

27/6 - 18/9/1947

- 14 -

except for one piece on the Warsaw Ghetto. We had no opportunity to study this interesting phenomenon, which could probably be explained by the fact that the hardships of Cyprus, reminiscent of experiences in the concentration camps, have pushed the ghetto experiences into the background.

Newspapers and Books

The camps do not have a general newspaper. However, each movement has its own news bulletin, which is not on a high ^{level} ~~level~~. The few newspapers from Palestine and other countries are kept in the "Club rooms." The daily papers arrive so late, they often are not newsworthy. Recently two libraries have been started in both camps, thanks to a Palestinian Committee for Cyprus which sent in a collection of books. For 11,000 internees in Dekhelia there are 3,000 books. At present there are 4,000 readers registered in the libraries. Most of the books are ~~are~~ neither classic or modern, are in Hebrew, the rest in Yiddish and English. Most of the internees read Yiddish and Hebrew. In the last few weeks a shipment of worthwhile books has arrived but they are not for circulation because of the small number.

Sports

The existing sports groups in gymnastics, athletic games and football are organized in one federation. The demand for sports is great but there is insufficient equipment.

Special Problems

During our stay in Cyprus there were two problems in the camps which demanded our special attention. One was that of the North African Jews, the majority of whom was in the Garaolos (500 in number). They constitute a separate group and are not part of the social and cultural life of the camp, because of their language and cultural differences. As a result, there was much disappointment and resentment on the part of these people, who had the impression of being discriminated against.

Incidentally, this group that allegedly presented a problem, had the

greatest percentage of skilled laborers and people eager and able for pioneering work in Palestine.

Another problem is that of the disabled war veterans. Of 50 people interviewed from a group of 80, 27 were between the ages of 17 to 27 and 23 between the ages of 28 to 47. This group did not enjoy any of the privileges usually extended to ex-servicemen in other countries. Therefore, they showed much bitterness, disappointment and despair. As many as 40 out of this group of 50 had been classified in Soviet Russia as disabled; no provision was made to rehabilitate them.

INTERNAL

ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMPS

In the organization of the camps there are three major interrelated units:

1. The autonomous council of the internees
2. The American Joint Distribution Committee
3. The Army

The autonomous council of the internees which is dedicated to democratic principles is recognized by the Army, the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency. The people seem to place their full trust in it.

Each camp has its own Mazkirut (Secretariat), which is the highest administrative body. At the head of each group of camps (Ceraolos 4, Dekhelia 5) there is the Mazkirut Meshutefet (Central Secretariat), which is the highest executive unit within the council. Each camp is represented in the Mazkirut Meshutefet by two delegates, who are appointed on the basis of individual qualifications rather than on political affiliation. The Mazkirut Meshutefet serves as liaison between camp and Army as well as liaison between camp and other organizations.

The Mazkirut of each camp consists of eight members, one from each political movement, regardless of the size of its membership, who are chosen for an indefinite period. It is only when the internees show lack of confidence in

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