

128

~~140~~

M E M O R I A L.

128

Already before the closing of the Ghetto I imagined it would be a closed unity which would be able to support itself by oneself and which would have to regulate the whole inner life on own resources.

Therefore I turned to the mayor of Litzmanstadt by way of a letter in time, namely on 5th of April 1940, and presented my plan concerning the maintenance of daily life in the Ghetto and explained I had enough good and skilled workers of all sectors at my disposal. I asked for giving me the opportunity to organize work inside the Ghetto so the Ghetto community could be used productively for the authorities and city and thereby the livelihood of the population in the ghetto would be ensured at the same time.

That plan was approved by the authority and I got to work on regulating all living phenomena and otherwise on realizing the work program.

As early as the 13th of May 1940, this means immediately after the closure of the Ghetto I told the mayor about the number of registered dressmakers and laundry tailors and their efficiency.

Over time I managed to put several workshops and factories in operation despite of biggest difficulties, whereas I want to mention that the former owners of these had left them partly in a totally ruined estate, so I got these in repair with the raised resources for the Ghetto.

Until now I put in operation the following listed companies, whereas I watched out for the tidiness of the same as well as for the careful and neat execution of the works. I especially watched out for the impeccable and tidy execution of military orders and employed the best specialists for these.

128

C VIII / 2

Until now the following companies are working:

- 10 tailor-workshops,
- 1 laundry-sewing room,
- 1 textile-fabrication-department,
- 1 stitching-textile-fabrication,
- 1 hosiery-department,
- 8 shoemaker-workshops,
- 1 felt shoe-department,
- 1 quilt-department,
- 1 wallpaper-department,
- 1 rubber-sleeve-factory,
- 1 furriers-department,

- 1 hat-department,
- 1 tannery,
- 8 carpenter-departments,
- 1 metal-department,
- 1 waste material collection point

Furthermore under preparation:

- 3 further laundry-sewing rooms,
- 1 dye house,
- 1 down- and feather-department
- 1 goldsmiths-workshop

Furthermore I'm opening some companies for military deliveries. Even though the production rises consequently in these companies their income is not sufficient to erase the needs of the Ghetto population.

The implementation of the administrative authorized market quittance made it possible for me to collect the circulating "Reichsmark".

Furthermore I keep on confiscating resources, different goods and valuable items inside the Ghetto, of those who do not offer these goods voluntarily. These items are prepared by me to use them in whole to cover my bills for nutrition.

At the same time I opened up a contact point where gold, silver, gemstones, furs and other valuable items can be purchased informal. I also discharge these to the economy offices of the Ghetto.

Another source of income for me is the so called indirect tax, which I take from the earnings of the food selling.

With these resources I could exist until October 1940 without any grant from outwards. I am also striving to pay back the given loan, which I temporarily exploited only partially, as soon as possible.

Besides these measures I am still concerned about guaranteeing peace and order inside the Ghetto as well as about preventing the arisen smuggling according to my possibilities.

With my orders I organized the inner life of the Ghetto in such a way that on the one hand the office orders were executed and on the other hand my working and payment program could be realized unimpeded. I also placed particular emphasis on the maintenance of health, different illnesses and especially the dysentery epidemic posed great difficulties to me. Despite the primitive resources available to me I made up hospitals, outpatient clinics, rescue preparedness etc. in a very short time and thereby and because of my strict orders I succeeded in fighting the epidemic only with a small amount of medicals.

By this constructive and planned establishment of the inner life in the Ghetto I have been able to care for the temporarily unemployed as well as for the children, the ill ones and the old ones. As can be seen by the two attached announcements conc. the monetary support all that are really in need get the minimum of livelihood.

During the last week I also started the winter-action [Winteraktion] by providing the whole population with the necessary food for the winter months / appendix No. 3/.

All this and my ongoing efforts for my workshops and factories made it possible for me to raise the level of those immensely. Some holdings are working with two shifts already and now in nearly every holding we introduce two work shifts.

The working quality and the cleanness of the workshops were approved flawless by all commissions visiting.

Concerning the production it increased every week and would rise further if not for the last two measures conc. nutrition and illumination of the Ghetto. I fear a certain part of the services achieved so far could be reduced.

By delivering the finished bread out of the city every day a lot of bread harmful to health is being delivered inside. This was also found by the officials of the camp administration, the nutrition- and economic office, the secret state police and the municipal health department. Thus many diseases of the stomach are recorded.

Sometimes the bread is delivered with loss in weight. By closing the bakeries inside the Ghetto around 1.000 persons lost their existing, that is around 4.000 people who became totally breadless. Thereby an additional burden is put upon the caring budget around 40.000 MK monthly.

At the same time my housing budget is diminished of the income of flour selling, about 200.000 MK monthly.

The consequences of diminishing the bread- and grease-rations are even more serious. The worker who doesn't get enough bread and grease is not efficient enough to execute his work properly so the production is suffering.

Even if he receives the ration for hard working persons he only takes a small part for himself while saving the bigger part for his family, naturally. So he still stays hungry.

With the common malnutrition people are no longer resistant and very receptive for infections. Therefore I beg most polite to send flour further on instead of bread so I can have the bread baked inside the Ghetto again. Furthermore I ask politely for higher flour- and grease distribution. Concerning the illumination I want to ask most polite to allow me letting the light on after 8 p.m. inside the flats.

In this case I would largely order limited power consumption so the common consumption of power inside the flats would be enlarged a minimum.

Lithmannstadt, 23rd of November 1940
Ghetto.

/-/ Ch. Rumkowski
The Eldest of the Jews
in Litzmannstadt.

128

Translated by Regina Sandler and Giles Bennett