

MEMORANDUM FOR

Ex
National Executive

ABOUT

Inter Office Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM

Saul Hayes

71 CONFIDENTIAL

Jan. 17th, 1947.

1. Outremont School Question

A pamphlet has been recently circularized in Montreal by the Inter-Racial Committee for Democratic Action on the Outremont school question; the pamphlet is called, "Segregation can destroy young Canada, Jewish children in the Outremont schools". It charges that the Outremont School Board resorted to segregation within the schools and whenever feasible Jewish children are set apart in one classroom and non-Jews of the same grade in another; the principle of the "Ghetto-ized School" appears thus to have been established. A questionnaire as to whether the reader thinks that all Canadians, of whatever creed or race, are entitled to equal rights of education and whether he is in favour of the practice of segregation of Jews from non-Jewish children in the same schools is attached to the pamphlet; the same questionnaire carries an application for membership with the Inter-Racial Committee for Democratic Action. The Joint Public Relations Committee of the Eastern Region which meets on January 23rd will discuss the implications of the interference of the Inter-Racial Committee for Democratic Action with the Committee of Education for Jewish Children of Outremont which is solely in charge of handling the problem of the Outremont school question.

2. Matzohs Rebate.

We are again called upon to intervene with the Deputy Minister of National Revenue in Ottawa with regard to the import of matzohs from the United States. In previous years we were able to obtain a rebate on matzohs import from the United States. The Inner Executive approved of our taking similar steps this year as well.

3. Research Program for 1947.

Our Research Bureau reported the completion during December, 1946, of: (1) A study of the number of Jewish children of school age in the smaller communities of Western Canada, (2) Statistics of the number of Jewish school children attending Jewish parochial schools in the Montreal district, 1946, (3) Comparative age grouping of the Jewish population of Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg in 1941, (4) In Yiddish (together with version in English) paper on "Jewish Farming in Canada" which will be read at the annual meeting of the Yiddish Scientific Institute in New York on January 19th, 1947, and which will be published in Yiddish in "Yivo Bletter", the quarterly publication of the Yiddish Scientific Institute, (5) Study on "Comparative Trends in Juvenile Delinquency among the Jewish and non-Jewish population in Canada, 1922-1944. Projects not yet completed include: (1) The Jewish Sick Benefits Societies in Toronto. Work held up because of lack of requested information from Toronto regarding the number and location of Jewish cemeteries, (2) Rehabilitation Survey of Jewish ex-servicemen in Montreal. Work on this survey was held up awaiting completion of previous projects, it is hoped to have this project finished in February, (3) expectation of Life Table of the Jewish Population of Canada. Work on

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this project is continuing and it is hoped that Mr. Mortimer Spiegelman of New York will be able to complete it later in the year. Plans were advanced to complete five following projects during 1947: (1) Monograph on the geographical distribution of the Jewish population of Canada by provinces, countries, cities, towns and villages from 1851 to 1941. Work is already in progress on this project and possibly will be completed and ready for publication some time in March, (2) Jews in agriculture in Canada, (3) A study of Jewish immigration in Canada, (4) Population study of the Jewish community of Windsor, and (5) Population study of the Jewish community of Montreal.

4. Citizenship Mass Ceremony.

A suggestion has been put forward to arrange a citizenship mass ceremony at which a mass group would obtain certificates of Canadian citizenship and take the oath. The suggestion was discussed at the Inner Executive meeting and it was felt that the plan ought not to be proceeded with.

5. Congress Bulletin.

A new issue of the Congress Bulletin is off the press. The issue is dated November 1946 (vol. 4, No. 1) and carries articles on J.I. Segal on the occasion of his 50th birthday; "An Unrecognized Friend (Abraham Gradis)"; "Jewish Statistics Reveal Interesting Facts"; "British Temper on Palestine"; "The Jews and Kipling"; "Jewish Life in Canada in the Late 1800's"; "The Moral Reality"; "Reviews of the Black Book on Nazi Crimes and of Odyssey Through Hell". The issue carries news about the Ontario Region Conference, the \$2,000,000 relief campaign, the decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers to grant protection to Jews in Hungary and Rumania, Book Week celebrations, Congress briefs and various news items.

6. Plenary Session.

The dates of the Plenary Session were again confirmed for June 1st and 2nd, 1947. Consideration was given to the suggestion which was put forward to have the sessions a week or two later, however, June 1st and 2nd appeared to be the only dates in which the sessions could be accommodated at the Mount Royal hotel in Montreal.

7. Mo'ess Chittin Conference Convened for February 9th, 1947.

The Central People's Relief Committee convened the annual Mo'ess Chittin conference of representatives of all Jewish organizations for February 9th, 1947. A number of organizations started already their Mo'ess Chittin programs and pledged themselves to raise larger amounts of money. The Federation of Polish Jews announced its decision to contribute \$3,000, Federation of Ukrainian Jews \$5,000, Federation of Rumanian Jews jointly with the Bessarabian Jews \$15,000, the Adath Yeshurun Hadrath Kodosh Shul \$2,000. The Federation of Russian Jews and of Lithuanian Jews also initiated their Mo'ess Chittin programs.

8. Jesuit Magazine Reprints Article on Gradis.

The Jesuit owned magazine "Aujourd'hui" reprinted the article on Gradis by Adrien Robitaille which appeared originally in "Les Carnets Viatoriens". The article was digested in other French magazines and commented editorially in the "Saturday Night" as being significant for the fight against racism and particularly anti-semitism in referring to Abraham Gradis as having been above all a good Frenchman who began his connection with Canada much earlier than Aaron Hart who came to Canada in 1759.