



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series D. International Relations Activities. 1961-1992.

Box 57, Folder 1, Central America, 1982-1984.

TO: AJC OFFICERS// STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FROM: Marc H. Tanenbaum
DATE: February 19, 1984
RE: REPORT ON FEDECO CONFERENCE IN GUATEMALA//

At the invitation of FEDECO, the Federation of Jewish communities of Central America, I attended their 11th National Convention held in Guatemala City and Antigua from Jan. 25-29, 1984. It was an unprecedented meeting, I was told, in that this was the first time that the heads of each of the Jewish communities of Central and Latin American countries participated in a FEDECO meeting, together with U.S. Jewish representatives, Israeli Ambassadors from Guatemala (who also covers El Salvador and Honduras), Costa Rican and Panama were also present.

AJC was represented, in addition to myself, by Sergio Nudelstejer - who played a key role in helping FEDECO organize the conference - with William Gralnick and two Miami lay AJC people, Stephen Kantor and Faith Meznikoff (both Spanish-speaking) taking part as observers. The ADL was represented by Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, their Latin American director, who was present for one day. HIAS was represented by Edwin Shapiro and Karl Zuckerman.

This was an extremely rich and important experience, both professionally and personally, in that it afforded me the opportunity to become acquainted with the key Jewish leaders of Jewish communities from every Central and South American country, as well as to gain first-hand insights as to how Jewish leadership views their situation in the turbulent Central American region. Institutionally, it was a major breakthrough for AJC's Latin American program in that I was invited to deliver a major address on Friday evening, as well as the opening prayer-statement. Throughout the proceedings, Sergio and I made interventions on substantive issues, and it became evident from comments that Latin American Jews present began to view AJC as a central responsible resource concerned about their welfare.

The conference was held in an atmosphere of considerable anxiety. The Sandanista revolution in Nicaragua of 1979 was clearly viewed as a political earthquake, and the ongoing struggles between the military juntas and Marxist radical forces in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have created widespread feelings of insecurity among Jewish communities in those countries. Those concerns spilled over into the FEDECO conference. There had been rumors that the conference might be attacked by radicals (or "subversives") or the PLO or both. The conference was therefore moved from Guatemala City to Antigua, a 16th century city populated mainly by Mayan descendants that was 45 minutes away by bus and situated in the Highlands. FEDECO rented the entire Ramada Inn and sealed off the premises with a large number of machine-gun toting security guards. As a result of these rumors, substantial numbers of delegates from Mexico and Costa Rica, among others, decided at the last minute not to attend.

In this report, I wish to treat in summary fashion with four major themes:

- 1) The internal Jewish communal situation in Central America;
- 2) The geo-political situation in Central America and its implications for Jewish communities in that region;
- 3) Meetings with Guatemala's Foreign Minister and the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala;
- 4) Israel-Central America relations - meetings with four Israeli ambassadors.

I - INTERNAL SITUATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The first session of the conference opened with a panel of reports by Jewish leaders on the respective condition of their communities in El Salvador, Honduras,, Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua. Following are the ~~high~~ highlights of their reports:

EL SALVADOR (Sr. Claudio Kahn, Vice-President, Comunidad Judia Salvador):

The Jewish community of El Salvador feels abandoned. Their problems began in 1979 when a Jewish consul was kidnapped and murdered. A great many Jews left, including major Jewish institutions, such as, the Jewish Agency, JNF, etc. There are now about 130 families left, with some 97 families paying dues to the Jewish community (40 families are in San Salvador.)

In 1981, their only Rabbi left for Panama, "leaving us hanging in the air." The synagogue was in a dangerous district, and it was moved to a house in a safer district in San Salvador. "We are struggling; we have a minyan almost every Friday night. Members cooperate and everybbody makes an effort to keep the flame of Judaism alive. We have quite a few bar mitzvahs, but we have not had any marriages ~~7~~ recently.

"We have 30 children, 8 to 20 years of age; they meet twice ~~and~~ a month on Saturday mornings. We need help for our children. They have great enthusiasm to be together.

"We went to the Jewish Agency for help in getting a Rabbi; we got no reply. We feel abandoned, left out. We need closeness with other Jewish communities and must work to establish ties through FEDECO and other groups."

NOTE: Sr. Ernesto Freund, president of the Salvador Jewish Community, was present at the conference. Freund, a wealthy businessman in San Salvador, was threatened by "subversives" whom reports indicated were planning to kidnap him for some \$10 million. He fled to Miami and now commutes to the Guatemalan border every month where he ~~meets~~ meets his business managers from San Salvador and supervises his commercial affairs. Fr

c/c w/ enc. N. Alter, M. Bander, E. Freund,
D. Mesnikoff

FEB 21 1984

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date 2/16/84
to Steve Cantor
from Bill Gralnick
subject Miami News Article

memorandum

For your files here is a copy of
Karen Payne's article.

Please write her a letter thanking
her for her time and urgin that the
paper broaden its coverage of Central
America. That way she will have something
to take to her editors.

I will have sent this to FEDECO and
our national office by the time you receive
it.

As for the photos I regret to inform you
that Murphy's Law is alive and well. Having
finally caught up with everyone, the photographer
ruined his film taking it out of the camera.

The editor didn't want to hold the article for
want of the pictures. Asi va la guerra...

WAG

Stronger ties with Central American Jews is group's goal

KAREN PAYNE
Miami News Reporter

The American Jewish Committee in Miami intends to multiply links between Dade County and the struggling Jewish communities of Central America.

William Gralnick, executive director of the committee, said plans are being discussed to send Miamians to Central America to teach adult education courses. Also under discussion are children's exchange programs and annual meetings in Miami to examine the problems of Central American Jews.

Gralnick and two other Miamians recently attended a convention of Central American Jews. They found that the Jewish communities of Central America — about 9,000 people strong — feel they have been neglected by their counterparts in the United States.

Until recently, little was heard from Central America's Jews because they "like to take care of their own business," Gralnick said. But now, most of the Jewish communities are struggling for survival amid civil conflicts and worsening economic conditions.

Gralnick, Miami attorney Steven Cantor and Faith Mesnekoff said they found profound concerns among delegates to a meeting of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America in Guatemala last month.

Most Central American Jews want the United States to move forward with economic aid to the region, as proposed in the Kissinger Commission report, Gralnick said.

Gralnick said the Central American Jewish communities are also seeking stronger ties with Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela.

In the past, Israel has given strong assistance to Central American Jews and maintains close ties with some nations in the region, Gralnick said.

Israelis have served as rabbis, teachers, military advisers and agricultural workers in most Central American countries, he said.

Israeli ties are particularly close with Guatemala, which was a leader in recognizing Israel and negotiating its entry to the United Nations. Only 741 Jews now

“They all intend to stay despite the turmoil around them — unless they absolutely have to leave.”

— William Gralnick

live in Guatemala, Gralnick said.

He said Guatemala recently awarded visas to 10 Cuban Jewish families and has a policy of accepting Jewish immigrants from other countries.

Gralnick said the survival of Jewish communities in the countries of Central America is tied to the survival of democratic societies in those nations.

According to Gralnick, the Jewish community in Nicaragua has shrunk to a handful of people. He said 200 or so have fled — mostly to Miami.

In Honduras, only 100 or so Jews are left, and most expect their community to die out within a few years, he said.

Costa Rica's 3,000 Jews and Panama's 5,000 worry less about emigration and more about loss of their Jewish identity through inter-marriage and assimilation, he said.

Gralnick said none of the Jewish communities — except the 150-member community in El Salvador — feels a threat “that their world will collapse.”

“They all intend to stay despite the turmoil around them — unless they absolutely have to leave,” he said.

According to Cantor, each Central American country is distinct. “You can talk about common threads in these countries, but each is an entity with its own set of problems,” he said.

Gralnick said he went to Guatemala feeling he was going into a “shooting gallery,” but left feeling that things were “well under control.”

According to Mesnekoff, delegates to the convention emphasized that “it's not so dangerous down here (in Central America) and (Miamians) shouldn't be so afraid to come to see us, to visit us, to do business with us.”

NEWS

FROM THE

COMMITTEE



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 751-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

78TH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 2-6, 1984
WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL
PARK AVENUE AT 50TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10022
(212) 355-3000

CONTACT: Press - Joyce Kaplan
Leonard Fink
Ralph Bass

TV-Radio - Randall Czarlinsky
Haina Just
Laurie Chock

PRESS ROOM: VERTES SUITE, 4TH FLOOR

FOR RELEASE AFTER 11 A.M.
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1984

NEW YORK, May 3...A prominent Jewish leader from Guatemala City said here today that turmoil in Central America caused by Soviet intervention was threatening the future of Jewish communities in the region.

Speaking at a news conference at the American Jewish Committee's 78th Annual Meeting, continuing through Sunday at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Moises Sabbaj of Guatemala City, the vice-president of FEDECO, the Federation of Central American Jewish communities, declared that "Jews are living at added risk in the region because their livelihoods depend on small businesses that are losing investments, or on professional services that inevitably become nationalized in the event of leftist takeovers."

Mr. Sabbaj came to the AJC Annual Meeting to address its International Relations Commission as an officially-appointed spokesman for FEDECO, the central representative body of 10,000 Central American Jews in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua. Earlier in the week (May 1), Mr. Sabbaj addressed a meeting of representatives from major American Jewish religious, cultural, educational, and social welfare organizations on the critical internal spiritual and educational needs of Central American Jewry.

....more

Howard I. Friedman, President; Theodore Ellenoff, Chairman, Board of Governors; Alfred H. Moses, Chairman, National Executive Council; Robert S. Jacobs, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

William S. Trosten, Acting Director

Washington Office, 2027 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • Europe hq.: 4 Rue de la Bienfaisance, 75008 Paris, France • Israel hq.: 9 Ethiopia St., Jerusalem 95149, Israel

South America hq. (temporary office): 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022 • Mexico-Central America hq.: Av. Ejercito Nacional 533, Mexico S. D.F.

The meeting was arranged by Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of AJC's International Relations Department, who established a close working relationship with FEDECO when he addressed its 11th National Convention in Guatemala City last January.

Mr. Sabbaj said that Jews in Central America had been suffering from the political situation and outbursts of vandalism, much more than the rest of the population.

Mr. Sabbaj, who is an engineer and manufacturer of consumer goods, added that he "believes without doubt that Soviet intervention is responsible" for the scope of guerrilla activity in Central America.

"We saw what happened in Venezuela, when the Soviets struck a deal to sell Venezuelan oil to Cuba," he continued, "the guerrilla activities stopped. We can see the hand of the Soviets in that example, and in many others."

He said additionally that Jews feared too that they might be harmed by either parties in the conflict. He pointed to a spreading religious revival carrying anti-Semitic undertones, and to a rise in Arab influence in the region, which are further undercutting the Jewish community's strength in the already strife-torn region.

Reporting on his conversations last January with foreign ministers, ambassadors, and Jewish community leaders from throughout Central America, Rabbi Tanenbaum said that "recent newspaper reports about Israel's having become an arms merchant in Central America are without foundation. There is lots of smoke and little fire. I had lengthy and searching discussions on this issue with Central American government officials and with four Israeli ambassadors in Central American countries. I am convinced that there is no government-to-government transfer of arms between Israel and Central American governments. The only arms sale I could trace down was that of the sale of automatic rifles and light submachine guns from Israel to Costa Rica, a parliamentary democracy that has no army.

"The major involvement of Israel in Central America is in the area of training young people in agricultural development, agro-industry, and the establishment of farm cooperatives modeled on Israel's successful kibbutz and moshav settlements.

In fact, in 1983, Israel conducted a major seminar on agricultural development and land reform in Guatemala for Central American farm experts, which was widely acclaimed as Israel's constructive contribution to the social welfare of that region's peoples.

"Guatemala's Minister of Agriculture, Rodolfo Perdomo Menendez, told us last January that Guatemala looks to the 'heroic people of Israel as a model, and that Guatemala regards the people of Israel as brothers and sisters for helping them to improve their life standards, especially in the agricultural fields.'"

Speaking at the same news conferences, Sergio Nudelstejer of Mexico City, director of the American Jewish Committee's Central American City, blamed long-standing "social and economic injustices" for the guerrilla movement.

Agreeing with that view, Jacobo Kovadloff of Buenos Aires, director of the AJC's Latin American office, said that "the collective will of Latin American Jewry is the same as that of the majority of all peoples on the continent to aid the political trend toward democracy and to bring about recognition of all people's fundamental human rights."

Rabbi Tanenbaum urged the Jewish community in the United States to support increases in U.S. military and economic aid to Central America, while simultaneously pressing for improved human rights in those nations.

The American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. Founded in 1906, it combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of people here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people everywhere.

84-960-184

A EJP HP Z
RTV-TS, R, N., JL-L, F

T091-PEI/el



XI CONVENCION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA Y PANAMA

Apartado Postal 502
Guatemala, Guatemala C. A.
Teléfono. 67643

Cable: FEDECO
Telex: 5297 PARA
PERMUTH

CIRCULAR URGENTE DE FEDECO 84

Estimado Correligionario:

Estamos a 6 días de la INAUGURACION DE FEDECO 84. La importancia de esta CONVENCION ha trascendido las fronteras de Centroamerica y Panamá.

Asistirá importantes personalidades del mundo judío para conocer la realidad tuya y del resto de las comunidades del istmo. No puedes ignorar y averiguar de segunda mano los importantes mensajes que se recibirán en la CONVENCION.

Nos permitimos a continuación darte el curriculum vitae del DOCTOR Y RABINO MARC TANENBAUM, quién pronunciará un importante sermón para el KABALAT SHABAT de la CONVENCION.

Si aún no has hecho los arreglos de asisitir, puedes llamar a las oficinas de la Comunidad para la reservación y pagar la misma a tu llegada en Antigua.

SHALOM,
COMITE ORGANIZADOR

CURRICULUM VITAE DEL DOCTOR MARC TANENBAUM

Director de Relaciones Internacionales del AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, tiene una larga y distinguida carrera en Derechos Humanos Internacionales, Refugiados Mundiales, Hambruna Mundial y Relaciones Exteriores.

Anteriormente fungió como Director Nacional de Asuntos Interreligiosos del AJC. En una encuesta reciente en los EE UU el Doctor Tanenbaum fué nombrado uno de los diez líderes religiosos más influyentes en America. La Revista NEW YORK en una publicación describió al Doctor Tanenbaum como el: "líder judío mas importante en asuntos ecumenicos hoy en día".

En los últimos años ha atestiguado ante el Comité de Relaciones Exteriores del Senado de los EE UU y la Cámara Baja sobre: "Imperativos Morales en la Formulación de la Política Exterior de los EE UU". Así mismo a atestiguado en otros Comités del Senado y Congreso en asuntos sobre el hambre en el mundo, habiendo jugado un papel importante organizando la conferencia de la Casa Blanca sobre Ayuda Externa y Conservación de Energía.

El Expresidente Jimmy Carter invitó al Doctor Tanenbaum junto con



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PERMUTH

Pagina 2.-

otros diez lideres religiosos, representando al judaismo americano, para discutir su MENSAJE ANUAL DE LA NACION en Camp David en 1979. Fué nombrado consejero a la Comisión Consultiva del Presidente sobre asuntos del Holocausto.

Por invitación del Commite Internacional sobre Rescates, se junto con prominentes lideres americanos para realizar tres diferentes investigaciones sobre los problemas de refugiados Vietnamicos y Camboyanos. Sus recomendaciones contribuyeron a salvar muchas vidas. Ha ayudado a organizar muchos esfuerzos de ayuda para desastres en el Libano, Nigeria, Etiopía etc. Es fundador y Co-director de la Organización Pro-Judíos Sovieticos, la cual ayuda a judíos y cristianos oprimidos en la Union Soviética y Europa Oriental.

En Marzo de 1979 fué invitado por el Canciller Helmuth Schmidt para consultarle conjuntamente con miembros del Parlamento de Bonn sobre la ley que limitaba el tiempo de enjuiciamiento a los criminales de guerra nazis.

