

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM

Saul Hayes

No. 187 CONFIDENTIAL

July 11th, 1947.

1. Anniversary of Redemption of Emek Cheifer in Palestine

We extended by cable greetings to the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem on the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Redemption of Emek Cheifer. Twenty years ago at the Zionist Conference in Winnipeg with the participation of the late Menachen Usishkin, Canadian Jews undertook to redeem this portion of Palestine and contributed \$300,000 for this purpose. Emek Cheifer developed to such an extent that it consists now of 26 settlements with a population of 7,400, most of whom are engaged in agriculture and in important industries. Our telegram reads as follows: "Canadian Jewry recalls with pride the historic decision taken twenty years ago to redeem Emek Cheifer. We greet today's celebration in honour of this anniversary. Canadian Jewish Congress speaking for the whole of the Jewish community of Canada reaffirms at this time our unqualified support for the endeavours of the Yishuv towards achieving the ultimate goal of the redemption of Palestine as a Jewish National homeland."

2. Our Financial Department's Conferences with the J.D.C. in New York

Our financial department held last week conferences with the various departments of the J.D.C. in New York, whereby among other matters of mutual interest, the following were discussed:

a) Supply Division: The supply situation in the States and in Canada was reviewed and the purchase of necessary goods studied. The list of requirements for the relief in kind program for a purchase period of about six months shows a total of approximately \$11,000,000 and includes food, clothing, general welfare, medical supplies, recreation material, etc. Arrangements have been made for even closer cooperation between the U.J.R. and J.D.C. as far as purchases of supplies and their shipments are concerned, whereby the quotas allocated to us by the Government had to be taken in consideration. The shipping problem is presenting many difficulties in the States as well as in Canada. Discussions were held with the traffic manager of the J.D.C. and methods were studied to facilitate shipments and to send the goods over in the quickest possible time. It was agreed that we shall try to obtain at the present time larger quantities of following goods: meat, matzohs, shoes and powdered eggs. Our financial department has already started negotiations in this direction.

b) Overseas Staff: The question of engaging additional Canadian workers for Overseas was discussed with the personnel director, whereby various financial aspects of this work such as salaries, payment of living allowances, transportation costs for families of overseas staff, vacation etc., were traversed.

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1121 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal; Tel. PLateau 6891

c) Health Division: The matter of cooperation between the U.J.R., J.D.C. and O.S.E. with regard to help for Jewish children in France was discussed with the medical director. The U.J.R. is sending a second worker to be attached to the O.S.E. in Paris. Arrangements have been made with the J.D.C. to facilitate his trip. The mentioned worker is going Overseas to further the educational activities of the O.S.E.

d) Treasury: Our present financial situation was discussed with the assistant treasurer of the J.D.C. It was explained that the U.J.R. has at present a bank loan of approximately \$200,000.00 for which we are paying interest. Besides that, we need money in connection with our purchases of meat, shoes, etc. No further transmission could, therefore, be made to the J.D.C. in the near future. This is very regrettable, since the J.D.C. had to contract a bank loan in the amount of approximately \$16,000.00 in order to fill urgent needs in Europe and for which sum they also have to pay interest.

e) Accounting Department: Considerable time was devoted to the discussion of the J.D.C.'s and our accounting systems, and many items which have been held in abeyance, were cleared up. It will be, of course, much easier to obtain clearance in the future, since personal contact was established with officers involved. The question of insurance of our shipments was also taken into consideration. We are studying this problem at the present time and will advise the J.D.C. in due course.

f) S.O.S.: Our layettes program was scrutinized and our methods were compared with those of the J.D.C. Their campaign is being conducted on a very large scale and Overseas relief committees (mostly women's) have been created in most of the communities in the U.S.A. Valuable suggestions have been made by the J.D.C. National Director of the S.O.S. Department, which we will try to implement in our respective campaign in the fall.

g) Luncheon in honour of Louis Sobel: Our representative was invited to attend a luncheon given by the J.D.C. in honour of its Secretary, Louis Sobel, who is leaving the J.D.C. Mr. Lowitt, Executive Vice-Chairman and other speakers paid high tribute to Mr. Louis Sobel for his outstanding services.

3. Societies Division in Toronto

A meeting of the Council of the Societies Division in Toronto was held on June 23rd. There was considerable discussion as to the need for a Conference of the Societies Division. Several members indicated a feeling that there was a need for an evaluation of the function of the Societies Division and its place in the Congress structure. A Conference of the Division, properly organized, could be the first step in this kind of self-study. It was decided that a Societies Division Conference be held sometime in the fall, after the High Holidays. The question of conducting a Yiskor Campaign in the Fall was also discussed. The President will appoint a Committee of three to review the possibilities of the inauguration of a People's Conference which would carry out the Yiskor Campaign.

4. Program Material on Jewish Festivals

The Education and Cultural Committee of our Central Region published in mimeographed form program material on Jewish festivals for teachers and group leaders. For the past year, the Educational and Cultural Committee has been issuing holiday manuals designed to provide group leaders, teachers and parents with source material for developing, entertaining and stimulating holiday and pre-holiday programs. These manuals have answered a long-felt need for such material. Response to these teaching aids has been so gratifying that the Committee felt the time now opportune for presenting these festival programs in a more permanent format. The material contained in the publication deals with all Jewish holidays. At the same time, its loose-leaf form allows for additional materials to be added from time to time. The material included was drawn from many sources and the committee felt it to be its task to compile an adequate anthology rather than to add original material to what is already in existence. A list of selected bibliography is appended. The publication is not for sale and it is provided without charge to teachers and club leaders by the Central Region office.