



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו - יורק

קונסול כללי

24 January 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin,

It was wonderful to see you at the Consulate for the annual commemoration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and I wanted to thank you for joining us and for gracing the event with your eloquent words.

Your well-known commitment to civic improvement and the Jewish community have been of tremendous help to me during my tenure in New York, and I have always known that, should I require assistance, I can count on Martin Begun.

Though I will soon return home to Jerusalem, it is my hope that we will stay in touch and continue to maintain our friendship. With best wishes and warm, personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General

Life

1/30/97

Dear Martin,

Re: My New Year's
resolution to open my mail.
I am very proud of your
accomplishments as President
of the ICRC and am
happy to enclose a
contribution in support of your
mission. I hope I have not
been entirely responsible for the
roller coaster ride.
Love
Louise



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

FLOYD H. FLAKE
SIXTH DISTRICT
NEW YORK

January 31, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York
711 3rd Avenue, 12th Floor
New York New York 10017

Dear Mr. Begun:

I wish to thank you for your continued friendship and support. I truly cherish the warm and lasting relations that we have built over the years. The Israeli Consulate's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration was a wonderful occasion in which to renew our beliefs and our confidence in the ideals that Dr. King brought forth.

In the coming months, I would like to meet with you again to discuss other matters that I believe are critical to relations between our communities as well as the future health of the city. I believe that we have a responsibility to build more cooperative public and private relationships between African Americans and Jews. Too often the media and irresponsible people on both sides have sought to poison the wells of cooperation between people of good will. I will contact you in the near future to set a time when both of us are in New York City.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

FLOYD H. FLAKE
Member of Congress

FHF/pcf

February 26, 1997
19 Adar Aleph 5757

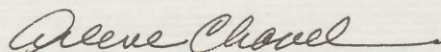
Dean Martin Begun
Vice President for External Affairs
New York University School of Medicine
550 1st Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear Dean Begun,

Chana Zweiter, director of The ROSH PINA Mainstreaming Network, and I join in extending good wishes to you and Louise on the occasion of your marriage. We hope that you will share and enjoy many years together.

You and I had met only a short time ago. At the Jewish Community Relations Council installation, I heard the tributes to your involvement in the Jewish community. And in your office, with Mr. LeRoy Carmichael, I saw the sense of purpose that you bring to your public activities. It is a pleasure to now have this opportunity to wish you much happiness in your private life.

Sincerely,



Arlene Chavel
Coordinator, American Friends

RONALD S. LAUDER
SUITE 4200
767 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 10153

March 10, 1997

Martin S. Begun
President
Michael S. Miller
Executive Director
Jack D. Weiler Center for Intergroup Relations
711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Martin and Michael,

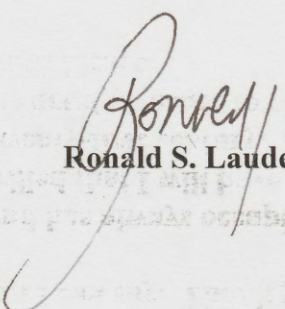
I appreciate your kind words on my election as President of the Jewish National Fund more than I can say. Thank you.

The Jewish National Fund has always occupied a very special place in my heart, and I am thrilled that I will have the opportunity to spearhead its growth into the twenty-first century. Since JNF embodies the promise of Israel, it gives me great pleasure to commit my energies to assuring its strong and prosperous future.

Again, it is gratifying to have your support in this undertaking which means so much to me.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,



Ronald S. Lauder



CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE

April 10, 1997

Dear Mr. Begun:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding your endorsement of New York State Senator Franz S. Leichter to be our Ambassador to Austria. I appreciate your writing.

I will forward your letter of support to Bob Nash, Director of Presidential Personnel, for his review. Your input in identifying quality individuals is valued and appreciated.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Erskine B. Bowles".

Erskine B. Bowles

Martin S. Begun
President
JCRC of New York, Inc.
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017



**Jewish
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OF NEW YORK, INC.

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 United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
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 WIZO-Women's International Zionist Organization
 Women's American ORT, New York District
 Workmen's Circle
 Zionist Organization of America

The JCRC is a beneficiary of the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

April 15, 1997

Dear Friend:

The Jewish Community Relations Council, along with A Living Memorial to the Holocaust - Museum of Jewish Heritage, the Battery Park City Authority, the United States Postal Service and Congressman Tom Lantos, invites you to join us in celebration of the issuance of the Raoul Wallenberg stamp.

We will gather in the shadow of the Museum building, located in Battery Park City, on Friday, May 2nd, at 11:45 a.m. for a ceremony in honor of this heroic individual and rescuer, and the stamp that will bear his image. It is a privilege for the JCRC to co-host this event and we look forward to sharing this occasion with you.

Public parking is available close to the event location, off Little West Street. The following subways will bring you to the Museum:

- 1, 9 to South Ferry
- 4, 5 to Bowling Green
- N, R to South Ferry
- J to Broad Street
- A, E, C, 2, 3 to World Trade Center/Chambers Street

Please R.S.V.P. to (212) 983-4800 ext. 151.

Sincerely,

Martin
 Martin S. Begun
 President

Michael S. Miller
 Michael S. Miller
 Executive Director



SOUTH AFRICAN CONSULATE-GENERAL
333 EAST 38TH STREET 9TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10016
(212) 213-4880 FAX (212) 213-0102

Hon. Martin Begin
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
of New York City, Inc.
711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10017

21 April 1997

Dear Sir,

I have had the honour and pleasure of meeting Mr. Michael S. Miller and Ms. Harriet Mandel of your organization.

Kindly be informed that the South African Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Franklin Sonn and the South African Consulate General, in our efforts to build and strengthen relations between our organizations and countries, avail ourselves for an opportunity to host a future function of the Jewish Community Relations Council at your discretion.

I hope that you would grant our proposal the benefit of a favourable consideration.

Sincerely,

212

SALIM AZIZ
DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL

cc Mr Michael Miller
Ms Harriet Mandel

H.M.
4/28
OK.
To arrange
M.



COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
1 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2341
(212) 669-3500

ALAN G. HEVESI
COMPTROLLER

April 21, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
JCRC
711 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin:

Thank you for joining me at our breakfast meeting on April 16th.

Your presence gave me the opportunity to better understand some of the concerns of the Jewish communal leadership and to make available to you the resources of the Comptroller's Office. We all strive to improve the quality of life of all New Yorkers and I look forward to working with you as we face the challenges that confront the people of our city.

We will be following up on your suggestions to both review the potential for single program monitoring by the City and State and centralizing Management Information Systems for social service programs. If you have any information for us on either of these two topics please contact Steve Newman at 669-3664. If you want to participate in discussions on either of the above topics, please notify Pinchus Hikind at 669-3323 or Eli Chomsky at 669-3899. In our audit and policy plans for the fiscal year that begins July 1, we will strongly consider reviews of both HMO managed care and of space utilization in public schools. We will shortly look at the property tax liability of non-profits when they purchase a new facility.

The suggestions to create a mechanism to provide the public complete information on welfare reform and its potential impacts are intriguing. We will look at how best we can be helpful.

Best wishes to you and your family for a very happy and healthy Passover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan G. Hevesi".

Alan G. Hevesi

AGH:ph

A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST

MUSEUM
OF
JEWISH
HERITAGE

May 6, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council of NY
711 Third Avenue
12th Floor
New York, NY 10017

David Altshuler
Director

Dear Martin,

On behalf of Robert Morgenthau and the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for your initiative and leadership during the planning and execution of the Raoul Wallenberg Stamp Ceremony. It was an honor to hold such a meaningful commemorative event in the shadow of the Museum building, and your stewardship of the proceedings, as the President of the JCRC as well as a member of the board of the Battery Park City Authority, was most meaningful. The Board and leadership of the Museum are always aware of the many ways that you continue to show your steadfast support for our project, and we are most grateful.

Additionally, I would like to compliment you on the extraordinary efforts that (1) Michael Miller, (2) Susan Green and (3) Harriet Mandel have put forth during the multi-tiered planning of this collaborative effort. In addition to making sure that the necessary elected officials and VIP's received invitations to the event, your organization's RSVP phone line was most helpful, and Susan and Harriet made themselves available to the Museum staff at all times over the past few weeks. It has been a pleasure to work with the JCRC, and we certainly look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on future events.

Our gratitude, once again, for the many ways that you and the JCRC are supporting the Museum during this most important inaugural year. I wish you the greatest success with your events surrounding Jewish Heritage Week, and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Warm regards,

David Altshuler

Thank you for your
very kind words about me.

RKK&G MUSEUM AND CULTURAL FACILITIES CONSULTANTS INC

ARTHUR ROSENBLATT FAIA
ROBERT E. KUPIEC AIA
NICHOLAS P. KOUTSOMITIS AIA
MARIA CRISTINA GOMEZ ASSOC AIA

6 May, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
New York University
550 First Avenue
N.Y., N.Y. 10016

Dear Martin,

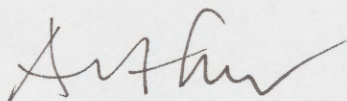
I was so pleased and so proud to be able to attend the Raoul Wallenberg celebration at the site of the Holocaust Memorial/Museum of Jewish Heritage.

I was equally proud of you and your role in this important event.

As the first director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, I know, first hand, how difficult is your task.

My sincerest best wishes to you, your wife and family on this extraordinary event.

Sincerely,



Arthur Rosenblatt FAIA
AR/ab
Encls

E MAIL: RKKG@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

48 W 25TH STREET NY NY 10010 TEL 212 807.0342 FAX 212 627.0038



CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWEDEN
NEW YORK

May 9, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council of NY
711 Third Avenue, 12th fl.
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Begun,

I would like to thank you and your collaborators warmly for arranging the stamp ceremony honoring Raoul Wallenberg.

As Swedes we are proud of Raoul Wallenberg and other Swedes who acted decisively to protect and help members of the Jewish communities in Europe during these dark years in European history. Raoul Wallenberg has showed us all that one man can make a difference.

At some time convenient to you I would like to know more about the works of JCRC.

Yours sincerely,

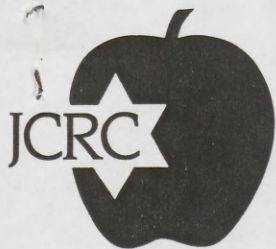
Dag Sebastian Ahlander
Consul General

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WIZO-Women's International Zionist Organization
Women's American ORT, New York District
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The JCRC is a beneficiary of the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

June 2, 1997

TO: Officers and Board of Directors

FROM: Martin S. Begun, President
Michael S. Miller, Executive Director

* * * * *

We hope you were able to view this year's Salute to Israel Parade. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. As you know, the JCRC, with your support, played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of this unique event. We are enclosing a copy of the Parade program which gives special thanks to the JCRC and its staff.

You will be pleased to know that the debt incurred by the JCRC for the 1996 Parade has been paid in full, and the 1997 Parade was fully funded.

We look forward to playing an even greater role as plans are launched for next year's Israel Jubilee Parade.



SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE
June 1, 1997 ♦ 12:00 Noon

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INTRODUCTION Ruth Popkin
GREETINGS David Mann
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PRAYER FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL Rabbi Alvin Kass
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MEMORIAL FOR THE FALLEN Ira Heller
BLOWING OF THE SHOFAR AND INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME
 Dr. Alvin Schiff
 Member, Advisory Council, Joint Authority for Zionist Education, WZO
HATIKVAH & STAR SPANGLED BANNER Ira Heller

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DR. WILLIAM B. HELMREICH President, Israel Tribute Committee
MR. MARTIN S. BEGUN President, Jewish Community Relations Council of NY
HON. RUDOLPH GIULIANI Mayor of the City of New York
HON. ALFONSE D'AMATO United States Senator
AMBASSADOR COLETTE AVITAL Israeli Consul General in New York
HON. DAVID PELEG Acting Israeli Permanent Representative to the UN
HON. SHELDON SILVER Speaker of the New York State Assembly
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HON. ROBERT MORGENTHAU New York County District Attorney
HON. CHARLES J. HYNES Kings County District Attorney

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HON. GARY ACKERMAN, HON. ELLIOT ENGEL, HON. BENJAMIN GILMAN,
 HON. CAROLYN MALONEY, HON. TOM MANTON, HON. JERROLD NADLER

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Musical entertainment provided by the AMIR AND RON ORCHESTRA

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Ivan and Lisa Kaufman

Anonymous

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK

Martin S. Begun, President - Michael S. Miller, Executive Director
Jennifer Glick, Joel Goldman, Susan Green, David Pollock

THE SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE EXPRESSES DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO:

Consulate General of Israel in New York

The Board of Jewish Education of New York - Philip Schatten, President, David Mann, Executive Vice President
Louise Greilsheimer, Larry Silverstein, Stephen Solender - UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York

The Jewish National Fund - Ronald S. Lauder, President

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Mike Burstyn

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Quest Junior Drum and Bugle Corps, Brooklyn, NY

Sunrisers Drum and Bugle Corps, Westchester, NY
Unico Band, Shenandoah, PA
New York City Police Band, New York, NY
Great Neck South High School Band, Great Neck, NY
Spirit of Newark Drum and Bugle Corps, Newark, NJ
Harrison Bushwackers, Norwalk, CT
New Jersey Field Music, Westfield, NJ



UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

We help 4.5 million people a year. One at a time.

Stephen D. Solender
Executive Vice President

June 3, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
N.Y.U. Medical Center
4550 First Avenue
New York, NY 10016-6481

Dear Marty:

You certainly deserve an enormous amount of credit for having assured that the Israeli Day Parade would be successful.

I am particularly aware of how difficult it was to initiate this effort this year. We are all deeply grateful to you for your leadership.

Thank you again.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

Stephen D. Solender

United Jewish Appeal-Federation Philanthropies of New York, Inc.
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UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

We help 4.5 million people a year. One at a time.

June 4, 1997

Mr. Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Inc.
711 3rd Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Begun:

The strength of our domestic committees has always been its highly qualified people, many of whom have had extensive agency experience. As we begin to plan our Planning and Allocations Committee and subcommittees for the 1997-98 year, I am seeking nominations from among past or present members of your Board or committees to work in the Planning and Allocations System.

The nominee will, of course, have to be willing to allot significant time to this assignment. The person should also be committed to our overall goal and participate in the UJA-Federation's Annual Campaign in a meaningful way.