El Doctor Tanenbaum es fundador y prominente miembro del comite del Secretariado del Vaticano sobre Relaciones Judeo-Cristianas para consultas en Problemas Interreligiosos. Fué el único Rabino que participó en el Segundo Concilio del Vaticano y estuvo presente en la Primera Audiencia Oficial que concediera el Papa Juan XXIII a Lideres Judías en el Vaticano. Fué así mismo el primer Lider Judío que se dirigió públicamente a 4,000 delegados que se reunieron en Vancouver en el Concilio Mundial de Iglesias.

Fué Consultor para la NBC-TV en la producción de "HOLOCAUSTO".

Ha sido conferenciasta en la mayoría de Universidades de EE UU y Europa así como en Israel. Es autor o editor de varios Libros y numerosos Artículos.

Guatemala, 20 de Enero de 1984



XI CONVENCION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA Y PANAMA

Apartado Postal 502
Guatemala, Guatemala C. A.
Teléfono. 67643

Cable: FEDECO
Telex: 5297 PARA
PERMUTH

SEÑORES: Edwin Shapiro Marc Tanenbaum
 Karl Zukerman Mario Permuth
 Manuel Tenenbaum Moises Mizrachi
 Marcel Ruff Ricardo Holzer (BB - Panama)
 Ernesto Freund Marcos Fishmann
 Federico Licht Luis Liberman
 Moises Sabbaj Sra. Amalia Pollak
 Sergio Nudelstejer

Para tener una plática sobre temas que serían difíciles tratar en una Plenaria, les rogamos reunarnos en el Cuarto No. 258 quince minutos después que termine la cena del día viernes en la noche.

Les agradeceríamos si esta reunión se mantiene con la discreción del caso, pues queremos mantener el número de personas que asistan limitado, para así darle la oportunidad a todos de poder participar en el cambio de impresiones.

Cordialmente,

Roberto Stein L.

Antigua, 26 de Enero de 1984



The Waldorf-Astoria

A Hilton Hotel

GZ-HF
HF-MT
Wilkinson

LATIN AMERICA

Mexico - Guadalajara -

Argentina - Kovachoff | Caputo - office

73 - Junta

Exchange visits

Cabinet - Kru

Finance

Hgt Culture - educ, church (Bomberg in RC)

Food Jews

"We will finish with Radical Synagogue"

- Arg - condemn Israel

Economic / Senate - down by Peronists

U.S. State sympathetic to Peronists [USSR]

- Nov 83 - Bd of Govs

- Ortiz de Rosas (ex-Vatican) embraced Arafat

- Solarz -

Chile - Baron von Buren

Labor -

Economic - Petrodollar - OPEC

- ARGENTINA CONSULTATION

- SABBAT - NYC FACT-FINDING -

- Support Amec process - not any govt.



The Waldorf-Astoria

A Hilton Hotel

COSTA RICA - presume from that country

EL SALVADOR -

Cardemon

Panama - Joe Herrera - Pres. Jew Coman

Venezuela -

GORDON B. ZACKS

Dear Marc:

Please review the attached article and advise me of the following:

- A. Did the AJC form its opinion without actually interviewing Nicaraguan Jews?
- B. What is the current position of the AJC relative to the Sandinistas and the Nicaraguan Jews?

Kindest regards,

Gordon



RICHARD J. FOX

150 MONUMENT ROAD
BALA CYNWYD, PA. 19004

*Unit to
Munk
d.c.
TV Dick for*

December 5, 1983

Dear Gordy:

I thought you would be interested in the attached piece which appeared in "Inside", a local Federation Magazine.

I find Abe Karlikow's and AJC's position a little difficult to understand. The charge that AJC issued its report on the Sandinistas without actually interviewing Nicaraguan Jews should be checked.

After you have a chance to review this matter, let's discuss your findings.

Regards,



Richard J. Fox

Mr. Gordon Zacks
R. G. Barry Corporation
P. O. Box 129
Columbus, Ohio 43216



The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

January 27, 1984

To: George Gruen

Dear George:

It gives us much pleasure to invite you to a luncheon reception in honor of three distinguished guests from South America:

Ms. Dinah Flusser, Deputy Consul General of Brazil who just arrived to New York after spending 4 years in Montevideo, Uruguay, as political secretary of the Brazilian Embassy there;

Mr. David Fleischer, President of Sociedad Hebraica Argentina, the major cultural-sports Jewish Club in Latin America. He was the host at an important meeting with President Alfonsin during the recent election campaign;

Mr. Andres Adler, distinguished Chilean journalist from ERCILLA magazine and the press attache of the Israeli Embassy in Santiago, Chile. He is now in town, invited by the Columbia School of Journalism.

The luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 8th, 12:30 p.m., at the American Jewish Committee headquarters.

Kindly let Mrs. Iris Figueroa (212) 751-4000 (Ext. 364) know whether we may look forward to your presence with us.

Sincerely,

Jacob Kovadloff
Director of South American
Affairs & Spanish Media

Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director of International
Relations Department

JK,MHT/iof

84-590-005

from the desk of
LAWRENCE S. PHILLIPS

★ August 15th

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Marc -

I sent a copy of this to Rita Hauser and to
Rabbi Rosenthal. What else do you suggest I
do?

I have an appointment with Ambassador Jarquin and
First Secretary Campbell next Monday, August 22nd

August 15, 1983

M E M O R A N D U M

RE: NICARAGUA AND THE NICARAGUAN JEWISH PROBLEM

The following will summarize several conversations that I had individually or collectively with the representatives of the Board of Directors of Oxfam America during our recent visit to Nicaragua:

- 1) We met at the Miami Airport on Friday, July 29th in the Eastern Airlines IONOSPHERE CLUB with Messrs. Isaac Gorn and Isaac Stavisky. Both gentlemen recounted their story which indicated that their families involvement with Somoza was minimal, and that they left Nicaragua because of fears and threats made to them. They contend that all, or almost all, of the Nicaraguan Jews who left Nicaragua, are now living in Miami. Both Gorn and Stavisky expressed a desire to return to Nicaragua to have their assets returned to them, and to live and work in peace.

- 2) The Oxfam Board of Directors met in Managua on August 5th, with four representatives of the Council of State. The four were:

Comandante Leticia Herrera
Vice Presidenta del Consejo de Estado
Representa el FSLN

Sub Comandante Rafael Solis Cerda
Secretario del C. de State
Representa a las Fuerzas Armadas (FFAA)

Cro. Mauricio Diaz Davila
Secretario del C. de State
Representa al Partido Popular Social Cristiano (PPSC)

Cra. Angela Rosa Aceuedo
Secretaria Commission del Exterior del C, de E.
Representa a la Asociacion de Mujeres
Nicaraguenses "Luisa Aamanda Espinoza" (Amnlae)

I asked the members publicly about the problem and the proposed resolution of the allegations made by the Nicaraguan Jewish community. A response was given by Angela Rosa Aceuedo. She said the Commission on Human Rights indicate that there are only 30 Jewish families. She reported that their information was that Gorn had worked closely with Somoza, and that he was the contact between the Somoza and the Israeli government to obtain arms for Somoza. She indicated that the confiscation of his property was not because he was Jewish, but because of his deep involvement with Somoza. She believed that the synagogue was registered as personal property, and not as a religious institution. She further said "let's see the petitions from the Jewish community, or individuals, regarding any allegation of persecution. The Nicaraguan mission has not received such petitions as yet". I responded

... /

I would see to it that the appropriate petitions would be submitted in order for the investigation by the Nicaraguan government to proceed.

On Saturday, August 7th, the group met with Fr. Miguel Descoto, Foreign Minister, in his office. Fr. Descoto indicated that he has heard of the charges and that he was shocked and affronted at the charge of anti-semitism.. He indicated that the only Jews he knew were in the government. He indicated that if he could learn more about the specific grievance that he would make sure that they were properly addressed and resolved.

On Sunday, August 7th, I met again at Miami Airport with Isaac Gorn and told him of the two conversations in Managua. Gorn denies ever having been a contact man for Somoza with Israel. He also contends that a petition was previously submitted, and that included in this petition was proof that the synagogue belongs to the Jewish community and not to him personally.

Gorn said that he would be willing to re-submit his petition and could have any other Nicaraguan Jews in Miami ready to submit or re-submit petitions within two weeks.

On Monday, August 8th, I spoke to Rabbi Morton Rosenthal at the Anti Defamation League, who told me that the Nicaraguan Ambassador had replied to the ADL and indicated that it was now clear that the synagogue did belong to the community.

It is Rabbi Rosenthal's intention to arrange a meeting with the Nicaraguan Ambassador and several members of the ADL and other leaders of the American Jewish community to try to resolve this issue.

The purpose of the above memorandum is to make sure that all parties concerned have an update on my available information to which should be added that I expect to have dinner with Fr. Descoto in New York when he attends the General Assembly Meeting in September.

memorandum

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date Oct. 3, 1983

to Marc Tanenbaum

from Mort Yarmon

subject

What with all the data on both sides,
would it be appropriate -- and in keep-
ing with AJC history -- to do the defin-
itive study of just what the situation
is in Nicaragua?



Memorandum

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date FO-SFB
September 26, 1983

to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

from Ernest Weiner

subject THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN -NICARAGUAN
ANTI-SEMITISM

It is clear that the organized Left, particularly on campuses, is developing a defense of Nicaragua on the anti-Semitic issue. (See attached article.)

Do we have any documentation which is less susceptible to charges of exaggeration or manipulation? If so, I want them.

Best regards.



Encls.

cc: Jacobo Kovadloff
Harold Applebaum
Morton Yarmon

International

4 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1983

THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN

Nicaraguan anti-Semitism: more convenient

By ILANA DEBARE
and PAUL GLICKMAN

As part of its effort to win support for U.S. policy in Central America, the Reagan Administration has adopted a U.S. Jewish group's charges of Nicaraguan anti-Semitism.

In May, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) issued a report called "Nicaragua Without Jews," which charged that the Sandinistas had driven "the entire small Jewish community . . . into exile," confiscated Jewish-owned property, and seized and desecrated the country's lone synagogue.

The accusations received widespread publicity when the national wire services carried the story. President Reagan echoed the charges in July, saying "Jews were terrorized into leaving." Sandinista anti-Semitism was "one more reason that we must give assistance to those in Central America who are fighting totalitarian anti-religious forces," he said.

Contrary to ADL claims, however, a small Jewish community does remain in Nicaragua. The Jews living there dispute the charge of anti-Semitism, noting that Jewish-owned businesses — including Nicaragua's largest electronics parts store — continue to operate unharassed.

"I have not had obstacles put in the way of my business and I have never been persecuted by the Sandinistas because I am Jewish," said Jaime Levy, a textile importer.

Rolland Najlis, a retired businessman living in Managua, agreed: "If I felt anti-

Semitism, I could have returned to France. But I have never had the slightest problem with the new government."

In a July report, Nicaragua's National Commission on Human Rights concluded that although some Jewish property was expropriated after the revolution, the confiscations were conducted under the same laws that affected thousands of other Nicaraguans who had ties with the deposed dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

The country's other human rights body, the anti-Sandinista Permanent Commission on Human Rights, agreed. "A lot of their property was confiscated," said Commission director Marta Baltodano, "and violations did occur in that there were no legal proofs they had ties to Somoza. But there is not a Sandinista government policy against Jews because they are Jewish."

Besides the Nicaraguan studies, human rights investigations by the Organization of American States, the United Nations, Pax Christi, Americas Watch, and the State Department's human rights bureau all failed to turn up evidence of anti-Semitism. The American Embassy in Managua specifically looked into the charges in July but found nothing to substantiate them.

Nicaragua's Jewish community has always been small, numbering about five families after World War I and increasing with the Jewish exodus from Europe in the late twenties and thirties. Anastasio Somoza Garcia, the first of the Somozas to rule the country, seized power in 1936, and many of the new immigrants went into business under his protection.

At its height in the 1960's, the community numbered about 50 families. Opposition to the dictatorship was increasing, and some Jews joined the Sandinistas. One such family was the Lewites: Today Herty Lewites is the Minister of Tourism, while his brother Israel, who was killed fighting against the dictatorship, has a market in Managua named in his honor.

Many of the most active members of the community, however, had developed close ties with Somoza. Abraham Gorn, president of the congregation and one of Nicaragua's wealthiest men, was a friend and financial backer of Somoza. Gorn and others were harassed or threatened during the insurrection, not only because of their connections to Somoza but because many Nicaraguans associated them with Israel, which supplied 98 percent of Somoza's arms in the last years before his downfall.

"When you have been fired on with an Uzi or Galil, you tend to remember where it came from," commented Debbie Reuben, a 1978 Berkeley graduate who has been living in Nicaragua for two years. The Sandinistas broke off relations with Israel during last year's invasion of Lebanon, and the Palestine Liberation Organization maintains

than real



Photos by Ilana DeBare.

Rolland Najlis: "If I felt anti-Semitism I could have returned to France. But I have not had the slightest problem with the new government."

- over -



The Managua synagogue today houses the Sandinista Children's Association, but the government has said it will return it to the Jewish community.

an embassy in Managua.

Isolated anti-Semitic incidents occurred in the tumultuous months before Somoza's ouster. In 1978 a group of Sandinista rebels bombed the synagogue, inflicting minor damage on the building. Isaac Stavisky, who along with his father Abraham Goro provided the bulk of the Anti-Defamation League's charges, said that he found anti-Semitic graffiti on some of his factories.

Stavisky said he and others fled Nicaragua because they feared anti-Jewish persecution after the Sandinista victory. But Rolland Najlis said this prediction did not come true. "Although they may have left from fear of repression, that repression has never come to pass," he said.

Herty Lewites, the Minister of Tourism, said that over the years the Sandinistas have made increasing efforts to distinguish between the government of Israel and Nicaraguan Jews. "As the revolution deepened," he said, "it tried to explain that it was not 'the Jews' who were selling arms, but only one sector."

The Managua synagogue has been a major bone of contention between the ADL and the Nicaraguan government. While the ADL charged that the Sandinistas confiscated the synagogue after taking power in 1979, the National Commission on Human Rights reported that the synagogue had been abandoned before Somoza's ouster, and that in mid-1979 refugee families began squatting there. According to the commission, the government relocated the families in 1981 and in 1982 rented the building — still unclaimed — to the Association of Sandinista Children.

The building today remains in excellent condition. Reports of anti-Semitic propaganda on its walls apparently referred to posters for a 1982 aid campaign for Palestinian refugee children.

In an Aug. 29 meeting with the ADL, Nicaraguan Ambassador Antonio Jarquin denounced anti-Semitism as "morally reprehensible" and contrary to Nicaraguan law and pledged to return the synagogue to the Jewish community.

ADL chair Kenneth Bialkin welcomed the promise, but warned that the "record of the government of Nicaragua will be determined by actions, not assertions." Bialkin added that some Nicaraguan Jews planned to carry their complaints about property confiscation to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The charge that Nicaragua is anti-Semitic comes at a time when President Reagan is seeking to counter growing public opposition to his Central America policy. As an attempt to woo Jewish support for U.S. activities in the region, the allegation takes on added significance in light of Israel's increasing involvement in the conflict.

While Israel sold arms to Central American dictators throughout the 1970's, the New York Times reported in July that the Reagan Administration had encouraged "an enlarged Israeli role in Central America ... as a way of supplementing American military aid to friendly governments and supporting insurgent operations against the Nicaraguan government." At the request of the United States, Israel agreed to send weapons it captured from the PLO to the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries based in Honduras.

Ilana DeBare and Paul Glickman are freelance journalists who recently visited Nicaragua. DeBare writes for the U.S.-El Salvador Research Center in Berkeley. Glickman for the Ripread News Service in San Francisco.

D J F

September 21, 1982

Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto
c/o Nicaraguan Mission to the UN
820 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Minister:

On October 5, 1981 you met with a group of religious leaders at the offices of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in New York City. At that time, I discussed with you the fact that the small Jewish community of Nicaragua had left the country because they perceived that the new government was treating them in an unfair and discriminatory fashion. You very graciously agreed to study the issue and maintain a dialogue with the Anti-Defamation League; you designated Mr. Orlando Moncada Zapata as the liaison person for this purpose.

