

# Big Welcome in Montreal and Toronto To Jewish Delegates From the U.S.S.R.



More than 27,000 people turned out to welcome Solomon Michoels and Itzik Feffer to Montreal and Toronto last week and to cheer their appeals for the utmost unity of all groups and between Canada and the Soviet Union in the struggle to rid the world of Hitlerism. Sholem Asch, world-renowned Jewish writer, is shown at left. He accompanied Michoels, centre, and Feffer, right, on their visit to Canada. The two guests toured the United States.

Professor Michoels, right, is shown giving an autograph to one of the many thousands of Torontonians who heard his stirring address at the Maple Leaf Gardens. Throughout their trip in the U.S. and Canada Michoels and his colleague stressed that victory over Hitlerism should be the only concern of every man and woman.

**M**ORE than 27,000 Jews and non-Jews last week turned out at great rallies in Montreal and Toronto to welcome Professor Solomon Michoels and Itzik Feffer and to pledge greater unity for winning of the war.

Every section of the community was represented at receptions accorded the Soviet-Jewish representatives in Canada's two largest cities, where they stressed the need for "unity and brotherhood of the United Nations" in the struggle to rid the world of fascist aggression.

At Montreal, Michoels and Feffer were received by Mayor Adhemar Raynault, were guests of honor at two luncheons attended by representatives of Jewish life, visited the grave of Reuben Brainin, one of the greatest figures in Hebrew literature, met with prominent educators at McGill University, and addressed a meeting of 15,000 people at the Forum.

At Toronto they were welcomed by Mayor Conboy, were guests at a civic luncheon sponsored by city officials, were given receptions by Lieutenant-Governor Albert Matthews and the Canadian Jewish Congress, and in the evening spoke to 12,500 Torontonians at the Maple Leaf Gardens.

## Accompanied by Noted Writer

They were accompanied on their visits to Montreal and Toronto by Sholem Asch, the great Jewish writer who has won world renown for his writings on Jesus and immigrant life in America. Prominent members of the Canadian Jewish Congress who met them were S. Brodman, of Montreal, and A. B. Bennett of Toronto. The visit of the Soviet-Jew-

ish delegates was the occasion for the greatest demonstration of Jewish unity yet seen in Canada. It also placed emphasis on Jewish-Christian fraternity in the war against the Axis and called forth declarations on the need for Soviet-Canadian friendship from government heads and leading citizens of all faiths and creeds.

All-inclusive unity at home and among the United Nations was the central theme that ran through all the declarations of the two Soviet Jews, who have won high honors in their native land for their services to the arts and the struggle against Hitlerism.

"Unity is the surest guarantee for victory," soldier-poet Feffer said in Montreal. "He who speaks against the unity of our peoples aids the enemies. He who speaks against the Soviet Union acts against the interests of our people. He who stands on the sidelines and remains indifferent to the crucial events of our time, postpones the day of victory and helps to increase the number of victims."

## Must Hate The Enemy

"You young people in this audience," Michoels said at the Maple Leaf Gardens, "you must remember that if you desire to know the smile of a woman, you must reserve a corner in your heart for hate — hate against the enemy. And you elders, you who desire to worship, to practice your faith, in peace and freedom—send forth your sons to the battlefield with your blessings."

"We cannot rest, we cannot go to bed at night, without first asking ourselves the question: 'Could we have done more today to win the war?'"

In a message to Michoels and Feffer read to the Montreal rally Prime Minister King said:

"I trust that this visit of the official delegates of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of the Soviet Republic will contribute to the growing understanding and increasing friendship between all the peoples of both our countries. This friendship is essential for the winning of the war—and will be no less necessary after the war to maintain an enduring peace."

In both cities Michoels and Feffer described the Nazi atrocities that had wiped out 4,000,000 Jews in Europe, one-quarter of all the Jews in the world.

## Pay Tribute to Canadian Army

"Let us strengthen even further the friendship between all men who love freedom," urged Feffer, who rose from the rank of private to lieutenant-colonel in the Red Army. "Let us increase our participation in the war against the Hitlerite hordes and thus hasten the day of victory. Death to fascism! Let our every act, our every heartbeat hearken to the call of battle, the call of victory."

Michoels, director of the Moscow Jewish State Theatre, world-famed interpreter of Shakespeare and winner of the Order of Lenin, speaking a few hours after the unconditional surrender of Italy, paid tribute to "the valiant Canadian Army", hailing the Allied victory in Italy.

On the previous evening he told the Forum rally at Montreal:

"It is evening here in your country, but the day is breaking over the battle-scarred fields of my homeland. The night is bloody, a night of battle for the very life of the people, and the sun rising over the ruins that were the homes

of my countrymen will witness new and more determined struggles in which the people of the Soviet Union are defending their holy freedom, their national honor, and their right for happiness and joy, the right to proudly bear the name of man—Russian, American, Englishman or Jew."

## Hear Greetings From Einstein

Mr. Bennett, Toronto Jewish Congress president, declared that the friendship and co-operation between the Jews

and other peoples of Canada and the Soviet Union must be continually strengthened.

Both meetings at Toronto and Montreal heard messages of greetings from Professor Albert Einstein via telephone.

I. Toumkin, charge d'affaires of the Soviet Legation at Ottawa, saw the enthusiastic welcome accorded Michoels and Feffer as "an expression of sympathy" with the peoples of the Soviet Union. He expressed confidence that Soviet-Canadian friendship would be closer than ever after the war.