This year, the Planning and Allocations System has successfully distributed more than \$42,000,000 to UJA-Federation's network of agencies. We are searching for devoted members who can ensure that our Jewish community's philanthropic dollars are meeting the most critical needs.

I would appreciate your contacting Ann Schuster, the Planning and Allocations Executive, at (212) 836-1293 by June 20th with the names of anyone you would like to nominate.

As with such past requests, please do not discuss this request in advance with any candidate to assure their concurrence, since we will not be able to invite all of those who will be nominated through this process. I would not wish anyone in the UJA-Federation family to be disappointed.

Many thanks for giving this your attention.

Sincerely,

Louise B. Greilsheimer
President

cc: Mr. Michael Miller, Executive Director
Fredric Yerman

United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, Inc.
130 East 59th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 (212) 980-1000 FAX (212) 888-7538



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Neil B. Goldstein
Regional Director

June 9, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
J.C.R.C.
711 Third Avenue
12th Fl.
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin:

Congratulations on your June 18th re-election to the position of President of the J.C.R.C. I am confident that under your leadership, the organization will continue to serve the New York Jewish community with even greater success than before. Your dedication, sincerity and insights for what needs to be done are assets that have endeared you to friends and colleagues alike, and I am honored to count myself among them.

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the dinner being held in your honor on Wednesday, June 18th, but I want you to know that I am filled with pride and joy for you in this most recent achievement. I wish you much luck and look forward to working with you on behalf of our mutual interests. Mazel tov!

Sincerely,

Neil B. Goldstein
Regional Director

NG:mp



UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

Dear Marty,

June 11, 1997

Congratulations on another year of growth and success at JCRF. I am sorry that I am unable to attend, but they have me giving a speech at the same time!

It is fun working with you and I look forward to this next year.

Best wishes

Louise

The New York Times

229 WEST 43 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

June 19, 1997

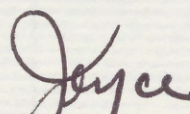
Mr. Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
of New York
711 Third Avenue
12th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Martin:

It was so good of you to write.

I am excited about my new assignment -- and intimidated. Your kind words of support are most welcome. I look forward to working with you in my new capacity.

Sincerely,



Joyce Purnick
Metropolitan Editor

/b

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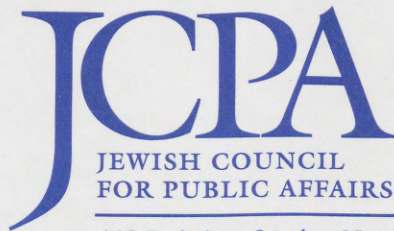
Sheldon Sollosy, Rhode Island

Arthur Stern, Los Angeles

Dr. Stephan Stone, Springfield, IL

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Betsy Winkelman, Detroit



443 Park Ave. South • New York, NY 10016.7322 • 212.684.6950 • Fax 212.686.1353 • www.jcpany.org

June 24, 1997

Martin Begun
JCRC of New York
711 Third Avenue
12th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Marty:

I wanted to drop you a quick note of apology for having missed your annual meeting on June 18. I am sorry I could not attend, but I look forward to working with you in the future.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Rubin
Lawrence Rubin

cc: Michael Newmark



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

OFFICE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL

TEL: (212) 499-5450
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FAX COVER

TO: Martin Begun

FAX NUMBER: 725.2140

FROM: Ambassador Ar-tal

DATE: June 24 1997

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 3

MESSAGE:



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק
קונסול כללי

June 24, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin,

Any news on the creation of a 50th Anniversary Committee for New York?

Time is running out, and I am afraid that unless we have an overall body to coordinate activities, we will run into difficulties.

I am eagerly waiting to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

June 24, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin,

I have just learned that the Philadelphia Jewish Community organized a parade on Israel's Independence Day. Some 20,000 people participated.

I believe it would be a good idea to invite major Jewish communities around the country to send delegations to next year's special 50th Anniversary Parade. That would turn it into a real national event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Colette'.

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General



Jewish
Community
Relations
Council
OF NEW YORK, INC

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COVER SHEET

DATE: 6/26/97

TIME: _____

FROM: Michael Miller

Please deliver the following 2 pages (which includes this cover letter) to:

NAME: Martin Begun

FACS.#: _____

REMARKS: _____

If copy is illegible or if not all pages are received, please call immediately for retransmission.

Operator Name: _____

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JACK D. WEILER CENTER FOR INTERGROUP RELATIONS
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Jun 25 1997 13:02:45 Via Fax

->

JCRC

Page 002

ISRAELLine

Israel Line can be heard 24 hours a day by calling (212) 499-LINE

to the Knesset at that time. Netanyahu's decision was based on his inability to reach an agreement with Minister Ariel Sharon, the leading candidate for Minister of Finance.

Netanyahu and Sharon are scheduled to meet today for the third time within the past 48 hours.

The main dispute preventing Sharon's acceptance of the Finance portfolio is predicated on his demand to join the Security Cabinet as well as his desire for continued control of the Land Administration.

According to HA'ARETZ, if an agreement is not reached, Sharon is expected to tell Netanyahu that he will remain in his current position as Minister of National Infrastructure.

Netanyahu is expected to present the nominations to the Knesset on Monday, June 30. He is also expected to meet today with Foreign Minister David Levy, the Geshar faction leader, to settle the dispute that led to the five Geshar abstentions in the no-confidence vote.

50th Anniversary Celebrations to Begin on First Night of Chanukah

The Ministerial Committee for Symbols and Ceremonies approved on Tuesday a preliminary schedule for the State of Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations, HA'ARETZ reported. The management of the 50th Anniversary Association presented the program.

According to the program, 50th anniversary celebrations will begin on the first night of Chanukah during the traditional candle lighting at the President's house.

The main event of the celebrations will be held at the Ramat Gan National Stadium, where the achievements of the State of Israel, its fight for independence and the history of the Zionist Movement will be celebrated.

Additional scheduled events include the Prime Minister's Economic Conference and a parade saluting minorities in Israel.

The budget for the 50th Anniversary Association is 200 million shekels (approximately \$60 million).

Clinton Appoints Indyk as Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs

United States President Bill Clinton decided to appoint current U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs, Israel Radio, KOL YISRAEL, reported. Indyk is scheduled to complete his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Israel this summer.

An official statement released by the White House said that Indyk will aid the Secretary of State in developing U.S. policy in the Middle East and North Africa, and will oversee the implementation of this policy.

Today's Israel Line was prepared by Osnat Yanushevsky-Yacoby and Max Gershenoff.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS COVER SHEET

DATE: 6/27/97

TIME: _____

FROM: Michael Miller

Please deliver the following 2 pages (which includes this cover letter) to:

NAME: Martin Begun

FACS.#: _____

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LESTER POLLACK
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

June 26, 1997

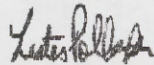
Mr. Michael Miller
Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Michael:

I am pleased to enclose a check of the Pollack Family
Foundation in the sum of \$10,000 representing our annual
contribution.

We are please to support you and the JCRC and all of its
endeavors.

Sincerely,



Lester Pollack



Jewish
Community
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OF NEW YORK, INC.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COVER SHEET

DATE: 6/30
TIME: 11:25 am
FROM: M Miller

Please deliver the following 4 pages (which includes this cover letter) to:

NAME: Martin Begun

FACS.#: _____

REMARKS: Please call ASAP

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Phone Number: _____

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711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel. (212) 983-4800 Facs. (212) 983-4084



June 29, 1997

Mr. Michael Miller
Director
Israel Tribute Committee
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Miller,

The Golden Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion which demands a suitable commemoration in the world's most prestigious newspaper, the "newspaper of record," which is, of course, *The New York Times*.

Our organization, which has more than 30 years of experience in advertising and representing the foremost products of the Jewish community, and which, for several years, produced the acclaimed "Guide to Jewish Living," has committed itself to producing an original publication of the very highest editorial and graphic quality entitled "Israel at 50," and to be distributed as a special supplement to Times readers on *Parade Sunday, 1998*.

Filled with archival black and white and color photographs, interviews with Jewish leaders of then and now, and predictions by some of our finest writers and commentators about what the future holds for the Jewish State, "Israel at 50" is sure to become an instant collector's item. That in itself is a compelling reason why it should bear the official imprimatur of New York's Israel Tribute Committee. "Israel at 50" will set the stage and serve as a guide to the celebration of this landmark occasion by the leaders and prime constituents of the organized New York Jewish community. It will make a dramatic statement for all the world to see and appreciate about the dream, the promise and the dramatic reality and fulfillment of the State of Israel today, as it marks its 50th anniversary of existence.

We project "Israel at 50" to be an 80 page publication that Jewish households will save as a precious memento of a truly historic occasion, as a family heirloom to be treasured for generations. We propose that it become an official publication, sponsored by the Israel Tribute Committee. With the prestige of the committee behind "Israel at 50," we can be assured that every major segment within the greater New York Jewish community will be willing and eager to participate, both editorially and through paid advertising. The professionally run ad sales campaign leading up to the publication date on *Parade Sunday* will add to the sense of excitement and community involvement over the

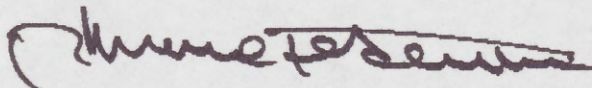
occasion, and complement all of the other activities in the worldwide Jewish community that will be celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary.

The sponsorship fee to the Israel Tribute Committee will be \$200,000. In return for that fee, the Israel Tribute Committee's sponsorship will appear prominently on the cover, and the editorial page. The committee will be given at least 15 color or black and white pages in which to project your message and goals (a substantial discount over the normal advertising cost of a similar amount of space). Our team of writers and graphic artists will fashion that material into an outstanding presentation.

We request your cooperation by giving us access and introductions to potential advertisers in the publication. We ask that you encourage them to join in solidarity with the Israel Tribute Committee to allow the publication to achieve its tremendous potential as a rallying point for the entire community.

Even though Parade Sunday is almost a year away, we must start immediately on this project in order to assure its success. We are committed to making "Israeli at 50" a beautiful, informative, entertaining and ultimately successful publication which will admirably serve the goals of the Israel Tribute Committee and in which you will take great pride and satisfaction.

We eagerly await your response, and look forward to working with you on this exciting project.



Reuven Federman



The New York Times

229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

June 17, 1997

Mr. Rudy Federman
Guide to Jewish Living
54-15th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219
Fax No. 353-2910

Dear Mr. Federman:

your advertorial. "Salute to Israel at 50" has been reserved as follows:

INSERTION DATE: May 17, 1998* NO. OF PAGES: 80 Pages
*or TBD based on "Israel at 50" parade in New York City.

ZONES/DISTRIBUTION: 500,000 - Greater New York City.

See Attached Maps

APPROX. CIR.: 500,000 APPROX. PRINT ORDER: 500,000

Circulation may fluctuate minimally. If circulation decreases, remaining inserts will be distributed in appropriate or adjacent zones. If circulation increases, reductions will be spread throughout appropriate zones or you may increase your print run. You may give alternate fluctuation handling instructions if you wish.

The following requirements must be adhered to:

1. Your insert must carry "Advertising Supplement to The New York Times" on the top outside cover. "ADVERTISEMENT" must be centered horizontally at the top of any advertorial page, in addition to the requirements as outlined in the special advertorial copy requirements.
2. Minimum: 4" x 6"; Maximum: 11" x 13 1/2" (13 1/2" is the spine).
3. Inserts that contain copy or illustrations that are, in the opinion of The Times, offensive to good taste or which otherwise fail to meet The Times's standards of advertising acceptability will not be accepted for distribution.
4. Deadline for cancellation and/or changes in distribution: Tuesday, 3/31/98
5. 15 samples MUST be delivered by 20 days, prior to the insertion date; final shipment is due Friday, 10 days prior. Send to: TBD
6. Enclosed is our packing and shipping booklet.

RALPH DICKERSON, JR.
99 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

July 3, 1997

Mr. Martin S. Begun
President

Mr. Michael S. Miller
Executive Director

Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Inc.
Jack D. Weiler Center for Intergroup Relations
711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin and Michael:

As always, you are very generous and thoughtful to include me in this important mission.

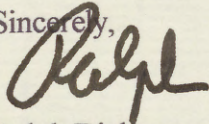
I have not had the opportunity in my years of service with the United Way to go to Israel, therefore I remain most eager to make this trip.

Unfortunately, the time in August is not convenient for me, but please know of my continued interest. Would you be able to let me know, before year end, of the date of another trip. As I said to Steve Solender recently, that I would go with a smaller group, at another time during the year would be fine with me.

Best wishes on this important journey.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,



Ralph Dickerson, Jr.

RD/wbp

c: Steve Solender

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL



הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

July 10, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Martin,

I know that we have discussed the possible participation of Howard Rubenstein on the 50th Anniversary Committee. I thought, however, that Ruder and Finn might be more appropriate in dealing with the promotion of our cultural program.

Dena Merriam, one of the senior partners at Ruder-Finn, specializes in such promotions, and her work is very impressive. I therefore take the liberty to suggest that we consider her for the job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Avital'.

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסולריה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק
קונסול כללי

July 10, 1997

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Sincerely,

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General



**Jewish
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OF NEW YORK, INC.

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711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017
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National Council of Young Israel
New York Board of Rabbis
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WIZO—Women's International Zionist Organization
Women's American ORT, New York District
Workmen's Circle
Zionist Organization of America

The JCRC is a beneficiary of the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

July 10, 1997

H.E. Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations Secretariat
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York we want to express our dismay at recent events at the United Nations related to the Middle East which we find objectionable.

In reading the Report of the Secretary General submitted in accordance with G.A. Resolution ES-10/2, we believe the Report goes much beyond the mandate of the resolution. The tenor and substance of this document raises serious and questionable political issues which seek to undermine Israel and, therefore, subvert the peace process. The American Jewish community sees the Report as flawed, and detrimental to peace in the Middle East.

There are many examples of such excesses contained in the Report which have, no doubt, been brought to your attention and, therefore, do not bear repeating. The Report is a hodge-podge of issues which go as far as referring to the opening of a Days Inn Hotel in Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip. Without having sent a U.N. envoy to the region, how would this information have come to your attention if not through agencies operating in the area which have an interest in raising such matters to tarnish Israel. Moreover, what relevance does this hotel have to the principles in the Resolution? This and other such information contained in the Report is extraneous and raises serious questions regarding its validity.