Since then, I have met with Mr. Moncada Zapata and spoken with him on various occasions. We were very pleased to be informed by him that the government of Nicaragua would reopen the case file of any Nicaraguan Jew, upon petition by the Anti-Defamation League. Subsequently, the Anti-Defamation League requested that the government review the complaint of Mr. Abraham Gorn, who was president of the Jewish community, and those of Isaac Stavisky and Rosita Retelny.

Although we submitted data on Mr. Gorn in February of this year and information on Stavisky and Retelny in April, no reply has been received. Our request for clarification on the status of the synagogue in Managua has also gone without response. For that reason, we address ourselves to you in the hope that you will, through your personal intervention, ensure a prompt response to our various requests.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal
Director
Department of Latin American Affairs

MMR:bl

cc: Orlando Moncada Zapata
Albert Bildner
Abraham H. Foxman

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September 20, 1983

Ambassador Antonio Jarquin
Embassy of Nicaragua
1627 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ambassador Jarquin:

I am writing to you pursuant to our conversation at your embassy on August 29. At that time, you agreed to cooperate with the Anti-Defamation League in attempting to resolve uncertainties surrounding the status of Nicaraguan Jews and the status of their properties.

As promised, I am attaching to this letter a list of names of Nicaraguan Jews. For each name, we are requesting that you send us, as quickly as possible, the following information:

1. What charges, if any, are outstanding against the individual.
2. If charges are outstanding, please send us documentation to substantiate the charges. In addition, we request that you inform us if the individual has been tried.
3. What is the status of the individual's property in Nicaragua? This should include real estate, businesses, bank accounts and any other assets which the individual might own.

As you know, there is general uneasiness in the minds of many Nicaraguan Jews who fear for their safety if they were to return to Nicaragua. We are, therefore, requesting that your government advise us what assurances it is prepared to offer those Jews who may decide to return to Nicaragua.

I wish to stress that your government's prompt attention to the foregoing is of utmost importance. I trust that with your cooperation we will be able to make progress in our efforts to achieve a just and speedy resolution to the problems of the Jews of Nicaragua.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal, Director
Department of Latin American Affairs

MMR:lfg

cc: Kenneth J. Bialkin, David Brody, Abraham H. Foxman,
I. Barry Mehler, Sidney Jarkow

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ADL FOUNDATION



August 31, 1983

Letters to the Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15 Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20071

To The Editor:

Correspondent Edward Cody's report on August 29 headlined "Managua's Jews Reject Anti-Semitism Charge" could lead one to the incorrect conclusion that there has been no anti-Semitism in Nicaragua.

Can anyone deny the anti-Semitic nature of the article in the pro-Sandinist daily Nuevo Diario on July 17, 1982 which charged that "the world's money, banking and finance are in the hand of the descendents of Jews, the eternal protectors of Zionism"? Is there any doubt as to the anti-Semitic intent of those who shouted Sandinist slogans while fire-bombing the synagogue as the congregation was at worship? Could anyone refute the personal testimony of Nicaraguan Jews about threatening phone calls received in the middle of the night warning the Jews to leave the country? How does one explain the anti-Semitic graffiti on the walls of the synagogue and places of business owned by Jews?

Perhaps reports by the U.S. Embassy in Managua indicating that it now finds no evidence of systematic anti-Semitism have generated confusion. Yes, the pro-PLO posters were removed from the synagogue walls but only after international protest, and the few Jews remaining in Nicaragua, understandably, may not be eager to discuss problems they have experienced. However, there is no question that under Sandinism anti-Semitism and its effect was so chilling, that the vast majority of Jews felt compelled to leave Nicaragua at great personal sacrifice.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal
Director
Department of Latin American Affairs
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith

MMR:lfg

TO: AHF MMR MTB

04 Nicaragua

JEWISH WEEK - AMERICAN EXAMINER

SEP 9 1983

The Sandinista connection

Buried deep in a long news story from Nicaragua dealing with that country's volcanic energy source was an interesting item that bears repeating, especially at this tense time in U.S.-Central America relations.

Daniel Ortega Saavedra, described as coordinator of the ruling Sandinista junta in Nicaragua, unveiled a plaque for a new geothermal energy plant, said to have a capacity to supply 12 percent of the country's energy needs. The plaque that was unveiled honored the late Patricio Arguello Ryan, an American-born Sandinista hero.

Ortega, in his tribute to the slain Sandinista, mentioned that he had been sent to the Middle East, together with other members of the group, to be trained in guerrilla tactics by the PLO. This was in the later 1960s.

What Ortega failed to mention in his talk about Arguello is that he was one of a squad of PLO'ers who tried to hijack an Israeli airliner in 1970 and who was shot and killed by Israeli security men when they stormed the plane at Lod Airport. Ortega merely stated that the slain Sandinista was an "exemplary internationalist" who died "in the people's struggle."

If there are still people who doubt the existence of a well-planned, well-coordinated, well-financed worldwide revolutionary movement that seeks to control the free world and subjugate it, as the nations of the Soviet bloc have been subjugated, then they had better take another look. The Sandinista-PLO connection is not a coincidence.

- Inter-American Court of Law (Human Rights)
new Jewish Cemetery - (2 Jews) - Martelli - Sandanista took
Bella Gatto (Coffin refused old cemetery) Jewish cemetery
- Somoza - \$150/yr to Somoza birthday, never invested to

140 Jews - 22 emigrated '72

118 - stayed [110 out of country]

8 still doing business (80% in Managua) 3 Jews left
- thus descendants of Jews
5 hearted, Israel - never Jewish }
brothers in spirit.

- Paul Reichler (Star Eisenstat)

- El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras

- Guatemala (opais, leaving)

El Salvador (moving in, Israeli consul killed)

Honduras (more secure, U.S.)

Costa Rica (neutral) strike bananas

- Costa Sandanista support in U.S. Congress

- Jews extraneous group, run for U.S. protection, not patriotic

- Amb. Embassy do not accept polit asylum

▶ 40 names - Jews in Exile - what are charges?

- non-Jews in Exile - Basas,

military conscription - 20,000 - 30,000 people

300,000 out before revolution

political refugees - 20,000

- Jews - pro-Israel (Israelita - Israel)

- no discrimination before Sandanista (German club)

Fried, 24F

~~Fried~~ - Nicaragua / Panama - Germany

Isaac Gorn.

1) Synagogue

2) status of Jews - return? property?

- future of Latin Amer. Jewry - El Salvador

[anthem - "Gandhi assassins, enemy of humanity"]

16th cent. Marranos -

1979 - (118 lived) 110 out of country / 8 remained

- no anti-S under Somoza (old & young)

- 6 Jewish businesses / 3 Jews left in Nicaragua

- auto spare parts - lady - U.S. citizen

- 1 Nic citizen - brother in Castro regime

- foreign Jews in Nicar.

- all Jews in N assimilated

- anti-S

> Confiscate - factories, industries, farms

- looting by mob / syndicate takes over factory / Export dollars punishable
de-capitalization

- no dollars to buy raw materials

- money for 6 months, all property to state

- 45 yrs Somoza - Jews mostly neutral (shuts to Natl Guardia Civil)

(Arabs) Chinese, German, French

> friends of Somoza - / No office - Kraft visited

- guns from Israel for

- 1948 - Somoza by help to Israel (born in Mexico)

- GORN - 2 bombs in Luf's store in Granada

Max Nachman - Consul of Israel - Santa Rosa

Textile factory - death to Jewish dirty pipe who sell arms to Israel -

Stansky, my cousin threatened to kill him

- Porcys Engstler - Hungarian - Sandamata burned Synagogue

- Sandamata framed in Arab conflict

- no Ambassador of Israel allowed in Nicaragua

Goren's father - charged w. arrange arms sale to Israel

- buschell team

- took property - no due process - father went to Costa Rica

burned
factory,
collected
insurance

[GOREN
FILE]

ROUGH DRAFT ON COVER LETTER FROM MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

We are sending copy of our letter of the 16th of August 1983. It relates to scholarships from young people of our community who want to specialize themselves in community organization.

Please let us know all details and requirements needed.

Our best wishes.

ROUGH DRAFT ON ACTUAL LETTER FROM MONTEVIDEO.

WE ARE REFERRING TO OUR CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH YOU ON YOUR VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO ON A SELECTED DELEGATION OF THE AJC BACK IN APRIL OF 1982.

IT WAS FORMULATED THERE THAT THE AJC WOULD OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR COMMUNITY TO SPECIALIZE IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.

WE ARE ABLE RIGHT NOW TO RECOMMEND A VERY COMPETENT AND MERITIOUS YOUNG MAN WITH A GOOD GENERAL CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND ALSO JEWISH.

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AVAILABLE, DETAILS, REQUIREMENTS, etc.

AWAITING YOUR RESPONSE. BEST WISHES.

Mr. Kovadloff has received various letters from these people and he has sent them a cable (10-13-83), before he left, telling them that he will be in Uruguay to meet with them and discuss open matters and two unanswered letters.

Iris O. Figueroa

COMITE CENTRAL ISRAELITA DEL URUGUAY
C O P I A

Nº 13908/983

Montevideo, octubre 4 de 1983.-


Sr. Jacobo Kovadloff, Director de
Asuntos Sudamericanos y Medios en Español de
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, N.Y. 10022
U.S.A.


Estimado amigo Kovadloff:

Acompañamos a la presente copia de nuestra carta del 16 de agosto último relativa a becas para jóvenes de nuestra colectividad que quieran especializarse en organización comunitaria.

Solicitamos tenga a bien hacernos llegar todos los detalles y exigencias al respecto.

Le reiteramos nuestros cordiales saludos. SHALOM!


DR. PEDRO SCIOFSKY
Secretario General


DR. NAHUM BERGSTEIN
Presidente

c.c.: A. Karlikow

11b.-

Nº 13848/983

Montevideo, agosto 16 de 1983.-

Sr. Jacobo Kovadloff, Director de
Asuntos Sudamericanos y Medios en Español de
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street,
New York, N.Y. 10022
U. S. A.


Estimado amigo Kovadloff:


Nos referimos a las conversaciones mantenidas con usted en oportunidad de la visita a Montevideo de una selecta delegación del American Jewish Committee, en abril 1982.-

En esa oportunidad quedó formulado un ofrecimiento del AJC para becar a jóvenes de nuestra colectividad que -- quisiera especializarse en organización comunitaria.

Estando en estos momentos en condiciones de recomendar a un joven competente y meritorio con buena base cultural general y judía, quisiéramos actualizar aquella idea y saber cuales serían las mejores condiciones económicas factibles, detalles y exigencias respectivas con relación a esa solicitud.

A la espera de sus noticias, nos place saludarle muy atentamente y cordialmente.


DR. PEDRO SCLOFSKY
Secretario General


DR. MAIM BERGSTEIN
Presidente

ps/pc.



The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

October 19, 1983

Mr. Theodore Ellenoff
551 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ted:

Attached you will find a copy of a memo updating the situation in Nicaragua.

Shula Bahat told me of your interest in our assessment of the ADL position on Nicaragua. They have considerably toned down and backed away from their original, well-publicized reports of some months ago. This has been brought about by the fact that Jews from Nicaragua who are now in Costa Rica and others now in Miami have expressed not only their dissent from but anger about these exaggerated claims which they declare can only aggravate the situation for the few who remain in Nicaragua. Furthermore, many B'nai B'rith members in Central America have also expressed their concern.

In recent weeks the ADL has attempted to work with other Jewish organizations on a common stance vis-a-vis the Nicaraguans which would get them off the "hot seat" which they have occupied until recently.

For the record then, Sergio Nudelstejer's reports, which we have received since the beginning of this situation, have been corroborated by a variety of reliable and knowledgeable individuals. While I do not think it is wise to publicly "take on" ADL, at least internally our people should know that we have acted with the usual responsibility and 'style' of the AJC.

Sincerely,

David Geller
David Geller
Director of Special Projects
International Relations

DG/es

Enclosure

cc: Shula Bahat
Marc H. Tanenbaum

See you in Philadelphia!

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date: July 1st, 1983
to: Abe Karlikow
from: Sergio Nudelstejer
subject: Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America
 and Panama (FEDECO)

As you must certainly know, years ago we succeeded in convincing the Jewish Communities of Central America and Panama, to try and have more contact between them and exchange experiences and learn from one another. Out of this idea arose the creation of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America and Panama (FEDECO) that united the communities of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

For a long period of time, this proved to be a very positive and useful instrument to strengthen the communities and try to have them solve their own problems. We, as the American Jewish Committee, stood side by side with them since its creation and we have been present and have participated very actively with them in their assemblies that took place every two years.

The last meeting of the Federation took place in San José, Costa Rica in 1980. At that time, the Jewish Community of Nicaragua had already disappeared and El Salvador was at the threshold of its guerrilla warfare, making it necessary for part of its population to leave this country.

Due to the prevailing difficult situation in Central America, the feeling of dismay within the community leaders, the FEDECO meeting that should have been held in Guatemala in 1982 was cancelled. As of that moment, I thought it necessary to insist continuously before the president of FEDECO, Mr. Pincus Rubinstein from Costa Rica, that this Conference must take place, specially now a day, taking into account the prevailing situation in Central America and the future of their Jewish communities.

While I traveled to Central America with the AJC Leadership Delegation, I had the opportunity to meet personally with the most important lay leaders of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama and I discussed with them the importance of re-establishing the activities of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America and Panama, in such crucial moments as the present times. I think that my insisting upon this subject, made them consider seriously this issue.

During my recent and short visit to the Jewish Community of Guatemala, I was able to bring up again this issue with the president of the Jewish Community and with some important lay leaders, among them some of the founders of FEDECO (Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America and Panama). I had the initiative to phone the presidents of the Jewish communities of Costa Rica and Panama and finally reached the decision to hold the next FEDECO conference in Guatemala City, possibly next October, if the prevailing political conditions of that country will allow us and, should it be not so, hold it at the beginning of 1984.

Should the political conditions in Guatemala not allow the FEDECO to meet in that country for this Conference, we would see to it that the meeting be held either in Costa Rica or in Panama.

All the expenses involved will be covered by the FEDECO and by the participants themselves. In past years, they have received subsidies of the Jewish Agency and from the Latinamerican branch of the World Jewish Congress.

As always, cordially yours.

copy: Dr. Donald Feldstein

Dates of 25 to 29 January 1984

SN/eeg

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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Dear Friend:

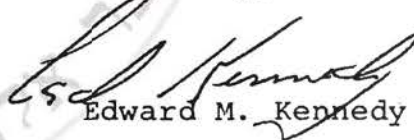
Knowing of your interest and concern over humanitarian problems in Central America, I wanted to share with you a recent Subcommittee staff report on "Refugee Problems in Central America."

Enclosed is a summary of its findings and recommendations. The full printed text will be available in a few weeks and I will forward a copy to you.

I hope you will find this of interest.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy

Enclosure



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 98th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 129

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1983

No. 126

Senate

REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, reports from Central America indicate there is a serious regional crisis of people—of humanitarian and refugee problems spilling across and within the borders of all the countries in the area. Nearly a million people are refugees and the numbers are still growing.

The refugee crisis in El Salvador is even worse than it was in Vietnam. At the peak of our involvement in Indochina, 8 percent of the civilians were displaced persons or refugees, whereas the number in El Salvador is now over 10 percent. And thousands upon thousands of these refugees are condemned to exist in camps with subhuman conditions as deplorable as those in Vietnam.

That the humanitarian needs of refugees have been neglected far too long in El Salvador is clearly documented in a staff report submitted to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy. There is now an urgent need for additional food and medical assistance to deal with camps which have been allowed to fester for over a year.

The administration has talked a great deal about the need for more military aid, but we have heard little about the escalating humanitarian crisis. It makes no sense to pour millions of dollars of military assistance to El Salvador if it cannot provide basic assistance and protection to its citizens displaced by the violence and conflict for which military aid is sought.

