

ABOUT InterOffice Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

95 CONFIDENTIAL

Feb. 20th, 1947.

1. Mr. Paul Martin Endorses \$2,000,000 Campaign.

We asked Mr. Paul Martin, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, to address a message for the special issue of our Congress Bulletin which is now being prepared in connection with the \$2,000,000 overseas relief quota and for further circulation in the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish Press in the Dominion. Mr. Martin's position in the United Nations and the deep interest which he displayed in the welfare of the civilian victims of the war has been noted with much pleasure by the Jewish Community of Canada and we felt that a word from him will help towards the raising of the required sum. Mr. Martin agreed to our suggestion and approved of the draft of the type of message which might serve the purpose. He went further than that and changed the first paragraph to make it even stronger than we suggested. In returning the message Mr. Martin writes: "I am very glad to have the opportunity of supporting the annual drive of the Canadian Jewish Congress for funds to be used for overseas relief of Jewish victims of the war. I have changed the first paragraph of the draft which you supplied. I think the appeal should be a little more direct. I hope the attached statement will be useful to you. Raising \$2,000,000 is a big job. I wish you and the organization every success in achieving it. If there is anything further I can do to help you, please let me know." The paragraph Mr. Martin put into the message reads as follows: "I commend most highly the effort of the United Jewish Relief Agency and the Canadian Jewish Congress to raise \$2,000,000 for the relief of Jewish victims of the war. At three meetings of the United Nations during the last year, I advanced the case for the refugees of Europe. I consider it an honour to speak for these people who need and deserve our help. The present drive for funds is your opportunity to contribute to the relief of Jewish victims. It is a cause worthy of your fullest support."

2. Montreal Clothing Collection Completed.

The collection of men's suits and coats and women's coats which was carried in Montreal has now been completed and all calls have been attended to. The rough estimate of the results of the collection is much higher than the one originally expected and amounts to several thousand units of heavy garments, mostly in excellent condition.

3. Congress Bulletin:

A new issue of the Congress Bulletin is off the Press. It is dated December, 1946. Further issues of the Congress Bulletin will be dated according to the time of their appearance as the post office permitted to combine two issues in spite of the second class mailing privileges which we were granted. The current issue of the Bulletin includes sections on racialism, children, Germany, Europe, sociology, Canada, Palestine, book reviews, literature and overseas relief.

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4. Overseas Relief Staff.

Mr. M. Ram has been added to our overseas relief staff and he will be attached to the J.D.C. immigration office in Paris. Mr. Ram was formerly assistant director of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society in Montreal.

5. Jewish Organizations in Paris Requesting Materials.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle and the Centre Israelite D'Information notified us that our French publications can be of use in France for Public Relations and requested copies. They will also serve as an information source on Canadian Jewry.

6. Immigration.

Mr. Ernest Bertrand acknowledged the memorandum on immigration which we sent to him as one of those members of the Cabinet who participated in our conference with the Prime Minister on February 7th. Mr. Bertrand stated: "you may rest assured the proposals outlined will be studied and implemented if at all possible."

7. Matzo's Import.

Mr. David Sim, Deputy Minister of National Revenue, advised us of the passing of an Order-in-Council on February 15th permitting duty free on import of Matzo's and Matzo products from February 4th, 1947 to April 21st, 1947. Following the instructions of the National Executive Committee we asked Mr. Sim to recommend such action to the Cabinet. Our arguments were agreed with and Mr. Sim promised his assistance. The present Order-in-Council is the end result of these efforts.

8. Poster Series "Three Great Faiths Worshipping One God".

We are in correspondence with the Religious Educational Council of Canada and on the suggestion of their General Secretary we sent the poster series entitled, "Three Great Faiths Worshipping One God" based on the book "One God - The Way We Worship Him" by Florence Mary Fitch, to various religious bodies. The book itself has found a wide distribution in Canada and has been distributed by the Director of Protestant education in Quebec to 150 high school libraries in the Province. The poster series has so far been distributed by the Canadian Library Association and sample copies are now being mailed out by the National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s to their program men. As these posters carry a desirable message in bringing about interfaith understanding we brought them to the attention of the Religious Educational Council of Canada which in turn furnished us with the names and addresses of its member units. We offered to the various religious bodies to furnish them with the same number of sets which they will purchase as a community service towards fostering interfaith amity in Canada. The organizations which we contacted are: The Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Association; the Christian Education Council of Manitoba; The Ontario Religious Education Council; The Religious Education Council of Quebec; The Maritime Religious Education Council; The Student Christian Movement; Board of Christian Education; Secretary of The Evangelical Church; The Churches of Christ Disciples; General Board of Religious Education; The Baptist Federation of Canada; and Religious Educational Council of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

9. Campaign Remittances.

The Sherbrooke Congregation Agudath Achin sent in \$500 representing the balance of the 1946 campaign. The People's Relief Committee in Winnipeg sent in \$1,000 which brings the total raised by the Committee since the beginning of the war to \$60,000.