

YOUR ATTENTION

FROM Saul Hayes

No. 281 CONFIDENTIAL

December 3rd, 1947.

1. Arrival of New Group of Orphans

Another group of 25 youngsters arrived on the "Aquitania" which docked in Halifax on December 2nd. They youngsters are being placed as follows: 17 in the West, 6 in Hamilton where they will proceed via Toronto and 2 will stay in Montreal.

2. Statement of B. Sadowski, M.B.E. On the Establishment of a Jewish State

The following is the text of a statement issued by B. Sadowski, M.B.E., President of the Central Division, in regard to the decision of the United Nations to establish a Jewish state in part of Palestine: "The Canadian Jewish Congress welcomes with great pleasure the decision adopted by the United Nations in favour of partition. The Congress in Canada has been on record at all times as being in favour of Jewish national aspirations in Palestine. It must come as a source of gratification to Canadian Jewry that the age old and legitimate hopes of our people are now on the threshold of actual fulfillment. The new Jewish state will bring a large measure of relief to those elements of world Jewry which have suffered so terribly in Europe and elsewhere in our day. The hope which has sustained the morale of the DP's and many others that their shattered lives may be rebuilt in the warm and brotherly atmosphere of a Jewish Palestine is now coming to realization. The Congress, speaking for Canadian Jewry, is mindful of the fact that the promise of a national home contained in the Balfour Declaration was inspired by Great Britain. Regardless of the difficulties of recent years, Jewry will always be grateful to an enlightened Britain for having begun that which is now crystalizing in a Jewish state. As Canadians, we view with pride the significant part played by our Dominion representatives in the various complex discussions in the United Nations forum. Canada's position in world affairs has attained a new status as a result of the contributions her delegates have made to the solution of this problem. Knowledge of Jewish needs and sympathetic understanding of Jewish aspirations have been a not unimportant factor in the Canadian attitude. Canadian Jewry will watch with hope and anticipation the development of the new Jewish state. We call on our people to renew their efforts to make a full success of the tremendous opportunity now offered to them".

3. Radio Program "In Search of Ourselves"

The Assistant Director of the CBC Talks and Public Affairs Department requested the cooperation of our Toronto office in promoting a forthcoming CBC series of weekly radio dramatizations and discussions entitled "In Search of Ourselves" designed to portray and analyze various aspects of individual behavior; we were told that the request for our cooperation was based on 2 points: a) the audience's response to the series "The Dream" has been most gratifying and the CBC attributed this primarily to our promotional efforts; b) the series "In Search of Ourselves" is related to our public relations interests in that it has an underlying theme of "probing of prejudices"; our cooperation would involve the employment of the same techniques which we

National Headquarters: **CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS**

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

used in promoting the series "The Dream". We are finding out how these broadcasts are to be handled also more about their content and more about the angles to be used by the expert analysts.

4. \$10,000 Pledged by Winnipeg Organizations for Orphans' Movement

Pledges totaling more than \$10,000 have already been received from various Winnipeg organizations in response to the appeal for financing the maintenance of orphans at the rate of \$350 per youngster at a period of six months; the Hebrew Fraternal Lodge of Winnipeg pledged the largest amount, \$1050, and took over 3 orphans for a 6 months period.

A number of offers of free homes have been received, however, the Winnipeg Committee did not avail itself of them so far as nearly all orphans could be placed in jobs and it was found preferable to make them self-supporting. The only free home accepted and used is that of Mr. and Mrs. W. Gorenstein, 864 Garfield St. in Winnipeg.

5. Montreal Youth Council Participates in Conference of Quebec Youth Groups

The Montreal Jewish Youth Council was among the 49 Quebec youth groups which sent delegates to a conference of youth organizations held at the University of Montreal on November 29th and 30th; the Council assisted also in planning the conference. The Federation affords the opportunity for Jewish youth to meet with the leaders of French-Canadian youth groups. One of the aims of the Federation is to encourage inter-group visits; other possible projects discussed were the right of youth to employment and education. A representative of the Council was elected English-speaking secretary of the Federation. There is a three months period in which the proposed constitution of the Federation is to be ratified by the participating groups.

6. Clothing Collection in Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Congress Council launched an appeal for used clothing; extensive preparations are under way; the drive is co-sponsored by the Womens Division of Congress; a similar appeal will be held in other Western communities; a Western depot is being set up in Winnipeg.

7. Detailed Report on European Conference of World Jewish Congress

Dr. N. Barou reported in detail on the proceedings of the European Conference of the World Jewish Congress; the conference discussed in detail the agenda of the Second Session and added two items: relations with other organizations and the problem of reparations; a very useful discussion was held on cultural problems; negotiations were held with the Polish delegation and a draft of an agreement was drawn up and is being submitted for approval to the Executive of the World Jewish Congress

8. Orphans Coming to Canada Contribute to Ship News Sheet

The U.S. Army Transport "General Stuart" has its own news-sheet called "On the Ocean's Waves"; the group of orphans which was brought over to Canada on the "General Stuart" participated in the news-sheet and some of the orphans contributed articles; the sheet is written in 14 languages; the contribution of the orphans is in English and in Yiddish; they expressed thanks to the Government and the Jews of Canada for rescuing them.

9. Enactment of Restitution Law in the U.S. Zone of Germany

The American Military Government in Germany enacted a law to effect the restitution of property lost by persons who were persecuted on grounds of race, religion or

political creed under Nazi regime. Instead of claiming restitution the former owner may claim from the person who acquired the property from him the payment of the difference between the price received and what might have been a fair purchasing price for the property; the right to claim restitution belongs to the former owner and to his successors; heirless property will be assigned to special organizations and the same applies to properties of communities and organizations; petitions for a re-claim have to be filed with the Central Filing Agency in Bad Nauheim before the end of December 1948. The World Jewish Congress and other Jewish organizations were active in urging the promulgation of the restitution law. The problem still awaiting final decision is the appointment to the Jewish Restitution Commission as the organization to which masterless and unclaimed Jewish property would be assigned.

10. Dress Manufacturers Offer Free Clothing for Orphan Girls

The Clothing Committee in Montreal reported that the Dress Manufacturers offered to clothe free of charge the orphan girls coming to Montreal; Mr. Phil Fainer is in charge of this project. The Committee tries to make similar arrangements with the clothing manufacturers for the orphan boys and Mr. Leon Lovinson is to canvass them.

The Montreal placement report as of Nov. 28th is as follows: free homes - 20; paid homes - 8; relatives - 3; hospitalized - 2; self-supporting - 2; Reception Centre - 30; non-quota with relatives - 2; total - 67. 54 youngsters are in the age group of 16 - 18, 10 are under 16 and 3 are in the age group of 19 - 21. In order to obtain a complete liason between the Social Service Agencies and the various sub-committees of the Co-ordinating Committee, representatives have been appointed to a sub-committee from the Boards of both Family Welfare Department and the Child Welfare Bureau.

11. Western Campaign Receipts

The Lethbridge, Alberta, community remitted to the Congress office in Winnipeg \$4,777 the Yorktown, Saskatchewan, community remitted \$855. The Congress-UJRA campaign in Fort William - Port Arthur will be launched on December 7th.

12. United States Proposed International Bill of Rights to Become Incorporated in the Laws of the Signatory Countries

We noted the report that the United States laid two important papers before the United Nations Human Rights Commission at present assembled in Geneva; the first is the draft declaration of human rights and the second is a draft convention guaranteeing basic rights. The convention would have the force of an international treaty and become thus incorporated in the laws of the signatory countries, and it would make all the signatories answerable to the United Nations.