Mr. President, I hope the administration will now finally give the humanitarian and human rights problems in Central America, but particularly in El Salvador, the priority they deserve. If they are not addressed more adequately, they will not only complicate, but perhaps undermine, efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

I commend to the attention of Congress the subcommittee's staff report, which was jointly filed this week by the chief counsel and minority counsel, and I ask that the summary of their findings and recommendations be printed at this point in the RECORD.

The summary follows:

REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

(Staff Report prepared for the use of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy)

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, D.C., September 21, 1983.

To: Senator Alan K. Simpson, Chairman, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Policy, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

From: Richard W. Day, Chief Counsel, Jerry M. Tinker, Minority Counsel.

At your request, we undertook a study mission to Central America to review the refugee and related humanitarian problems in the region. Between August 30 and September 10, 1983, we traveled to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala to assess the separate, but interwoven, refugee issues, including the problems of displaced persons, questions of international humanitarian assistance, and conditions in the field. Of particular interest in El Salvador was a review of conditions that might bear on the question of whether the United States should adopt a policy of granting extended voluntary departure to Salvadorans who are not in lawful immigration status in the United States.

In El Salvador we met with the senior American officers at the U.S. Embassy and the Agency for International Development (A.I.D.) mission, U.S. military advisors in the field, and American voluntary agency personnel. We had extensive discussions with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations World Food Program, the United Nations Development Program as well as with officers at many levels of the Salvadoran government, including the Minister of Interior, the Director of Immigration, and officials of the National Commission for Displaced Persons. In addition, we met with Monsignor Ricardo Urioste, Assistant to the Archbishop of El Salvador, Maria Julia Hernandez of the Archdiocese human rights monitoring organization, Tutela Legal, and Benjamin Cestoni, Executive Secretary of

the newly established Human Rights Commission in El Salvador. Field visits were made to San Vicente and Morazan provinces and to displaced persons camps in and around San Salvador.

In Honduras, meetings were similarly held with U.S. Embassy officials, including Ambassador John Negroponte, with senior members of the Honduran government and military, officials of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and with the staff of the voluntary agencies and church organizations working in Honduras. Field visits were conducted to the Salvadoran refugee camp in the northwest at Mesa Grande, to the south in Danli where Nicaraguan Ladino refugees have fled, and to the Miskito Indian refugees in Mocoran near the east coast.

A brief stop was made in Guatemala City where meetings were arranged with U.S. Embassy officials, including Ambassador Frederic Chapin, senior members of the Guatemalan government and military, and with voluntary agency personnel working in the field.

The following preliminary report represents our joint findings and recommendations.

TABLE I.—SUMMARY OF REFUGEES/DISPLACED PERSONS
IN CENTRAL AMERICA

[September 1983]

Location	Refugees	Displaced persons
El Salvador:		
Government registered	264,000	
ICRC (contested areas)	80,000	
Church protection	124,000	
Subtotal	468,000	
Honduras:		
Salvadorans	19,000	
Guatemalans	1,000	
Nicaraguans (Ladinos)	2,500	
Nicaraguans (Miskito)	15,200	
Subtotal	37,700	
Guatemala: Estimated displaced ¹ 10,000 to 450,000		100,000
Nicaragua: Salvadorans	17,500	
Costa Rica: (mixture)	36,000	
Mexico:		
Guatemalans	45,000	
Salvadorans ²	50,000	
Subtotal	95,000	
Total	186,000	568,000
Regional total		754,200

¹ No firm statistics exist on displaced persons in Guatemala, but it is clearly a significant problem.

² Statistics on Salvadorans in Mexico are guestimates.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Central America today confronts a human dilemma. Throughout the region there is a tide of people on the move—with over three quarters of a million men, women and children either displaced from their lands and homes, or fleeing across borders from the violence, conflict, and economic adversity in their homeland. In El Salvador alone, well over 10 percent of its population are displaced or have fled.¹

The numerous humanitarian issues confronting the region—refugee and displaced persons, political violence, hunger and medical problems—must be dealt with more adequately or they will not only complicate, but perhaps undermine, efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Among the humanitarian issues needing attention are the following:

1. *Strengthening international protection and assistance to refugees and displaced persons.*—If the needs of refugees and displaced persons throughout the region are to be adequately met, there must be an effort to bolster and expand the work of the several international and voluntary agencies already involved in the area, and to encourage others to join in the effort. Of particular importance is the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In Honduras, the UNHCR is performing an outstanding role as coordinator for international assistance to refugees, and fulfilling its mandate to provide refugee protection. However, in El Salvador no such international umbrella exists for an even more serious displaced person problem. It is urgently needed.

The United States should lend strong diplomatic support to the creation of an international coordinating agency in El Salvador too stimulate and channel additional assistance to an estimated half million internal refugees who are in need of help. As outlined in this report, there are currently three different agencies and channels for providing assistance to displaced persons in El Salvador, and too little coordination or mutual support exists between them. Both to coordinate humanitarian assistance, as well as to assure that needs are equally met among the various groups now being assisted—and to depoliticize the use of such aid—the U.S. should support efforts to designate either the ICRC, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) or, the good offices of the UNHCR, as the international coordinating agency for humanitarian assistance in El Salvador.

The ICRC already has a substantial presence and record of accomplishment in El Salvador and could easily expand its operation and staff to provide needed coordination, if the government of El Salvador requests it and if the United States is willing to support its expansion. Similarly, the WFP is moving to establish a more permanent program to meet what clearly will be on-going food needs among displaced persons. Since the provision of food—and the food-for-work programs for the displaced—is by far the largest component of the relief program, WFP, is empowered to assume a coordinating role if asked.

¹ By comparison, and as a gauge of population displacement, during the worst days of the Vietnam War the number of internal refugees never exceeded 8 percent of the population. In Afghanistan, it is nearly 16 percent of the population, most living as refugees in Pakistan.

However, the role of international coordinator would even more appropriately and effectively be played by the UNHCR—which already has a substantial presence in the region and whose work with Salvadorans in Honduras and elsewhere is directly tied to the developments inside El Salvador. The U.S. should explore with the Salvadoran government the possibility of asking UNHCR to exercise its “good offices” function to assume the role of international coordinator of humanitarian assistance for displaced persons in El Salvador. There is ample precedence of such action and, given conditions today in El Salvador, justification to move forward on it.

2. *Increased humanitarian assistance to El Salvador.*—For nearly a year, the growing number of displaced persons in El Salvador was not addressed by the United States or the government of El Salvador. The first effort to assess their numbers and needs was not launched until January, 1982, when there were already between 165,000 and 200,000 displaced persons throughout the country. Most of them had moved in with friends or family members or were living in shantytowns around urban centers. About 5 percent of the displaced persons were considered at the time to be living in “extremely deplorable conditions.” Over the following year, but particularly since the beginning of 1983, the number of displaced persons in such conditions has increased as the problem in many locations increased into large-scale refugee camp situations.

A formal government program of assistance was established, but needs persist. During the past year, the United States provided a small employment generating, food-for-work type of project, and an immunization program. However, by mid-1983 it became apparent that such efforts were inadequate to meet growing relief needs—inadequate to deal with camp-like conditions (which are still sub-standard in some areas)—or to respond to shortages of food and medicines.

In the days ahead, El Salvador can expect:

A large population of displaced persons will remain in need of help as the conflict in the countryside continues and as the economy continues to flounder;

Tens of thousands of displaced persons, mostly women and children, will remain dependent upon regular distributions of food and medicines, some in short supply and both subject to maldistribution;

Pockets of serious malnutrition and disease will persist among civilians in rural areas and contested zones cut-off by the fighting;

Human rights violations will persist in many areas of the country as the violence from the left and the right continues;

The nation's economy, and its support of the health, education and welfare programs (such as they exist) will continue to decline.

In short, the humanitarian problems confronting the people of El Salvador will remain. The United States should consider doubling its 1984 contributions to direct relief programs in El Salvador from the modest \$10.5 million spent this year. A.I.D. should be authorized to use additional Economic Support Funds (ESF) and other appropriate program funds to support public

health projects and employment generation programs for displaced persons.

There must be a commitment to improving the conditions of the displaced persons as part of the overall strategy for economic recovery in El Salvador. While some military assistance is obviously necessary, a complementary program of humanitarian aid is also needed to help El Salvador provide basic assistance and protection to its citizens displaced by the conflict and violence.

3. *Continued support for refugees in Honduras.*—After a difficult beginning, the UNHCR has established an effective program to assist and protect a growing number of Salvadoran, Guatemalan and Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras. Although some problems remain in assuring protection for Salvadoran refugees, the dark days of the La Virtud situation are behind us and an effective working relationship has been established between officers of the UNHCR and the Honduran civilian and military authorities.

Camp conditions in Mesa Grande, where some 10,000 Salvadorans are settled, are good by international standards. Although there is not enough land to allow them to become self-sufficient, even if the Honduran government permitted them to farm it (which they do not, except under strict controls), the camp is nonetheless relatively spacious, the programs of support adequate, and education, handicraft and other programs being undertaken by the voluntary agencies are imaginative. In fact, in the near term, proposals to close or transfer substantial portions of this camp should be discouraged. The refugees do not want to move at this time, and such a move—even with self-sufficiency as its goal—would be a questionable use of scarce international resources, given the good conditions achieved at Mesa Grande at some considerable cost and effort. This is particularly the case if the companion Salvadoran camp at Colomonagua is moved from the border for security reasons, or if the refugee flow from Nicaragua increases.

In general, refugee conditions in Honduras are stable, and the attitude of the government in accepting its status as a country of first asylum should be commended. Even if the numbers of new arrivals were to increase in the future, an excellent infrastructure of personnel and programs has been established under UNHCR auspices and it should be able to handle such an influx easily.

The longer-term problem of reaching a durable solution for the refugees in Honduras, especially for the Salvadorans who cannot stay forever, remains problematic. In the meantime, however, the program of assistance and protection is more than satisfactory and it deserves the strong support of the United States.

4. *Extended Voluntary Departure for Salvadorans in the United States.*—It is estimated today that there are up to 500,000 Salvadorans in the United States in illegal immigration status. Some United States groups have called for extended voluntary departure status for these people until the conflict in El Salvador subsides. However, this status has not been granted, the rationale being that there is no evidence of perse-

cution of those who are sent back, that there are other countries of first asylum available, and that most Salvadorans here in the United States are economic migrants without valid claims to persecution in El Salvador.

Extensive efforts have been made by many private and religious groups to determine the fate of Salvadorans returning from the United States, and no evidence has been found to document that they are harmed.

There are areas of the country, particularly in the city of San Salvador and in the western provinces, where the conflict and violence is minimal. There are displaced person camps throughout the country where food and medical assistance is available and international personnel are present. And the Honduran government has indicated its willingness to accept all refugees who enter Honduras from El Salvador.

The 300 to 350 Salvadorans who are currently being returned by the United States to El Salvador each month² are subject to the same violence every resident of that country faces, but there is clear evidence that there is no governmentally sanctioned program to target or harass returning Salvadorans simply because they have been in the United States.

However, no official agency has conducted a follow-up study on individual Salvadorans returned by the United States. Private, non-governmental groups cannot, without great difficulty, undertake such an assessment on their own, without the cooperation of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Embassy.

This lack of documentation has resulted in broad support for a field study to determine, to the extent possible given conditions in El Salvador, the fate of these Salvadorans who are deported or who are returning voluntarily after being apprehended by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. This study should be sponsored by the United States.

Such a study could be done on a random sample basis over a period of several months, and implemented by the U.S. Embassy or a voluntary agency with the cooperation of the U.S. Embassy. The ICRC, the Salvadoran government's Commission on Human Rights, and the Tutela Legal, the human rights monitoring office associated with the Archdiocese of El Salvador, appear willing to accept this important role. Our government should pursue this issue without delay.

Until the results of this study are available, the INS should develop guidelines, such as are used in other areas of the world, which would identify certain categories of Salvadorans who are more likely subject to political violence. There is evidence that teachers and medical personnel face additional risk.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

El Salvador

1. *Priorities of humanitarian assistance.*—In addition to the continued provision of basic food and medical supplies to displaced persons, our assistance program should now

give higher priority to: (1. up-grading conditions in the camps (overcrowding, drainage, etc.); (2. the expansion of employment generation programs and targeting them to benefit the health and welfare of the displaced persons as well as the local community; and (3. the establishment of handicraft and other training programs for women who are idle in the camps.

2. *Resolving the plight of displaced persons in church compounds.*—Some 4,000 displaced persons—almost wholly women and children—are crowded into the small compounds of the Basilica and churches of the Archdiocese of El Salvador. Some have been there for as long as two to three years—some have even been born there—under conditions that severely limit their freedom. These families have sought the protection of the church because they fear that they will not be assisted or protected under the government's displaced person program. In the eyes of some Salvadoran military and government officials many of these people are seen as "subversives." Even if they are the dependent families of guerrillas or political opponents, they must receive adequate humanitarian assistance.

Every effort should be made to secure the safe removal of these people—to have them settled elsewhere in El Salvador under the care and protection of a responsible international agency, such as the ICRC or UNHCR. The U.S. Embassy should lend our strong diplomatic support to the resolution of this humanitarian issue, which remains a burden to the church and an unnecessary confinement of the persons involved. It should be in the interests of all concerned—the government, the church, and outside humanitarian organizations—to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

3. *Support for human rights organizations.*—We should actively support the work of the two principal human rights organizations in El Salvador, the Tutela Legal, which is associated with the Archdiocese, and the newly established Commission on Human Rights. The Tutela Legal has an established record. However, the new Commission on Human Rights, operating out of the President's office, does not yet have a permanent mandate. We should support efforts to codify the work of this Commission in the new Constitution and to assure its future operation and independence.

4. *Diplomatic support for the International Committee of the Red Cross.*—Two years ago the obstruction that the ICRC faced in obtaining access to prisoners was so great it nearly decided to close its offices and end the pretense that it was able to fulfill its obligations under the Geneva Conventions. However, diplomatic intervention avoided that unfortunate development.

The ICRC now reports improvement in their ability to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons in El Salvador. It also has access to political and military prisoners held by the Salvadoran authorities. However, it continues to face obstacles in obtaining responses from the government upon many of its recommendations.

The ICRC still needs strong diplomatic support to overcome the persistent resistance it encounters at many levels in El Salvador concerning its work with political and

² From October, 1982, to March, 1983, approximately 2,000 Salvadorans were returned.

military prisoners and its assistance to civilians in contested zones. Currently in Morazan province the local commander is blocking the transportation of food and medicines to the northern portions of the province, declaring that the intensity of the conflict is too great. If this intervention is of only a short duration, during military operations, ICRC representatives can understand. However, if it extends much longer, it will interfere with ICRC's distribution of relief supplies to non-combatants.

5. *Amnesty program.*—For a period of three months this summer, El Salvador launched an amnesty program under which some 1,000 came forward—half of whom were political prisoners released from prisons. The program was hindered, however, by its short duration and the lack of any international participation to guarantee protection. We should encourage further amnesty programs under ICRC auspices, and we should join others in the international community in offering third country safe-haven or resettlement opportunities for those seeking it. For example, of the 500 political prisoners released, 200 felt endangered being out of prison without international protection and they sought third country resettlement. Canada, Belgium and Australia agreed to give many safe-haven. The United States should participate in resettling those remaining as we have participated in the past in international efforts to resettle political prisoners.

6. *Judiciary reform.*—There is a serious need for judiciary reform in El Salvador, and we should continue to support current programs to strengthen their criminal laws and judicial system—all of which affect efforts to correct human rights abuses. Under El Salvador's laws, particularly the rules of evidence, it is sometimes difficult to prosecute offenders—especially if the charges have political overtones. In addition, many judges are not respected or adequately protected; not surprisingly, when difficult, controversial or dangerous cases come up, many find easier ways out. A serious effort to achieve judicial reform is now underway and it deserves strong support.

