

**YOUR ATTENTION**

FROM

Saul Hayes

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1). Movement of Skilled Workers From D.P. Camps.

Detailed information has been received from Mr. Irwin Rosen, Director of the European Emigration Headquarters of the JDC in Paris, in regard to the movement of skilled workers from the D.P. Camps to Canada. The information is as follows: "There are about 180,000 Jewish DP's in Germany, 40,000 in Austria and 15,000 in Italy - altogether about 240,000 at the present time. A survey made in the US Zone of Germany covered 71,500 persons, that is to say, about 30% of the total DP population of these three countries. In this survey 11,640 persons out of 71,500, that is 16.2%, were reported as skilled in the clothing industry. As the survey covers one-third of the total DP population this percentage may be considered as representative of the total and it may be estimated, therefore, that there are about 38,000 Jewish DP's in Germany, Austria and Italy who would qualify as skilled workers in the needle trade industry. It must be stressed that nothing can be indicated on the basis of this information as to what degree these people are interested in resettlement in Canada but even a survey could not give a true picture as the plans of the DP's depend upon many conditions which are constantly changing. Therefore, the response to an offered possibility for emigration to Canada may change completely within the next two months. As an example of this phenomenon we may quote that more than 90% of the Jewish DP's in the US Zone of Germany indicated Palestine as their desired destination for resettlement in the course of an enquete which was made by UNRRA on the occasion of the Anglo-American Commission on Palestine's visit last spring. A few months later, when the Truman Project for Immigration to the USA went into effect, about 30,000 Jewish DP's in the same area, amounting at that time to more than one-third of the total Jewish population, filed applications for emigration to the USA. Although it should be recognised that a large number of the Jewish DP's may prefer to resettle in Palestine rather than in any other country, it can be assumed that out of 38,000 clothing industry workers many more than 2000 would respond to the particular offer to emigrate to Canada. Regarding your enquiry for occupations files we can inform you that by the end of June JDC European Emigration Headquarters will probably dispose of about 55,000 cards covering Jewish DP's in Germany, Austria and Italy who have requested JDC's assistance with their emigration. Although this file will not cover all of the above estimated 38,000 clothing industry workers, it certainly will consist of only such persons who would respond favourably to the opportunity of resettling in Canada. Corresponding occupational card files will be available at our field offices which will also be in the position to give more detailed information on each case. The problematic value of surveys of the response from Jewish DP's at the present time. Any kind of such surveys increase this tension and all agencies concerned with the welfare of the DP's in Europe try to avoid anything which could raise false hopes regarding a project in its early stages. For this reason we feel that it is better to abstain from this kind of investigation. However, it may give you some indication when we tell you that a registration of skilled workers for Canada which was carried out by the IGCR office in one district of the US Zone in Germany, with the assistance of our regional emigration office, met with the response of several hundred persons within a few days."

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2). Purchase of Additional Kosher Luncheon Meat.

Our Financial Department last Friday initiated in Ottawa conversations regarding the purchase of an additional quantity of Kosher Luncheon Meat. The present agreement calls for staggered delivery of 1,000,000 pounds. Up to now approximately 600,000 lbs. have been put at our disposal, the balance to be made available during the next three or four months. The Manager of the Meat Board, Department of Agriculture, emphasized that the situation as far as meat supplies are concerned, is not very favourable and that the commitments towards the United Kingdom are not fulfilled as yet. The Government has however, a full understanding of the needs of the Jews in the camps in Germany, Austria, Italy, etc., and he advised us to approach him again in 4 - 5 weeks in order to start formal negotiations. He promised to take up at that time this matter with the International Emergency Food Committee in Washington to obtain the necessary allocation for an additional quantity, and voiced the opinion that a new favourable agreement will be reached.

3). Windsor Delegates to Plenary Session.

The Windsor Jewish Community Council elected the following as its representatives at the Plenary Session: Milton Sumner; Harry Vexler; Norman Ramm; Boris Nosanchuk; Max Lowin; Joseph Cohen; Max Levine; Louis Liebllich.

4). Pre-Convention Caucus of Ontario Delegates.

On May 21st all of the Ontario delegates were called in for a pre-convention caucus. Several delegates from out of town were also present.

5). Leadership Course of the Montreal Youth Council.