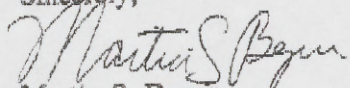
Ultimately, your Report seeks to blame Israel for the breakdown of the peace process. As such, it lends a hand to reverting the UN to its former use as an arena to pressure Israel. In this instance, the U.N. is subverting its Charter doctrine "to maintain international peace and security" by becoming an instrument in aggravating an already tense condition. In the long run, neither Israel nor the Palestinians will benefit from a situation which has become increasingly polarized.

Mr. Secretary General, it would be unfortunate for the United Nations to exceed its mandate and become a party in a dispute which is, in fact, being adequately dealt with on a bilateral level. This Report which bears your signature is on the path of doing more harm than good.

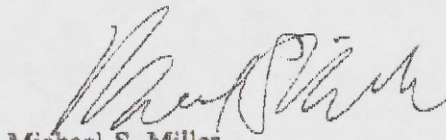
We respectfully submit that you reconsider this approach, remain above the fray and encourage peace in the region by referring the details back to the parties.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Martin S. Begun
President



Michael S. Miller
Executive Vice President



Jewish
Community
Relations
Council
OF NEW YORK, INC.

JACK D. WEILER CENTER FOR INTERGROUP RELATIONS
711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel. 212 • 983 • 4800 Facs. 212 • 983 • 4084

July 15, 1997

ACTION ALERT

To: Jewish Leadership

From: Martin S. Begun, President
Michael S. Miller, Executive Vice President
Sylvia Deutsch, Chairman, Immigration Committee

The Welfare Reform Act, signed into law on August 22, 1996, contained provisions which significantly curtail existing benefits for legal immigrants.

Under current law, legal immigrants who are elderly, blind or disabled receive modest subsidies under Supplemental Security Income (SSI), as well as food stamps. Under the new law, these benefits would stop as of August 23, 1997 for all but a few legal immigrants. (The President recently signed a bill postponing implementation until the end of the current fiscal year, September 30, 1997.)

In May, the President and key Congressional leaders reached an informal agreement on a budget for the next fiscal year that would restore SSI and Medicaid for disabled legal immigrants currently receiving it, as well as for those who were legally in the country prior to August 22, 1996 and who subsequently become disabled. Another provision of the informal agreement helps refugees and asylees by extending their eligibility for SSI and Medicaid from the current five years to seven.

However, the budget agreement did not restore benefits for the elderly non-disabled nor did it include the restoration of food stamps. Further, it does not permit future legal immigrants who become disabled to qualify for SSI.

Many Jewish organizations throughout the country are working with other ethnic, religious and racial groups to restore full benefits to current and future legal immigrants and to assist legal immigrants in becoming U.S. citizens.

In June, the House and the Senate each passed a budget bill. Each contains differing versions for the restoration of SSI to legal immigrants. Some provisions may be even less favorable than those agreed to by the President and Congressional leaders in May.

A conference committee of both Houses of Congress has been selected to reconcile the differences between both bills. NOW is the time to write to the members of the conference committee to urge that the budget bill they will agree upon include the following provisions and that adequate funding be

appropriated:

1. Restoration of SSI and Medicaid to all legal immigrants receiving such assistance on August 22, 1996;
2. Restoration of eligibility for SSI and Medicaid to legal immigrants who were in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 and become disabled in the future;
3. Opening up eligibility for legal immigrants who come here after August 22, 1996 and then become disabled;
4. Extending the eligibility period from five to seven years for refugees and asylees to receive SSI and Medicaid.
5. Urging that food stamps be restored to all legal immigrants who receive SSI.

A list of the names of the members of the conference committee is attached. Each one should be contacted by mail, fax, telephone or e-mail.

In addition, it would be most helpful to contact the following:

Hon. Newt Gingrich (Georgia)
Speaker, House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4501 fax: (202) 225 4656
e-mail: georgia6@hr.house.gov

Hon. Trent Lott (Mississippi)
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 224-5253 fax: (202) 224-2262

Hon. Richard Gephardt (Missouri)
Minority Leader, House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2671
e-mail: gephardt@mail.house.gov

Hon. Tom Daschle (South Dakota)
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2321 fax: (202) 224-2047
e-mail: tom_daschle@daschle.senate.gov

Each of the above will undoubtedly play an important role in the negotiations.

If your organization has affiliates in other states, please give this letter the widest possible circulation.

This will be our only remaining opportunity to restore benefits to legal immigrants. Jewish immigrants who have come here with our support from the former Soviet Union, as well as legal immigrants who have come from other parts of the world need your help now.

Note: Other sources of information include:

Council of Jewish Federations
Washington, DC
(202) 785-5900

Jewish Council for Public Affairs (formerly NJCRAC)
(212) 684-6950



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

July 22, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

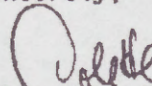
Dear Marty,

Just a brief note to remind you to include in the 50th Anniversary
Committee the following members of this Consulate:

Mr. Shmuel Sisso	Consul General
Mr. Shmuel Ben-Shmuel	Deputy Consul General
Mr. Raphael Gamzou	Consul for Cultural Affairs
Mr. Yehuda Yaacov	Consul for Public Affairs & Communications
Ms. Ophra Farhi	Consul for Information

Thanking you for you cooperation and wishing you much success, I am

Sincerely,


Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

July 22, 1997

Mr. Harvey Lichtenstein
President
Brooklyn Academy of Music
30 Lafayette Avenue
New York, NY 11217

Dear Harvey,

I know that I owe you an answer with regards to the funding of Rina Yerushalmi's play.

After many meetings and numerous efforts, we have managed to get Edgar Bronfman as Chairman of our cultural events in New York. A local committee which will help fundraise is being put together in the upcoming days by Mr. Martin Begun, President of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

I have given the file you compiled to Mr. Begun, and asked him (and the committee) to help us fundraise for this particular event.

I trust that you will hear from him directly.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General

cc: Mr. Martin Begun
President, Jewish Community Relations Council

Mr. Raphael Gamzou
Consul for Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL

הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

July 22, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

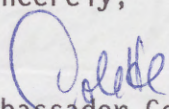
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Mr. Shmuel Ben-Shmuel	Deputy Consul General
Mr. Raphael Gamzou	Consul for Cultural Affairs
Mr. Yehuda Yaacov	Consul for Public Affairs & Communications
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Thanking you for your cooperation and wishing you much success, I am

Sincerely,


Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL



הקונסוליה הכללית של
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I have given the file you compiled to Mr. Begun, and asked him (and the committee) to help us fundraise for this particular event.

I trust that you will hear from him directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Colette Avital', written in a cursive style.

Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General

cc: Mr. Martin Begun
President, Jewish Community Relations Council

Mr. Raphael Gamzou
Consul for Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel

**Memorial for victims of the terrorist attack
at Machne Yuhuda, Jerusalem**

Opening remarks.....Talya Lador Fresher,
Consul for Information

Remarks.....Mel Salberg,
Chairman, Conference of Presidents

Remarks.....Ambassador Bill Richardson,
Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

Remarks..... Shmuel Ben Shmuel,
Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York

Remarks.....Martin Begun,
President, Jewish Community Relations Council of New York

Remarks.....The Honorable Rudolph Giuliani,
Mayor of the City of New York

Remarks.....Ambassador David Peleg,
Acting Permanent Representaive of Israel to the United Nations

Reading of the names.....Ralph Goldman,
Honorary Executive Vice President, Joint Distribution Committee

Reading of Psalms.....Rabbi Arthur Schneier,
First Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis

El Maleh Rachamim.....Rabbi Sherwood Goffin,
Cantor, Lincoln Square Synagogue

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION Archdiocese of New York

1011 First Avenue ♦ New York, New York 10022-4134 ♦ (212) 371-1011, ext.2990
fax (212) 319-8265 ♦ e-mail: communications@ny-archdiocese.org

news ♦ news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 1997

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Joseph Zwillig
(work) 212-371-1011 ext. 2997
(home) 516-437-7931

EXCERPT

A Message of Solidarity from His Eminence

**STATEMENT OF JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK
PRESIDENT, CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

In solidarity with the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians and all persons of good will, I deplore the misguided actions of the two young men in Jerusalem who sought a solution to their frustrations and aspirations in death - their own death and the deaths of so many innocents who had no wish to accompany them.

START

When will we ever learn? Hatred begets hatred, violence begets violence. ^{As a disciple of} the Prince of Peace, whose blood shed for us makes that troubled land holy, ^{It is} with profound sorrow and deep compassion I deplore this dreadful deed.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their dear ones in this unspeakable tragedy. May the one God and Lord of us all welcome with open and loving arms into the fullness of his kingdom those rent from the love and embrace of their own families and friends! May he give strength and consolation to those whose bitter sorrow makes them cry out for justice!

END

My daily prayer to the Jewish maiden of Nazareth, beloved of Christians and Muslims alike, is "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death." May God hear her prayers - and ours - as once again tragedy strikes her native land, so dear to the hearts of us all.

XXX

JCRC CONDEMNS TERROR ATTACK IN JERUSALEM

1. The late Prime Minister Yitchak Rabin's cry for "no more blood" goes unheeded. Again limbs have been severed, lives have been destroyed, families will forever live in grief over the loss of their loved ones. Yesterday, Jerusalem, the city of peace, was rendered a city of slaughter.

2. The terror attack against innocent civilians in the Mahane Yehuda market in the heart of Israel's capital is an atrocity of the highest order. The JCRC vehemently condemns this heinous attack as an abomination against humanity. We express our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims. We pray for the recovery of those injured and stand in solidarity with the State of Israel, its government and its people as they mourn their loss. We support all measures the government of Israel undertakes to protect its citizens.

The perpetrators of this crime succeeded because they thrive in an environment which condones terrorism and allows it to flourish. The Palestinian Authority which is responsible for destroying terror cells and aggressively fighting terror, has failed to do so. This failure is a breach of their responsibilities under the Oslo Accords. Violations cannot be tolerated. Condemnations from Chairman Arafat are not enough. Mr. Arafat can do no less than to immediately and forcefully close down the terror command centers, apprehend their leaders and punish those associated with perpetrating destruction.

3. The spirit of peace will not be shattered. We continue to pray for tranquility in this plagued region and encourage those of good will who seek a resolution to the conflict.



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

UNA S.T- CLARKE
COUNCIL MEMBER, 40TH DISTRICT

July 31, 1997

Mr. Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
of New York, Inc.
Jack D. Weiler Center for Intergroup Relations
711 Third Avenue - 12th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Begun: *Marty,*

I am as outraged as the rest of the world is at yesterday's bombing in Jerusalem. Those of us who are working for peace, in the Middle East, must continue to do so undeterred.

Kindly express, through the Consul General of Israel, my sincere condolence to the many grieving families whose lives have been touched by this tragedy.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Una".

Una S. T-Clarke
Council Member, 40th District



מצעד הברכות לישראל

SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1997 12:00 NOON RAIN OR SHINE
FIFTH AVENUE - 57TH TO 79TH STREETS, NEW YORK CITY
OFFICE: 426 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019
PHONE: 212-245-8200 exts. 106, 255, 346 FAX: 212-586-9579

OFFICERS

President
Dr. William B. Helmreich
Vice President
Lisa Kaufman
Secretary
Arthur Luxenberg, Esq.,
Treasurer
Ivan Kaufman

Mr. Martin Begun
c/o New York University Medical Center
- Schwartz Lecture Hall
401 E. 30th Street
New York, NY 10016

August 12, 1997

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Kaufthal
Howard J. Rubenstein
Perry Weitz, Esq.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
Ruth Kastner

Dear Martin:

I am delighted that you will be joining me as a member of the Board of the Israel Tribute Committee, Inc./Salute to Israel Parade.

This year's Salute to Israel Parade will mark the milestone celebration of Israel's Fiftieth Anniversary. For this purpose, we will be focusing our efforts on engaging the participation of the Jewish Community as well as the community at large in making it the most memorable event ever. With you, as a member of our Board and an outstanding leader in our community, our efforts will be greatly enhanced.

I'm looking forward to working with you on this important and exciting undertaking.

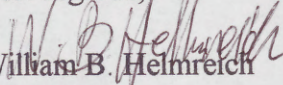
As I had mentioned to you, our Board meeting will be held on :

Thursday, August 14th at 4:00 P.M.

at the offices of: **Fred Weber, Esq.**
Kronish, Lieb, Weiner and Helman
Grace Building
1114 Avenue of the Americas
45th Floor
(entrance between 5th & 6th Avenues on 42nd St.)

I hope to see you on Thursday, please confirm.

Best regards,


William B. Helmreich
President



A PROJECT OF THE ISRAEL TRIBUTE COMMITTEE, INC., A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

Dutchess Justice

Steven Pagonés's Westchester neighbors rally to his side, while Tawana

Brawley's defenders lay it on the line; admiring John Scanlon's superb spin.

I AM STILL HORRIFIED THAT ALTON Maddox, C. Vernon Mason, and Al Sharpton were able to manipulate the public, the media, and, most of all, the legal system by creating totally ludicrous fabrications in the Tawana Brawley hoax ["Payback Time," by Stephen Rodrick, July 28]. Unfortunately, the only one who got raped was former Dutchess County district attorney Steven Pagonés. This turned out to be the real crime, as Pagonés's character and integrity have constantly been on trial ever since. You can bet there will be more interest in this trial than Sharpton expects, not only from those of us in Dutchess County but from the American people as well. The informed public will be in Steven Pagonés's corner come November 10.

Robert A. Abramson
BEACON, N.Y.

STEPHEN RODRICK'S ARTICLE SO CLEARLY demonstrated the total lack of merit of the entire Tawana Brawley hoax and enlightened me as to the hardships Steven Pagonés and his family have endured that it inspired me to introduce a legislative resolution in the City Council in support of Mr. Pagonés's efforts to recover his reputation once and for all.

Our institution should support Mr. Pagonés's quest to reclaim his good name, so that he and his family can do the best they can to move forward with their lives and leave this nightmare behind.

