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THE WEEKLY SUMMARY

WORLD ORT UNION

Financial and Accounting Office

Vol. I No. 16

Week ending July 9, 1947

CENTRAL BOARD MEETING, PARIS

FLASH

As we go to press, we have just received a cable dated Paris, July 9, from Mr. David Rosenstein, Chairman of the American delegation, indicating that the Central Board meeting in Paris progresses extremely well. Certain important decisions have already been adopted, especially a resolution that the Executive Committee shall meet regularly in Paris every other month, and another resolution designed to strengthen the Financial and Accounting Office in New York. In addition, a special sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Lvovitch, Syngalowski, Halpern, Litton and Rosenstein, has been investigating methods of strengthening ORT work in Germany and Austria. It was unanimously recommended that Mr. Walinsky become Director-General for Germany and Austria, with headquarters in Paris, working under the Advisory Council. We hope to be able to present a full report of the decisions of the Central Board in the next issue of the WEEKLY SUMMARY.

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL LOWELL W. ROOKS

The New York Office, World ORT Union, received a letter from Director General Lowell W. Rooks of UNRRA, dated June 25. In this letter he expresses his sincere hope "that the World ORT Union will continue its splendid cooperation and assistance with the IRO in the fine spirit which has been evident throughout UNRRA's experience. I likewise desire to extend personally and on behalf of my associates our best wishes for continued success in your efforts to aid the victims of aggression."

* * * *

Major General Walter A. Wood, has been appointed Acting Chief in Washington of the Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization, effective July 1, according to a letter received by the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service. Oliver Stone and Martha H. Biehle, former American Resident of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, are members of the staff of the new offices of the Preparatory Commission for IRO in Washington, as disclosed in a letter from Miss Biehle of July 1. The letter concludes with the following paragraph:

"We will look forward to continuing in the name of the Preparatory Commission of the IRO the same happy cooperation we have had with you in our work for the Intergovernmental Committee."

NEWS FROM ABROAD

FROM AUSTRIA

On June 13, the first examination of 21 students of the electro-technical course in Salzburg took place. The results were most gratifying, as testified by reports given by Engineer Hans Maislinger, teacher at the Central Vocational School in Salzburg and Engineer Ernest Roller, teacher at the Central Vocational School and professor at the Vocational High School in Salzburg. The report given by Eng. Ernest Roller reads as follows:

Salzburg, June 13, 1947

"As a member of the Board of Examiners, I attended the final examinations of Group I in a three-month's course in electrotechnics at the ORT Trade School in Salzburg, and report the following:

"1. In the Practical Examination all 21 students showed extraordinary skill in the careful and expert execution of simple and complicated circuit problems.

"2. In the Written, Theoretical Examination the pupils mastered the problems given to them, and the results were found clear and understandable.

"3. In the Oral, Theoretical Examination by asking several questions I convinced myself that the pupils possessed sound knowledge of the subject and had evidently been trained to think clearly.

"Having been director of several technical trade schools for many years, and having had twenty years experience as chief-engineer in the electrical industry, I believe myself capable of judging the success of this ORT School. It surpasses anything I have had occasion to see so far in Austrian and German schools.

"The reason for this success is the excellent, concentrated teaching method, adapted to practical needs, and the serious and diligent cooperation between teachers and students which did not permit any loss of time.

"I am pleased with the achievments of this course and wish the institute, its excellent teachers and its diligent pupils their well-deserved success."

Dir. Eng. Ernest Roller
at present vocational teacher at the Central
Vocational School and professor at the
Vocational High School in Salzburg

The May report on ORT work in Austria, submitted by Mrs. Cylvia Margulies, Director Austrian Zone, states that the Salzburg ORT School has been redecorated and the attendance is growing. After the completion of the first course in electro-mechanics, a new one has been opened.

NEWS FROM ABROAD - continued

A private ten room stone house, with a garden, has been secured from the Army Real Estate Section, to be used as living quarters for the instructors of the Salzburg ORT.

The AJDC has given the ORT instructors 10 new men's suits. Mr. Moe Leavitt, AJDC representative from New York City, visited the Salzburg ORT and stated that the technical instruction there was as fine as he had ever seen.

The Austrian ORT has received various supplies from Italy, Sweden, American Red Cross and the Army. ORT Salzburg manufactured 162 aprons, according to specifications provided by the Army, from bed sheeting supplied by the Army; the unused supplies are to be kept by ORT.

The ORT School in Linz now has an attendance of 140 students in courses for dressmaking, millinery, electro-mechanics and cutting for men.

The Vienna Kultusgemeinde has rented a building at Dennisgasse 33 to ORT for ten years to be used as Vienna ORT School.

FROM GERMANY

AMERICAN ZONE

"ORT Union in the American Zone", a mimeographed publication in Yiddish, issued by World ORT Union Munich, reports in No. 16 of June 3 that the ORT training center in Zeilsheim near Frankfurt celebrated its first anniversary together with the graduation of 43 pupils. A banquet was held at which the graduates were presented with their diplomas. Among those attending, were the Commissioner for Racial, Religious and Political Persecutees, Dr. Kurt Epstein, and representatives of UNRRA, AJDC, Camp Committees and other regional organizations.

FROM POLAND

A new branch of the Polish ORT Committee was opened at Liegnitz, Lower Silesia. In the presence of Eng. Botszemok from Warsaw, a committee of 7 was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Grinberg. Eng. Maimanowitz was entrusted with the secretarial and technical adminstration of the new ORT traing center. A sourse in cutting for women for 16 pupils and another in mechanical knitting for 20 pupils were immediately opened. Evening courses in millinery and supplementary courses for youths working in a factory during the day are in preparation. At present, 4,000 Jews living in Liegnitz desire assistance from ORT, according to a report from Warsaw of June 26.

