

MEMORANDUM FOR

National Executive

ABOUT

Inter Office Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM

Saul Hayes

77 CONFIDENTIAL

Jan. 27th, 1947.

1. Canadian Jewish Labour Service Being Set Up

The Joint Public Relations Committee of the Eastern Region met on January 23rd and approved for the Eastern Region the decision of the National Joint Public Relations Committee on December 8th, 1946, to establish a Canadian Jewish Labour Service as part of the Congress set up and appointed a committee which will assist staff and which will be consulted on labour relations work. The committee will seek the co-operation of the Jewish Labour Committee and other organized bodies active in the labour relations field. A report presented to the meeting of the Joint Public Relations Committee recommended that it would be in the best interest of the community for the Joint Public Relations Committee to set up its own labour service, plan its own program, make its own contacts with the leadership of organized labour and use any and all means at hand to carry out the projects devised by itself. The groundwork of action has already been laid. Staff completed a survey of the techniques and material used in the U.S.A. and elsewhere and a long term over-all program has been prepared which employs the use of all conceivable media for mass education.

2. Work in French Canadian Field.

A report on work in regard to public relations work with the French Canadian Roman Catholic community was presented to the Eastern Region Joint Public Relations Committee. Contact with high church officials has been established and conversations had been had with them on subjects of interest to the Jewish Community. The most thorough study of the organization of French Canada and forces operating in it that the Jewish community of Canada has ever undertaken is now being made. Following staff recommendations have been put forward in regard to future program: Ideally it would be best to have an interdenominational organization of an official character to carry out the program on a large scale; it would be a virile Canadian organization along the lines of the American National Conference of Christians and Jews; however, if such an organization was formed its functional program might be severely limited even though the moral value would be great. Consideration might therefore be given to the establishment of a parallel and less official body which would be more active but which would still enjoy the approval of the authorities; in terms of organization, what was proposed, was a small committee composed of almost entirely French Canadians with one or two English language Catholics, and perhaps one Protestant and one Jew, who are acceptable as a governing committee. The report was tabled for future consideration and a sub-committee was formed to go into the matter; the committee will interview the people who have been contacted by staff and make recommendations.

National Headquarters: CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

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3. Combatting Anti-Semitic Propoganda.

The Eastern Region of the Joint Public Relations Committee decided to issue a statement condemning the publication "Vers Demain" for its anti-semitic policies and serializing the Protocols of Elders of Zion. The Committee recommended to the National Body to investigate the policy and statements of the Social Credit Party and its organ and if found anti-semitic to issue a public statement condemning it and voicing protest.

The meeting of the Joint Public Relations Committee will be continued on Tuesday, February 4th when the balance of the agenda will be discussed, including, Outremont school problem, educational contacts, women's activities and several miscellaneous items.

4. Import of Matzohs.

Pursuant to the directive of the executive committee we communicated with Mr. David Sim, Commissioner of Customs and Excise, who informed us that he would be prepared to make a recommendation to his Minister calling for the rebate of customs duties on the amount of matzohs required for religious purposes for Passover. The quantity is based on the figures which we have submitted to him in the past. It is interesting to note that Mr. Sim expressed gratification since he believes that his Minister will be greatly influenced by the appeal of the Canadian Jewish Congress since its reputation in government circles for integrity is well recognized. Mr. Sim indicated that he would advise us as soon as the Minister has passed on the recommendation which should be very shortly.

