

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MISSION

Berlin Unit, US Hq Berlin District

APO 755, US Army

G-2, Doc. Section

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Berlin, 18th February 1946.

R E P O R T #9

To: David H. C L I F T ,
Library of Congress Mission, Francfort /M.

From: J. Zuckerman, L.o.C.M., Berlin.

Jewish books in Berlin.

[With reference to my report of February 14th I should like to add the following:

We have started the evacuation of the books from Muenchener Strasse and we hope that we shall have brought over all the material from Muenchener Strasse to our store-room by the end of this week.

I discussed the matter with Sgt. Child of the "Fine Arts and Archives"-Section and he entirely agreed with me that these books had to be taken away from the present store-room and I think he was grateful that we are doing the job for him.

I also discussed with him the future of the books stored at Eisenacher Strasse and Cpt. Hathaway and myself are trying to find adequate store-rooms for the books left at Eisenacher Strasse as well as for the books handed over without proper authorisation to "Preussische Staats-Bibliothek" and other libraries.

We agreed that the final decision as regards the material will have to be taken on a higher level, but that in the meantime all steps should be taken to avoid further dispersement of the books.- We thought that it would be possible to sort out a certain number of prayer-books and school-books without bibliographical value to be distributed among re-established Jewish synagogues and to D.F.camps.]

As regards the bulk of the material we thought it might be a good solution to use the collection as the basis for a new Library on Judaica which might be established on an international scale, perhaps under the auspices of UNO.

Such a library would be able to dispose over all those Jew' books which had been evacuated to places in Czechoslovaci

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Poland and localities in the Russian Zone.

In view of the great number of duplicates which this collection would contain, L.C.C. would be able to benefit directly from such a scheme and in any case I think it not unwise that we should have a word to say regarding the ultimate distribution of this material.

Provisions will certainly have to be taken concerning the claims of the former owners of the books and also a certain number of the books would have to be restored. I have no doubt that many former owners would renounce their claims if the material would be destined for the establishment of such a special Jewish library.

Mr. CHILD pointed out to me that one important man with whom this problem should be discussed would be Judge RIFKIN, General CLAY's consultant on Jewish affairs.

Mr. RIFKIN is stationed at Frankfurt and if you have a chance to see him it might be useful to mention the subject to him. I was also informed that Mr. Rifkin may soon come to Berlin in which case I shall take up the matter with him here.


J. ZUCKERMAN.