

REC. 9 APR. 1940

In order to inform our Head-Office about the development of our activities, about the situation of Jews in Vilno and about various details which cannot be dealt with in our ordinary reports, we have decided to prepare for your information periodical bulletins.

1/General Delegations and Applications.

In the first half of February, following persons and delegations visited our office, apart ~~of~~ representatives of these organizations which are constantly in touch with us:

labor Mr. Beckelman received representatives of Mojsheva-Zkejnim, Ezro, Toz-Oze, Russians, Journalists, Workers' Committee, Trade Unions, Jeshivahs, League of the Working Palestine, Iwo, Deaf Mute, Mishmeres Chojlem, secondary schools, Zionists, school-organizations of all ~~tenants~~ /residents and refugees from the head-offices/, Chalucim, Rabbis, Hais-Hicem, many individuals.

Mr. Tarashtshanski received representatives of the Czarno-school, Union of Invalids, Jeshivahs, Actors refugees, Actors residents, Deaf Mute, Mojsheva Zkejnim, Kehillah and many individuals.

2/Applications of a special kind.

Among the applications we receive, there is a considerable number of urgent requests asking us to help some groups and some well-known personalities /public workers etc./, apart of the general assistance they are getting. We are told that these persons need special help for their families, money to bring their families here etc. We receive such applications from representatives of all groups and parties, f.i. from rabbi Ch. O. Grodzenski about rabbis and directors of jeshivahs, from zionist leaders, from people of the Bund and other socialist groups.

3/Applications about absent people.

We were lately approached by several public workers, refugees and residents, asking us to assist some well-known personalities who are now in the territory under Soviet occupation. We were asked f.i. to help the lawyer Alexander Margolis, a well-known criminologist, defender in many Jewish cases. He is now in Lwow, with his father who is 80. Another case is that of the lawyer Ignacy Baumberg, former chairman of the "Bnei Brith" in Warsaw. He is now in Lwow too. Both are writing desperate letters.

We have been told about the difficult situation of Mr. Waclaw Wawelberg, the former treasurer of the Zbaszyn Committee in Warsaw, descendant of a famous Polish family. According to our information, Mr. Wawelberg and his wife suffered very much - physically as well as mentally; they were somewhere near the Lithuanian frontier. His friends are urging us to grant a substantial sum to let him come to Vilno.

4/Help for not-Jewish groups. Polish journalists.

When the Refugee Committee of the Kehillah in Vilno, financed by us, began its work, it became necessary to assist, in particular cases and in certain circumstances, some not Jewish refugees. Thus, we assisted Polish journalists, organized in a special group, independently of any political ideology or party-membership. We organized for them a home for 28 persons and a canteen for 129 persons. We paid directly for the organization and equipment of the Home; the ordinary operating expenses /food, clothing, rent etc./ are paid by the

Jewish Refugee Committee; these sums constitute a part of the Committees ordinary budget. Lately there arrived 6 new refugees, professors of Polish universities.

5/Help for Lithuanian refugees.

Among the Christian refugees there were also Lithuanians, from localities now under foreign rule. The situation of these refugees was extremely difficult, especially in respect of accomodation, ^{facilities} possibilities. The home, they are living in, is very poorly equipped. The help they used to get from the so-called General Refugee Committee /for all Christian refugees/ was quite insufficient. The Jewish Refugee Committee gave them 50 blankets, 50 hay-mattresses and 100 sheets; this ~~was not with a~~ ^{received} great ~~satisfaction~~ ^{approval} of the authorities. ^{from}

6/An individual grant.

Among the impoverished Polish population, there was also Mr. Niesluchowski, an aged man, a lawyer, former counsel of the State Forests Office in Vilno, father-in-law of Mr. Raczkiewicz, the present President of the Polish republic. Mr. Niesluchowski approached us with a written application to lend him a sum of 300 Lits, until he would be able to get in touch with his son-in-law, Mr. Raczkiewicz, and receive some money from him. We granted his request and ~~gave~~ ^{gave} him 300 Lits.

7/The problem of dislocation.

After the police-registration of refugees ordered by the authorities was over, the refugees and the refugee-relief organizations were under the menace of the so-called dislocation of refugees. There was the possibility that all refugees would be evacuated without any plan into small localities, where the conditions were not adapted to receive a large number of refugees and where it would be impossible to organize an efficient relief-activity. Because of the efforts of local leaders, the dislocation was not carried into practice as a system, but sending of some people into provincial towns is still going on. It was decided that organized groups have to be evacuated from Vilno, but systematically, with the collaboration of the Refugee Committee.

Up to the present day, ab. 3000 persons have been evacuated from Vilno and spread over more than 50 localities.

8/Evacuation of jeshivahs and chalucim.

The organized groups are sent to provincial localities according to a plan. Up to the present day following groups were evcecuated or are still proceeding with their evacuation:

Jeshivah Mir - to Keidany, Jeshivah Kleck - to Janow, Jeshivah Kamieniec - to Rasiene, Jeshivah Baranowicze - to Troki, Jeshivah ^{Mezericz} - to Niemenczyn, Jeshivah Pinsk - to Ukmerge. As to the chalucim-groups, a few persons only left.

9. Collecting of clothes.

The Refugee Committee organized, together with the "Toz", a collection of clothes, linen etc. for refugees. Several hundred persons are visiting Jewish houses in Vilno and collecting what they can get.

10. A conflict inside the Refugee Committee.

Because of certain discords and machinations in the Kehillah, there

happened an incident in the Refugee Committee: the chairman of the Committee suspended ~~in their rights~~ two members of the Committee who took part in a political action against the Kehillah. This provoked a great discontent and anger among the yeshivahs and the orthodox people, as one of the suspended members was their leader. We are in possession of a number of protests and petitions demanding the re-establishment of the two persons in their member-rights. The problem was of such a serious nature that we could not take the purely formal standpoint of not interfering ~~with~~ inner affairs of the Committee. On the contrary: we were obliged to show interest for this matter, to take part in meetings of the Committee, to talk to representatives of the Kehillah and of the interested groups. We had to point out that the work for refugees must be free of all political considerations and that all groups should co-operate in the Committee, with the common task of assisting the refugees.

11/Diseases among refugees.

According to the reports of "Toz", 5514 refugees were assisted in January in dispensaries, consulting-rooms etc. of this association. The number of infectious diseases was a small one; on the other hand, there were many cases of frost-bites among the arriving refugees. In several cases limbs had to be amputated. Because of the great number of sick people, the hospitals were overcrowded. In January, there were 257 ill refugees in hospitals, with 3155 hospital days.

12/Receipts of the Refugee Committee from other sources.

Montevideo. The Refugee Committee received 12000 Lits from Montevideo. Holland. Already in December the Refugee Committee was promised a sum of 2500-3000 ~~KXXK~~ Gulden from Holland. The Dutch Committee asked to indicate them an address to which the money could be sent, and to forward them a report on the Refugee Committee's activities. The Refugee Committee indicated the address and sent a report, but no money has been received as yet.

Relief Committee in London a sum of 100000 Lits, to be used for various purposes, has been received from London. The sum has been spent as follows:

At the disposal of the British Legation		3000 Lits
Constructive help:		
Mechanised laundry	30000 Lits	
Implements	5000 "	
Shoemaking workshops	5000 "	
Tailors workshops	5000 "	
Sewing of linen	5000 "	50000 Lits
Clothing for "intelligentsia"	5000 Lits	
Canteen for the Revisionist group	2000 "	
Journalists	3000 "	
Refugee children /Centos/	3000 "	
Blankets, socks etc.	23000 "	
"Ezro"	11000 "	47000 Lits