Honduras

1. *Support of the refugee program.*—As noted earlier, refugee conditions in Honduras have stabilized and an effective international program of assistance and protection has been established under UNHCR auspices. The United States must be prepared to continue our support of this program until durable solutions are achieved for the refugees. And given the relative hospitality of the Government of Honduras towards refugees and its readiness to absorb refugees on a first asylum basis, the international community needs to offer its continued assurance of diplomatic and financial support.

In the case of the Salvadorans, a durable solution appears distant. The current situation of displaced persons inside El Salvador will not persuade Salvadorans living in far better camps and conditions outside their country to soon return. A more secure countryside, relatively free of conflict, appears to be a precondition to the return of any significant number of those Salvadorans who fled the violence.

As for the Nicaraguan Miskito Indians, they are well on their way to self-sufficiency

and possible integration with the Honduran Miskitos. We should support the current care and maintenance programs of the UNHCR as well as assist in mobilizing resources to establish permanent settlements for the Miskitos in Honduras—if they choose to remain. The U.S. Mission and A.I.D. should become more involved in longer term development planning and support.

A third refugee program now emerging—Ladino refugees from Nicaragua—will likely require particular attention in the days ahead, both in terms of preparations for a potential influx of refugees, and in assuring that relief assistance is used only for humanitarian purposes.

2. *Protection of Salvadoran refugees.*—The United States should continue to express to Honduran authorities our strong support for the UNHCR's efforts to provide protection to Salvadoran refugees. This involves not only support of the UNHCR's presence in the camps, but also at the borders.

Particular attention should be paid to protecting refugees at Colomoncagua; if it is necessary to move this camp for security reasons, better planning and support will be necessary to avoid the problems of the earlier move of Salvadorans from the La Virtud camp to Mesa Grande. Also, if the Salvadoran refugees at Colomoncagua must be relocated from the border, the UNHCR's concerns over freedom of movement should be dealt with.

3. *Support UNHCR seminars for Honduran military.*—We should continue our support of the special seminars that UNHCR has conducted with the Honduran army on the Refugee Convention's guidelines on the treatment of refugees. There is every indication that they have had some positive effect on the ability of UNHCR to protect refugees in Honduras, especially towards arriving Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees—as evidenced in what could have become a dangerous incident at the El Tesoro refugee camp for Guatemalans. When the military arrested 18 camp residents, the Honduran army attempted to adhere to the UNHCR guidelines and sought the involvement of UNHCR officials.

Guatemala

1. *Survey of needs of displaced persons.*—Although it appears that a significant displaced persons problem is developing inside Guatemala, with all its attendant food, health, and medical problems, no one—neither the Guatemalan government, the U.S. Embassy, nor the voluntary agencies—has a grasp of the dimension of the problem. Estimates of the total number of displaced persons range from 10,000 to one million.

The United States should press for a thorough survey of displaced persons—their needs, their whereabouts and their numbers—to be conducted either by the Embassy, a voluntary agency or the government. And we should be prepared to increase substantially our humanitarian assistance program, and to support the work of the voluntary agencies—with P.L. 480 food, with emergency medical supplies, and other relief commodities. If emergency relief is necessary—and some voluntary agency field reports indicate it will be—the American Ambassador should consider taking the necessary steps to activate immediate relief funds through A.I.D.'s Office of Foreign

Disaster Assistance (which was one of the first sources of funding for the displaced persons' program in El Salvador).

If a serious displaced persons problem does develop, American humanitarian assistance should be channeled through an international or voluntary agency serving as coordinator of the displaced persons program.

2. *Guatemalan refugees in Mexico.*—There are currently an estimated 41,000 Guatemalan refugees in the southern Mexican province of Chiapas—primarily Indians from the Ixil-triangle who have fled military campaigns in the countryside in 1981-82. Although the situation in the field has stabilized, conditions remain precarious in some areas with only a two-week food supply and serious health problems. In jungle terrain, logistics also continue to be a problem.

Despite a recent commitment by the Mexican government to offer extended assistance and protection to the refugees, and permission for the UNHCR to establish a

permanent presence in the field, a longer-term solution is far off. Few, if any, refugees have been willing to accept the Guatemalan government's offer of amnesty and return to their country. There is a general lack of confidence in the protection they will receive when they return. A carefully negotiated repatriation program under UNHCR auspices, with strong diplomatic and financial support of the United States, might help resolve the problem. A good beginning will be an invitation to refugee leaders to return home—again, under UNHCR protection—to see conditions for themselves.

But it is unlikely they will be persuaded to return if they see displaced persons among their fellow countrymen receiving less assistance or protection than is being received under UNHCR programs in Mexico.●



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Testimony prepared for the Democratic Party Platform
Hearing, New York City, April 9, 1984

I am Susanne Jonas from U.S. Out of Central America (USOCA), a national organization founded to oppose U.S. militarism and interventionism in Central America and to combat the clear and present danger of a new Vietnam in that region. USOCA views the Reagan administration's interventionism in Central America as part of an escalating and aggressive militarism. Internationally, his belligerent and provocative policies have laid the ground for war, in which American youth would die, and which could provoke a broader nuclear confrontation. Domestically, they divert tax dollars into the geometrically expanding military budget, while jobs and services for the American people are systematically cut back. This military build-up flies in the face of American public opinion which, in poll after poll, has shown widespread opposition to foreign interventions and fear that Reagan's policies will drag us into a war.

In Central America, Reagan's policies may well lead to direct involvement of U.S. combat troops. He has created an unprecedented military build-up in Central America, which will only increase if the recommendations of the Kissinger Commission are implemented. The direct U.S. military presence in El Salvador and Honduras is increasing, and the Administration now talks openly about possible use of U.S. combat troops in the future--in effect, another Vietnam. Military "exercises" scheduled to begin April 20--which will affect the entire region, including Cuba--are strikingly similar to maneuvers in preparation for the invasion of Grenada. Direct CIA responsibility for the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, which has already damaged one Soviet ship and ships of five other nations, has now been admitted.

Politically, these actions achieve nothing for the United States and only further isolate the U.S. internationally--even from its traditional allies in Western Europe. Decreasingly able to impose its will on other nations through economic, political or diplomatic means, our government has turned increasingly to military adventurism and recklessness. Such conduct expresses what Marlene Dixon of ISLEC's Center for the Study of American Militarism has identified as the "Suez Syndrome", the last-ditch effort of a declining power to preserve its shrinking influence when it can no longer impose its will politically on its allies or the world. The precedent

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is Britain's unsuccessful effort to regain control of the Suez Canal in 1956; the U.S.'s "Suez" may well be Central America.

Compounding the danger of Reagan's militaristic, provocative policies in a highly volatile Central America today is his inflammatory rhetoric blaming the Soviet Union and Cuba for the conflict in Central America. Furthermore, on a global scale, relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union are at the lowest point in years, due to Reagan's consistently hostile actions (e.g. placing new nuclear missiles in Europe). Combined with this administration's belief that a nuclear war is winnable, this places us in a situation where nuclear confrontation is more likely than at any time since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962; and regional hot-spots of U.S. intervention, such as Central America, are most likely to touch off an international confrontation. What more clearly demonstrates the dangers of turning Central America into a war zone than the U.S. mining of Nicaraguan harbors, which has already directly affected Soviet ships?

Given the above, USOCA believes that it is incumbent upon the Democratic Party to make a complete and principled break with the policies of the Reagan Administration in Central America. Reagan and his spokesmen are attempting to force and impose "bipartisan consensus" regarding Central America policy on Democrats, as a kind of litmus test of patriotism and loyalty to the United States, maintaining that public and Congressional debate and criticism undermine U.S. interests abroad. We find this abhorrent not only in its content but also in its violation of the basic democratic traditions of the United States. Democrats must not allow themselves to be intimidated into supporting Reagan policy by Reaganite spectres of "losing" El Salvador or Central America, nor should they accept administration doublespeak about sending U.S. military aid now to avoid direct U.S. involvement later.

We urge the Democratic Party to adopt a clear stance of opposition to Reagan policy in Central America, and to define a new policy based upon the following principles: opposition to the militarization of the region currently taking place; full respect for human rights; authentic self-determination; good-faith negotiations to resolve conflicts (in place of military solutions); commitment to non-intervention; full economic and social development of the region based on social justice.

Specifically, we urge the Democratic Party to establish itself on record and to introduce legislation as appropriate on the following points of U.S. policy in Central America:

1. Immediate cessation of all U.S. military involvement in Central America, including military aid, equipment, training, and personnel.

2. In particular, immediate cessation of all U.S. military aid to the government of El Salvador. While we support the many legislative attempts to limit or restrict such aid, we urge the Democratic Party to take the much stronger stance of terminating such aid altogether.

3. Continued ban on all military aid to Guatemala, which has been identified by numerous human rights organizations as having the worst record of human rights violations in the hemisphere; and cessation of all military sales to the Guatemalan government.

4. Conditioning all economic aid to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras on verifiable improvements in human rights; furthermore, the process of human rights certification should be strengthened and the Administration should be legally obliged to abide by it.

5. An immediate end to all U.S. overt and covert operations against Nicaragua (through aid to the "contras" or directly); and immediate cessation of all other destabilizing activity, including economic sanctions as well as economic sabotage, directed against Nicaragua. In particular, an end to terroristic, CIA-implemented or directed acts of military aggression, in defiance of international law, such as the mining of Nicaragua's harbors.

6. In regard to U.S. military installations in Honduras, an immediate withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel (including advisers), and termination of all "military exercises". Further, the U.S. installations themselves should in no way be permanently institutionalized; rather, they should be progressively dismantled, in order to reduce tensions and the danger of war in the region. Minimally, the Department of Defense should be prevented from using or permitting the use of U.S. installations in Honduras as a base for attacks on El Salvador, or for "contra" activities tending toward an invasion of Nicaragua, which would ultimately draw Honduras and Nicaragua into a tragic war.

7. A clear policy statement that the U.S. is committed to not using military force to intervene in the internal affairs of another country, as was done in Grenada, in violation of international law.

8. Strictest possible application of the War Powers Act, and absolute resistance to Reagan Administration attempts to challenge its constitutionality. The War Powers Act should be applied to all possible situations in which the U.S. is involved, directly or indirectly (for example, U.S. reconnaissance missions functioning in tactical support of Salvadoran combat units).

9. U.S. participation in good faith in unconditional negotiations with all parties in El Salvador, in order to achieve a political rather than a military solution.

10. Acceptance of the Nicaraguan government's offer to begin negotiations with the United States to improve relations between the two countries.

AMERICAN JEWISH
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NEWS

FROM THE

COMMITTEE

ajc THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 751-4000
The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, April 9 ... Foreign Minister Dante Caputo of Argentina today informed a delegation of American Jewish Committee leaders that President Alfonsin's government would introduce within the next two weeks in the Argentinian Congress a series of laws outlawing anti-Semitism, racism, and all forms of discrimination based on religion, race, and sex.

"There will be strong penalties for public discrimination," Minister Caputo said, "and these laws will govern the behavior in the entire Argentine society."

Minister Caputo discussed a broad range of domestic and foreign policy issues with a delegation of American Jewish Committee leaders at the Argentinian Mission to the United Nations. Ms. Rita Hauser of New York, Chairperson of the AJC Executive Committee and a prominent international lawyer, headed the AJC delegation. The meeting was arranged by AJC's International Relations Department, whose director is Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum.

Joining Mr. Caputo were the Argentine Ambassador to the United States, Lucio Garcia del Solar; the Argentine Consul General in New York, Jose Ramon Sanchis Munoz; Advisor to President Alfonsin, Carlos Nino; Principal Advisor to Minister Caputo, Alberto Ham; and Francisco Diez, private secretary to Minister Caputo.

Discussing foreign policy concerns, Minister Caputo said that "the Government of President Alfonsin condemns all forms of terrorism. I can assure you that both internally and externally, we will insist on all legal means to combat terrorism. We have suffered from all forms of terrorism; it is not an abstraction to us; we know it firsthand. It is an absurd contradiction for us to fight terrorism internally and allow it to go on internationally. Terrorism must be solved by law."

Mr. Caputo was responding to a series of concerns expressed by the AJC delegation over anti-Semitic violence in Argentina as well as over the role of the PLO in Argentina and other Latin American countries.

In answer to criticisms over past votes of Argentinian representatives to United Nations bodies who supported anti-Israel resolutions, including "the obscenity of the equation of Zionism with racism," Minister Caputo said, "We will

....more

seek to rectify our votes on these issues. We will change the erratic, irrational, and improvised character of Argentina's foreign policy. We will not vote at the UN or elsewhere just because others want us to."

Jacobo Kovadloff of Buenos Aires, AJC's director of Latin American affairs, informed Minister Caputo about the forcible closing of AJC's offices in Buenos Aires in June 1977 under the threat of right-wing death squads. Minister Caputo responded forthrightly: "We invite the American Jewish Committee to return and reopen your offices. It would be a good symbol. The reasons which prompted the closing are finished. We not only welcome your return but pledge to give you all the assistance you need to reopen and to function in Argentina."

Minister Caputo also responded affirmatively to an AJC proposal for organizing exchange visits between Argentinian and American delegations, modeled on AJC's successful exchange programs with France and Germany. Mr. Caputo said his government would very much welcome such exchanges and would help in their implementation.

The Foreign Minister also discussed his views on Argentinian-U.S. relations. "The establishment of democracy," he said, "is to contribute to security and avoid polarization. The U. S. policy in Latin American has been short-term and has led to fostering ties with authoritarian governments friendly with the U.S. Authoritarian governments are not stable, and those regimes produced negative votes (toward the U.S. and Israel) in the United Nations and elsewhere.

"To insure democracy, we must create a foundation for real dialogue with the U.S. The U.S. is interested in hemisphere security but forgets frequently about democracy and development. Latin Americans speak about democracy and development and forget about security. As Latin Americans produce things worthy to defend, they will understand security much better."

Speaking of Argentina's economic plight, Minister Caputo told the AJC leaders, "We have a great foreign debt and distortions in our domestic monetary situation. It will take us a few years to deal with it. The Argentine Government will seek to pay its debt but at the same time must be able to produce the necessary wealth. We have had a deep recession during the last eight years that caused a drop in our way of life and a drop in wages. What sense is there to try to establish a democracy in our country if there is more recession, and a drop in wages? We need to increase investments and have an economic success if democracy is to survive."

The AJC delegation consisted of the following:

Ms. Hauser; Philip Hoffman of New Jersey, former AJC president; Richard Maass of New Rochelle, N.Y., former AJC president; Leo Nevas of Norwalk, Conn., chairman of the AJC Task Force on Soviet Jewry; Howard Greenberger, professor of law, New York University, and chairman of the AJC Task Force on Central America; Mr. Kovadloff; Dr. David Gordis, executive vice-president-designate of the AJC; William Trosten, AJC's acting director; and David Harris, deputy director of AJC's International Relations Department.

The American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. Founded in 1906, it combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of people here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people everywhere.

Background Notes for Meeting with
President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado
Tuesday, May 15, 1984

The Jewish Community

The population of Mexico -- 72 million -- is now second in size in Latin America. The Jewish population -- 45 thousand -- constitutes the third largest Latin-American Jewish community (after Argentina and Brazil). 96% of the Jews live in Mexico City. The community is made up of 55% Ashkenazim from Eastern Europe; 40% Sephardim from the Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans. In the last few years a number of Israelis have immigrated. The main coordinating organization is the Comité Central Israelita de México.

Anti-Semitism in Mexico

Several years ago there seemed to be an increase in the anti-Semitic activities of the right wing. This has receded and, while there are anti-Semitic materials being published and distributed by this group, the Jewish community does not consider it a significant threat. Left-wing anti-Semitism under the guise of anti-"Zionism" and/or anti-Israel publications continues and remains a source of concern to the community. The PLO maintains an office in Mexico City, but a recent petition for diplomatic recognition and to increase their staff was denied by the government.

