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MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 13, Folder 4, Blaustein, Morton, 1978.

MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN

BLAUSTEIN BUILDING
POST OFFICE BOX 238
BALTIMORE, MD. 21203

July 17, 1978

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Department of Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

I have written a rather long report to Richie Maass and Bert Gold concerning various aspects of my meetings of the Claims Conference and the Memorial Foundation in London and the sessions with the Alliance Israelite Universelle in Paris. While I am not bothering you with the full report, I did think that you might want to see the enclosed copies of June 30 letter to me from Rabbi Springer of Agudas Israel World Organisation and my reply to him.

I hope that all goes well with you, and that you will have a very pleasant summer.

With warm regards,

Cordially,

Mort

Morton K. Blaustein

MKB:pl
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Maass
Mr. Bertram H. Gold
Mrs. Selma Hirsh

MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN

BLAUSTEIN BUILDING
POST OFFICE BOX 238
BALTIMORE, MD. 21203

July 17, 1978

Rabbi M. R. Springer
Agudas Israel World Organisation
273, Green Lanes
London, N.4
ENGLAND

Dear Rabbi Springer:

Shortly after my return from Europe, I received your June 30 letter. First let me say that it was good to be with you both in London and in Paris; I enjoyed our several chats together, and look forward to the opportunity of talking with you again, hopefully soon.

I notice that Agudas Israel World Organisation has offices in London, Jerusalem, and New York -- and although it is my guess that this letter will reach you in London, I am sending a copy of it to your New York office just in case you should be there at this time. I want to both support the concept of a re-evaluation of the percentage of the income of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture which goes to the Yeshivot and Kolelim -- and, at the same time, I must correct two of your statements. First, I did not give support to any specific percentage, such as the 12-1/2% which you mentioned at the Board Meeting; I do not know enough about the subject matter and its relative importance to other causes supported by the Memorial Foundation to be able to make such a judgment. I merely feel that you are certainly entitled to a re-evaluation of the situation, and probably are entitled to at least some increase (although I do not know how much) in the amount of money which has previously been allocated to these organizations, which you expressed as being very low indeed.

Secondly, I believe you must have misunderstood me in thinking that I said that I would "instruct ... the American Jewish Committee New York office to initiate a survey as to the number of students" in the Torah institutions. First of all, it is not within my power to "instruct" the American Jewish Committee as to the projects which it undertakes. While I am a national

Rabbi M. R. Springer

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officer and therefore feel entirely free to make suggestions and to push them if I feel they are important, the "power" to initiate a survey would rest either with our President who, as you know, is Richard Maass; or with our Executive Vice President who, as you know, is Bertram H. Gold; or the properly established Committee or Commission of AJC - - and if the project were an extensive one, I believe that probably any one of these individuals or groups would request authority from the Board of Governors.

As you know, the American Jewish Committee, being one of the most important organizations in the world in the many fields in which we operate, is involved in literally hundreds of projects - and, thus, it naturally follows that, during my meetings in London and in Paris, I was requested by perhaps a dozen people to ask the American Jewish Committee to do one thing or another. I told them all the same thing that I believe I told you, namely, that I would be glad to pass along their suggestions to the national office of AJC, but that I could not and would not undertake any personal responsibility for whether the organization did or did not decide to pursue the matter.

I have told Richard Maass and Bert Gold of your issue, and have also sent them copies of your letter to me and this response. I would suggest to you that, if you don't hear from them by early fall (because during the remainder of the summer the staff will be naturally depleted due to vacations) then you might want to personally write to either Richie or Bert to reinforce your request. I promise you that they will be fully informed about it from me in the meantime.

It was good of you to add your thoughtful handwritten P.S. to your letter, and I thank you for your generous reference to my late father, who all of us here continue to miss very much indeed.

I hope that you will have a pleasant summer, and that we will have occasion to meet again in the relatively near future.

With best regards,

Cordially,

MKB:pl

Morton K. Blaustein

cc: Mr. Richard Maass
Mr. Bertram H. Gold
Mrs. Selma Hirsh
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum ✓

הסתדרות « אגודת ישראל » העולמית

AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANISATION

The World Union of internationally organised Orthodox Jewry

Executive Offices:
273, GREEN LANES,
LONDON, N.4
HACHERUTH SQUARE,
P.O.B. 326, JERUSALEM
2521, BROADWAY,
NEW YORK, 25

273, GREEN LANES,

LONDON, N.4

ב"ה

30th June, 1978.

Mr Blaustein
American Jewish Committee
165 E. 56 Street
NEW YORK CITY N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr Blaustein,

It was a great pleasure to meet you during the session of the joint meeting of the Alliance Israelite Universelle and the Anglo-Jewish Association in Paris.