Thomas V. Ognibene
Republican Leader, City Council
MANHATTAN

AS USUAL, WHITE MEN ARE PORTRAYED BY corporate media as innocent of any possible wrongdoing in connection with black women and sex. Every single black woman knows that Tawana Brawley was raped by white men, and

Letters may be edited for space and clarity. They should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, New York Magazine, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022-6999, or sent via e-mail to 104700.2560@compuserve.com. Please include a daytime phone number.

that her story is true. Every single one of us knows this, because we are aware of the image in which the media portray black women: loose, lascivious, immoral, and sex-crazed, so that any claim of sexual abuse by a white man is immediately dismissed as impossible.

Tawana Brawley was found semi-conscious, with the word NIGGER written on her back, after crawling into a plastic bag in a desperate attempt to stay alive. Did she use a mirror to write that, do you think? At the hospital, the medical personnel verified that she was nearly comatose when brought in, and that she reacted with terror toward white policemen brought to the room to question her. No attention was given to the fact that she named Pagonés as one of her attackers. Pagonés then assumed an air of injured innocence, threatening to sue everyone in sight. Because of this, both Maddox and Mason refused to allow her to be questioned by any authorities. They understood clearly that any information she might provide would be used to discredit her, and to prove that her ordeal was a sham.

C. Carey Howard
MANHATTAN

Unspun

MOST MEDIA PROFESSIONALS OPERATE UN-encumbered by principles, lionized for their reflexive support of politically fashionable causes. I take it John Scanlon's sin is principled (and effective) advocacy for a politically unfashionable client ["Johnny on the Spot," by Alex Williams, July 21]. This is an idiotic, Orwellian double standard. Meanwhile, back in the real world, if things get tough, it's a fellow like Scanlon I want on my side.

Jay Severin
SAG HARBOR, N.Y.

I DID NOT EVEN KNOW JOHN SCANLON REPRESENTED Ivana in her failed attempt to break our prenuptial agreement. More important, I never asked Scanlon to represent me—I don't even know him. This is just a figment of his imagination.

Also, if Scanlon did represent Ivana, he didn't do a very good job. The pre-

nuptial agreement was, despite your false statements, totally enforced as I wanted it to be. All Ivana did was waste a great deal of time and money on her very mediocre attorney, Michael Kennedy, and, I suppose, Mr. Scanlon. While my children get whatever they want from me, the number of \$650,000 a year in child support is totally incorrect and ridiculous.

Donald J. Trump
MANHATTAN

Alex Williams responds: Any details regarding dollar amounts in the Donald-Ivana divorce were taken from contemporary press reports. As for Scanlon's memory of his meeting with Trump, he insists it took place six months after the divorce, in a private lunch at Trump Tower. "I even remember what was served—penne alla vodka with a bottle of white wine. I remember because the pasta was particularly good," Scanlon says.

Rapid Response

YOUR ARTICLE "ARE AMERICAN JEWS DIS-appearing?" [by Craig Horowitz, July 14] perpetuates a canard about the role of the organized Jewish community during the Crown Heights riots. During the four days of rioting, the Jewish Community Relations Council responded vigorously. I and then-JCRC president Ken Bialkin walked the streets of Crown Heights, speaking with the residents and expressing solidarity with them. We also brought the leaders of many organizations to a press conference in Crown Heights. On that occasion, Bialkin demanded that the "mayor and the Police Department enforce the law vigorously" and suggested that the "National Guard be alerted."

On February 27, 1996, the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council formally recognized the role of the JCRC, "for its constant and consistent assistance to the Jewish community of Crown Heights under trying circumstances."

Martin S. Begun
President

Jewish Community Relations Council
MANHATTAN

File

The New York Times

229 WEST 43 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

A. M. ROSENTHAL

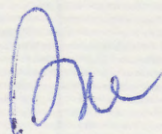
August 29, 1997

Dear Martin,

Flowers are the best present! This is the seventh, or eighth or twelfth time I'm getting pleasure from the flowers you sent to me. I got pleasure when I first saw them, then when I realized who they came from, and whenever I walked over to look at them and now when I write to you.

They buoyed me when they arrived and still do as I am getting ready to go back to work, and I send this letter with fat embraces.

Warmly,





667 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021-8087 (212) 521-2929 • Fax (212) 521-2919

LAURENCE ALAN TISCH
Co-Chairman of the Board
& Co-Chief Executive Officer

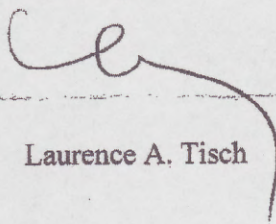
November 14, 1997

Mr. Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
Of New York, Inc.
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Marty:

On behalf of the Tisch Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to enclose a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Jewish Community Relations Council. It is a privilege to support the JCRC in its vital mission. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,



Laurence A. Tisch

LAT:bk

CONSULATE GENERAL
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

CONSUL GENERAL



הקונסוליה הכללית של
ישראל בניו-יורק

קונסול כללי

September 2, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 3rd Ave.
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Begun,

As I begin my tour of duty as the new Consul General in New York, I would like to thank you for your long record of interest in and advocacy for the State of Israel. I am aware of your support for the Consulate, and I look forward to perpetuating this relationship during my tenure. It is my hope that in the coming years the ties which bind us will become even more secure and will provide the basis for a future of continued accomplishment.

The State of Israel is approaching its 50th anniversary with a growth economy and a vibrant cultural tapestry that will be celebrated throughout the world. The Consulate General of Israel is eager to join the tri-state Jewish community, which has long been a center of support for Israel and a cultural home for the Jewish people, in ringing in an auspicious half-century.

Your communities, which serve as models for cooperative achievement, are Israel's best friends in the world, and I am honored by the opportunity to represent the Jewish state in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. Again, the Consulate General of Israel in New York deeply appreciates your steadfast friendship. I look forward to meeting you, and I am certain that with each other's assistance we will meet with success in all of our endeavors.

As the new year approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all *l'shana tova tikatevu!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shmuel Sisso'.

Shmuel Sisso
Consul General



SHMUEL SISSO CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

Shmuel Sisso launched his political career in 1978 as a city councilman in his hometown of Kiryat Yam. He was elected mayor in 1989. Four years later, when the Likud and Labor parties united to make Mr. Sisso their candidate, 81 percent of the electorate voted him to a second term in office.

During his eight-year stewardship, Mayor Sisso saw Kiryat Yam's population grow by 50 percent, thanks in large measure to the successful absorption of some 20,000 new immigrants, while public investors poured some \$50 million into the city's development. The mayor has completed several large-scale municipal projects, among them the construction of 3,000 new housing units and the establishment of a technical college, an internationally acclaimed musical conservatory and a high-technology scientific greenhouse. Mr. Sisso's role in the ascendancy of Kiryat Yam has won him numerous accolades, among them the Environment Ministry's national prize and an Education Ministry award for increasing the rate of graduation from high schools.

Born in Morocco in 1951, Shmuel Sisso emigrated to Israel with his parents in 1956. He completed his service as a combat medic in the engineering brigade of the Israel Defense Forces in 1972, and is currently a Captain in the IDF reserves.

Mr. Sisso enrolled in the Hebrew University as a law student in 1972, interrupting his studies a year later to fight on the southern front of the Yom Kippur war. After earning his degree in 1976, Mr. Sisso opened a private law firm in Haifa.

In addition to his career of public service in Kiryat Yam, Mr. Sisso has served with distinction on the national level as well. A member of the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Social Policy, the National Council for the Prevention of Road Accidents, and the Association for the Promotion of Secondary Education, Mr. Sisso's activities span the range of critical domestic policy issues affecting Israel today.

In the international arena, Mr. Sisso has traveled abroad as an envoy of the Foreign Ministry and of the Jewish Agency, and as a guest of the United States Information Agency Forum for Young Leadership.

Mr. Sisso speaks Hebrew, English, Spanish, Arabic and French. He and his wife Naomi have four children.

File

BNAI ZION The American Zionist Fraternal Organization

בני ציון

Established 1908

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Chair of the Board
Jack Grunspan

Exec. V.P. Emeritus
Herman Z. Quittman

Exec. V.P. & Nat'l Secy
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Norman G. Levine

Assoc. National Director
Edna Maayani

* Past President



September 22, 1997

Mr. Martin Begun
President
JCRC
711 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10017

Dear Marty:

Just a note to thank you for appearing at our public installation past night at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Your presence added dignity and lustre to the evening and your remarks were to the point and, I believe, important.

Once again, my thanks and my best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.
L'Shana Tova!

Sincerely,

Mel Parness
Executive Vice President

MP/jm



*The President of the State of Israel
and Mrs. Weizman
request the pleasure of your company
at a reception*

*Tuesday, October seventh,
Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven
at seven o' clock
The Mayflower Hotel
East and State Rooms
1127 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C.*

*P.S. V.P. before Sept. 30
(202) 364-5439*

Business Attire



Archdiocese of New York

COMMISSION ON ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

1011 First Avenue, New York, New York 10022
(212) 371-1000 ext. 3055 Fax (212) 826-8173

MEMORANDUM

TO: All friends in the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue

FROM: Rev. James Loughran, S.A. *James L.*

DATE: October 23, 1997

Enclosed is a copy of the French Catholic Bishops "Declaration of Repentance," regarding the issues of the *Shoah* and the Church's behavior in France.

You've probably seen excerpts, so I thought you might find interest in the whole document.

Thank you for your continued efforts in strengthening the process of friendship between our communities.

Church in France/World War II and the Jews

French Bishops'

Declaration of Repentance

"The church of France failed in her mission as teacher of consciences" in the face of the Nazi plan to exterminate the Jews, said a five-page bishops' "Declaration of Repentance" read during an interreligious ceremony Sept. 30 near a former Jewish deportation camp in the Paris suburb of Drancy. The ceremony took place on the 57th anniversary of the enactment of anti-Semitic laws under the wartime Vichy government, which collaborated with Nazi occupation troops in France. The bishops' declaration said that church leaders in France for the most part, "caught up in a loyalism and docility which went far beyond the obedience traditionally accorded civil authorities, remained stuck in conformity, prudence and abstention" regarding the Nazi persecution of the Jews. The church leaders "failed to realize the church ... did in fact have considerable power and influence." The declaration said, "We pass no judgment either on the consciences or on the people of that era... But we must be fully aware of the cost of such behavior and such actions." The declaration took note of those in the church who did speak out courageously at the time, including some bishops, priests, religious, theologians and laity. But, the declaration noted, "we must recognize that indifference won the day over indignation." The declaration was signed by Bishop Gaston Poulain of Perigueux, president of the French bishops' Committee for Relations With Judaism; by Bishop Olivier de Berranger of St.

Denis, who read the declaration at the ceremony (Drancy is in the St. Denis diocese); and by some 15 other bishops of dioceses that had internment camps, as well as by 12 bishops of the greater Paris region and the bishop to the armed forces. An Origins translation of the declaration follows.

As one of the major events of the 20th century, the planned extermination of the Jewish people by the Nazis raises particularly challenging questions of conscience which no human being can ignore. The Catholic Church, far from wanting it to be forgotten, knows full well that conscience is formed in remembering, and that, just as no individual person can live in peace with himself, neither can society live in peace with a repressed or untruthful memory.

The church of France questions itself. It, like the other churches, has been called to do so by Pope John Paul II as the third millennium draws near: "It is good that the church should cross this threshold fully conscious of what she has lived through.... Recognizing the failings of yesteryear is an act of loyalty and courage which helps us strengthen our faith, which makes us face up to the temptations and difficulties of today and prepares us to confront them."

Following this year's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Seelisburg (that tiny village in Switzerland where, immediately after the war, on

(continued on page 303)

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE:

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- *On File, p. 302;
- *Datebook, p. 302;
- *Giving Religious Freedom Its Due, by Father Drew Christiansen, SJ, p. 305;
- *The Farm Crisis: What Does the Church Propose? by Bishop Raymond Burke, p. 309;
- *Preaching: From Experience Through Imagination to Passion, by Father Walter Burghardt, SJ, p. 311.

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origins

CNS documentary service

REPENTANCE — *continued from front page*
Aug. 5, 1947, Jews and Christians drew up guidelines proposing a new understanding of Judaism), the undersigned bishops of France, because of the presence of internment camps in their dioceses, on the occasion of the forthcoming anniversary of the first statutes concerning the Jews drawn up by the Marechal Petain government (Oct. 3, 1940), wish to take a further step. They do so in response to what their conscience, illuminated by Christ, demands.

The time has come for the church to submit her own history, especially that of this period, to critical examination and to recognize without hesitation the sins committed by members of the church, and to beg forgiveness of God and humankind.

In France, the violent persecution did not begin immediately. But very soon, in the months that followed the 1940 defeat, anti-Semitism was sown at the state level, depriving French Jews of their rights and foreign Jews of their freedom; all of our national institutions were drawn into the application of these legal measures. By February 1941, some 40,000 Jews were in French internment camps. At this point, in a country which had been beaten, lay prostrate and was partially occupied, the hierarchy saw the protection of its own faithful as its first priority, assuring as much as possible its own institutions. The absolute priority which was given to these objectives, in themselves legitimate, had the unhappy effect of casting a shadow over the biblical demand of respect for every human being created in the image of God.

"The time has come for the church to submit her own history, especially that of this period, to critical examination and to recognize without hesitation the sins committed by members of the church, and to beg forgiveness."

This retreat into a narrow vision of the church's mission was compounded by a lack of appreciation on the part of the hierarchy of the immense global tragedy which was being played out and which was a threat to Christianity's future. Yet many members of the church and many non-Catholics yearned for the church to speak out at a time of such spiritual confusion and to recall the message of Jesus Christ.

For the most part, those in authority in the church, caught up in a loyalism and docility which went far beyond the obedience traditionally accorded civil authorities, remained stuck in conformity, prudence and abstention. This was dictated in part by their fear of reprisals against the church's activities and youth movements. They failed to realize that the church, called at that moment to play the role of de-

fender within a social body that was falling apart, did in fact have considerable power and influence, and that in the face of the silence of other institutions, its voice could have echoed loudly by taking a definitive stand against the irreparable.

It must be borne in mind: During the occupation no one knew the full extent of the Hitlerian genocide. While it is true that mention could be made of a great number of gestures of solidarity, we have to ask ourselves whether acts of charity and help are enough to fulfill the demands of justice and respect for the rights of the human person.

