

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

No. 228 CONFIDENTIAL

September 10th, 1947.

1. S. Harvey Elected Chairman of UJRA, Eastern Region

The Eastern Division of the UJRA met on September 9th. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Abe Bronfman who was substituting for Mr. Monroe Abbot, president of the Eastern Region, now in Europe; Mr. Bronfman headed also a Nominations Committee consisting of B. Diamond, L. Zucker and A.I. Cohen which met prior to the meeting in order to bring in recommendations as to the chairman of the UJRA and members of various committees. Mr. S. Harvey, presidium member of the Central People's Relief Committee, was unanimously elected chairman of the Eastern Region of the UJRA. An executive of 33 members was appointed; also the members of Committees (on Children's Immigration project, purchasing Committee, JIAS - UJRA) were selected. Mr. Harvey will have an ex-officio seat on the National Executive. The Council approved of the report on immigration matters particularly in regard to the tailors' movement and to the movement of orphans. Gratification has been expressed with our dispatching a staff member to Paris to survey the situation as to the availability of children; Mr. Saalhoimer was thanked for the work he did in Paris. Reports were given on the Combined Jewish Appeal and of the recent activities of the Central People's Relief Committee; the Montreal share in the \$2,000,000 national objective of the UJRA is \$680,000 out of which \$580,000 were included in the forthcoming Combined Jewish Appeal and \$100,000 is to be raised through Kol Nidre, Mo'oss Chittin and Pidyon Nefesh. A report was also given on recent transmissions and shipments of supplies overseas.

2. Inner-Executive Meeting

An Inner-Executive meeting was held on September 9th. Present were: M. Garber, K.C., Joseph H. Fine, B. Robinson, K.C., S.D. Cohen and F.I. Spielman. The following matters were dealt with:

a) World Jewish Congress Key People Conference

The World Jewish Congress will have a number of meetings of its Office Committee with the participation of a few invited guests from countries outside of United States in order to discuss several crucial matters pertaining to the future of the World Jewish Congress. Mr. S. Bronfman, National President, and the National Executive Director were invited to these meetings. The Inner-Executive authorized the acceptance of this invitation and the participation in the forthcoming meetings as observers; a report will be brought back to the National Executive which will then decide the policy to be followed.

b) Children's Movement

The Executive Director was instructed to take such action as will be necessary for the reception of the first group of young people coming to Canada, to guarantee repayment

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of costs, to provide the receiving homes in Montreal as well as to advise the welfare agencies that Congress would pay for the extra staff hired for this movement. This decision is on an interim basis pending the meeting of the National Executive Committee on September 21st; no policy was decided as to the provision for continuation of studies by the new arrivals. The matter will be dealt with on a case basis with the first group and the Executive Committee on September 21st will determine the issue; the set-up of the Montreal co-ordination committee was approved and additional invitations will be extended to the Trade Unions. A National Co-ordinating Committee should be formed in the opinion of the Inner Executive; the Committee should include all the national agencies having an interest in the project such as JIAS, National Council of Women and Canadian Council of Welfare Funds as well as the local Welfare Agencies such as Jewish vocational services, Child Welfare and Family Welfare Bureaus etc; Dr. M. Scherzer of Montreal will be asked to head a medical committee; other matters were also discussed such as home finding, the interest of religious communities etc. The Inner Executive concerned itself mainly with plans to be made for the first group leaving United Kingdom on September 13th; the National Executive Meeting of September 21st will review all policies and set down the principles under which this movement is to be proceeded with.

c) Purchase of Matzos in Canada

The "Harry Gula Tasty Matzo Bakery" in Toronto made an offer for a considerable quantity of Matzo Meal for our Passover relief program which is being run jointly with the JDC's. A stumbling block to our accepting this offer is the "Kashruth" and reliability of Gula's products. In 1946 we faced a similar situation when we were called upon by the Deputy Minister of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, in Ottawa, to express our opinion in regard to Gula's products in connection with the free from duty import of United States Matzohs to Canada. At that time Rabbis P. Hirschprung and Oscar Fasman inspected the bakery in Toronto, however, in their opinion the products "failed to reach the standards necessary for complete religious reliability." Mr. Gula assured us now that Toronto Rabbis have investigated his factory and that his products are 100% Kosher. The Inner-Executive appointed a Committee consisting of Messrs. E.E. Gelber and J. Levine of Toronto and J. Sternthal of Montreal and they have been asked to designate two Rabbis who would inspect the factory and bring back recommendations as to whether the factory is observing all the religious principles and whether from the "Kashruth" point of view we should accept the offer.

d) Clothing Campaign

It was felt that the clothing campaign should be continued. Arrangements were made at the meeting for the use of suitable premises for a Central Depot; these arrangements were made possible through the help of one of the leading contributors. The Central Depot was hitherto located at the Baron de Hirsch Institute, however, in view of the fact that the building was sold we have to vacate it.

e) Premises for Headquarters

The emergency of having to find premises for headquarters of Congress was discussed. The Executive Director was authorized to make inquiries as to rental or purchase of new premises and to bring in a report at the first opportunity.

f) Adult Education

The plan of bringing in out of town speakers to Montreal in connection with the YMHA and B'Nai Brith Adult Education program was approved.

g) List of Contributors

The Inner-Executive instructed the Executive Director that as a matter of policy the lists of contributors should not be made available to organizations requesting same. These lists are in our possession as a result of our campaigns and without the permission of the groups which placed at our disposal their membership records we can't lend them to other organizations.

h) Bialystocker Centre

The Bialystocker Landsmanshaft requested our assistance in a special project which a similar group is running in Sydney, Australia. The request was dealt with and the Director was authorized to act on it.

3. Inter-Faith Fellowship

The National Young's People's Union of the United Church of Canada included in its "Programme Annual", published in Toronto, an article on "Inter-Faith Fellowship" by Rabbi A.L. Fineberg, co-chairman of the National Public Relations Committee. The "Programme Annual" is the basic educational instrument used nationally by the United Church. Rabbi Fineberg's article is incorporated in the section "Christian Fellowship"; it gives the prayer for the programme; quiz conducted as a radio programme similar to "Information Please" which consists of 12 questions and answers; a write-up on "Jews and Judaism" and "things to do"; appended is the bibliography listing various publications of Congress, general references and intercultural literature.

4. Special Assistance to an Outstanding Pianist in Athens

Sometime ago the wife of the Greek Minister of Interior who was visiting in Canada called our attention to a specially deserving case of a Jewish piano virtuoso in Athens of Polish origin whose only hope of rehabilitation was to get a piano which would enable him to give lessons and concerts. We investigated the merits of this case and were advised by the JDC that the person in question was one of an outstanding character and most deserving of special attention and care. The Inner-Executive approved of the recommendation and we made a presentation of a piano to him. The purchase was made through the JDC office in Athens. The amount involved was \$1,588.