



Minutes of the First National Conference of Częstochowa Jews in Poland held on 19th and 20th June 1948

Attendance: 26 delegates and 42 guests.

The Conference is opened by the Chairman of the *Częstochower Landsleute Komitet* [Cz. Landsmann Committee] in Częstochowa, Mbr. Kac, who greets the delegates, guests and the representatives of the Central Committee of Polish Jews [CKŻP] and of the press. He invites to the Presidium Mbrs. Brener, Lajzerowicz, Altman, the representative of the Central Committee - Mbr. Szychatow and the representative of the press, Mbr. Bornsztajn. As record-keepers of the conference Mbrs. Krauze and Horonczyk and, as Chairman. Mbr. Abram Brum, who takes over the chairmanship and mentions, in his introductory words, the heroic struggle of our brothers in the Land of Israel. He speaks about the situation of the Jews in the whole world and he particularly lingers over the situation of the Jews in Democratic Poland [viz. The Polish People's Republic].

The representative of the CKŻP, Mbr. Szychatow, is given the floor to deliver the greeting. After the CKŻP representative's salutation, all Częstochowa's martyrs, who were murdered during Hitler's occupation, are honoured with one minute's silence.

The Chairman additionally reads out greeting telegrams from the Relief in New York, from *landsleute* in Argentina, from the Joint [JDC] in Poland and from the *Częstochowa* students' group at the University of Łódź. After reading out the all the salutations, the floor is given to the Chairman of the Regional Jewish Committee in Częstochowa, Mbr. L. Brener, for a lecture on the topic *Częstochowa Once and Today*. The lecture, which is based on historical materials, encompasses the history of the development of the Częstochowa Jews from the end on the 18th century to the present day. He mentions the heroic battles of our sisters and brothers during the bestial occupation. At the close, he speaks of the forthcoming work of Częstochowa's Surviving Remnant in building the settlement in the new Democratic Poland. Mbr. Brener ends his speech with the words, "We send our hearty greetings and thanks to all the Częstochowa Jews overseas who stand, since the time of the Liberation, with us and help us spiritually and materially in our building of this new life in Democratic Poland.

The delegate of the *Częstochowers* in Łódź, Mbr. Dr Lajzerowicz, is given the floor to deliver a lecture on "The *Goals and Tasks of the Landsmannschaften* [Associations of Fellow Townspeople]". He dwells mainly on the issue of assisting the productivity of Częstochowa Jews in Poland and of the necessity of an interest-free loans fund for workers.

The second day of the Conference - Sunday, 20th June 1948.

The Chairman is Mbr. Brum. He turns the Chairmanship over to Mbr. Altn [sic Altman] who invites, to the presidium, Mbrs. Fuks (Łódź), Brum (Wałbrzych), Kac (Częstochowa), Brener (Jewish Committee), Jakubowicz (Niederschlesien [Dolny Śląsk; Lower Silesia] and Granek (Religious *Gemeinschaft* [Community]).

Mbr. Brener is the first to take the floor for a social and financial report. The report spans from the day of the Liberation, i.e., 17th January 1945, to November 1947. The numbers report is an accurate one in all fields and deals with sums in excess of five million *gilden* [i.e., *złoty*]. The report of the *Częstochower Landsmannschaft* from November 1947 to the present day is delivered by the Chairman of the *Częstochower Landsmannschaft*, Mbr. Kac. To Mbr. Horowicz's question regarding aid from the *Częstochowers* in the Land of Israel, Mbr. Brener notes in his report that the *Częstochowers* in the Land of Israel had, in 1945, supported the *Częstochowers* with convoys of clothing and shoes. Dr Jeszaja [Szaja ?], being in *Częstochowa*, donates 50,000 *gilden* to the Children's Home.

