

CD-1032 Transcription

Dictation from International Affairs Committee. December 1980.

Marc Tanenbaum:

-- P. McBrien, Chairman, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, etc.

Dear Father McBrien,

Thank you for your warm and thoughtful letter of December 6th. I too recall with warm memories our meeting in November, 1980, at the time of the inauguration of the Abrams Library Collection at Notre Dame.

I was delighted to learn that Newton Minow and Lester Crown -- incidentally, both of whom are members of the American Jewish Committee -- [01:00] have endowed a program in your theology department to foster Jewish-Catholic dialogue and understanding. I can think of no more influential institution in which such an important activity could be established.

Last week, I had the pleasure of having lunch with Ed and [Anne?] Abrams of Atlanta. [02:00] They have talked to me about their interest in strengthening such activity at Notre Dame.

They are planning to try to arrange a meeting between Father Ted, themselves and myself to explore alternative possibilities for what they have in mind. I am sure that they will want to discuss this important matter with you as well.

With regard to future [03:00] possibilities in program, I would suggest that you may want to consider convening a national consultation on the theme of "the sanctity of human life -- Catholic and Jewish perspectives." This moral and theological issue, I believe, is critically important in today's world, especially in light of the devaluation of the human personality as created in the sacred image of God. The rise in crime, violence, terrorism, massacres [04:00] virtually throughout the entire world reflects how profound is the decline of reverence for life, and the devastating human consequences that flow from that dehumanization. I enclose a copy of a paper that I delivered on this theme at a joint meeting with the Lutheran World Federation.

If you are interested in organizing such a consultation, I would be happy to have the American Jewish Committee cosponsor it with you and carry joint responsibilities for its planning, financing, etc. [05:00]

With warmest -- I would very much appreciate having your response to this idea.

With warmest personal good wishes, for a healthy and, above all, peaceful holy season, I am cordially yours.

Sign my name. Carbon copy to Father Ted Hesburgh, and carbon copy to Ed Abrams, blind carbon copy to Donald Feldstein, Bill [Troston?], Bob Jacobs, [Selma Hirsch, Mort Yarman?].

This is a letter to the Reverend (inaudible; microphone noise).

This is a letter to the Reverend James R. Lyons, the director of the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies.

Dear Jim,

Thanks very much for your warm and thoughtful letter of December 14th. [06:00]

I too look forward with much pleasure to taking part in the lecture series on the Good Friday theme.

The outline of the (inaudible, microphone noise). I simply [will?] suggest the addition of the name of the American Jewish Committee.

F:

Rabbi?

Marc Tanenbaum:

Yeah?

(break in audio)

Add the name of the American Jewish Committee to that of the National Institute for Catholic-Jewish Education. I have indicated that on the program.

I was delighted to learn that the Archdiocese of [07:00] Detroit has contributed a grant to publish these lectures.

I have written a major paper on this theme, which I need to review for publication purposes. I will certainly send this to you before February 1st.

As I indicated to Sister Anne Marie during our last telephone conversation, it would be a useful thing to plan a press conference on March 8th, at which principal people who are responsible for the Samuel and Isabelle Friedman Grant [08:00] to the conference will be present. I will be in touch with you shortly as soon as we have some positive response from the bank leadership that made available the trust grant.

With warmest personal good wishes for a healthy, and above all, a peaceful holy season, I am cordially yours.

Sign my name. Carbon copy to Sister Anne Marie Erst, Sherwood [Sandweiss?]. Blind carbon copy to Maxwell [Katzen?], as well as to Donald Feldstein.

This is a letter Mr. Maxwell Kazen.

Dear Mr. Katzen,

I enjoyed very much our last telephone conversation.

[09:00] Enclosed, please find a copy of my letter and my letter to Reverend James Lyons of the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Relations. The enclosed correspondence, as well as an

outline of the program, indicate that the Samuel and Isabella Friedman Charitable Trust will be prominently acknowledged on the printed program.

I do await word from you as to whether you and your associates will be free to take part in a press conference that we could plan on March 8th to announce the grant as well as to Anne Marie Erst to the media.

[10:00] With warmest good wishes for a happy and healthy Hanukkah, I am cordially yours.

Sign my name. Enclose copies of the Lyons correspondence and the program.

(break in audio)

This is a letter to Mr. Lawrence S. Phillips, President, Van Heusen Corporation, etc.

Dear Larry,

I enjoyed our telephone conversation the other day.

Since our talking, I have contacted the International Rescue Committee, and have asked them to arrange for you to be received by the appropriate government and refugee officials in Thailand. Al Kastner of the IRC staff [11:00] told me that he would contact you in order to make the necessary arrangements.

In addition, I have spoken with Ambassador Victor Harel of the Israel embassy. As soon as I have your exact travel schedule, the Israel embassy in Washington will cable their embassies in Bangkok and Rangoon, and will arrange for you to be received by the Israel ambassadors of both those countries. You will find it interesting, I think, to obtain their unders-- to learn their views on the situation in both those countries in term-- in both those countries. [12:00]

Thank you for suggesting my meeting with the people interested in the tribute to Denmark. I am meeting with [tape cut] I am meeting with Dr. Falik, and with Miss [Anne Roiphe?] on December 22nd to discuss their project.

Please give me a ring when you return from London.

With warmest good wishes, from Georgette and myself, for a healthy, and above all, a peaceful new year. Cordially as ever.

Sign my name. Blind carbon copy to Donald Feldstein, and Bob
[13:00] Jacobs, and Mort Yarman. Also blind carbon copy to
Georgette.

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