Mexico's Relations with Israel

Generally, bilateral relations have been good. The vitriolic anti-Israel articles in the media and speeches in the UN during the Lebanese crisis have ended or are much muted. Recently Mexico and Israel signed a new agreement for scientific, technological and cultural cooperation. Perhaps the most significant aspect of this agreement is the fact that it was signed in Jerusalem. Given the attitude of the previous Minister of Foreign Affairs who had refused to allow any agreement to be signed in Jerusalem, the action by the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the supportive involvement in the decision by the new Mexican Ambassador to Israel, is considered by the Jewish community as a very positive omen.

Most importantly, Mexico, despite persistent pressure from Arab countries and from left-wing elements in Mexico, continues to sell oil to Israel. At present, 40% of Israel's oil requirements are imported from Mexico. It should be pointed out that the sale of oil to Israel is of great mutual benefit since Israel pays for this oil in cash, which is of significant assistance to Mexico currently undergoing a major economic crisis.

AJC and Mexico

- * The American Jewish Committee has long had an interest in developing a close relationship between the U.S. and Mexico.
- * The AJC established an office for Mexico and Central America in Mexico City in 1966. Directed by Sergio Nudelstejer, it is the only American Jewish organization based in the region and maintains a close relationship with both the Mexican Government and Jewish community.
- * During his tenure (1976-1982) the former President of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, visited the United States four times. Each time he met with an AJC delegation. His predecessor, President Luis Echeverria, met with an AJC delegation in 1976.
- * Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Ramer of Los Angeles represented AJC at the official inauguration of President Miguel de la Madrid in December 1982.
- * The AJC also met with then-Presidential candidate de la Madrid during the visit to Mexico of the AJC Board of Governors in February 1982.
- * We have supported liberal immigration legislation which would benefit, among others, persons of Mexican origin now living in the United States.
- * We have established an American-Hispanic Dialogue which was inaugurated in San Antonio, Texas in February 1984.
- * The AJC has become the "address" for Mexican Government officials who wish to establish a relationship with the Jewish community in the United States and its various organizations.

* * * *

Talking Points for Meeting with Mexican President

1. Mexico is a particularly important country to us as Americans because (a) it is a neighbor, (b) it is a substantial presence in Latin America, and (c) it is an important country in the Third World. As Jews we are also interested because Mexico has a significant Jewish community to which we have close ties.
2. We would be interested in hearing the President's evaluation of the current political and economic situation in Mexico and the prospects for the future.
3. How does he evaluate the relationship between the United States and Mexico at this time? Is there a particular role that an organization like the American Jewish Committee can play in strengthening that relationship?
4. How does he evaluate the relationship between Mexico and Israel?
5. We are concerned about the politicization of international organizations and their specialized agencies which divert attention from their stated and widely-shared goals. We would welcome the President's comments on this subject.
6. One of the issues of great concern to Jews and to others who are interested in human rights is the situation of Jews in the USSR. We would like to ask the Mexican President to consider possible intervention through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels to address this issue.

David Geller and Sergio Nudelstejer
AJC International Relations Department

84-560-19

Y056-IRD/1s
5/11/84

AJC Delegation for meeting
with President Miguel de la Madrid

May 15, 1984

Hyman Bookbinder

Theodore Ellenoff, Chairman

Howard Greenberger

David Harris

Alfred Moses

Leo Nevas

Sergio Nudelstejer

Leon Silverman

Marc Tanenbaum

Gordon Zacks

rpr



The American Jewish Committee

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May 17, 1984

Mr. Marcel Ruff
President
FEDECO
Apartado Postal 502
Guatemala City, Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Marcel,

I was glad to have the opportunity to speak with you last week, but I regret the circumstances that brought it about. Our Jewish communities have more than enough real problems and needs to contend with and should not be wasting time and energy on such useless controversies and polemics.

There is a real need for serious and thoughtful analysis based on objective data regarding the problems of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in Nicaragua and elsewhere, and for finding politically effective ways of dealing with those urgent issues. But newspaper headlines are hardly a mature and responsible way of doing that.

I have three purposes in writing to you now:

First, I wanted to report to you, and through you, to FEDECO's leadership, on the very positive contribution that Moises Sabbaj made in interpreting the interests of Central American Jewry to our national leadership. His prepared talk was warmly received, and heightened the consciousness of our leaders from throughout the United States to their responsibilities to their fellow-Jews in Central America.

In behalf of the American Jewish Committee, for Sergio Nudelstejer and myself, we want to thank you for the wise choice of Moises as your official spokesman to our AJC Annual Meeting.

Second, we arranged a meeting of major representatives from national Rabbinic seminaries, Jewish educational bodies, Hillel, JDC, HIAS, and JWB to meet with Moises Sabbaj on May 1 in order to discuss how we might be helpful in mobilizing Rabbis, teachers, community services, social welfare and other skilled persons to come to Central America in order to meet your internal spiritual and educational needs. We were heartened by a quite positive interest, and meetings were arranged with Moises to begin concrete arrangements for such recruitment. He will, I am sure, report to you in detail on these developments.

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DAVID F. SQUIRE, Boston ■

If we can be of any help in further follow-up, please feel free to contact Sergio or myself.

Third, I have read the text of the statement that Rabbi Morton Rosenthal drafted with you and Luis Lieberman as printed in The Jewish World of May 11-17. I have no desire to prolong this foolish way of dealing with a significant issues, but I must say two things for the record which I must ask you to communicate to your FEDECO leadership:

a) The statement, which clearly bears the exaggerated style of Rabbi Rosenthal's authorship, attributes to me assertions which I never made in any form - neither in public speeches, nor in my radio broadcasts, nor in my syndicated columns. I enclose copies of everything I have written and broadcast about FEDECO and Central American Jewry so that fair-minded people can judge for themselves whether the Rosenthal-inspired apologia has any basis in fact.

I have never said nor written that "FEDECO did not say that there was not anti-Semitism (in Nicaragua)." In fact, in my syndicated column, "Is Nicaragua Anti-Semitic?", dated October 14, 1983, I wrote:

"...during the upheaval, there is no question that some Sandinista guerillas, poisoned by PLO propaganda, acted in an anti-Semitic way."

I also said nothing whatsoever about any "resolutions" being "adopted or discussed" by FEDECO. That is another misrepresentation of my views. But you know as well as I - and you can refresh your recollection by listening to the tapes of the discussion that took place during the panel at which Rabbi Rosenthal spoke about Nicaragua - that at least three of the FEDECO delegates sharply questioned the wisdom and utility of Rabbi Rosenthal's sensationalizing the issue at the expense of a more complex understanding what went on in Nicaragua.

Your statement (drafted by Rosenthal) does in fact come to the conclusion I have held all along when it asserts, "Anti-Semitism was one of the major factors, although not the only factor, that caused Nicaraguan Jews to leave Nicaragua." If Rabbi Rosenthal has articulated this balanced understanding of the geo-political realities in Nicaragua in his numerous statements and articles, there would be little difference in our approach. The utility of such an approach is that it avoids creating an hysterical atmosphere of anti-Semitic pogroms and frees us to deal with the far more fundamental present threat to the interest of Central American and world Jewry, including Israel, namely, the sinister and deadly anti-Jewish and anti-democratic role of the PLO and their fellow-travelling Sandanista commandates in Nicaragua and throughout Latin America. It is a whole different conception.

b) The statement attributes to me an assertion that "there is a general exodus of Jews from Central America." I challenge Rabbi Rosenthal or anyone else to present a single line that I have written that makes such a sweeping statement. What I did say is a supposition, contained in the attached column, "Latin America's Jews, their hopes, fears," (The Jewish Week, February 17, 1984):

"If Marxist revolutions are allowed to topple the governments of their countries, they see no future for Jewish life, and many hundreds of Jews are already leaving."

I believe that statement to be truthful, and it is based in large part on the demographic data that I heard and wrote down from the FEDECO leaders from each of the Central American countries who reported on the situation of their countries during the panel discussion. "General exodus" - which I never said - implies mass flight of entire populations. "Many hundreds of Jews...leaving" is a sociological reality.

In sum, if you grant the accuracy of these comments, I cannot understand how you and Mr. Lieberman could sign a statement drafted by Rosenthal that defames me by asserting: "Rabbi Tanenbaum's statements have created regrettable confusion, because they did not accurately reflect events at the meeting of FEDECO."

In point of fact, I believe that my statements, broadcasts, and columns were entirely accurate portrayals of everything I heard and read during and since the FEDECO meeting, and therefore the statement is erroneous and inaccurate on almost every count. I regret very much, especially since I feel such bonds of friendship with you and other members of FEDECO whom I felt privileged to meet, that you were placed in a compromising position to have to lend your name to a statement which is not worthy of your integrity and stature.

Marcel, I end consciously on a positive note of friendship because I refuse to allow this publicity squall to affect in any negative way the relationship between ourselves or of FEDECO with the American Jewish Committee.

The presence of Moises Sabbaj at the AJC Annual Meeting was the beginning of an important and constructive bond between Central American Jewry and our national leadership. I propose to do everything in my power to assure its positive continuation.

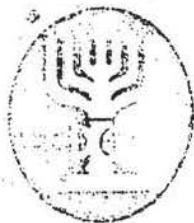
With warm good wishes to you, Mrs. Ruff, and FEDECO leadership, I am,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director
International Relations Department

MHT:ls
encls.

cc: Sergio Nudelstejer, Mexico
Moises Sabbaj, Guatemala
Luis Lieberman, Costa Rica



FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

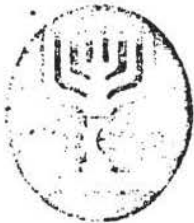
"THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS
AND ITS IMPACT ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES."

PRESENTED AT: THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S 78TH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 3, 1984.

BY: THE FEDERATION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF CENTRAL
AMERICA AND PANAMA (FEDECO).

PREPARED WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
GUATEMALAN JEWISH COMMUNITY.

SPEAKER: MOISES SABBAJ.



FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS
AND ITS IMPACT ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL INTEREST IT HAS SHOWN IN INVITING FEDECO TO THIS REUNION. IT IS POSSIBLE, AND I WILL TRY TO PRESENT YOU WITH FEDECO'S THINKING IN RELATION TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ~~CRISIS~~, AND ITS IMPACT ON JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THAT AREA.

FEDECO'S MEMBERSHIP HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE DESTINY OF ITS COMMUNITIES IS INTIMATELY RELATED TO THE FOREIGN, AS WELL AS TO THE INTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES. THEREFORE, THIS IMPORTANT INFLUENCE MUST BE MENTIONED IN THIS PRESENTATION.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS IS DISCUSSED IN ALL CIRCLES AND AT EVERY LEVEL OF OUR SOCIETIES, AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE EXAMINE THE REAL ORIGIN OF THIS CRISIS, IN ORDER TO REACH THOSE CONCLUSIONS THAT WILL ALLOW AN ADEQUATE SOLUTION.

THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF THE ISTHMUS, NO DOUBT, CONSTITUTES A FACTOR OF ~~MAJOR~~ IMPORTANCE FOR THIS AREA TO BE IN A SEVERE CRISIS. MAJPA

IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS OF APRIL 27, 1983, PRESIDENT REAGAN RECALLED THAT ALREADY DURING WORLD WAR II, HITLER HAD RECOGNIZED THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF THIS AREA. GERMAN SUBMARINES SANK MORE TONNAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN THAN IN THE ATLANTIC. THIS WAS DONE WITH

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FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA,
Y PANAMA

Hoja No 2

OUT HAVING A NAVAL BASE ANYWHERE IN THE AREA. PRESIDENT REAGAN ALSO REMINDED CONGRESS THAT TWO THIRDS OF ALL FOREIGN TRADE AND PETROLEUM PASSES THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE CARIBBEAN. IN CASE OF A EUROPEAN CRISIS, AT LEAST HALF OF THE AMERICAN SUPPLIES FOR NATO WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THESE AREAS BY SEA.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS CLEARLY RECOGNIZED THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF U.S. INTERESTS IN THE AREA. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE U.S. ARE BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE THIS IMPORTANCE, TOO. IT IS THEREFORE UNNECESSARY TO FURTHER INSIST ON THE GEOPOLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS AREA.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS IS VIEWED BY DIFFERENT SECTORS IN DIFFERENT WAYS: THERE ARE THOSE WHO VIEW IT AS JUST ONE MORE LINK OF THE EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION, AND THEY ATTRIBUTE THE REVOLUTION ONLY TO THE DIRECT INTERFERENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS CARIBBEAN SATELLITE. OTHERS ATTRIBUTE THE ORIGIN OF THE CRISIS TO THE EXTREME INEQUITIES EXISTING IN THE MATTER OF ACCESS TO LAND, OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE.

BUT WE MUST EXAMINE THE PROBLEM FROM A REALISTIC POINT OF VIEW, AND NOT FROM ONE INFLUENCED BY POLITICAL CONVICTIONS OR PERSONAL CONVENIENCE.

LET US SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT:

- 1.- INEQUITIES IN ACCESS TO LAND DO EXIST IN CENTRAL AMERICA;
- 2.- INEQUITIES IN ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY DO EXIST IN CENTRAL AMERICA;
- 3.- INEQUITIES IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE DO EXIST IN CENTRAL AMERICA;
- 4.- VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DO EXIST IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

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FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

Hoja No 3

THESE SAD TRUTHS HOWEVER, ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AREA. THEY EXIST IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AND REGIONS OF THE WORLD. BUT THE FACT IS THAT IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THEY DO EXIST, AND THERE IS A CRISIS, SO WE MUST ASK OURSELVES A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHY??

THESE UNFORTUNATE CONDITIONS HAVE EXISTED IN OUR AREA FOR MANY MANY YEARS, AND THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH A CRISIS AS WE HAVE TODAY. CAN IT BE, THAT THE PEOPLE IN OUR AREA HAVE ALL OF A SUDDEN, SPONTANEOUSLY, BECOME CONSCIOUS OF THESE TRUTHS OR CONDITIONS? IT IS POSSIBLE; BUT THEN, WHY HAVE OTHER PEOPLE IN OTHER AREAS NOT REACTED IN A SIMILAR WAY, INCLUDING SUCH AREAS WHERE THE INEQUITIES ARE EVEN GREATER?

IN GUATEMALA, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS POVERTY, BUT PEOPLE DO NOT STARVE TO DEATH AS THEY DO IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL, WHERE THE HUNGER PROBLEM HAS REACHED ALARMING PROPORTIONS. YOU MUST BE AWARE OF THE COUNTLESS ASSAULTS ON SUPERMARKETS IN THAT COUNTRY, WHERE THE ONLY PURPOSE OF THE RAIDERS IS TO OBTAIN FOOD TO SURVIVE. BUT BRAZIL DOES NOT HAVE A CRISIS PROBLEM LIKE THE ONE WE HAVE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WHY NOT??

MEXICO, WHICH IS THE ONLY COUNTRY GEOGRAPHICALLY LOCATED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CENTRAL AMERICA, ALSO SUFFERS FROM THE SAME TRUTHS AND CONDITIONS AS WE DO IN CENTRAL AMERICA. HOWEVER, IN MEXICO THERE IS NO SUCH CRISIS AS THE ONE EXISTING IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WHY NOT??

ARE THE BRAZILIANS OR THE MEXICANS MORE IGNORANT OF THEIR CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS THAN WE CENTRAL AMERICANS? IT CANNOT BE SO. THEN, AGAIN WE MUST ASK: WHY IS THERE A CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA?

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FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

Hoja No 4

THE ANSWER, AS WE SEE IT, IS DUE TO THE CONSCIOUS DESIRE AND INTEREST OF THE SOVIET UNION TO DESTABILIZE THE AREA IN ORDER TO GAIN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, AND TO DIRECTLY THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE U.S. BUT DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND US. THE FOREGOING DOES NOT MEAN A DENIAL OF THE EXISTING INEQUITIES. AS JEWS, WE COULD NOT AND NEITHER COULD YOU. AS JEWS, WE CARE ... AND AS SUCH WE CARE FOR LIFE AND JUSTICE; IF NOT, WE WOULD NOT BE JEWS.