So it is that, given the anti-Semitic legislation enacted by the French government — beginning with the October 1940 law on Jews and that of June 1941, which deprived a whole sector of the French people of their rights as citizens, which hounded them out and treated them as inferior beings within the nation — and given the decision to put into internment camps foreign Jews who had thought they could rely on the right of asylum and hospitality in France, we are obliged to admit that the bishops of France made no public statements, thereby acquiescing by their silence in the flagrant violation of human rights and leaving the way open to a death-bearing chain of events.

We pass no judgment either on the consciences or on the people of that era; we are not ourselves guilty of what took place in the past; but we must be fully aware of the cost of such behavior and such actions. It is our church, and we are obliged to acknowledge objectively today that ecclesiastical interests, understood in an overly restrictive sense, took priority over the demands of conscience — and we must ask ourselves why.

Over and above the historical circumstances which we already have recalled, we need to pay special attention to the religious reasons for this blindness. To what extent did secular anti-Semitism have an influence? Why is it, in the debates which we know took place, that the church did not listen to the better claims of its members' voices? Before the war, Jacques Maritain, both in articles and in lectures, tried to open Christians up to a different perspective on the Jewish people. He also forcefully warned against the perversity of the anti-Semitism that was developing. Just before war broke out, Cardinal Saliege advised Catholics of the 20th century to seek light in the teaching of Pius XI rather than in that of the 13th-century edicts of Innocent III. During the war, theologians and exegetes in Paris and in Lyons spoke out prophetically about the Jewish roots of Christianity, underlining how the shoot of Jesse flowered in Israel, that the two testaments were indissolubly linked, that the Virgin, Christ and the apostles all were Jews and that Christianity is linked to Judaism like a branch to the trunk that has borne it. Why was so little attention paid to such words?

Certainly, at a doctrinal level, the church was fundamentally opposed to racism for the

The declaration appearing on these pages was read during a ceremony near a former Jewish deportation camp in Drancy, a Paris suburb. A crowd of several hundred Christians and Jews listened Sept. 30 as Bishop Olivier de Berranger of St. Denis read the text. The bishop stood in front of a cattle car that has been placed as a memorial in a town park. Experts estimate that 75,000 Jews passed through the Drancy camp on their way to Nazi death camps.

Berranger was flanked at the evening ceremony by Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger of Paris, whose mother, a Jew, died at Auschwitz after being deported through Drancy.

French Jewish leaders who attended the service expressed appreciation for the apology and also paid tribute to those Christians who helped Jews during the war and the bishops who later spoke out. "Your request for forgiveness is so intense, so strong, so poignant, that it cannot help but be heard by the surviving victims and their children. It finds a deep echo in our hearts and in our spirits," said Henri Hajdenberg, president of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France. "Without any doubt, the historic significance of your declaration opens up new paths in the field of Christian-Jewish relations," he said.

Of bishops in France who spoke out at the time of World War II, the French daily Catholic newspaper, La Croix, reported that Archbishop Jules Geraud Saliege of Toulouse had issued an unambiguous pastoral letter in August 1942 with the explicit instruction that it be "read in all churches, without comment." In that letter he spoke of "God-given human rights which no earthly authority can suppress." The archbishop wrote with evident anguish of families being split up "and dispatched to an unknown destination." He posed the poignant question, "Why does the right of asylum no longer exist in our churches? The Jews are men; the Jews are women, they are members of the human race. They are our brothers. This no Christian can forget," the letter said.

For two past texts in *Origins* that are of current interest, see the statements of the German bishops and the Polish bishops commemorating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, in *Volume 24*, pp. 585f (German bishops) and 586ff (Polish bishops) in the edition dated Feb. 16, 1995.

"Today the fact is weighing heavily on our minds that there were but individual initiatives to help persecuted Jews," said the German bishops. "Christians did not offer due resistance to racial anti-Semitism" during the time of the Third Reich, the German bishops added. They said: "Many times there was a failure and guilt among Catholics. Not a few of them got involved in the ideology of National Socialism and remained unmoved in the face of the crimes committed against Jewish-owned property and the life of the Jews," and others "paved the way for crimes or even became criminals themselves."

The Polish bishops said in their statement that, "seeing the Nazi extermination of the Jews, many Poles reacted with heroic courage and sacrifice, risking their lives and that of their families." The bishops added, "Unfortunately there were also those who were capable of actions unworthy of being called Christian." The bishops said that the only way to guarantee that the hatred symbolized by Auschwitz will not have the last word in this world "is to educate future generations in the spirit of mutual respect, tolerance and love."

See also in *Origins* the address given at the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington April 15, 1997, by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore during a program honoring Catholics who rescued Jews during the time of the Holocaust. Keeler's address appeared in *Vol. 26*, pp. 739ff (the edition dated May 1, 1997). The Holocaust Museum now has a section devoted to rescuers, Catholics and others.

"Tragically, the world at large believed what it wanted to believe and did what it

reasons, both theological and spiritual, which Pius XI expressed so strongly in his encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge*, which condemned the basic principles of national-socialism and warned Christians against the myth of race and of the all-powerful state. As far back as 1928, the Holy Office had condemned anti-Semitism. In 1938, Pius XI boldly declared, "Spiritually, we are Semites." But in the face of the constantly repeated anti-Jewish stereotypes, what weight could such condemnations carry? What weight could the thinking of theologians already referred to carry — thinking which can be found even after 1942 in statements which were not lacking in courage?

In the process which led to the Shoah, we are obliged to admit the role, indirect if not direct, played by commonly held anti-Jewish prejudices, which Christians were guilty of maintaining. In fact, in spite of (and to some extent because of) the Jewish roots of Christianity, and because of the Jewish people's fidelity throughout its history to the one God, the "original separation" dating back to the first century became a divorce, then an animosity and ultimately a centuries-long hostility between Christians and Jews.

There can be no denying the weight of social, political, cultural and economic factors in the long story of misunderstanding and often of antagonism between Jews and Christians. However, one of the essential points in the debate was of a religious nature. This is not to say that a direct cause-and-effect link can be drawn between these commonly held anti-Jewish feelings and the Shoah, because the Nazi plan to annihilate the Jewish people has its sources elsewhere.

In the judgment of historians, it is a well-proven fact that for centuries, up until Vatican Council II, an anti-Jewish tradition stamped its mark in differing ways on Christian doctrine and teaching, in theology, apologetics, preaching and in the liturgy. It was on such ground that the venomous plant of hatred for the Jews was able to flourish. Hence, the heavy inheritance we still bear in our century, with all its consequences which are so difficult to wipe out. Hence our still open wounds.

To the extent that the pastors and those in authority in the church let such a teaching of disdain develop for so long, along with an underlying basic religious culture among Christian communities which shaped and deformed people's attitudes, they bear a grave responsibility. Even if they condemned anti-Semitic theories as being pagan in origin, they did not enlighten people's minds as they ought because they failed to call into question these centuries-old ideas and attitudes. This had a soporific effect on people's consciences, reducing their capacity to resist when the full violence of national-socialist anti-Semitism rose up, the diabolical and ultimate expression of hatred of the Jews, based on the categories of race and blood, and which was explicitly directed to the physical annihilation of the Jewish people. As Pope John Paul II put it, "an unconditional extermination ...

undertaken with premeditation."

Subsequently, when the persecution became worse and the genocidal policy of the Third Reich was unleashed within France itself, shared by the Vichy government, which put its own police force at the disposition of the occupier, some brave bishops² raised their voices in a clarion call, in the name of human rights, against the rounding up of the Jewish population. These public statements, though few in number, were heard by many Christians.

Neither should the many actions undertaken by ecclesiastical authorities to save men, women and children in danger of death be forgotten; nor the outpouring of Christian charity by the ordinary faithful, shown in generosity of every kind, often at great risk, in saving thousands and thousands of Jews.

"It is an established historical fact that the survival of a great number of Jews was assured thanks to such gestures of help."

Long before this, priests, religious and lay people — some not hesitating to join underground movements — saved the honor of the church, even if discreetly and anonymously. This also was done, in particular through the publication of *Les Cahiers du Temoignage Chretien* (*Notebooks of Christian Witness*), by denouncing in no uncertain terms the Nazi poison which threatened Christian souls with all its neopagan, racist and anti-Semitic virulence, and by echoing the words of Pius XI: "Spiritually we are all Semites." It is an established historical fact that the survival of a great number of Jews was assured thanks to such gestures of help from among Catholic and Protestant milieux, and by Jewish organizations.

Nevertheless while it may be true that some Christians — priests, religious and lay people — were not lacking in acts of courage in defense of fellow human beings, we must recognize that indifference won the day over indignation in the face of the persecution of the Jews and that, in particular, silence was the rule in face of the multifarious laws enacted by the Vichy government, whereas speaking out in favor of the victims was the exception.

As Francois Mauriac wrote, "A crime of such proportions falls for no small part on the shoulders of all those witnesses who failed to cry out, and this whatever the reason for their silence."³

The end result is that the attempt to exterminate the Jewish people, instead of being perceived as a central question in human and spiritual terms, remained a secondary consideration. In the face of so great and utter a tragedy, too many of the church's pastors committed an offense, by their silence, against the church itself and its mission.

Today we confess that such a silence was a

sin. In so doing, we recognize that the church of France failed in her mission as teacher of consciences and that therefore she carries along with the Christian people the responsibility for failing to lend their aid, from the very first moments, when protest and protection were still possible as well as necessary, even if, subsequently, a great many acts of courage were performed.

This is the fact that we acknowledge today. For, this failing of the church of France and of her responsibility toward the Jewish people are part of our history. We confess this sin. We beg God's pardon, and we call upon the Jewish people to hear our words of repentance.

This act of remembering calls us to an ever keener vigilance on behalf of humankind today and in the future. ❖

Notes

¹ Pope John Paul II, apostolic letter *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, 33.

² In 1942 five archbishops and bishops in the southern (unoccupied) part of France protested against the violation of human rights caused by the rounding up of the Jews. They were: Archbishop Saliege of Toulouse; Bishop Theas of Montauban; Cardinal Gerlier of Lyons; Archbishop Moussaron of Albi; and Bishop Daly of Marseilles.

Within the occupied zone, Bishop Vansteenberghe of Bayonne published a protest on the front page of his diocesan newsletter Sept. 20, 1942.

³ From the Preface to Leon Poliakov's book, *Breviaire de la haine (Breviary of Hate)*, 1951, p. 3.

N.B.

—The German bishops and the Polish bishops published a declaration on the attitude of their churches during the war on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

—The legislation passed by the Vichy government, and particularly the Jewish statutes of 1940 and 1941, can be found in *Les Juifs sous l'Occupation. Recueil des textes officiels français et allemands, 1940-1944*, published by the FFDJF (1982), as well as in *Vichy et les Juifs*, by Michael R. Marrus and Robert O. Paxton (1981, Calman-Levy).

—The main stances taken by Protestants can be found in *Spiritualite, Theologie et Resistance* (1987, Presses Universitaires de Grenoble), pp. 151-182.

← wanted to do, which was virtually nothing" in the face of the World War II death camps. Keeler said. He added, "Today we celebrate the memory of some non-Jews — specifically Catholics — who did do something at a time of utmost crisis when most European Catholics either could not or would not help their neighbors in desperate need."

In a recent address in *Origins*, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, discussed the next stage of Catholic-Jewish relations. Among his points, he focused particularly on the kind of dialogue whereby Catholics and Jews are helped to understand and accept each other as they really are. "An essential element in our relationship is therefore that we begin to see each other as the other sees himself," said Cassidy. His address appeared in *Origins*, Vol. 26, pp. 665ff (the edition dated April 3, 1997).



Bronka and Jacob Weintraub

*Martin Begun
1016 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10028*

29 October 1997

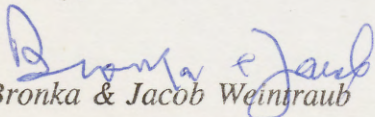
Dear Martin,

The way you conduct events is unique. You speak from the heart and you believe in your cause. Jacob and I are proud to be your friends.

The way you introduced Mayor Guilliani was really sincere. Thank you for including us in the private reception.

Darling you can count on us if you need anything. Please send our regards to Louise.

Fondly,


Bronka & Jacob Weintraub



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

BRUCE J. TEITELBAUM
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Dear Marty,

Thank you very much
for including the Mayor in
the JCAE's reception welcoming
Prime Minister Netanyahu. We greatly
appreciated it.

Enclosed are some photographs
I thought you would enjoy.

I look forward to speaking
with you again soon.

Bruce



PROMOTION CENTER AND
CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

January 30, 1998

Mr. Martin Begun
President of the
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue, 12 Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Begun:

In reference to the letter of Ambassador Diego Guelar, I am pleased to inform you that the meeting with the President of Argentina, Dr. Carlos S. Menem, will take place on February 7th, at 12.00pm at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Herbert Hoover Room, 4th Floor.

Hoping to count on your assistance, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Ambassador
Guillermo Mc Gough
Consul General

**American Joint Distribution Committee
Buenos Aires Office for Latin America**

Jeronimo Salguero 2142, 6th Floor
(1425) Buenos Aires, Argentina
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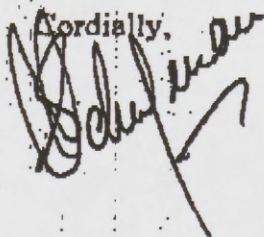
To: Michael Miller
From: Jorge Schulman
Date: February 6, 1998
Ref: Press Releases about AMIA's and the Israeli Embassy Attacks
C.C.

As per Sergio Wider request, we are sending you translations of the last press releases that appeared in different Argentinean newspapers during the last two months.

The same material was also sent to Mr. Irwin Hochberg, International President of ADL, who was this week in Buenos Aires and met some relatives of the victims of AMIA's bombing.

I understand that Mr. Hochberg will be at the same meeting with President Menem and you, as part of a group of lay and professional Jewish community leaders.

Cordially,



ATTACKS: CRITICS BY THE ALIANZA TO THE POLICE, COURT AND THE GOVERNMENT LA NACION (12-16 Page 25- Section: General Information). Written by Martin Dinatale.

Legislators from the ruling party and the opposition will submit tomorrow at the Congress the annual report of the bicameral commission which is researching the attacks to the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA. In this context, the Alianza and the dissident PJ (ruling party) representative, Cristina Kirchner, will challenge officials from the government, members of the Supreme Court of Justice and police officers for their "incapacity", "obstruction" and "omission" in the development of the research on the terrorist actions.

