

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM

Saul Hayes

AUG 28 1947

No. 221 CONFIDENTIAL1. Jewish Lumber Workers Visited by Congress Representatives

Mr. Bernard Schaffer of Fort William, Ont., reported that a joint committee of Congress and B'Nai Brith visited the 4 Jewish D.P's who came recently to Canada as lumber workers and who are now employed by the Great Lakes Paper Company near Cameron Falls, Ont., approximately 90 miles out of Fort William. There is another Jewish D.P. employed by Abitibi Pulp and Paper Co., even a greater distance from Fort William and efforts are being made to ascertain his whereabouts. The visit of Congress and B'Nai Brith representatives strengthened the morale of the D.P's. They were somewhat apprehensive of the fact that they were transported directly to the bush without seeing any people and that they are subject to definite rules and regulations; they were very pleased that contact has been established with them by local Jewish community and arrangements are being made for them to attend services in Fort William during the High Holidays. The committee made it clear to these people that they must remain in the camps until completion of their contracts.

2. Genocide Issue

The U.N. Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with the non-governmental organizations circularized the submission of the World Jewish Congress on the Draft Convention of the crime of Genocide. In accordance with the regulations, organizations with consultative status may submit written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence and the Secretariat is to prepare and distribute a list of such communications briefly indicating the substance of each. The World Jewish Congress pointed out that international law does not at present contain any effective safeguards against the crime of Genocide; domestic genocide legislations, while helpful, are insufficient. The World Jewish Congress recommended that the law of Genocide be co-ordinated with and not overlapped into the field of human rights which is within the special competence of the Commission on human rights; the Convention should outlaw systematic practice of separating children from their parents and bringing them up in a culture different from that of their parents; the UN to make arrangements for the suppression and punishment of genocide even if it occurs in territories which are not parties to the International Convention; that the doctrine of immunity of heads of states be rejected as well as the defence of "superior orders".

In previous issues of the IOI we reported that the Canadian delegation to UN was apprised of our interest in the genocide issue; when the General Assembly opens we shall try to enlist the help of the Canadian delegation in favour of the speedy adoption of the Draft Convention.

3. Return of General Secretary

Mr. H.M. Caiserman will be back from his six weeks trip to Palestine on August 29th.

National Headquarters: **CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS**

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

4. 100,000 Lbs. of Kosher Luncheon Meat Available for Shipment

We advised the Canada Meat Board that 100,000 lbs. of Kosher Luncheon meat that are now ready for shipment will be directed as follows: 43,000 lbs. to Germany, 40,000 lbs. to Poland, 10,000 lbs. to Czechoslovakia and 7,000 to Italy.

5. \$1000 Sent to World Jewish Congress

We transferred \$1000 to the World Jewish Congress in New York on account of our 1947 allocation.

6. Evaluating the Change-Over from UNRRA to IRO

An evaluation of the significance of the change-over from UNRRA to IRO from the standpoint of voluntary agencies serving refugees and displaced persons was made by the Research Department of the JDC; the UNRRA ended its relief activities on June 20th, 1947. While in the early phase, UNRRA operations were confined to an area comprising only 25% of the Jewish population in continental Europe outside of the Soviet Union, the operational area of UNRRA gradually widened to include between 35-40% of the Jewish population. It is estimated that on June 30th, 1947 there were approximately 746,000 persons under UNRRA care; the number eligible for IRO maintenance was 879,000. The IRO budget for the fiscal year 1947 - 48 is 115,000,000 which provides a per capita expenditure of \$130 per year, or 36¢ per day for care, maintenance and other forms of assistance. It is felt that the budget will not permit the maintenance of D.P's at the level previously maintained in Germany, Austria and Italy. The difficulty of the situation will also be increased if there occurs a significant rise in the prices of the items necessary for maintenance.