5. Jews in Hungary.

We had a long interview with a person who has recently returned from a visit to Czechoslovakia and Hungary and who put before us the position of the Jews in Hungary. He states that the majority of Hungarian Jews are in Budapest, about 160,000, in addition 1,000 transients being Hungarian, Ukrainian and others. The entire Jewish population are poverty stricken and depend upon the aid and assistance which come from the communal soup kitchens and the J.D.C. The Jewish communal life is under the sponsorship of two congregations both of which are recognized by the Government and which receive taxing powers. There is the larger one, the Pesti Izraelita Hitkozseg and the smaller and more Orthodox is the Budapesti Orth. Izraelita Hitkozseg. The transients in Hungary are beggars in the sense that they come to Hungary in rags, starved and generally their condition is appalling. The Hungarian Jews had more means of livelihood and their general condition is somewhat higher than that of the transients. There are many inconsiderable difficulties apart from the matter of relief, we are informed. The political climate of the country is a matter of grave concern to a large section of the Jewish community and some believe it is not helping the position for rehabilitation when 70% of the attorneys prosecuting the population under the thousand regulations are Jewish and when 70% of the key civil servants who are responsible for implementing the nationalization and agrarian reform program are Jews. Many instances of small pogroms have taken place as a result of the resentment against the Jewish leadership in the reform movements. There is the further fact that many of the Jewish leaders of the civil service are Russian trained which causes additional resentment. The views on the future of Hungarian Jewry are pessimistic ones. Not one in Budapest is optimistic. There are personal opinions that inter-marriage may be a solution. Obviously it is not the viewpoint of the Congregations but is widely expressed. Emigration is perhaps the chief hope but the reluctance of the authorities to grant exit permits and to issue passports makes anything but an illegal movement impossible. Moreover, any emigration as such is a small trickle, that it does not begin to meet the problem. It would appear that for some time to come Hungarian Jewry would have to depend upon outside help and perhaps if the Peace Treaty is implemented the reparations

fund will help rebuild the institutions and maintain them. The whole picture is sad indeed. When questioned as to what the position would be if the Russians moved out of Hungary as they are supposed to do within 90 days of the signing of the treaty, the informant stated that bad as the situation is due to the presence of the Russians, the Jewish position might be worse if the protection of the Russians is moved. There is a feeling among many important Hungarian Jews that the Russians may withdraw knowing that pogroms and physical violence will be visited on the Jews, but after great disorder arising from these facts the Russians will have a good excuse to come back again showing that the treaty is impractical in this respect. Our informant paid great tribute to the immigration work of the HIAS which he saw in operation both in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. He also paid great tribute to the J.D.C. work in these areas.

6. Conference with Lucien Gendreau.

Mr. Jos. Fine and the executive director consulted the Hon. Lucien Gendreau, K.C., one of Canada's outstanding experts in criminal law. We traversed with him many questions including that of seditious libel, defamatory libel, what could be done in the matter of the reappearance and sale of the Protocols and the Elders of Zion, possibilities of court action, question of the departmental regulation such as the Post Office Act, etc. We are to present Mr. Gendreau with a list of these questions which we want answered accompanied by exhibits and we will receive his legal opinion on these matters. Messrs. Garber, Fine and the National Director will confer to assess the questions on which we require expert legal advice.

7. Overseas Personnel.

Mr. Maxwell Luchs has been interviewing a number of people whom we are interested in employing in the overseas program. There are 4 applications now before the JDC and if references are satisfactory and the Personnel Board approves, we may be able to send a few more workers overseas. We discussed the appointments with Mr. Luchs over the telephone on January 23rd.

8. MARITIME CAMPAIGN.

Mr. Skorneck of the JDC staff informed us that he is entertaining Miss Estelle Abrams well known speaker and radio commentator, for our Maritime section campaign which would be undertaken some time in late February. Miss Abrams is no stranger in Canada having appeared in Montreal for the Women's Division for the Combined Jewish Appeal and in Winnipeg and it is expected that she will do a first-class job.

9. J.D.C. Conference.

We informed Mr. Skornick that the idea of having a JDC Conference in Canada was not approved since it was felt that we cannot guarantee attendance in view of the many meetings which we planned and of the forthcoming Plenary Session. We indicated to him however, that as, if and when a conference and special names meeting in the interest of a \$2,000,000 campaign is held, we will invite one or two leading officers of the JDC to this conference. Moreover, it is to be expected that at the Plenary Session when the relief program is discussed that the JDC will send one of their top men.

10. Phone Interview with Dr. Leon Kubowitzki.

The Executive Director will be in New York at several sessions on the Human Rights Commission and will also confer with the members of the Office Committee of the World Jewish Congress on a number of matters and for information in certain fields. It is interesting to know that Dr. J. Robinson, Director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, has been lent to the U.N. as an expert for the sessions on the Human Rights Commission.