(...) Details of the Report

The report written by the UCR and Frepaso legislators, which La Nación newspaper had access to, summarizes these highlights:

- **Concealment and lack of cooperation:** The writing says that "lack of cooperation on the part of different federal and provincial security and intelligence agencies must be understood as a structural failure, as the obvious decision to hinder the clarification of the facts or of concealing certain suspicious persons or groups of having somehow participated in the attack and who are linked to the State."

- **Questioning the Court.** The Alianza legislators understand that "it is visible that (in the research of the attack to the Israeli Embassy) the Supreme Court did not act with due diligence and efficiency as required". And they add that, "the preparation of the case carried out by a collegiate body, such as the Court, led to the failure of the research."

- **Continuity of Attacks.** The opposition report warns that in the country "criminal groups may still be operating with sufficient logistic, operational and intelligence capacity to perpetrate terrorists actions."

- **The Police and the SIDE.** The Alianza representatives and senators suggest the separation of domestic security agencies and the prosecution of all those persons related to those offices and who have not cooperated with the Judiciary. They report the "lack of activity, distraction and omission proved" by the former chief of the Federal Police, Adrián Polacchi. While, they state "dissatisfaction" for the actions of the incumbent of SIDE; Hugo Anzorreguy.

- **Criminal Report.** The Alianza also demands in its writing to initiate a criminal report against the State Secretary of Intelligence.

The Alianza Report is signed by the Radical Party (UCR) Representatives Federico Storani and Melchor Cerebrito, the Frepaso Representative Carlos "Chito" Alvarado.

Embassy, since this is "a task of extraordinary dimensions with no background in the history of our judiciary."

PJ legislators also suggested the Judiciary that the Excalbur system of telephone interconnections used in Cabezas' case be employed in the research of terrorist acts, concludes *Martin Dinatale in La Nación*.

MEETING LA NACION (12-16 Page 25 - Section: General Information).

In order to know the status of research of the terrorist attack against the Israeli Embassy, which occurred on March 17, 1992, the Ambassador of this country, Itzhak Avirán is meeting today with the Secretary of the National Supreme Court of Justice, Eduardo Canevari, who carries out the preliminary criminal proceedings in the case of the Israeli embassy blowing out.-

*Delegation of Argentine Israeli Associations
D.A.I.A.*

**PRESS DEPARTMENT
Number 1094**

Thursday, December 18, 1997

DAILY INFORMATIVE SUMMARY

Judicial Decision on the AMIA and Israeli Embassy

REPRESENTATIVES: "GOODWILL TO RESEARCH ON THE ATTACKS MISSING"

CLARIN (12-18 Page 16- Section: Politics)- Written by Armando Vidal -

The headlines goes. *Members of the bicameral commission made the Court responsible for the "lack of diligence and efficacy."* They conclude both attacks were carried out with bomb cars. They praised the work of Judge Galeano.

With hard imputations to the Supreme Court for its actions before the case of the Israeli Embassy attack and, in contrast, with the coincidences to support the task of federal judge Juan José Galeano for his work in the AMIA case, the Chamber of Representatives *approved with a round of applause* the report from the Bicameral Commission with follows both judicial files.

The session was finally decided under the opposition pressure which ended up altering the ruling party's goodwill not to conduct it to *avoid sudden attacks* of different size.

And not only against the Court. Sectors of Duhalde, for example, seemed interested in not *being against the "Bonaerense" (Buenos Aires) Police*, which has been the target of research work due to the alleged connection of some of its members

*Consulat Général de France
à New York*

Le Consul Général

n° 470

New York, February, 4th, 1998

Mr. Martin BEGUN
President of Jewish Community
Relations Council
711 Third Avenue - 12th Floor
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Begun :

Dear Martin

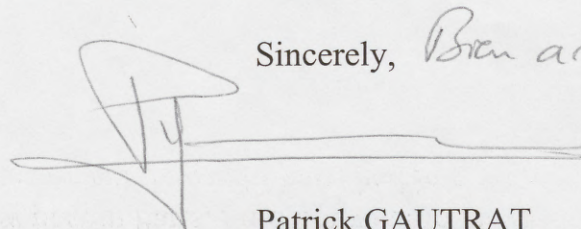
Having been assigned to a new post in Paris, I did not want to leave New York without letting you know the pleasure and interest I have had in working with you in ma capacity as Consul General in New York.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the very cordial relations we have enjoyed during my stay here, and for the assistance you and your staff have extended to me and to the French Consulate General.

With my best wishes for your continued success and prosperity,

Sincerely,

*Bien amicalement
à vous*



Patrick GAUTRAT

The Consul General of Switzerland

☒ 8/F. Rolex Bldg., 665 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022-5305

Tel. (212) 758-2560
Fax. (212) 207-8024
E-Mail:
106534.1263@compuserve.com

New York, February 11, 1998

Mr. Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
of New York
MSB Strategies, Inc.
1345 Ave of the Americas, 30th Floor
New York, NY 10019

Dear Martin,

This is just to thank you very much for the time you spent with Mr. Tschopp and me on Monday.

I think it is not only a privilege but a matter of great importance that Switzerland's elected officials hear the views of leading American personalities like you. Mr. Tschopp's visit with you will contribute to a more informed and balanced discussion of the issue both in the Swiss parliament and in the court of public opinion.

With kind regards

Sincerely yours,

Jacques

Jacques Reverdin



BARRICK

Office of the Chairman

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M5J 2J3

March 31, 1998

Mr. Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
of New York
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Begun:

I am writing to solicit and hopefully enlist your participation in the creation of a vitally needed Friends of Switzerland Committee in the United States and Canada. Like you, I am a friend and admirer of Switzerland and its people. Accordingly, I have become increasingly frustrated and distressed by the unfair and one-sided criticism that Switzerland has received over the last year or so. In a highly emotional and almost inevitably biased – sometimes even hysterical – campaign, various groups have even gone so far as to compare Switzerland's attitude and practices during World War II with those of Nazi Germany.

In response to the ridiculous accusation that Switzerland abused Jewish refugees during World War II, I wrote a letter that was published by the *International Herald Tribune*, and other leading journals (enclosed). I closed my defense of Switzerland by saying, "Before we continue this orgy of accusation against the behavior of a small country when the world around it was poisoned, when people were behaving like wild beasts, let us remember its great deeds. The fact that Switzerland displayed valor in the face of immense danger to its national survival seems lost today in the anti-Swiss craze."

After all, my family and I were amongst the 25,000 Jews – out of some 250,000 anti-Nazi refugees of all sorts whom the Swiss harbored, fed and protected during World War II, while totally surrounded by the German Reich, and when they could only feed themselves if and when the Germans let trains through.

I truly believe the time has come for informed, well-placed, private citizens to help set the record straight about Switzerland and to respond to the unfair and ill-informed Swiss-bashers. To do so, we are creating a Friends of Switzerland Committee that will not only

disseminate some of the facts, but also protect a relationship that is important to all of us in North America. We want your support.

This letter is not a request for a donation. Yes, we do need your help, but through lending your name to what I deeply believe to be an important and worthwhile effort.

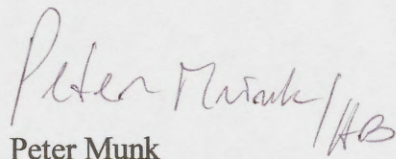
Whether through the threat of economic sanctions, class-action suits, media misinformation or grandstanding at congressional hearings, the most traditionally democratic people of Europe, its government and its institutions are facing an assault on their integrity. One step that our Committee will perform will be to publish – in major U.S. newspapers – public letters of support based on facts.

For your information, I am enclosing three articles written by the Swiss Ambassador to Washington, Alfred Defago; Ambassador Thomas Borer, head of the Task Force, Switzerland – World War II; as well as my letter to the Herald Tribune (together with the original article to which it responded). These, along with recent press statements by U.S. Undersecretary of State, Stuart Eizenstat, in Davos, Switzerland, began the job of outlining the positive steps taken by the Government of Switzerland, and also of highlighting the strong position the U.S. government has taken in supporting Switzerland and our traditional cultural, business and political ties.

In the near future you will be called by Ambassador Rick Burt of Washington – the highly respected ex-U.S. Ambassador to Germany and a great friend of Switzerland – to give you the background on this effort. This call will give you an opportunity to ask him any questions you may have and ensure that your views are fully considered. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach me or drop me a line. It is my sincere hope that you will be joining us in seeking fairness for Switzerland.

Please give this great country your moral support!

Yours sincerely,


Peter Munk

Encls.



BARRICK

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January 14, 1998

Mr. Robert J. Donahue
Editor, Editorial Page
International Herald Tribune
181 ave. Charles de Gaulle
92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine
France

Dear Mr. Donahue:

*Re: "Study Accuses Swiss of Abuse and Bias Against Jewish
Wartime Refugees"*

The accusation that the Swiss abused Jews during the Second World War - when they were the one European nation during the Holocaust years which consistently provided sanctuary for them - is a monstrous falsification of facts.

In its misrepresentation, it equals the Holocaust revision and denial theories, only from the opposite point of view. Both claim to be based on so-called "studies" by "scholars" who pile through documents looking for written stories to substantiate their own misguided theories and ignore all the overwhelming eye-witness and other documented evidence disproving their allegations. In both cases, it generates headlines, television clips, recognition and publicity for their originators.

I arrived as a Jewish refugee in Switzerland with many others in the summer of 1944 - at the time when Auschwitz and the other extermination camps were at their maximum operational efficiency - gassing thousands of Jews daily - all fed by the occupied countries of Europe from France to Greece. My family consisted of fourteen people, headed by my eighty year-old grandfather, with his children

and grandchildren. He kissed the ground on crossing the border into Switzerland. So did we all - and so we would have each and every day we lived in those allegedly "sadistic" Swiss camps for Jews. There were no Jews - not one of the millions in Europe then - who would not have given up everything to be in our place in Swiss labour camps. They were the equivalent of heaven on earth for Jews then living in Europe.

I met hundreds of Jewish refugees in Swiss camps from all over Europe who also owed their lives to the extreme generosity of the Swiss. Yes, we all had to work - except those, like me, who were of school age and got an education. All of us - regardless of our age or status - wanted to contribute in some way to a Nazi-surrounded and practically starving, heroic Switzerland in the only way we could: by our own work - any work and for any pay! (Surprisingly, minimum wages become very unimportant when one's life is at risk!)

At that time, every able-bodied Swiss was serving in their army, protecting the country and the whole continent from the Nazi conquest. Theirs was thus the only country that, with enormous courage, consistently flaunted the directions of the all-powerful Nazi German neighbour not to take in Jewish refugees. Yet, at that time, the four million of this great nation resisted and saved thousands from Auschwitz.

If the Americans and British had displayed the same generosity towards Jews from Germany, Austria and the other occupied nations and opened their - much less threatened - frontiers to persecuted Jews in numbers proportional to the population of their countries, the Holocaust would not have claimed six million lives!

Before we continue this orgy of accusations against a small humane country when the world surrounding them was poisoned, with people behaving like wild beasts, let us remember one more of their great deeds. This unrecognized deed displayed infinite valour in the face of immense danger to national survival, and seems lost today in the anti-Swiss craze.

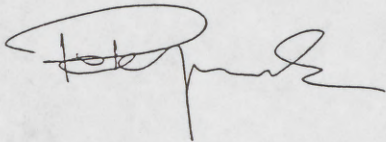
It was the Swiss Consul and Plenipotentiary - Peter Lutz and his superb Swiss staff - under instructions from Bern, who first issued



hundreds - then thousands - of "Swiss Protection Documents" to the Jews of Budapest during 1944. This, in the view of all the historians who researched the destruction and murder of Hungary's Jewry by the Nazis, was one of the key facts responsible for the over 150,000 Jewish survivors in that city.

Let us praise those who helped us during the critical years of the Holocaust, and use our energies to expose those who killed or rounded up their own citizens for the Nazi killing machines. The Swiss are probably the only ones on the continent of Europe who did neither - they just saved our lives!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Munk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Munk

Neue Zürcher Zeitung

21. Januar 1998

«Stop this orgy of accusations!»

The accusation that the Swiss abused Jews during the Second World War – when they were the one European nation during the Holocaust years which consistently provided sanctuary for them – is a monstrous falsification of facts. In its misrepresentation, it equals the Holocaust revision and denial theories only from the opposite point of view. Both claim to be based on so-called «studies» by «scholars» who pile through documents looking for written stories to substantiate their own misguided theories and ignore all the overwhelming eyewitness and other documented evidence disproving their allegations. In both cases, it generates headlines, television clips, recognition and publicity for their originators.

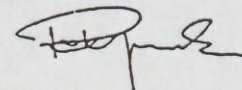
I arrived as a Jewish refugee in Switzerland with many others in the summer of 1944 – at the time when Auschwitz and the other extermination camps were at their maximum operational efficiency – gassing thousands of Jews daily – all fed by the occupied countries of Europe from France to Greece. My family consisted of fourteen people, headed by my eighty-year-old grandfather, with his children and grandchildren. He kissed the ground on crossing the border into Switzerland. So did we all – and so we would have each and every day we lived in those allegedly «sadistic» Swiss camps for Jews. There were no Jews – not one of the millions in Europe then – who would not have given up everything to be in our place in Swiss labour camps. They were the equivalent of heaven on earth for Jews then living in Europe.

I met hundreds of Jewish refugees in Swiss camps from all over Europe who also owed their lives to the extreme generosity of the Swiss. Yes, we all had to work – except those, like me, who were of school age and got an education. All of us – regardless of our age or status – wanted to contribute in some way to a Nazi-surrounded and practically starving, heroic Switzerland in the only way we could: by our own work – any work and for any pay! (Surprisingly, minimum wages become very unim-

portant when one's life is at risk!). – At that time, every able-bodied Swiss was serving in their army, protecting the country and the whole continent from the Nazi conquest. There was thus the only country that, with enormous courage, consistently flaunted the directions of the all-powerful Nazi German neighbour not to take in Jewish refugees. Yet, at that time, the four million of this great nation resisted and saved thousands from Auschwitz. If the Americans and British had displayed the same generosity towards Jews from Germany, Austria and the other occupied nations and opened their – much less threatened – frontiers to persecuted Jews in numbers proportional to the population of their countries, the Holocaust would not have claimed six million lives!

