving them more individual attention. Members of the Dominion Council raised the questions as to why 1,000 children of the DP camps could not be directed to Canada; the permit which we received in 1943 for 1,000 children still holds good and could be easily implemented. Dr. Pliskin stated emphatically that no children would be permitted to go either from the DP camps in Germany or Austria or from any Eastern European country other than to Palestine. The Jews of Mexico, South America and some other countries already tried to get a number of children and failed. The Central Committee of Liberated Jews would strongly oppose any attempt for immigration of children to Canada or United States. The suggestion of Dr. Pliskin to have a children's relief project on an individual basis was approved in principle. A conference of leading women's organizations will shortly be convened in Montreal and other centers to put the plan into operation.

Dr. Pliskin invited us to be represented at a Congress of Liberated Jews which will be held in Munich on February 15th.

Other matters discussed by the Dominion Council were: raising of the Eastern Region share of \$2,000,000 relief quota, report on public relations work, immigration problems, international conference and Jewish education. Mr. N. Heinich of Halifax and Mr. O. Miller of Quebec were present and almost the entire Montreal membership of the Dominion Council.

2. Number of Delegates to Plenary Session to Increase.

The Ontario Region requested an increase of the number of delegates to the Plenary Session from 86 to 120. The Dominion Council of the Eastern Region passed a similar request which will be presented to the National Executive. The representation of the Western Region will be proportionally increased as well.

3. Provincial Conference in Hamilton.

Over 200 delegates from every part of Ontario attended the 11th Regional Conference of the Central Region in Hamilton on January 12th. The morning panel discussion on Congress responsibilities in the field of public relations was under the chairmanship of Mr. B. Sadowski, O.B.E. At the same time a side panel on Youth problems

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was in session and it was agreed to endeavour to organize a council of Jewish youth groups on a provincial level. A conference for this purpose will be held in April; an arrangements committee was elected to handle the details. At the luncheon meeting Mr. I.L. Kenen, executive director of the American Jewish Conference, spoke on the problems faced by the Jewish representatives at the Paris Peace Conference. Dr. Boris Pliskin spoke on the situation facing Jewish DP's in Europe. The afternoon panel discussion was on Congress responsibilities in the field of Jewish education. This panel formed resolutions calling for a conference of people concerned with and interested in Jewish education to be immediately convened by the National office. At the same time a side panel on problems faced by Jewish war veterans and Congress responsibilities in this field was in session. A series of films depicting our work in the field of public relations was shown. The evening dinner was sponsored by the Canadian Committee of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

4. \$2,000,000 Overseas Relief Quota.

The quota of \$2,000,000 will not be possible of achievement without some very definite stimulation and the use of techniques not hitherto used in Canada. Ways and means of raising this large sum pose new problems and new program. Recommendations which will be presented to the national executive will include among other suggestions the following: (a) convoking of a national conference of community campaign leaders and welfare fund officers in Montreal; (b) creation of a national special gifts committee; (c) invitation to J.D.C. leaders to put on a seminar at the conference where JDC program and needs will be highlighted; (d) dissemination of extensive publicity popularizing the campaign and formulating a six or eight point program; (e) visit to certain European centres by two lay leaders who will be asked to familiarize themselves with the problems so as to report from first hand information; (f) direct appeals from the DP centres and representative committees.

5. Reports on DP Camps.

Well attended report meetings on the situation in the DP camps in Germany and Austria were held in Kingston and Ottawa, Ont. with Mr. Philip Stuchen as speaker. Mr. Stuchen will speak on January 17th in Fort William. He will participate in a meeting of the Dominion Council of our Western Region on January 19th and will visit Moose Jaw, Sask., Medicine Hat and Lethbridge, Alta. The Women's Service Council of the Welfare Fund in Toronto invited Mr. Stuchen to be the guest speaker at a luncheon meeting on February 10th, 1947.

6. Gallup Poll on the Plight of Homeless Jews.

The Montreal Press carried an announcement of the British Institute of Public Opinion on the Gallup Poll on: "The plight of homeless Jews, should solution come from United Nations?". A survey made among voters of the British Isles in which the question was asked whether the resettlement problem of the 600,000 Jewish people who have lost their homes and are looking for new land should be left for the Jewish refugees themselves to solve or whether it should be handled by the countries of the United Nations, 57% were in favour of a solution by the United Nations, 22% of a solution by the refugees themselves. Asked whether they themselves have any ideas as to how this problem should be solved, nearly half of the voters had no ideas at all or thought that the problem was insoluble. 10% thought that the problem could be solved by a country of their own, preferably Palestine, 10% that the United Nations could solve it if nations would cooperate, 3% - "let them go where they wish", 3% "colonize empty parts of the world", 1% settle in the U.S.A., 1% settle in the Empire countries, 12% anti-Jewish comments (let the Jews solve it themselves; Jews will never be satisfied, the Arabs settle it, etc.).