A Leadership Course was arranged by the Montreal Youth Council in March and April 1947. The schedule of lectures included 7 topics such as "group work philosophy and aims"; the relationship between the leader and his group; planning the Club programme; Club situations and problems; implementing Jewish ideas in group work; the Club as part of an Organization or Agency; summary and Evaluation; sample Club meeting. The attendance varied from an average of 30 to 15. Groups taking part were the YWHA, YMHA, Hashomer Hotzair, Hillel and Bnei Brith Youth Organization. To follow up this course it is suggested to have a leadership camp of approximately a weeks duration with an intensive programme of "skill sessions". The topics for discussion will be selected by a committee of staff members from the various organizations during the coming week out of the following: Arts & Crafts, Sing Song leading, Public Speaking, Games and Folkdances, Journalistic Writing, Discussion leading, Club organization, Creative writing, Dramatics. The Youth Council is still looking for a suitable site for such a camp which, it is estimated, will be attended by anywhere from 25 to 50 prospective or recently appointed group leaders. The camp is to take place between June 15 and July 1st.

6). Report to Plenary Session.

The Executive Director's report to the Plenary Session will appear in a special edition of the Congress Bulletin; the size of this Bulletin will be smaller from the usual one and will contain about 48 pages; subsequent to the Session the report will be distributed to our entire mailing list.

7). Report on Jewish Enlistment Well Received.

The final figures of Jewish enlistment which show that 16,883 Jews have served during the last war was sent to Members of Parliament and Government Officials. From the replies which we received it's clear that the report was greatly appreciated.

Acknowledgements and letters of appreciation continue to come in for the volume "History of the Jews in Canada", which was sent to a selected list of prominent people.

8). Conference on Youth Problems.

Conference on Youth problems and the possible role of the National Council of YM & YWHA's was held on May 23rd. Present were: Mrs. Sam Bronfman and J.H. Blumstein for National Council; Sam Bronfman, Monroe Abbey, Joseph H. Fine and the Executive Director for Congress.

After full discussion it was decided that Messrs. Abbey, Fine and Hayes meet on May 27th with the National Council representatives to draft proposals to go before the Plenary Session.

9). WJC Plenary Session.

The WJC advised us that we are entitled to 6 delegates to the forthcoming Second Convention of the WJC which is scheduled for August in Paris or Brussels.

10). Ottawa Campaign.

We arranged for mailing of Campaign literature to the Ottawa Jewish Community which is now having its annual campaign under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Loeb.

11). Canadian Almanac.

The Canadian Almanac carries usually a series of information about the Jewish Community in Canada. As part of our program of interpreting the Jewish community to the outside world, we complied with the request of the editorial staff of the Almanac to revise and bring up to date the information which will appear in this year's issue. Similar service is given to some other publications of the same kind, to the American Jewish Year Book and to the Jewish Year Book of London, England.

12). Passing Away of Mr. Salem Miller.

Mr. Salem Miller in Winnipeg died on May 25th. Mr. Miller was for a number of years chairman of the Educational Committee in Western Canada and member of the National Executive.

13). Eight Christian Bodies Submit Resolution on Immigration.

We received a copy of a resolution which eight Christian bodies in Montreal passed and transmitted to the government on Immigration problems. The resolution urged upon the government: "to implement a generous policy of immigration with preference for Displaced Persons based upon the following short-term and long-term considerations, and bearing in mind always that the family is the basic unit of society and that husbands should never be separated from their wives nor children from their parents. SHORT-TERM: That we receive as quickly as possible and in as large numbers as possible persons whose arrival will not aggravate the housing shortage nor such temporary and regional employment as may exist. As examples of persons coming within this category, and in addition to farmers, miners, and loggers, we would list domestic servants, and those capable of assisting in hospitals and sanatoria, and those capable of serving in the construction industry. Moreover we would urge under this heading that P.C. 2071 be widened still further so as to permit the immediate entry into Canada of any relative or relatives of a Canadian citizen willing and able to look after them. LONG-TERM: That we prepare now for a large and constructive long-term program of immigration which would take cognizance of the bi-lingual and bi-cultural nature of our country, and which would make allowance both for the needs of the immigrants and for our national requirements. Such immigration should be planned, assisted, and followed up."