AS JEWS, WE HAVE THE RESPONSABILITY TO PROMOTE THE WELL BEING OF HUMANITY. WE MUST HOWEVER ACT IN AN INTELLIGENT WAY.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE SOVIET UNION EXPLOITS THE EXISTING INEQUITIES TO PROMOTE SUBVERSION FOR ITS OWN ENDS, AND SADLY, IT ALSO EXPLOITS THE GOOD WILL AND LIBERAL FEELINGS OF JEWS EVERYWHERE, SO THAT MANY OF US, HERE AND ELSEWHERE, IN GOOD FAITH, SUPPORT SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS THAT ONLY BRING GREATER MISFORTUNE TO THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

LET'S LOOK AT A HISTORICAL EXAMPLE:

AN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION BACKS THE SANDINISTA REVOLUTION AND HELPS TO OVERTHROW A REPRESSIVE REGIME, WHICH HAD BEEN IMPOSED FORMERLY BY ANOTHER AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ITS GOVERNMENT. BUT, THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE ARE WORSE OFF TODAY THAN BEFORE, AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH SUPPRESSES ALL FORM OF JEWISH LIFE, EVEN AGAINST ITS OWN LAWS, HAS NOW A FOOTHOLD ON THE LANDBRIDGE OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.

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WE BELIEVE THAT THE POLICY FOLLOWED BY THE AMERICANS ON BOTH OCCASIONS MENTIONED ABOVE IN NICARAGUA WAS UNFORTUNATE. THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS WERE NOT SOLVED AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE TODAY A SERIOUS SITUATION, CAUSED BY THEIR OWN DOING, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DONE IN GOOD FAITH, AND IN THE NAME OF THE HIGHEST HUMAN VALUES.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S POLICY, CLEARLY STATED IN SENATOR CHRISTOPHER J. DODD'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SPEECH OF APRIL 27, 1983, IN THE NAME OF ALL DEMOCRATIC SENATORS, STATED:

- "WE WILL OPPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARXIST STATES IN CENTRAL AMERICA"
- "WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE CREATION OF SOVIET MILITARY BASES IN CENTRAL AMERICA"
- "AND WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PLACEMENT OF SOVIET OFFENSIVE MISSILES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, NOR ANYWHERE IN THIS HEMISPHERE"
- "FINALLY, WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO DEFEND OUR SECURITY AND THE SECURITY OF THE AMERICAS, IF NECESSARY, BY MILITARY MEANS."

THIS IS CERTAINLY A VERY REASSURING POLICY, COMING FROM IMPORTANT DEMOCRATS.

BUT, WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT IT WAS A DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION WHICH ALLOWED THE SANDINISTAS TO COME TO POWER AND TODAY, A REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION IS INVOLVED IN THE MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS. IN THE FIRST CASE, A POLICY ACTION WAS FOLLOWED WHICH DID NOT ANTICIPATE FUTURE EVENTS. IN THE SECOND CASE, AN ACTION WAS SUPPORTED WHICH VIOLATES IN-



FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

Hoja No 6

INTERNATIONAL LAW.

RECENTLY, AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS CENTRAL AMERICA HAS BEEN RE-EXAMINED FROM A BIPARTISAN POINT OF VIEW. WE BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD NOT BE A PARTISAN ISSUE; IT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE A BIPARTISAN ISSUE. WHAT IT SHOULD BE IS A NON-PARTISAN ISSUE.

HOWEVER, AS WE MENTIONED IN THE BEGINNING, WE SHOULD BE REALISTIC, AND IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT A NON-PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE U.S., BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICS, EXPERIENCES CONSTANT OPPOSITION BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES. THESE PARTY DISAGREEMENTS PRODUCE A FOREIGN POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN INCONSISTENT.

IN SPITE OF THESE PARTY DIFFERENCES, WE MUST HOPE THAT THE U.S. WILL FORMULATE A LATIN AMERICAN POLICY OF SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM SUPPORTED BY BOTH PARTIES. IT IS IMPERATIVE AND URGENT TO DO SO. IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT SUCH A POLICY IS CLEARLY DEFINED. IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA TO KNOW THAT THIS POLICY IS CLEARLY DEFINED, AND IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO KNOW THAT THIS POLICY IS CLEARLY DEFINED.

WITH NO INTENTION OF BEING ALARMISTS, WE MUST STATE OUR FEELING THAT THE SECURITY OF THIS HEMISPHERE IS AT STAKE, AND THE SECURITY OF ALL OF US WHO LIVE IN IT.

IT IS NECESSARY TO ACT SWIFTY AND FIRMLY IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY SOLVE THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS, AND TO STOP FINALLY AND COMPLETELY THE SOVIET ADVANCE IN OUR HEMISPHERE.

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FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

HOJA No 7

LET US REMEMBER WHEN ONE SPOKE OF THE SOVIET MENACE; LET US REMEMBER WHEN ONE SPOKE OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN MENACE. TODAY, WE HAVE TO SPEAK OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN-NICARAGUAN MENACE. MUST WE ONE DAY SPEAK OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN-NICARAGUAN-SALVADORAN-Guatemalan-COSTARICAN-PANAMANEAN MENACE? WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD BE NEXT?

IT IS TRUE AS CLEARLY STATED EARLIER, THAT THERE IS INJUSTICE AND OTHER INEQUITIES IN OUR AREA, AND THE U.S. MUST CONTRIBUTE, IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITS OWN INTERESTS, TO THE SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND MUST NOT FALL INTO THE SOVIET TRAP.

IN CONCLUSION:

- 1- IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THIS REVOLUTION IS A CONSEQUENCE OF POVERTY. POVERTY THAT WE JEWS BELIEVE MUST BE ABOLISHED.
- 2- IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THIS REVOLUTION IS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITY. OPPORTUNITY WE JEWS BELIEVE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL.
- 3- IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THIS REVOLUTION IS A CONSEQUENCE OF A LACK OF JUSTICE. JUSTICE THAT WE JEWS BELIEVE SHOULD ALWAYS EXIST.
- 4- IT IS NOT TRUE THAT DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS ARE A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. ELECTIONS WE JEWS SUPPORT.

THE CRISIS IS GENERATED BY THE STRATEGY OF ONE OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS, WHICH HAS A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CARIBBEAN QUITE CLOSE TO CENTRAL AMERICA. WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS, EACH TRYING TO ASSERT ITS HEGEMONY TO RETAIN, OR OBTAIN, STRATEGIC POSI

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TIONS IN THE AREA.

TODAY, WHILE WE ARE HERE IN NEW YORK, THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR ARE CASTING THEIR VOTES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHO SHALL BE THEIR NEXT PRESIDENT. GREAT SEGMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ITS GOVERNMENT HAVE OPENLY SUPPORTED ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS. THEY HAVE ALSO OPENLY OPPOSED THE OTHER ONE. THE CRUCIAL QUESTION IS: WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE CONTESTANT NOT SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. SHOULD WIN? WILL AMERICAN DEMOCRACY OPERATE? WILL THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR AS EXPRESSED AT THE POLLS BE RESPECTED AND SUPPORTED? OR, WILL THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR BE CHASTISED, BY CUTTING OFF ALL ASSISTANCE, BECAUSE THEY CHOSE A GOVERNMENT THAT IS NOT WHAT THE U.S. WANTED?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOVIET UNION WOULD PREFER? THE SAME AS YOU DO OR THE OPPOSITE? THINK ABOUT THIS QUESTION WHEN YOU HEAR OF THE RETURNS FROM THIS ELECTION. WE DO NOT KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION; NEITHER DO WE DARE MAKE A PREDICTION.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING OF THE IMPACT OF THIS CRISIS ON THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF THE ISTHMUS.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF NICARAGUA. THIS COMMUNITY DOES NOT EXIST ANY MORE. HOWEVER, THE REMAINING COMMUNITIES WOULD SUFFER A TREMENDOUS IMPACT, SHOULD ANYONE OF THE COUNTRIES FALL. THE EFFECT ON THE REMAINING COUNTRIES WOULD BE INSTANTANEOUS, AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES WOULD BE THE FIRST TO FEEL ITS CONSEQUENCES. THESE COMMUNITIES, BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE JEW-

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ISH, WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO IMMEDIATE REPRESSION SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PLO WOULD GAIN SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES WOULD MAKE THEM TARGETS, IF NOT AS JEWS, CERTAINLY AS INDIVIDUALS. THE COMMUNITIES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DISAPPEAR. THIS IS A HISTORICAL FACT.

THE JEWS OF CENTRAL AMERICA ARE NOT GREAT LANDOWNERS; THEY ARE NEITHER AMONG THE WEALTHIEST FAMILIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES, AND THEY DO NOT HAVE GREAT POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THE AREA. THERE ARE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO JEWS IN THE MILITARY STRUCTURES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE PATTERN OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA IS QUITE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY. FIRST GENERATION IMMIGRANTS DEDICATED MAINLY TO TRADE AND SMALL INDUSTRY. THE SECOND GENERATION IS CONSTITUTED OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONALS AND PROGRESSIVE ENTREPRENEURS.

BECAUSE OF OUR SOCIAL STATUS, THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES WOULD BE THE FIRST TO FEEL THE IMPACT. THE ENTREPRENEUR WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME A DEFENSIVE POSITION, AND THE PROFESSIONALS WOULD LOOSE THEIR INDEPENDANCE OF ACTION. THE ATMOSPHERE OF LIBERTY THAT BROUGHT OUR ANCESTORS TO THESE COUNTRIES IS DISAPPEARING, AND THIS ALONE GIVES US GREAT FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

WE WOULD SUFFER DETERIORATION IN OUR ECONOMY, OUR SECURITY AND SOCIAL LY.

WE AS JEWS WOULD IN ADDITION SUFFER FROM POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND PLAIN

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"HOODLUMISM". THIS HAS ALREADY AFFECTED US, PERCENTAGE WISE, MUCH MORE THAN THE REST OF THE POPULATION.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS VITAL FOR THESE COMMUNITIES TO SURVIVE. REMEMBER THAT EACH ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES REPRESENTS ONE VOTE IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, AND TO DATE THEY HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORTED ISRAEL. WITHOUT A JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THESE COUNTRIES, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THESE VOTES WOULD BE CAST IN THE FUTURE.

IT IS A PROVEN FACT THAT JEWS CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TOWARDS THE WELL-BEING OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY LIVE. THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES. YOU HERE IN THE U. S. HAVE GREATLY CONTRIBUTED IN THIS DIRECTION IN A PRAISEWORTHY MANNER. ON THE OTHER HAND, COUNTRIES THAT LOSE THEIR JEWISH POPULATION, REGRET IT. SPAIN, AFTER 500 YEARS HAS NOT RECUPERATED COMPLETELY FROM THE EXPULSION OF HER JEWS IN 1492.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE REALISTICALLY THE ORIGINS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS. WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS TO THE SECURITY OF THE U.S. IN THE CONTINUANCE OF THIS CRISIS.

LET US TOUCH ON ONLY ONE OF THE REAL, TANGIBLE AND IMMINENT DANGERS: THE REFUGEES, ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL, WHICH WOULD SURELY LOOK TO THE U.S. FOR NEW HOPE. TODAY WE TALK OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES. A FEW OF THESE HAVE ALREADY COME TO THE U.S. THE QUESTION IS: ARE YOU PREPARED TO ABSORB THE MILLIONS OF LATIN AMERICAN REFUGEES THAT WOULD COME WALKING TO THE U.S.? NO BOATS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS TRIP. ONLY SHOES, AND IN LIEU OF THEM, BARE FEET ARE ENOUGH.



FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

Hoja No 11

THERE HAVE BEEN VERY SERIOUS ESTIMATES AS TO THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES THAT WOULD FLOW. ITS FIGURE HAS BEEN SET AT 25 MILLION. DO YOU NOT CONSIDER THIS AS A GREAT THREAT, EVEN IF ONLY FROM A DEMOGRAPHIC POINT OF VIEW?

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO FORESEE THIS, AND THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. THERE ARE PEOPLE, IGNORANT OF THE WAY OF THINKING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHO SUGGEST THAT A GREAT WALL SHOULD BE BUILT ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER. TECHNOLOGY FOR SUCH AN ENTERPRISE IS AVAILABLE. WE KNOW WHO HAS THE BEST TECHNOLOGY. THIS COULD BE A SOLUTION, OF COURSE. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO THINK ALONG THESE LINES, FORGET THAT THE U.S. HAS ALWAYS GIVEN REFUGE TO THE PERSECUTED, AND THAT THE WALL SOLUTION WOULD NEVER BE APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. A BETTER SOLUTION WOULD BE TO EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM OBJECTIVELY, LEAVING THE INTERNAL POLITICAL RIVALRIES ASIDE, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A LONG TERM CONSISTENT FOREIGN POLICY.

FEDECO SUGGESTS TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE THAT AN AD-HOC COMMISSION BE FORMED TO KEEP IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH US, SO AS TO BE COMPLETELY INFORMED AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR AREA. HAVING THIS CREDIBLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO YOU CAN GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF OUR PRESSING PROBLEMS.

HOWEVER MUCH SOME OF THE IDEAS AND OPINIONS WE HAVE EXPRESSED HERE MAY COINCIDE WITH POSITIONS TAKEN IN THE U.S., I MUST EMPHASIZE AND INSIST THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE NOT THE AGENTS OF ANY PARTY OR

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FEDERACION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTROAMERICA
Y PANAMA

HOJA No 12

GROUP. THESE ARE THE OPINIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF JEWS WHO LIVE IN
CENTRAL AMERICA.

AS JEWS, WE ARE ASKING THE SUPPORT OF JEWS TO HELP TO SOLVE THE CRI-
SIS. DO THIS IN THE GREAT TRADITION OF THOSE VALUES THAT MAKES JUDAISM
ETERNAL, NAMELY ITS ETHICS AND ITS MORALS. AS A RESULT YOU WILL ALSO
BE GUARANTEEING THE SECURITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

memorandum

date April 19, 1984
to Andrew Baker
from William Gralnick
subject International Associates

cc: G. DuBow
M. Tanenbaum
S. Naturman

Our chapter is interested in setting up a net in which to catch the schools of Jewish Central and South Americans zipping around here.

Please fill me in on how your associates group works:

- 1) How it was started
- 2) What it does
- 3) Campaign in-put, if any
- 4) Pit-falls, if any

Good Yontiff. See you soon.

