

C O P Y

JEWISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE
(170)

11/20/39

November 21, 1939

Chaim Poleski
Jewish Scientific Institute

Mr. Gitterman and I are agreed that the enclosed project for a study by IVO (Jewish Scientific Institute) of the effects of the destruction of Poland on Jewish life has enormous practical and long-range value and should be accepted and approved so that work may begun on it at once. As indicated in a previous memorandum this task has already been undertaken on a partial scale as a work relief project for Jewish journalists in Vilna who are gathering the accounts of eyewitnesses of the evacuation of Warsaw, the destruction of cities and the flight from Poland and working them up into report form. A first installment of this material was forwarded you last week.

That portion of the proposed study which requires such materials will of course be provided by the journalists committee. The IVO study will in addition attempt to make some estimates, on a statistical basis, of the extent of the destruction, the mature fields which have been hit, the possibilities for reconstruction etc. All of this will be valuable; a. as current campaign material, b. as a permanent historical document, c. in long range planning for post-war work, d. as indicated in the memorandum, in general international approaches to the Jewish population of Poland during and after the war.

It will be recalled the J.D.C. published a similar document after the last war.

Mr. Gitterman and I recommend that the six thousand dollars requested be made available for this project. We have asked the IVO to submit more detailed schedules of the working plan and shall discuss with them in careful specific fashion the particulars of the work in order to ensure its objectivity and accuracy before the job is begun. The extent to which the project can be completely within six months depends to a large extent on the ability of IVO representatives to get access to some of the information about the occupied territories. We shall therefore see to it that IVO's working schedule is so arranged as to make possible the completion of certain sections of the report within the six months period specified in the attached memorandum, so that if no further funds are available after the first period, the material gathered up to the point will represent a complete unit.

All rights of publication will of course vest in the J.D.C.

Enclosed a draft of
our program
by

Signed: S. Kalman Beckelman

PROJECT OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE
DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWISH POPULATION IN POLAND AND

I. THEIR PRESENT CONDITIONS

I) Localities

- a) How many have been entirely wrecked?
- b) How many have been partly wrecked ?
- c) Jewish social institutions which were destroyed (schools, hospitals, social and cultural institutions, public and private museums, art collections, etc.)
- d) Jewish enterprises. (factories, estates - wrecked or confiscated).

2) Individuals

- a) How many were killed? (through bomb attacks, fire squads - shot by the Nazis, pogroms and diseases.)
- b) Information about compulsory labor.
- c) How many left their homes (voluntarily or deported)
- d) Where are they now? (present conditions and future plans).
- e) Prominent personalities; names and exact information concerning their life; rabbis, writers, social workers.

3) Wrecked Institutions

- a) Communities
- b) Social organizations and parties
- c) Editorial and press enterprises
- d) Economical institutions; banks, cooperatives, professional unions)

4) The Enemy Forces

- a) Documents of the Nazi legislation
- b) Violences committed by German military forces and civil authorities
- c) Polish antisemitism
- d) Ghettos (Reservations)

5) Social Work in the Towns

- a) Remaining communities
- b) Sanitary care
- c) Economical conditions
- d) Religious activities
- 2) Cultural activities

6) Wilna

Exact details concerning all Jewish survivors in Wilna as well as present conditions of the Wilna residents and the newly arrived persons.

II. Means and Prospects of the Investigations

- 1) Investigation into the refugees in Lithuania.
(Description of their living conditions, reports on their suffering)
In view of the fact that the IVO has great difficulties to contact the leading personalities in Roumania for the time being, it will be worthwhile that the JOINT makes arrangements there with competent persons to investigate into the Polish Jewish refugees in Roumania.
- 2) Establishment of records of the international press.
- 3) Sending of special delegates into the occupied regions for the purpose of collecting material on the spot.
- 4) Authorization should be obtained from the Soviet authorities to this effect, for the part of Poland annexed by Soviet Russia. In case of a negative answer, the work will have to be carried out as mentioned under 3).

III. Organization.

- 1) A Committee will be created with the Jewish Scientific Institute, comprising 15 persons belonging to all social classes and willing to participate in the work. The Committee will plan and direct the investigation.
- 2) An Executive office will be appointed by the Committee entrusted with the direct control of the activities to be carried out. A representative of the IVO will be member of the Executive office.
- 3) The practical work will be carried out by an administrator and six collaborators, the administrator being member of the Executive office. The work will be divided as follows:-
 - a) Localities. Individuals.
 - b) Foundations and organizations
 - c) Anti-Semitism

IV. Monthly Budget

The monthly budget will be established as follows:-

Travel expenses and expenses of the delegates.....	2000 Lit
Salary of the administrator.....	500 "
Salaries of six collaborators, at lit 250 each.....	1500 "
Printing matter and other materials.....	1000 "
TOTAL:	5000 " monthly

Remarks

- 1) The totality of the material is property of the IVO and remains in its archives.
- 2) Publication of the material will only be permitted with the special authorization of the JOINT.
- 3) Extracts and copies of the material will be placed at the disposal of the JOINT, upon his request.