FROM AUSTRALIA

Dr. Maurice Laserson, ORT representative in Australia, in a letter of June 12, confirmed that Jewish immigrants to Australia will be primarily selected according to their skills. Skilled workers, technicians and agriculturists, prepared to settle on the land, will receive priority.

NEWS FROM AMERICA

NEW YORK OFFICE, WORLD ORT UNION

During the first half of 1947, $21,743.80 in cash and machinery has been transferred by New York to the ORT committees in Latin America, according to a special report prepared by the Financial and Accounting Office. The analysis of World ORT Union expenditures for Latin America raises a number of policy questions which have been forwarded to the Executive Committee for decision.

Not all of these expenditures are chargeable to the 1947 budget of the respective countries, as some machinery shipments and one cash remittance are in fulfillment of 1946 obligations. In addition, we have received a cable from Paris from which we infer that the subventions to Brazilian ORT (both in Rio de Janeiro and in Sao Paulo) have been handled from sources other than New York.

Cash transfers and machinery shipments from New York chargeable to World ORT Union 1947 subventions to Latin America amounted to $19,049.99 in the first six months of the year. The breakdown by countries is shown in the following tabulation:

New York Expenditures First Half 1947 for Latin America
Chargeable to 1947 World ORT Union Subventions
(In U.S. Dollars)

Country	Amount
Argentina	$ 4,000.00
Bolivia	900.00
Brazil (Rio de Janeiro)	1,365.23 1/
Chile	4,000.00
Uruguay	7,584.76 2/
Cuba	1,200.00
TOTAL	$19,049.99

1/ Represents commitment for machinery, shipping charges for which are not yet known.

2/ Includes machinery shipped by ORT Tool, valued at $2,584.76.

During the same period of time, fund-raising campaigns have been carried on in several Latin American countries, the proceeds from which already total approximately $40,000, or about twice the subventions paid out to Latin American ORT schools by World ORT Union. Some of these campaigns are still in process and it is hoped that this commendable performance will be maintained in the second half of 1947.

E D I T O R I A L

FOR THE ADMISSION OF DISPLACED PERSONS TO THE USA

On July 7, President Harry S. Truman sent a special message to Congress urging legislation to admit European displaced persons as immigrants to the USA. In his message the President stressed the impossiblity of leaving the DP's indefinitely in camps or of turning them out in Germany into the community of the very people who persecuted them. "This Government," he said, "has been firm in resisting any proposal to send these people back to their former homes by force, where it is evident that their unwillingness to return is based upon political consideration or fear of persecution".

The President emphasized that he did not favor waiving existing immigration legislation but rather supplementing it since the quotas for Eastern European countries are insufficient. This would enable the USA "to share with other nations in this enterprise of offering an opportunity for a new life to these people".

Outstanding in the message was the President's refutation of arguments against admitting DP's. This country, he pointed out, has "successfully assimilated vast numbers of people of all countries" into our national life. Many of the DP's have "already strong roots in this country-by kinship, religion or national origin". "Their occupational background," he continued, "clearly indicates that they can quickly become useful members of our American communities. Their kinsmen have been vital factors in farm and workshop for generations. They have made lasting contributions to our arts and sciences and political life. They have been numbered among our honored dead on every battlefield of war."

"I urge the Congress," the message closes, "to press forward with its consideration of this subject and to pass suitable legislation as speedily as possible."

The President's statement came shortly after S.1563 was introduced in the Senate by Senator Homer Ferguson. An interesting feature of this bill is its intention to give priority to skilled workers and farmers. To permit comparison with the Stratton bill, which we published in Weekly Summary #4, we are reproducing the Ferguson bill. While it differs in certain important respects, the Ferguson bill appears to represent in the Senate a companion piece of legislation to the Stratton bill now under consideration by the House of Representatives.

80th Congress
1st Session

S. 1563

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES - JULY 2, 1947

Mr. Ferguson (for himself, Mr. Ball, Mr. Smith, Mr. Saltonstall, Mr. Bricker, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Hatch, Mr. McGrath and Mr. Morse) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

NEWS FROM AMERICA - continued

A B I L L

To authorize for a limited period of time the admission of certain displaced persons into the United States for permanent residence.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Emergency Displaced Persons Admission Act".

SECTION 2. When used in this Act, the term "displaced person" means--

(a) a person displaced from the country of his residence during World War II by forcible deportation;

(b) a person who is registered as a displaced person by the United Nations Relief Adminsitration, the International Governmental Committee on Refugees, or the International Refugee Organization;

(c) a person born in Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Austria, or Italy and who, during World War II, bore arms against the enemies of the United States and (1) is unable to return to the country of which he is a national for fear of political reprisal or (2) is unwilling to return to, or remain in, the country of which he is a national because of persecution or his fear of persecution on account of race, religion or political opinions.

SECTION 3. For a period of four years commencing on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, any displaced person applying for admission for permanent residence to the United States shall be admitted as a nonquota immigrant, if the displaced person is qualified under the immigration laws of the United States for admission for permanent residence.

SECTION 4. Priority under this Act shall be given, first, to orphans who are under twenty-one years of age and, second in the following order: To the widow, children, parents, and other relatives (within the fourth degree of consanguinity under common law) of citizens of the United States or of persons who served honorably in the armed forces of the United States during World War I or World War II. Subject to the above priorities, so far as practicable, there shall be admitted under the program contemplated by this Act persons possessed of special trades, skills, profession, or aptitudes as will best meet the economic needs of the United States and contribute to its cultural, religious, economic, or industrial welfare and prosperity.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General shall have authority, acting jointly, to prescribe appropriate regulations for the administration of this Act; and the President is authorized to utilize such agencies in the executive branch of the Government as he deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.