

CD-1035 Transcription

Dictated correspondence related to personal and AJC activities

[00:00] Seifert, secretary-general, and to Imre Haber, president of the Central Board of Hungarian Jews. I guess if you can write it in Hungarian that would be nice. At their address on their stationery in Budapest.

Dear Dr. Seifert and Mr. Haber,

The American Jewish Committee and I personally are deeply grateful for your thoughtful invitation to take part in the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the deportation of Hungarian Jewry to be held in Budapest from May 13th to 15th.

[01:00] We are deeply moved by your invitation and plan to have a representative group of American Jewish Committee leaders to be present.

Since my wife was born in Budapest, I would have particular reason to want to join you in that ceremony. At the moment I am not sure that my schedule will allow my coming in May, although I do have plans to come to Budapest sometime in June.

[02:00] In any case as soon as we have determined the names of those who will represent us at your historic occasion, we will let you know.

I look forward with anticipation to meeting both of you in person on my next visit to Budapest. With warmest personal good wishes for a *Chag Sameach* I am cordially yours.

Sign my name. Carbon copy to David Geller and blind carbon copy to Bill Trosten.

This is a letter to Professor Heiko Oberman, University of Tübingen.

My dear Heiko,

[03:00] I was delighted to receive your recent thoughtful note.

I plan to be in New York most of the month of August and therefore will look forward eagerly to meeting with you and [Tuti?]. Perhaps both of you could arrange one evening to have dinner with my wife and myself at our apartment once you are settled here.

I have just recently received a copy of your book on the "roots of anti-Semitism." I plan to study it very shortly. [04:00] I have been traveling a great deal lately since I became director of international relations for the AJC and therefore have a lot of catching up to do with reading that is important to me. Your book stands at the height of that list.

With every good wish I am cordially yours.

Sign my name. And sign it director of the IRD.

This is a letter to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.

My dear Archbishop Iakovos,

What a [05:00] stunning luncheon tribute that was to you Sunday afternoon. It had all the qualities of an act of love -- genuineness, outpouring of deep feeling, love and respect.

I felt all those emotions toward you as that wonderful and impressive program unfolded.

I feel it is a genuine privilege to be able to be counted among your friends and admirers. May God bless you, and in the words of Jewish tradition, may you go from strength to strength until 120 years.

[06:00] I would love to have lunch with you one day shortly just to catch up on matters of common interest.

With warmest good wishes and my prayers for God's richest blessings over you in the coming years of your sterling leadership, I am cordially as ever

Sign my name Rabbi.

This is a letter to His Excellency Archbishop Pio Laghi, Papal Nuncio to the United States at his address in Washington, DC.

My dear Archbishop Laghi,

It was a delight to see you again both at the installation ceremonies for Archbishop O'Connor and [07:00] at the observance honoring Archbishop Iakovos.

In behalf of the American Jewish Committee and for myself personally, I wish to express to you our heartiest congratulations and best wishes on your designation as Papal Nuncio to the United States. This is a richly deserved acknowledgment of the great contributions you have made in the moral and diplomatic realms over so many years of achievement.

We look forward to opportunities of collaborating with you in areas of common interest serving God's human family.

With warmest good wishes and my prayers for God's richest blessings over you [08:00] in your new undertaking, I am cordially yours.

Sign my name Rabbi and Director of International Relations.

Enclose a copy of my Vatican US diplomatic scrip.

This is a memorandum to William Gralnick. Carbon copy to David Harris for me. The subject is Miami/Central America.

Dear Bill,

I enjoyed very much our meeting together on your last visit to New York. I am pleased that you will be able to join us on our

May 1st meeting with representatives from the major Jewish religious and educational institutions [09:00] together with [FADACO?] representatives.

Let me clarify something about my understanding of our conversation regarding Central America. It is the responsibility of AJC's international relations department to form policy and implement program with regard to Central America. That is a national responsibility and cannot be transferred to any area office.

As I see it, there is a specific program task which is appropriate to the Miami chapter, namely, helping meet some specific [10:00] educational and cultural needs that FADACO members ask for. Those specific tasks need to be coordinated with our national office so that we have a clear understanding of our policy guidelines and do not allow independent "foreign policies" to be developed in area offices around the country. Otherwise, we will have in time a mess of confusion with mixed signals going out from AJC both to our chapters as well as to the FADACO people.

[11:00] I hope that is your understanding as well and that we can talk about it further when you are here on May 1st.

Carbon copy to David Harris, [Sergio Nucostachel?], [Harold Appelbaum?].

This is a memorandum to Hy Bookbinder from Marc Tanenbaum.

Dear Bookie,

You were absolutely magnificent both in your op-ed piece in the *Times* as well as on CBS television with [avaresk?].

[12:00] I think that Howard Friedman and you made a basic contribution and a much needed one to putting the whole issue of the place of Israel in Jewish voting patterns into the proper perspective.

It was AJC at its very best, and I congratulate you on your sterling performance. I really feel proud to be your colleague!

Do this one first.

This is a note to [Art Feuer?] and [Phil Schames?] with a carbon copy to Bill Trosten and James Rudin.

[13:00] I had lunch today with Leonard Yaseen, who informed me that he has just made a contribution to AJC earmarked for interreligious programming on the international scene. He said that he wanted the funds allocated "to Marc Tanenbaum" and as you know we are trying to mobilize funds for our interreligious work on the continent.

Please be sure to have Leonard Yaseen's contribution [14:00] so designated on the books. I plan to use his funds for our textbook work and seminars in Germany as well as for a conference in Italy during the coming year. [14:23]

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