Before we continue this orgy of accusations against a small humane country when the world surrounding them was poisoned, with people behaving like wild beasts, let us remember one more of their great deeds. This unrecognized deed displayed infinite valour in the face of immense danger to national survival, and seems lost today in the anti-Swiss craze. It was the Swiss Plenipotentiary – Carl Lutz and his superb Swiss staff – who first issued hundreds – then thousands – of «Swiss Protection Documents» to the Jews of Budapest during 1944. This, in the view of all the historians who researched the destruction and murder of Hungary's Jewry by the Nazis, was one of the key facts responsible for the over 150 000 Jewish survivors in that city.

Let us praise those who helped us during the critical years of the Holocaust, and use our energies to expose those who killed or rounded up their own citizens for the Nazi killing machines. The Swiss are probably the only ones on the continent of Europe who did neither – they just saved our lives!



Peter Munk (Toronto)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defending Switzerland

Regarding "Study. Accuses Swiss of Abuse and Bias Against Jewish Wartime Refugees" (Jan. 14):

The accusation that Switzerland abused Jews during World War II — when it was the only European nation that consistently provided them sanctuary — is monstrous.

I arrived as a Jewish refugee in Switzerland in the summer of 1944. At the time Auschwitz and the other extermination camps, all fed by the occupied countries of Europe, were gassing thousands of Jews daily.

My family consisted of 14 people, headed by my 80-year-old grandfather. There were no Jews in Europe who would not have given up everything to be in our place. The Swiss labor camps were the equivalent of heaven on earth for Jews then living in Europe.

There I met hundreds of Jewish refugees from all over Europe who owed their lives to the extreme generosity of the Swiss. Yes, everyone had to work, except those like me who were of school age and got an education.

If the Americans and British had displayed the same generosity toward Jews from Germany, Austria and the other occupied nations, the Holocaust would not have claimed 6 million Jewish lives.

Before we continue this orgy of accusation against the behavior of

a small country when the world around it was poisoned, when people were behaving like wild beasts, let us remember its great deeds. The fact that Switzerland displayed valor in the face of immense danger to its national survival seems lost today in the anti-Swiss craze.

PETER MUNK.
Toronto.

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 1997

The Swiss Defense

By Alfred Defago

I was not born yet when Adolf Hitler unleashed World War II. When he committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin in April 1945 and the Third Reich collapsed, I was little more than 2 years old. Thus, I did not experience the war and the unspeakable horror launched by Hitler's ghastly regime.

Like many Swiss of my generation, I grew up believing that neutral Switzerland—completely surrounded by the Nazis and their satellites—had heroically survived the war under extremely difficult circumstances.

This image, of course, has begun to falter. In Switzerland itself, a probing discussion began almost 20 years ago over whether our small, neutral state had behaved in an exemplary manner before, during and after the war. Over the last year, this quiet discussion has been transformed into a heated international debate. Fierce and pointed criticism has been directed toward Switzerland's wartime record, as can be seen by the many articles and programs that have appeared recently in the United States and Europe.

As the representative of the Swiss government and its people in the United States, I believe it is important not to shrink from the growing controversy in this country over Switzerland's role during World War II. The time has come for an open, searching debate. But it is also critical that this discussion be fair, reasoned and based on all the facts.

I would like to be clear about one point: Switzerland—like many other nations—made mistakes during the wartime period. Switzerland—as did others, including the United States—turned back thousands of Jews at its border on the grounds that "the boat was full." Moreover, a senior Swiss official encouraged Germany to use the infamous "J" stamp on the German passports of Jewish citizens. We have to acknowledge these sad facts. Kaspar Villiger, president of the Swiss Confederation in 1995, publicly apologized for Switzerland's serious negligence in refugee policy during the war.

In addition, the Swiss National Bank's gold policy during these years was anything but a study in glory. At that time, the senior managers of the bank clearly did not know that the gold they purchased from the German Reichsbank also contained smelted "victims' gold." But in the last years of the war, they surely must have known that the Germans increasingly delivered gold that came from the looted stocks of central banks in occupied countries.

The Swiss of today cannot be proud of these failings. But dwelling on these events alone presents a one-sided picture of the Swiss record. History also records many positive actions by my country during this period that have been played down or ignored altogether in the debate, especially here in the United States.

The Switzerland of those years—despite the compromises with Nazi Germany and its satellites—was a country that defended its free and

democratic system under the most difficult circumstances. In the midst of the National Socialist and fascist barbarity, here was a small country in the heart of Europe that protected free speech and insisted on the right to hold free and open elections. And in these elections, the Nazis and their few Swiss sympathizers never stood a ghost of a chance. The Switzerland of that time was an anti-Nazi, open democracy, the only one in Central Europe.

The Swiss radio programs of those years had a wide listening audience in Nazi Germany and occupied Europe. To the great annoyance of those in power in Berlin, this gave hope to millions of oppressed people who believed in the ultimate triumph of democracy.

Although Switzerland refused entry to approximately 30,000 Jews (and thus probably subjected many to brutal persecution) it should not be forgotten that Switzerland admitted more than 230,000 refugees from Nazism during the war, including 27,000 Jews. Those Jewish refugees, together with the 20,000 indigenous Swiss Jews, escaped the Holocaust. This was the only Central European Jewish community to survive the war. In other words, Switzerland granted safe haven to more persecuted Jews per capita than most other countries.

It has now become fashionable to argue that Switzerland's wartime neutrality was opportunistic and even morally reprehensible. But the Swiss policy of neutrality did not emerge in the face of the Nazi threat. It was centuries old, and it should be emphasized that Swiss neutrality during the war was never mistaken as *moral* neutrality. Instead, it was a small, threatened country's means of surviving as a free and independent political entity.

Even after World War II, in the view of its recent critics, Switzerland is said to have behaved in an arrogant and unfeeling manner. These critics sarcastically ask why Switzerland was somehow absent when it came time to rebuild Europe.

But Switzerland did help. While the war was still raging, the Swiss Parliament approved a large-scale assistance program to help the war's victims. Between 1945 and 1948, more than 200 million Swiss francs was spent to rebuild Europe and provide humanitarian aid. This amount would be roughly equivalent to 1 billion Swiss francs today (about \$700 million U.S.). While most of this money came from government revenues, more than one-quarter was raised through donations from the Swiss people. What makes this effort all the more impressive is that it amounted to 1.6 percent of the entire Swiss gross national product. To put this in perspective, the Marshall Plan assistance from the United States amounted to 1.2 percent of the U.S. gross national product.

In the final analysis, however, it is not primarily a question of what Switzerland and other countries did or did not do in the 1940s that matters, but how these nations come to terms with their past. The view of Switzerland in the U.S. media is that of a country that is stonewalling and deferring any concrete steps

to resolve the problems of the past.

The truth is more complicated. It took a while for Switzerland to realize the magnitude of the problem, which had been concealed by the stakes of the Cold War. Once it became clear that the darker side of our past had to be revisited, unprecedented steps were initiated and acted upon as fast as Swiss institutions and customs permitted. The U.S. official most heavily engaged in this issue, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, has stated that "among the neutral countries, Switzerland has taken the lead" in coming to grips with its past. I agree with this assessment, because of the wide range of measures my country has taken during the last year.

■ In December, the Swiss Parliament unanimously approved the creation of an independent commission to shed full light on Switzerland's role during World War II. The commission, chaired by professor Jean-Francois Bergier, includes eminent Swiss and international historians. Dozens of researchers are at work on this project and more are being hired. At the order of the Swiss government, the commission has been granted and guaranteed unlimited access to all sources in Switzerland, including the banks. By the end of this year, the Bergier commission is scheduled to issue its first interim report on gold transactions with Nazi Germany. A second report on Swiss refugee policy during the war years will follow early next year.

■ The Swiss government is sparing no effort to ensure that any assets in Swiss banks belonging to victims of the Holocaust be returned to survivors, their heirs or to organizations representing the survivors of the Nazi atrocities. To this end, the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons was established in May 1995 by the Swiss Bankers Association and several Jewish organizations, under the leadership of retired U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker. Recently, in a highly publicized and unprecedented action, the Swiss bankers in cooperation with the Volcker committee and Swiss authorities, published a list of almost 2,000 dormant accounts in Swiss banks.

■ We believe it is imperative to relieve the suffering of Holocaust survivors around the world. To that end, the Swiss government has established a \$100 million humanitarian fund, drawing on contributions from the Swiss banks and private industry. The fund will be bolstered by another \$70 million from the Swiss National Bank later this year, if the parliament approves.

■ In a project that we believe not only redresses the consequences of the past but also helps to ease and—if possible—prevent future suffering, my government has proposed the daring idea of a "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity." The foundation's aim would be to support deserving causes not only in Switzerland but throughout the world. With this in mind, and consistent with Switzerland's strong humanitarian tradition, this foundation would dedicate its annual income—the equivalent of several hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars—to assist victims of poverty, injustice, genocide and human rights

violations. These plagues tragically befall our era as much as to the past. This important and far-reaching proposal will go before Swiss people in a referendum at a later date.

It should be clear then, that the people of Switzerland are committed to the profoundly important task of coming to terms with their past, even though there may be debate on how best to draw conclusions and make amends. We know that this is a costly and occasionally also painful undertaking; we believe in this endeavor. We also know others are interested in our progress, particularly the Jewish community in many countries. We understand this interest and concern.

But I personally hope that the interests cans have in the Swiss process of reflection will be expressed in constructive ways. Like Americans, we Swiss are a proud and react better to constructive dialogues than unreasonable pressure tactics.

In a spirit of genuine openness, Switzerland is prepared to tackle the problem in confidence. The shadows of World War II in partnership with the Jewish community, the U.S. government and the governments of other countries. It may sometimes appear that Switzerland moves slowly, this is because the Swiss are deliberate and prudent people. But we have made up our minds to do something we can rely on us. In the task now before us, not the slightest doubt that Switzerland will respond in a thorough and serious manner.

Alfred Defago has been the Swiss ambassador to the United States since April.

LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIALS

There Was Nothing Sinister in Swiss Refugee Camps

■ **World War II:** Switzerland deserves credit, not a bashing, for taking in Jews and Gentiles without discrimination.

By THOMAS G. BORER

BERN, Switzerland—Fifty-three years have passed since the end of World War II—surely time enough for Jewish wartime refugees to speak out against living conditions in the camps they shared then with Gentile refugees. Some complaints about the spartan compounds did indeed arise, but Swiss soldiers, too, grumbled about their lot in similar “no frills” camps.

A soul-searching nationwide reappraisal of Switzerland's wartime role is still underway, but it deals with ethical issues over official and private-sector conduct, actual moral misconduct and policies atoning for it.

Thus it came as a shock to read of American historian Alan M. Schom's report, just published by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, labeling Switzerland a “slave-labor camp” for Jewish refugees during the war.

Speaking for my fellow Swiss—both Jews and Gentiles—I find the allegations insulting and dishonest. Schom's charges are outrageous. They can only be treated with utter contempt.

One Jewish refugee from Poland, Leopold G. Koss, entered Switzerland in 1942 and wrote last year in the Jerusalem Post of his several months in a labor camp near Zurich. The refugee, now a renowned professor and chairman emeritus at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York, described the camp to Israeli readers:

“It was hardly luxury—but it was safe,”

he said. “My only wish was that my parents and my only sister, who had stayed in Poland, could have been there with me. They all perished.”

In September 1943, Koss could resume medical studies at the University of Bern, spending 3 1/2 years there without being asked to pay tuition. His experience, he wrote, was “one far remote from the dreadful image of greed and collusion with the Nazis now being painted.”

Such realities—basic field-research work for any serious historian—would find no place in the fictitious “slave-labor camp” described by Schom.

What concerns me most about Schom's allegations is the confusion they sow in readers' minds: Likening Swiss refugee work camps to Nazi concentration camps not only casts a terrible slur on Swiss humanitarianism; in effect it trivializes Nazi atrocities, reducing German “war crimes” to a tolerable gray area.

Any fair-minded judge of Switzerland's wartime role as a refugee haven should keep these facts in mind:

During World War II, Switzerland accepted 300,000 refugees (not 128,000 as claimed by Schom), 28,000 Jews among them. Entry was refused to 30,000 Jews and Gentiles, not 100,000 as asserted by Schom who cites no verifiable evidence.

These figures aside, denying entry to those fleeing the Holocaust is clearly a black mark on Swiss history. Since 1995, my government has repeatedly offered its apologies for this. It should be noted that Switzerland still managed to offer wartime

refuge to far more fleeing Jews per capita than the United States.

The refugees accepted were treated according to their legal status (military or civilian, then as men, women and children, finally those able-bodied or in need of medical care). But they were never divided by race or religious faith.

Most of the 28,000 Jews accepted were never placed in working camps. Only those who could not be placed in families among the 4 million population were assigned to camps. No more than 4,000 refugees at any given time were sheltered in all refugee camps in Switzerland.

The myth that only Jews had to cover their refugee costs needs correction: All civilian refugees were treated equally. The concept of a “special Jew tax” being assessed is totally absurd.

Surely the refugee camps were no vacation paradises. Unfortunately, in some camps harsh treatment was imposed. However, times were tough. All Swiss faced hardships including mandatory farm labor during the war. And refugee workers earned wages and were served meals similar to those given Swiss soldiers. They also had leisure time and could regularly leave the camps on evenings and weekends.

There are numerous former refugees who are more than willing to attest to these facts. Such accounts effectively rebut the Schom image of “slave labor camps.”

Switzerland deserves fair treatment for its efforts to reappraise its World War II role—not the counterproductive form of Swiss-bashing engaged in by the Schom report.

Thomas G. Borer is Swiss ambassador-at-large and head of a government task force investigating Switzerland's role during and after World War II.

THOMAS BORER

On a recent trip to New York, I had the pleasure of meeting with leading comptrollers and treasurers from around the United States. This meeting was particularly important because we have entered a new phase in which some of the comptrollers and treasurers gathered were considering imposing sanctions against Swiss banks in their respective cities or states.