I would like to express our whole-hearted thanks and gratitude for your kind promise to support in principle, the suggestion I made at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Memorial Foundation in London, in connection with the support of the Yeshivot and Kolelim. I left a copy of the proposal with Mr Karlikov, and he promised to forward it to New York, as arranged with you.

We are grateful that you found it possible to give your eminent support to the urgently needed financial aid of the above mentioned institutions and particularly for your undertaking to instruct your New York office to initiate a survey as to the number of Yeshivah Bochurim and Kolel Students, in order to work out a fair percentage of the 25% of the income of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Studies, which was decided by the recent meeting of the Board of Governors of the Foundation.

If we could be of any assistance in this survey, it is obvious that we are at your disposal. Any further information you might require from us, will receive our immediate and thorough attention.

We sincerely hope that with yours and your organisation's kind support, it will be possible to rectify the insufficient support the Torah institutions have received up to this date, from the Memorial Foundation. We would like to take this opportunity in expressing our deep thanks for your kind personal interest and assistance which you have kindly given to this very deserving matter.

I hope that you and Mrs Blaustein had a pleasant trip back to the United States.

With kindest regards to you and Mr Mass, and renewed thanks for your interest in the affairs of Rabbinic Studies, which we greatly value and appreciate.

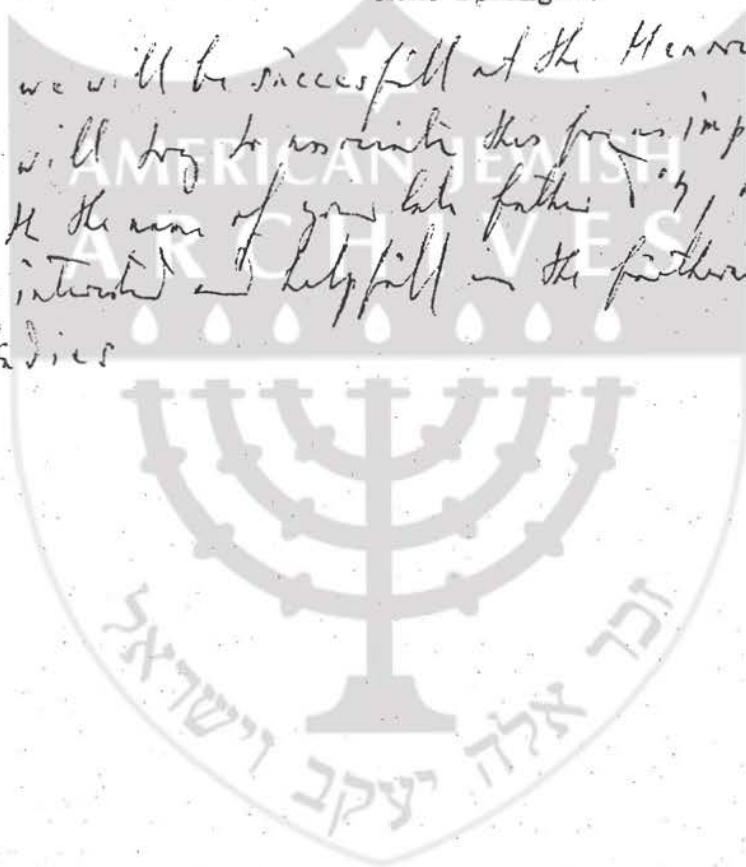
Anticipating a reply at your earliest convenience, we remain, with all good wishes

Yours sincerely,



M.R. Springer.

P. S. If we will be successful at the Memorial Foundation, we will try to associate this for an important reunion with the name of your late father, who always was so interested and helpful in the furtherance of Talmud studies



Our 65th Year

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THEODORE FREEDMAN

TO: Rabbi Ronald Sobel

FROM: Ted Freedman

DATE: July 18, 1978

AMERICAN JEWISH

In response to Michael Klein's memo of July 3, a late September meeting in New York of IJCIC is compatible with my schedule and would be very much in order.

On the other hand I would urge a delay in any further meetings with the WCC including the LPC. Such a deferment would hold until such time as the full IJCIC had the opportunity to assess the events of the past year as it relates to the WCC and to establish for ourselves more precisely defined and realistic expectations from this interaction.

Best wishes.

TF/rk

cc: Rabbi B. Brickner
Dr. E.L. Ehrlich
Dr. J. Lichten
Dr. G.M. Riegner
Mr. Z. Shuster
Rabbi H. Siegman
Prof. S. Talmon
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