

your attention

ABOUT

Inter-Office Information

FROM Saul Hayes

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April 4th, 1949.

1. Draft on Anti-Semitism in Canada

At the request of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith in the U.S.A. we prepared a full statement on anti-semitism in Canada. The Anti-Defamation League plans to include extensive treatises on anti-semitism in 5 or 6 countries in future issues of its monthly confidential publication "The Facts", and one of the first countries that they wanted to cover was Canada. In an earlier IOI we referred to this request of the Anti-Defamation League. Our draft includes general statement as to the history and size of the Jewish community in Canada and inter-community relations between the Jewish and non-Jewish population; anti-semitism in newspapers and radio; the extent of organized foreign agitation in Canada; the relations of Jews and other ethnic and cultural groups; geographic, economic, political or social features which affect the problem of prejudice in Canada; anti-semitic organizations and periodicals; statutes and regulations; (laws and regulations do not include anti-semitic or discriminatory practices and certain administrative regulations of the Immigration Department resulting in discriminatory practices have been removed or have become inoperative); attitudes in urban and rural areas, large cities and smaller communities, political parties, labour, industrial and agricultural forces (polls which tried to ascertain preferences of the Canadian population in bringing in or keeping out certain national groups of immigrants indicated that the rural population had a considerably higher incidence of prejudice as contrasted with the urban population); what prejudices, if any, exist against minorities other than the Jews (a number of legislative enactments have been made to curb racial and religious prejudice); restrictive covenants in deeds or leases of property forbidding the sale or renting of such property to Jews or other minorities and how widespread are such practices; do places of public accommodation such as hotels, resorts, social and business clubs, civic organizations and public facilities discriminate against Jews; discrimination in employment; in universities, colleges and other educational institutions; anti-semitic quotient. The conclusion of our survey is as follows: "Canada, in the main, is a land of unity and tolerance despite the various religions and languages. This general statement, however, has a large number of exceptions which appear in the material prepared for this survey." We attached 10 annexes illustrative of the facts referred to in our draft.

2. \$10,000 Mo'Ess Chittin Remittance of Central People's Relief Committee in Montreal

The Central People's Relief Committee in Montreal remitted \$10,000 to the U.J.R.A. treasury on account of the Mo'Ess Chittin proceeds.

3. Payments of Allocations to Organizations

We had a meeting with Mr. Joseph H. Fine, A.C., National Treasurer of Congress in

regard to payments of allocations to organizations and other financial matters.

4. Opening Campaign Dinner of Winnipeg Jewish Welfare Fund

Rabbi R.I. Moshowitz of Omaha, Neb., was the guest speaker at the opening Campaign dinner of the Jewish Welfare Fund in Winnipeg which was held on March 24th; he substituted for Rabbi Dr. J. Prinz who could not come on account of sickness. 400 people were present. Mr. Sol Kanec, President of Congress in Western Canada, also addressed the rally expressing the hope that next year there will be a joint appeal in Winnipeg for the Welfare Fund and the United Israel Appeal. Mr. S.B. Nitikman, President of the Welfare Fund, reviewed Welfare Fund activities.

5. Group Passover Sedorim For New Immigrants in Toronto

Group Sedorim for new immigrants in Toronto (orphans and new arrivals under the trade projects), have been arranged by the Folks Farein, Beth Hamidrash Hagodol, and the Holy Blossom Temple. Reservations are being made through the Congress office.

6. Monthly Calendar of Events Introduced in Toronto

The Toronto Congress office inaugurated a monthly bulletin, listing dates of activities scheduled by local organizations. The office has been maintaining already for many years a Central Registry which was clearing dates of meetings, however, this is the first time a bulletin has been issued to the community. The bulletin for the month of April, lists dates of all events under the following categories: United Jewish Appeal; United Jewish Welfare Fund; Mens' Organizations; Womens' Organizations. A similar service is maintained in Montreal by the Congress office for many years now.

7. Offices of JDC Closed in Roumania

The European emigration headquarters of the JDC in Paris advised us that JDC operations in Roumania have been discontinued by action of the Roumanian government and for all practical purposes JDC offices have been closed. The communication suggested that correspondence with JDC offices in Roumania be discontinued.

8. Compilation of Up to Date Information on Ontario Communities

Our office in Toronto sent out a questionnaire to all communities in the Region requesting information on population, institutions, campaigns, and organizations in order to obtain full data for planning of future activities.

9. Statement on Bill on Human Rights to be Given in Parliament by Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent reiterated in the House of Commons that Mr. Lester B. Pearson will make a statement to the Commons on the present position of a Bill of Human Rights in the international sphere. In an earlier issue of the IOI we reported on the letter which we addressed to Mr. Pearson, informing him of our interest in the reconstitution of the Special Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

10. Meeting of Eastern Region Educational Committee

The Eastern Region Educational Committee will meet on April 26th.