

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

No. 257 CONFIDENTIAL

October 30th, 1947.

1. 3000 Tailors Selected for Canadian Immigration; Phone Interview with Mr. Max Enkin, Vienna, Austria.

The National Director spoke over the phone with Mr. Max Enkin, O.B.E., head of the selection team for the tailors movement, now in Vienna, Austria; the following information was obtained:

The team has finished its work. The books are closed and all tailors have been selected; 3000 were selected but have not yet been examined. The medical examination has not yet commenced but it is expected that it will start forthwith. The medical examination will undoubtedly disclose a number of TB cases either of the applicant or a member of his family. As a result of this situation Mr. Enkin believes that perhaps 2100 will be selected for emigration.

More than 50% of those selected are Jewish and when the selection team returns to Canada it will report to Mr. McNamara, Deputy Minister of Labor, that the present percentage ruling will have to be changed.

There will be a master list prepared which will be sent to us by air mail which will include data as to age, religion, national origin, marital status. The list is now being typed and will follow the plan of IRO master listings. The first sailing will be November 24th and not November 8th as originally planned. Perhaps 60 or 80 will be included in this group.

Mr. Enkin and his colleagues are rounding up the last groups tomorrow at Innsbruck. The Jewish quota is oversubscribed and no further name can be considered. After this visit this team leaves for Paris. They will leave the U.K. November 5th on the Queen Mary for New York, arriving November 10th or 11th.

When the team leaves it will be necessary to have someone stay on to handle various aspects. Mr. Matthew Ram of the staff of the Canadian Jewish Congress has been appointed as chairman of the Commission. Mr. Cormier, Canadian Government Chief European Immigration officer, has approved of the appointment. Mr. Enkin will formalize it with the Ottawa authorities shortly after his return.

The whole project depends on the ability of the selected to find accommodation in Canada. If there are insuperable difficulties and insoluble problems it is obvious that Mr. McNamara would want to terminate the project. Mr. Enkin urged strongly to solve all difficulties, since the situation of these people in the camps is appalling and they must be rescued; he says it is unbelievable and until one is faced with it as the clothing industry commission was, it is not possible to experience it vicariously. We must take his word that it is a priority to rescue these people irrespectively of all difficulties and despite obstacles.

Mr. Enkin counsels us to set up receiving homes in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, to take the first groups on arrival and to be available as emergency housing, if as

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and when required.

The commission had difficulties and many heart-rending experiences. Communications were bad, housing was difficult, delays were interminable, though unavoidable in many cases.

If conclusions were to be drawn from the talk with Mr. Enkin, they would have to be summarized as follows: a) High on the list of Jewish priorities must be placed the cases of DP's in Germany and Austria. b) Housing must be found for the selected applicants.

Mr. Enkin would be very useful to us in exposing conditions and exhorting Canadian Jewry to accomplish the tasks before it. We hope he and his colleagues too will be prepared to speak for us on their return.

2. Interview With Mr. Irwin Rosen on Immigration Matters

The National Director had a conference with Mr. Irwin Rosen, chief emigration officer of the JDC in Paris who is now in New York for the purpose of conferring with his superiors and clearing several immigration projects; Mr. Rosen is returning to Paris on November 8th. The following matters were taken up: a) re-appointment of Lottie Levinson to immigration post in Rome or in Paris; Miss Levinson had to terminate her previous assignment and return to Vancouver where her father took seriously ill and where he passed away since; she is prepared to return to Congress employ starting January 1st; b) appointment of Mr. Bierman of the JDC staff of Frankfurt to replace Miss Lottie Levinson on the orphans project; c) various difficulties in handling the war orphans project and ways and means of having our views diffused through orphanages, homes and otherwise so that the children applying for Canadian immigration be made aware of the realistic prospects awaiting them in Canada; Mr. Rosen was hopeful to be able to arrange with the "Cunard" Line for regular sailings of orphans to Canada even after the "Aquitania" is taken off the Atlantic service; he believed also to be able to work out through the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization that regular sailings be made possible for orphans from Austria, Germany, and Italy; transit permits may be secured through the U.S.A. in case no direct shipment may be available to Canadian ports; d) the urgency of expediting the movement of relatives; the International Refugee Organization pays the full transportation costs in mass movements, however, it assumes only 50% responsibility in individual cases; e) Mr. Rosen urged to obtain a permit for 100 domestics who would after one year service in private homes be free to plan for their future in any way they would find it attractive and desirable; f) he urged to increase the quota for orphans from the United Kingdom as there are many who would qualify and who have no future in the United Kingdom; Mr. Rosen felt that they are community responsibility in no lesser degree than those in the DP camps and elsewhere; g) Mr. Rosen urged to get the Department of Immigration in Ottawa to approve of Mr. Matthew Ran being officially attached as liaison to the Canadian Immigration Officer in Europe, Mr. Cormier, for all Canadian projects; h) we discussed the prospects for movement of glove workers, furriers, dress industry skilled workers, mechanics and various other possibilities.

3. Finance and Control Commission of the World Jewish Congress

The National Director attended a meeting of the Finance and Control Commission of the World Jewish Congress held in New York on October 28th.

4. Meetings of Montreal Members of the National Executive to be Called Once a Month

We are recommending to the National Executive a change in the procedure of convening meetings; the Montreal members of the National Executive would be called together once a month and in emergency situations the national officers residing in Montreal would be authorized to make decisions.