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Department 1.

Office 2 (in charge of Colonies).

November 16, 1843.

No. 15162.

To Minister of State Property

Kherson Gubernia Administration reported to me regarding the report received from the Administrator of Jewish Colonies that explains that in the five Jewish colonies established in 1841, there are the following number of residential houses: in Lvov – 119, in Novy Berislav – 92, in Novopoltavka – 150, in Romanovskaya – 132, and in Malaya Sejdemenukha – 35. Jews need to build synagogues and prayer houses to pray according to the Jewish tradition. In order to do that, the poor residents are asking the government’s permission set up synagogues and prayer houses, for which permission was granted.

Paragraph 81 of the Regulations concerning Jews of April 13, 1835, approved by His Majesty, directs that in each town or settlement where the number of Jewish houses does not exceed 30, there could be one prayer house; where the number of houses does not exceed 80, Jews could have one synagogue, in addition to the prayer house; where the number of houses exceeds 80, they are allowed to establish one school for each 30 houses or one synagogue for each 80 houses. Based on these directions, the Administrator of the Colonies is suggesting to establish in the Colonies:

In Novy Berislav - one synagogue and one prayer house;

In Malaya Sejdemenukha – one prayer house;

In Romanovskaya and Novopoltavka – one synagogue and two prayer houses in each.

However, to determine what the amount of the collected voluntary donations will fund, the Administrator of Colonies suggests that the Administration of the gubernia considers, based on item 20 of paragraph 80 of the presented statement, send an artist to render layouts and facades for the construction of synagogues and prayer houses. It also advises that, as a result of the permission to collect voluntary donations, in order to carry out the order of the Administration, he will require the village departments to provide officially stamped paper for issuance of identifications and paper for assembling corded books, and also signed statements from the communities that they guarantee the loyalty of their chosen landowners and from the representatives themselves, that they vow to honor the guarantees and to compensate any wasteful spending, according to the law.

Based on the above, the Kherson gubernia administration directed lieutenant colonel Demidov to immediately carry out his suggestion regarding the release of the Jews to collect voluntary donations for the construction of synagogues and prayer houses in the Colonies and, upon their return, to report to the Administration the amount of the collected funds, so that depending on the amount it will be possible to begin rendering plans and facades of the buildings, because until the amounts are collected this task cannot be estimated.

It is my duty to advise Your Excellency about the report of the Kherson gubernia administration and about the directions given.