

MEMORANDUM FOR

National Executive

ABOUT

Inter Office Information

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM

Saul Hayes

1115 CONFIDENTIAL

March 21, 1947.

1. Coordination of Public Relations Work with the Zionist Organization.

Messrs. Garber, Fine and the National Executive Director met with Mr. Harry Batshaw, chairman of the Zionist Public Relations Committee, for a preliminary discussion on various resolutions calling for a joint public relations committee of the National Joint Public Relations Committee and the Zionist Organization of Canada. As the resolutions need further clarification, it was suggested that the National Joint Public Relations Committee reconsider the decision by indicating in what way such a committee would function and whether it was to be a working committee or a committee to discuss principles of basic policy. Before the Zionist Organization of Canada would be asked for its views the resolutions would have to be more detailed.

2. Immigration.

We committed to writing the oral suggestions which we made in an off-the-record conversation with the Director of the Immigration Branch in Ottawa in regard to the possible extension of the Order-in-Council admitting relatives into Canada. We raised the following two practical suggestions: 1) that some thought be given to the possibility of extending the Orders-in-Council to include specific categories of relatives not now included, which Order-in-Council would be stale after a period of 2 to 3 years; this was to meet a particular fear which the immigration officials have; (2) that consideration be given to the possibility of an Order-in-Council extending the list of relatives beyond that now provided, by restricting it for the present only to the camps in Austria, Germany and Italy; the apparent advantage of this procedure would be to make a contribution in the solution of the D.P. problem which public opinion is constantly requesting. These suggestions were, of course, off-the-record ones and we made it very clear that we do not wish to have them considered as a deviation from the representations made; it was clearly pointed out that the executive director had no authority to change the demarche made to the government. We assured the Director of Immigration that his reply will be treated as a confidential one and will not form part of our record on these matters.

We inquired at the Immigration Branch in Ottawa as to the status of the permit to bring in children and we asked for the extension of the age limit. There is considerable urgency in this respect as a number of children ought to be moved who would comply with the terms of the Order.

3. Comment on Poster Series.

The Canadian Library Association passed on to us several comments in regard to public reaction to the poster series, "One God - The Way We Worship Him", which we distribute through its facilities. The Windsor Public Library stated, "Comments from the public while, not numerous, commended the idea of religious tolerance and

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understanding. One criticism received was that each poster contained too much material with a resultant confusion of ideas." The librarian of the Edmonton University Library wrote, "Our students seemed to take considerable interest in this display, handling and browsing through them." Mr. Jas. S. Wood, the librarian of the Public Library in Saskatoon commented, "The posters, "Three Great Faiths Worshipping One God", are very fine. We are getting many commendatory remarks on the display, and it is noticeable how many borrowers stop to examine it. We shall be glad at all times to have posters through the Association."

4. Universal Jewish Encyclopedia.

We presented as a gift of the Canadian Jewish Congress a set of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia to the Dalhousie University in Halifax and to the Regiapolis College in Kingston. The presentation is in accordance with the decision of the National Joint Public Relations Committee which authorized the purchase of the 5 sets of the encyclopedia to be placed in important libraries across the Dominion. The presentation to the Halifax and Kingston libraries was made in consultation with the local Congress leaders.

5. Information Service for Public Relations Committees.

Plans are being completed for a regular information service to the National and Regional Public Relations Committees. The service will include reports on our activities in various aspects of public relations and a summary of current trends and developments in this field.

6. Statement to the British United Press on D.P.'s Movement.

We have been advised by the British United Press of the telegram which they received this morning from Frankfurt, Germany to the effect that the movement of displaced persons from Germany to Canada and the U.S.A. will begin next week. Some 2,000 are expected to come to Canada under the existing regulations. Our statement to the British United Press reads as follows: "We are of course glad that a movement of displaced persons under the existing orders in council governing immigration is actually proceeding. That very fact will certainly give all D.P.'s in Europe new courage and reassurance that they are not forgotten by the democratic world. However, the number of persons in Europe who qualify under the restrictive regulations is very small. It will be necessary to liberalize them considerably if Canada's contribution to the problem is to be very effective and if Canadian residents are to have their relatives in Europe join them here."

7. Labour Relations.

The suggested reconsideration of previous resolutions on the functioning of our Labour Relation Service was discussed at a meeting with the President of our Eastern Region and the chairman of our Eastern Region Joint Public Relations Committee. Our program in this field has been reviewed.

8. Western Public Relations Committee.

A Public Relations Conference will be held in Regina in connection with our Western Region meeting which was convened for April 20th. The Western Committee dealt with the suggestion to seek amendment to the licensing by-law to prevent discriminatory practices in places of amusement. The question of a Bill of Rights which was recently introduced in the Manitoba legislature by Mr. M.A. Gray was also discussed.