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Sept. 11th, 39

British ORT-OSE,
150 Southampton Row,
London, W.C.1.

Dear Friends,

We have received from the United Committee ORT-OSE a copy of your letter of Sept. 6th addressed to them in which you summed up the position as regards our plans of activity.

As already advised, we agree with you that it will be best in the present circumstances to organise an engineering school at Richborough Camp for our students, and also for other refugees who may join them, which will utilise the services of our instructors and the experience already acquired by our students at Berlin. There seems to be no doubt that their skill could be made serviceable in the interests of British national defence, and it should be possible to arrive at an understanding on this subject both with the Council for German Jewry and the Ministry of Labour in your country, adopting a plan of training which shall be approved by the latter.

We note what you say in par. 4 about the financial position. It seems possible to us that, if the school could be set going at an early date, the workshops could embark immediately on the execution of Government contracts so that the sum which you mention for the maintenance of the people would be accordingly diminished.

At any rate there can be no question that of employing the £4,000 allotted by the Council for German Jewry for the Leeds school under the original arrangements towards meeting the £5,000 which, as you say, will be needed for the maintenance of the men, women and children until the end of next August.

9/11/39

As you know, of these £4,000, only £1,500 were destined for the maintenance of the students. The balance of £2,500 was to be used for the equipment of the school, and we think that this sum must in all circumstances be used for that purpose. This is now the more necessary since we did not get the equipment from Berlin and everything will now have to be acquired on the spot.

Unless there is a possibility of covering the maintenance of the students and instructors (and their families) largely out of earned income, as suggested before, it will be necessary for your Committee to get in touch with the Council for German Jewry and to devise ways and means of collecting locally the money needed for the maintenance of the students.

With regard to the six boys who are still in Leeds, we wrote you already that we agree to their being transferred to Richborough since there is no object in their remaining at Leeds.

Your observations with regard to the prepared Appeal and the letters to the Synagogues, which you intended to circulate, will probably be dealt with by the United Committee ORT-OSE.

We have noted that you consider moving your office to some place outside London, and we expect that we shall be advised of your new address in due course.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

CENTRAL BOARD
EXECUTIVE

Gen. Secretary