Mbr. Brum delivers a report on the activities of the *landsmannschaft* in Niederschlesien, which encompasses the entire activity of the *landsmannschaft* there. Mbr. Fuks presents a report of the *Częstochower Landsmannschaft* in *Łódź*. He notes their activity in aiding sick and impoverished *Częstochowa* Jews living in *Łódź*. They arrange undertakings and gatherings there and help with what they can. Mbr. Fridman, from *Szczecin*, greets the conference and delivers a short report on the *Częstochowa* Jews who find themselves in *Szczecin*. From the *Częstochowa* Jews in Oberschlesien [*Górny Śląsk*; Upper Silesia], Mbr. Biber takes the floor. He greets the conference and provides a description of the continual active work of the *Częstochowers* in Oberschlesien for *Częstochowa*. Representing the *Częstochowers* in *Warsaw* is Mbr. Lewartowska, who delivers the report.

Once the reports had been delivered, Mbr. Lederman goes through all the goals and tasks of the Conference and the forthcoming work of the *Częstochowers*. Mbrs. Kempner, Izraelewicz, Rozanski, Kusznir, Landau, Horowicz Wolf, Jakubowicz and Szychatow take part in the ensuing discussion. Mbr. Brener sums up the entire discussion and, among other [things], together with Mbr. Erlich, he deals with the phenomenon of how extremely dynamic social activists are being pushed away from the work, which they used to perform to perfection and declared that the entire Conference takes this occurrence with deep embitterment. All the delegates and guests, respond warmly to the appeal concerning the reinstatement of Mbr. Erlich in the work for the *Częstochower Landsmannschaft*.

The social and financial report of Mbr. Brener and the report of Mbr. Kac are approved by the conference and are committed to print. At the same time, full acknowledgement is expressed to the Jewish Committee for its arduous and beneficial work in all fields of life in the Jewish settlement in *Częstochowa*, during the three and a half years since the Liberation.

Mbr. Lederman reads through the appended resolution, which is unanimously approved. After re-reading the resolution, the delegate of the *landsmannschaft* in Niederschlesien, Mbr. Brum, states that the gathering must take notice of the great benefits Mbr. Brener has brought to the *Częstochowers*, both during the gruesome occupation and also since the Liberation and express full acknowledgement and gratitude. Mbr. Brener requests that this issue be removed from the day's agenda, stipulating that by expressing trust and acknowledgement to the Jewish Committee of which he was Chairman, they had already thanked him of necessity. By the explicit request of Mbr. L. Brener, Mbr. Brum retracts his proposal.

At the conclusion of the Conference, a Central Management is elected comprising Mbrs. Kac, Lederman, Altman Szmul, Klajn (*Częstochowa*), Fuks, Rubinsztajn (*Łódź*) and Brum, Jakubowicz [and] Rozinski (Niederschlesien). As representatives are Mbrs. Horonczyk (*Częstochowa*) and Fridman (*Szczecin*).

With this, the second session concludes and all the delegates and guests visit the newly-walled cemetery, where respects are paid to all the *Częstochowa* martyrs. After this, the "Small Ghetto" and the Square of the Ghetto Fighters [*Plac Bohaterów Getta*] are visited.

The evening of the 20th [June]

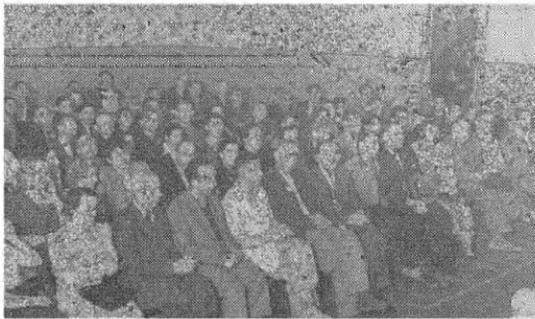
The delegates spend time with the children of the Children's Home and the Conference's closing ceremony is held, at which cultural and education questions are primarily discussed.

The Conference closes on 20th June at 11:00pm.

Chairman: Lederman

Secretary: N. Segal

Presidium Members: Jakubowicz, Rubinsztajn, Brener



*Delegates and guests at the meeting of the Częstochower Landsleute in Poland,
which took place on the 19th and 20th June 1948*