Aside from hearing my government's firm opposition to such sanctions, it was helpful that they also heard that the government of the United States strongly opposed such sanctions. To quote from a statement delivered at the same meeting on behalf of Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat: "The Swiss have done so much and have gotten so little credit that it is far from the time or season for sanctions. We should be applauding Switzerland's actions and encouraging its continued progress. . . . Weighing the progress that Switzerland is making, the results which we are determined to see, it continues to be my judgment that state and local sanctions are not only unwarranted but would be counterproductive."

Let me make it clear that the Swiss have no desire to whitewash our history. We are determined to re-examine in depth our actions during that dark era and its aftermath, for we strongly believe every country needs to come to terms with its past in order to successfully master its future. I am proud to tell you that the Swiss government, the Swiss Parliament and the Swiss people are strongly committed to establishing the truth about this difficult period of history, and will do so in a spirit of compassion, understanding and solidarity for

Crediting the Swiss side of the ledger

the victims of the worst tragedy in the history of mankind.

During the past year, as I have traveled the world to brief government officials, Jewish leaders, the media and other interested groups on the unprecedented steps my country has taken to resolve this issue, I have sometimes been surprised at the lack of knowledge or understanding of the measures we now have in place.

Let me briefly review some of the steps taken:

(1) We launched a humanitarian initiative to alleviate the distress of needy survivors. In close cooperation and consulta-

tion with Jewish organizations and thanks to the significant financial contribution of the three major Swiss banks, the Swiss National Bank, and Swiss industry, we established a humanitarian fund for the survivors of the Holocaust and their families. This fund is now completely operational, paying out money, and its endowment currently totals approximately \$200 million.

(2) Because the government of Switzerland is firmly determined to publicly examine our role as a financial center during the war years, the Swiss Parliament unanimously passed a law on Dec. 13, 1996, creating an independent commission of nine international experts. The commission's mandate is to study all legal, economic and historical aspects of Switzerland's role as a financial center before, during and after the war years, as well as its relation with Nazi Germany. For the purposes of this investigation, all Swiss banking and

professional secrecy regulations have been lifted in order to ensure unlimited access to all public and private archives.

(3) Additionally, the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons directed by Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, was established in May 1996 in an agreement between Jewish organizations and the Swiss Bankers Association. This committee has the mandate to undertake a forensic audit of all searches made by Swiss banks regarding dormant accounts and other assets dating from the World War II period. This process is now yielding concrete results.

On July 23 and Oct. 29, 1997, the Swiss Bankers' Association released lists of unclaimed accounts dormant since 1945, amounting to about \$55 million. I cannot overstate the significance of this effort. Publishing these lists will ease and accelerate the process of identifying the rightful owners in complete openness. As Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright said during her official visit to Switzerland in November, "Indeed, Switzerland has shown courage in confronting this challenge. . . . Switzerland is setting the pace in the intensity of its national debate and the comprehensiveness of its approach."

Many countries are now facing the same kind of questions we do and none — not one — has taken comparable measures. This again, is why I'm surprised and troubled when I hear of possible sanctions in the United States against Swiss banks.

As the Clinton administration, Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, Rabbi Chaim Stauber, vice president of the World Council of Orthodox Jewish Communities, and numerous others have clearly and unequivocally stated, sanctions can only impede the process of reconciliation.

No country has a more pro-American tradition in Europe than Switzerland. We very much want this tradition to continue. Just as we want our economic relationships to continue and prosper.

Again, while many Americans are not aware of it, Switzerland has a very strong economic partnership with the United States. Let me list a few examples:

- With direct foreign investment amounting to more than \$35 billion, Switzerland ranks among the top seven investors in the United States.

- Swiss companies provide jobs for approximately 300,000 Americans throughout the United States. These companies pay federal, state and local taxes.

- More than 500 U.S. companies have an established presence in Switzerland.

- Exports of U.S. goods and services to Switzerland exceeded \$14 billion in 1996, with the United States achieving a bilateral trade surplus of nearly \$3 billion. The amount was enough to offset the U.S. trade deficit with Latin America.

In closing, I would only ask that any comptroller or treasurer who is contemplating sanctions examine the many steps the banks and my country have taken before making a decision. I am confident you will be pleased with the progress we have made and decide sanctions would only impede the process.

In the meantime, Switzerland will continue to do the right thing.

Ambassador Thomas G. Borer is head of the task force coordinating Switzerland's investigation on its role before, during and after World War II.

Study Accuses Swiss of Abuse and Bias Against Jewish Wartime Refugees

By John-Thor Dahlburg
Los Angeles Times Service

PARIS — As the dark clouds of World War II gathered over Europe, Jews by the tens of thousands desperately hoped to find sanctuary in neutral Switzerland. Many were turned away at the frontier or even handed back to the Nazis by the Swiss.

But in other cases, even those who were permitted to cross the Alps to safety were not at the end of their ordeal. A study — formally made public Tuesday in Los Angeles and already disputed in Switzerland — asserts that the thousands of Jewish refugees who were confined by the Swiss in camps were kept under grim, sometimes cruel conditions behind barbed wire at gunpoint and forced to work for little or no pay.

Many families were forcibly separated by the police — including, in some cases, nursing infants from their mothers, the study says. A “special Jew-tax,” it continues, was levied on

the richest foreign Jews, but not on Christians or refugees from other faiths, to help underwrite their upkeep in Switzerland.

“The Swiss were really sadistic: They wanted to hurt the Jews — to deliberately hurt the Jews,” Alan Morris Schom, the American historian who wrote the study, said in a telephone interview from his home in the Loire Valley of France.

After more than a year of research, including scouring archives recently declassified by the British Foreign Office, Mr. Schom concluded that there was no doubt that the camps, which held an estimated 22,500 men, women and children by 1944, were meant specifically for Jews.

“At least 80 percent of the inmates were Jews,” Mr. Schom said. “Some camps had up to 95 percent or 98 percent Jewish membership.”

Men as old as 60 were made to haul logs in forests or dig ditches on roads in the Alps, including during the winter, he added. Women often were assigned to institutions and private homes to mop floors, clean toilets or perform other do-

mestic chores. Living conditions in unheated barns or wooden barracks were spartan at best.

Male inmates might be insulted with anti-Semitic remarks or forced to carry out tasks beyond their physical strength. Refugees who complained could be sent to “punishment camps” or expelled from Switzerland.

**‘The Swiss were really sadistic:
They wanted to hurt the Jews
— to deliberately hurt the Jews.’**

“These were really slave labor camps,” Mr. Schom said. “On the whole, people were absolute prisoners. If they tried to leave their jobs, they could be handed back to the Gestapo.”

The study about Switzerland’s “unwanted guests” was commissioned by the Simon Wiesenthal Foundation, which is based in Los

Angeles. The conclusions, and similar charges aired Jan. 5 in a news report on Britain’s Channel Four television, appear certain to intensify pressures on the Swiss for a full accounting of their country’s wartime acts.

For more than a year and a half, international Jewish organizations and the Clinton administration have been pushing the Swiss to divulge the extent of wartime dealings with the Nazis and the whereabouts of assets deposited by Holocaust victims in Swiss banks.

“Tragically, I think this is potentially a greater embarrassment for the Swiss than the issue of Nazi gold,” Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said Monday of the latest allegations of wholesale Swiss discrimination against Jewish refugees.

Linda Shepard, spokeswoman for the Swiss Federal Task Force in Bern, a government agency established to deal with allegations of Swiss misconduct during World War II, had not seen the Wiesenthal center report Monday. But

when she was informed of its chief allegations, she flatly rejected them.

“We have to underline that the Jews were not treated differently from other refugees,” she said. “All able-bodied Swiss also had to do mandatory labor to help secure the survival of Switzerland during the war years.

“There were no prisoners,” she continued. “The refugees could leave the camps on weekends and hundreds were offered to pursue studies at Swiss universities.”

In a separate statement, the Swiss Foreign Ministry said that all camps for civilians and soldiers complied with international law.

From 1933 to 1945, more than 200,000 people were granted asylum in Switzerland, including an estimated 28,000 Jews. Switzerland agreed to pay the costs of feeding, clothing and housing refugees — but not for Jews.

Another 30,000 Jews were not allowed to enter Switzerland at all, a decision that for many was tantamount to a death sentence.

Charlie King for Lieutenant Governor

200 West 72nd Street, Suite 63
(212) 496-5590

New York, New York 10023
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April 2, 1998

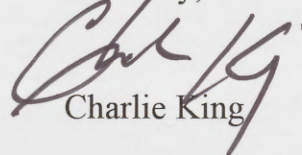
Mr. Martin Begun
MSB Strategies
1345 Avenue of the Americas
30th Floor
New York, New York 10105

Dear Marty:

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday regarding my campaign to be the next Lieutenant Governor of New York State and for your support. It was also wonderful to discuss politics and Black Jewish relations with you.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping me reach out to various people and groups that you believe could be helpful to my campaign, and I look forward to speaking with you again soon.

Sincerely,



Charlie King



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022-4134

April 8, 1998

Dear Dr. Begun,

Please accept my sincere and heartfelt greetings as another Passover approaches. As you celebrate the Seder, recalling the wonderful works of G'd in the life of Israel, I pray that I might be remembered among those in fellowship with you.

This Passover of 5758 also marks fifty years since the establishment of the State of Israel. I rejoice that the Jewish homeland has prospered as a sign of G'd's favor and I join you in praying for its secure peace within the family of nations.

As is so often the case, both of our religious festivals of Passover and Easter coincide on the calendar. As I celebrate the foundational event of Christianity, rest assured that I do so with great appreciation for the Covenant at Mount Sinai and for the witness borne to that covenant by you, your family and the Jewish people. May G'd bless you with great love and may you be a blessing for us all.

Faithfully,

Archbishop of New York

Dr. Martin Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017



**Jewish
Community
Relations
Council
OF NEW YORK, INC.**

JACK D. WEILER CENTER FOR INTERGROUP RELATIONS
711 Third Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017
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- Emanah Women of America
- Greater NY Coalition for Soviet Jewry
- Hadasah, NY Region
- Hillel of New York
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- Jewish War Veterans
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- Religious Zionists of America
- Suffolk Jewish Community Planning Council
- UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of NY
- Union of American Hebrew Congregations
- Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations
- United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
- Westchester Jewish Conference
- WIZO-Women's International Zionist Organization
- Women's American ORT, NY District
- Workmen's Circle
- Zionist Organization of America

The JCRC is a beneficiary of the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

April 15, 1998

The Hon. Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

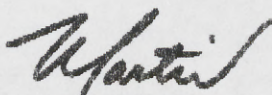
Dear Senator Moynihan,

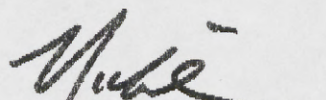
On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, we want to thank you for supporting the March 26, letter to President Clinton, urging the Administration to continue in the "critical role as facilitator" of the peace process, and not step beyond those bounds.

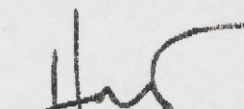
Reports of presenting any "American plan" not acceptable to Israel could be interpreted by some as constituting U.S. pressure on Israel, thereby compromising America's credibility in the process. While bilateral reciprocal diplomacy is difficult between parties who have encountered mistrust and strife for decades, it must be encouraged. This, after all, is the concept which anchors the Oslo Accords, an agreement which America has endorsed, and must adhere to, however difficult.

We thank you again for your ongoing support for the U.S.-Israel relationship and for your contributions to helping foster peace in the Middle East.

Sincerely,


Martin S. Begun
President


Michael S. Miller
Executive Vice President


Harney Mandel, Director
Israel and International Concerns

Consulat Général de France
à New York

Le Consul Général

945

March 6, 1998

Mr Martin S. Begun
President
Jewish Community Relations Council
711 Third Avenue
NEW YORK N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr Begun,

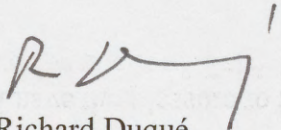
I have the pleasure to inform you that I was appointed Consul General of France in New York in replacement of Patrick Gautrat.

I am quite aware of the excellent relations between the Consulate General of France and the JCRC, and of your valuable activities.

I would be happy to meet with you in a near future at a convenient time which will fit with your busy schedule, in order to make your acquaintance and discuss with you the kind of cooperation we can have in the future.

With my best regards.

Sincerely,


Richard Duqué

meeting, Thursday @ 12:00
3/26

SENT BY:

3-24-98 ; 12:09 ; FRENCH CONSULATE→

98834084:# 2/ 2

Richard DUQUÉ
Consul General of France

Born in 1947
Political Science degree
School of National Administration

1972 - 1975 **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cultural Relations)**

1975 - 1979 **Secretary at the French Mission to the UN**

1979 - 1982 **U.T.A. Airline Company**

1982 - 1985 **Second Counsellor of the French Delegation to NATO**

1985 - 1986 **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

1986 - 1988 **Advisor to the Prime Minister's Office**

1989 - 1992 **Deputy Representative of the French Delegation to NATO**

1993 **Permanent Representative to the Union of Western Europe**

1993 - 1995 **Spokesman of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

1995 - 1997 **Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister's Office**

February 1998 **Consul General in New York**

Jewish Community Relations Council Of New York, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: David Pollock
(212) 983-4800, ext. 132
(212) 663-2385

For Immediate Release
March 27, 1998

Statement of Martin S. Begun, President Jewish Community Relations Council of New York

We take great exception to Former Mayor Dinkins' characterization of the Crown Heights Jewish community and its civil court action. The lawsuit is not predicated on "political clout" or "influence" — it is built upon meticulously collected evidence. The Crown Heights Jewish community has not tried to "profit at the city's expense". Rather, the object of the proceedings is to collect damages for those actually injured during the four days of rioting in August, 1991 and to ensure that no similar situation ever arise in New York. Quite simply, they are pursuing justice.

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The Jewish Community Relations Council is the central coordinating and resource body for over 60 major Jewish organizations in the metropolitan New York area.

MEMBER
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NEW YORK

American Gathering and Federation of Jewish
Holocaust Survivors
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American Sephardi Federation

Association of Brooklyn Jewish Community Councils
Council of Jewish Organizations of Bay Park
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Jewish Community Council of Canarsie
Crown Heights Jewish Community Council
Council of Jewish Associations of Flatbush

Labor Zionist Movement
Labor Zionist Alliance
NIA AMAT USA
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Masada — Holocaust Survivors Organization
National Council of Jewish Women