WAG:gs



mabat

FEB. 84

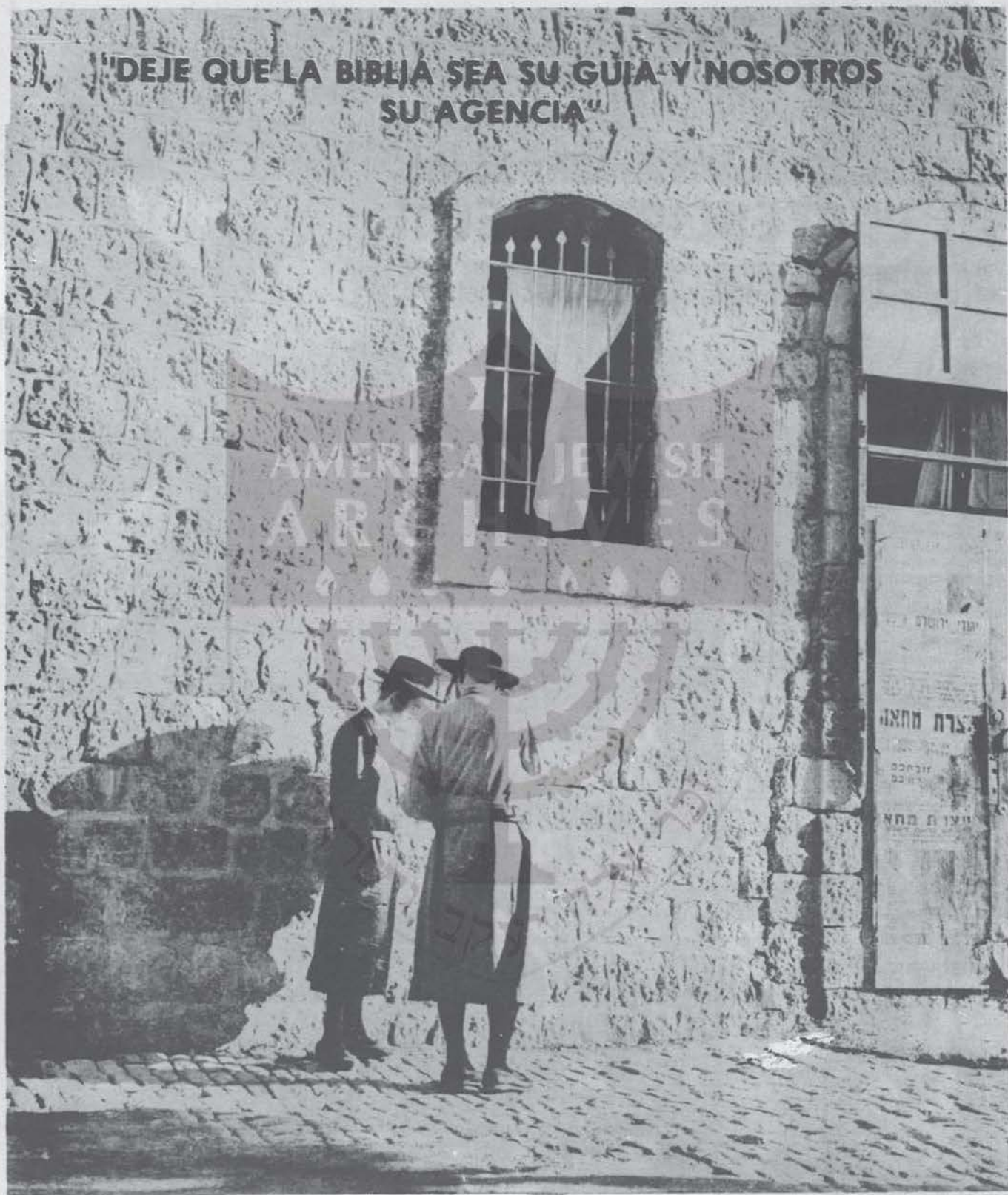
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XI CONVENCION FEDECO



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PUBLICACION MENSUAL
DE LA COMUNIDAD JUDIA
DE GUATEMALA

No. 60

1. Ernesto Freund, Edwin Shapiro, Mario Permuth, Ministro Agricultura, Pin-kus Rubinstein.
2. Invitado de honor, Hannan Olami.
3. Manuel Tenenbaum
4. Solemne clausura
5. Edwin Shapiro.
6. Moisés Mizrahi
7. Rab Morton Rosenthal.
8. Rab. Marc Tenenbaum

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REFLEXION DE UN ENCUENTRO

La adversidad no abatió a Israel como a otras naciones. El pueblo de Israel "se creció" ante la adversidad. Alcanzó la estatura y fortaleza suficiente, no solo para sobrevivir, sino para hacerlo con la dignidad que exige su propia ética.

No debemos confundirnos y creer que esa fortaleza y estatura devienen de la adversidad. Esa adversidad es un elemento externo que obligó a Israel "al milagro de su supervivencia", pero la substancia que permitió crecer en proporciones milagrosas para sobrevivir a las terribles mutilaciones de que fue objeto, es un elemento interno.

Ese elemento interno en sus diversos grados de observación, es la religión de Israel. La religión de Israel, es la vasija que contiene y mezcla dentro de ella en las proporciones exactas: la espiritualidad, la moral y la ética judía.

La observancia de ésta religión, equivale al acto de frotar la lámpara maravillosa del cuento de hadas, que hace surgir al "genio"; en este caso al Genio de Israel, capaz del milagro que se espera de él.

Lo anterior es valido para el Pueblo de Israel en Guatemala, en toda la Diáspora judía y en el Estado de Israel.

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XI CONVENCION DE COMUNIDADES JUDIAS DE CENTRO AMERICA Y PANAMA, FEDECO

La XI Convención de Comunidades Judías de Centro América y Panamá, FEDECO, se llevó a cabo con todo éxito, en la ciudad de Antigua Guatemala, del 26 al 29 de enero de 1984.

En la Convención, se desarrollaron numerosas actividades, sobresaliendo entre ellas, las plenarias, que abarcaron temas preponderantes de actualidad en el área centroamericana, proyectados a la situación actual de las Comunidades Judías de esta área.

Se contó con la presencia de altos funcionarios del Gobierno de la República de Guatemala. En la solemne sesión inaugural, estuvo presente el Excelentísimo Sr. Ministro de Agricultura, Ingeniero Agrónomo Rodolfo Perdomo; y en el acto de clausura, se contó con la presencia del Excelentísimo Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Licenciado Fernando Andrade Díaz-Durán.

Asimismo, se dieron cita en la Convención, el Exmo. Sr. Hannan Olami, Encargado de Asuntos de Centro América y del Caribe en Israel; los Excelentísimos Embajadores de Israel, acreditados en Costa Rica, Panamá y Guatemala, así como prominentes líderes del Marco Judío Internacional, listados posteriormente en la sección correspondiente.

A continuación, presentamos un reportaje gráfico sobre el desarrollo de la Convención.

SOLEMNE SESION INAUGURAL

La Sesión Inaugural de la XI Convención de FEDECO, solemnemente se dió inicio, con la entonación de los Himnos de Centro América, Panamá e Israel. Posteriormente, el Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala, Licenciado Mario Permuth, dio la formal bienvenida a los asistentes.

Se escucharon las palabras del Presidente de FEDECO, Señor Pinkus Rubinstein y del Excelentísimo Señor Embajador de Israel acreditado en Guatemala Ingeniero Moshé Dayán.

Posteriormente, el Excelentísimo Señor Ministro de Agricultura, Ingeniero Rodolfo Perdomo, pronunció un discurso, el cual transcribimos a continuación.



El Lic. Mario Permuth, presidente de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala da la formal bienvenida a los delegados.



El Ing. Moshé Dayán, Embajador de Israel, se dirige a los presentes.



El Sr. Pinkus Rubinstein, Presidente de FEDECO, dirige unas palabras.



Ministro Perdomo

DISCURSO PRONUNCIADO POR EL EXMO. SR. MINISTRO DE AGRICULTURA ING. AGRONOMO RODOLFO PERDOMO

Guatemala es la cabeza del inmenso puente natural que une a las dos Américas; su territorio de un poco más de 100 mil kilómetros cuadrados

está enclavado en los océanos Atlántico y Pacífico y entre México, por una parte y El Salvador y Honduras por la otra; su territorio se extiende desde las planicies de la costa hasta las cimas de la Sierra Madre, con alturas de 4 mil metros; su enorme variedad de climas hace que Guatemala produzca prácticamente todos los frutos de la tierra.

Guatemala surgió como Nación independiente en 1821 y ha atravesado a lo largo de su vida independiente muchas vicisitudes desde hechos de la naturaleza hasta acciones de los hombres; precisamente en estos días está saliendo con grandes esfuerzos y sacrificios de una lucha civil que le ha golpeado grandemente en sus hijos.

Pero estoicamente Guatemala surge de las ruinas y toma como ejemplo al heroico pueblo de Israel que desde los inicios de la Historia ha sufrido persecución, muerte y desolación en un holocausto que no tiene parangón.

Guatemala e Israel se han hermanado desde que nació el Estado Judío y ha recibido de éste generosa ayuda de toda índole, siendo la más apreciada el entrenamiento de nuestros jóvenes y hombres en las disciplinas agrícolas.

El Ministerio de Agricultura, ha formulado una política tendiente a que la producción agropecuaria del país signifique, no sólo una solución a la escasez de trabajo en el campo, sino también incremento en las divisas y autosuficiencia en produc-

tos de consumo, que promuevan el desarrollo socio-económico del país y mejoren las condiciones de vida de las clases más necesitadas.

Dentro de ese parámetro, la política para el ejercicio del año 1984 puede sintetizarse en los siguientes puntos:

1. Mayor participación del Sector Privado.
2. Mayor producción agroexportable.
3. Manejo apropiado y racional de los recursos naturales renovables.
4. Servicios de apoyo a la producción directa a pequeños y medianos agricultores.

Estas proyecciones, fuera de la reactivación económica del Sector Privado Agropecuario y de la población en general, requiere del Ministerio de Agricultura, contar con un presupuesto de Q.145,000.000.00, que redundará en beneficio directo de 125,000 familias.

Tomando como ejemplo la lucha tenaz del pueblo judío, no solo para lograr la anhelada independencia, sino también la reactivación económica de Israel, poniéndolos hoy en día entre los primeros productores del mundo por unidad de superficie. Es con estos ejemplos acompañados de políticas gubernamentales adecuadas y con la voluntad del pueblo, como se logra la superación social, política y económica.

Shalom



Lic. Mario Permuth, Ministro Perdomo, Sr. Pinkus Rubinstein, Sr. Ernesto Freund, Sr. Edwin Shapiro.

INFORME DEL PRESIDENTE DE FEDECO SEÑOR PINKUS RUBINSTEIN

El viernes 27, las actividades, se dieron inicio, con el informe del Presidente de FEDECO Señor Pinkus Rubinstein, quien hizo referencia a las múltiples actividades que FEDECO llevó a cabo durante su administración.



El Sr. Pinkus Rubinstein, lee su informe.



Una vista del público.

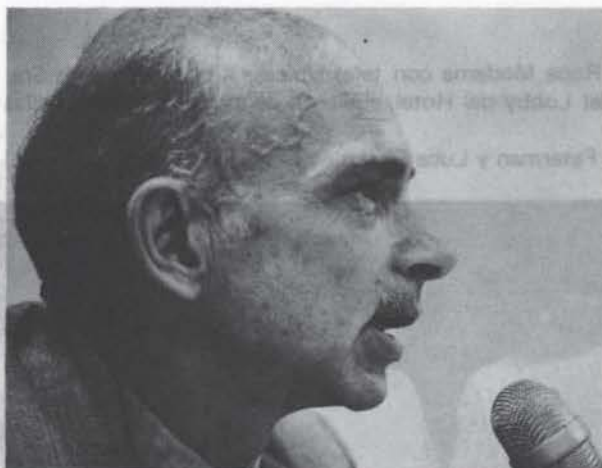
PRIMERA PLENARIA:

La Primera Plenaria, consistió en el planteamiento de las Comunidades sobre el impacto de los cambios acaecidos en el área, en la cual la situación actual de Guatemala, fue presentada por el Ingeniero Federico Licht, por El Salvador, habló el Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de El Salvador, Sr. Ernesto Freund; la situación de Costa Rica fue expuesta por el Presidente de su Comunidad Señor Luis Liberman; y por Panamá habló el arquitecto Ricardo Holzer, Director de la Liga Anti-Difamación de la B'nai B'rith de Panamá.

De la Comunidad Judía de Honduras la situación fue presentada por su Presidente, Señor Helmut Seidel y por Nicaragua, habló el Rabino Morton Rosenthal, Director de la Liga Anti-difamación de la B'nai B'rith, N. Y.



Arq. Ricardo Holzer (Panamá), Ing. Federico Licht (Guate.), Sr. Ernesto Freund (El Salvador), Lic. Mario Permuth (Guate.), Rabino Morton Rosenthal, Sr. Helmut Seidel (Honduras), Sr. Luis Liberman (Costa Rica).



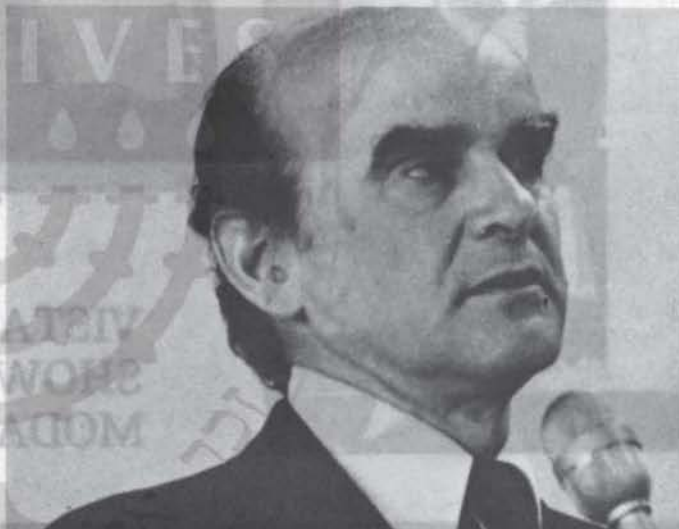
El Ing. Federico Licht, expone la situación de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala.



El Sr. Ernesto Freund, habla sobre la situación de la Comunidad Judía de El Salvador.



Por la Comunidad Judía de Honduras, el Sr. Helmuth Seidel expone.



Expone la situación de la Comunidad Judía de Nicaragua, el Rab. Morton Rosenthal.



El Arq. Ricardo Holzer, habla sobre la situación de la Comunidad Judía de Panamá.



Por Costa Rica, expone el Sr. Luis Liberman.

SHOW DE MODAS:

Al finalizar la Primera Plenaria, fue presentada la exhibición de Ropa Moderna con telas típicas, Xibalba 84, de la Sra. Julie de Burak, diseñados por el Señor Sergio Bocaletti. Las gradas del Lobby del Hotel, sirvieron de marco, para que bellas modelos exhibieran preciosos trajes, a los delegados de la Convención.

Entre las bellas señoritas que modelaron, estuvieron presentes Sofía Feterman y Luba Fialko.



VISTAS DEL SHOW DE MODAS



GRUPO DE TRABAJO:

Simultáneamente, al almuerzo posterior al Show de Modas, se formó un grupo de trabajo, que analizó los temas "Educación Judía para niños y adultos" y "Necesidad y tipos de guías comunitarios y profesionales". En esta actividad actuó como moderador del grupo de trabajo el Señor Moisés Mizrahi, Presidente del Distrito 23 de la B'nai B'rith y como Oradores, el Señor Jacobo Milgran de Costa Rica, el Señor Adolfo Cukier de Guatemala y el Dr. Benjamín Torún, Coordinador del Comité de Educación de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala.



Una vista del grupo.



El Sr. Adolfo Cukier, se dirige a los presentes.

SEGUNDA PLENARIA:

La Segunda Plenaria versó sobre el tema "Experiencias de las Comunidades del Area Latinoamericana con el Antisemitismo". El principal orador en esta plenaria fue el Señor Manuel Tenenbaum, secretario del Congreso Judío Latinoamericano.

Tomaron la palabra también, los señores Roberto Stein, Vice-Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala, el Señor Edwin Shapiro, Presidente del Hebrew Immigrant AID, de Nueva York, y el Señor Rubén Merinfeld, Presidente de la Confederación de Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela.



Durante la segunda plenaria, vemos al Sr. Edwin Shapiro, Ing. Roberto Stein, Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum, y al Sr. Rubén Merinfeld.



Durante la segunda plenaria, el Prof. Manuel Tenenbaum, exponiendo su tema.



El Sr. Edwin Shapiro, se dirige a los presentes.



E. Sr. Rubén Merinfeld, expresa su discurso.



Vista de los asistentes.



Vista del público.

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TERCERA PLENARIA:

La Tercera Plenaria, consistió en el desarrollo del interesante tema "Relaciones de las Comunidades entre sí y con el Mundo no Judío".

El principal orador en esta Plenaria, fue el Rabino Morton Rosenthal, Director de la Liga Anti-Difamación de la B'nai B'rith de Nueva York. Asimismo, tomaron la palabra el Señor Sergio Nudelstejer, representante de México en el American Jewish Committee y el Arquitecto Ricardo Holzer, Director de la Liga Anti-Difamación de la B'nai B'rith de Panamá.



El Rab. Morton Rosenthal expone su tema. Junto a él, Arq. Ricardo Holzer y el Sr. Sergio Nudelstejer.



El Sr. Sergio Nudelstejer se dirige a los presentes.



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DISCURSO DEL RABINO MARC TENENBAUM, DIRECTOR DEL AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Posteriormente al servicio de Kabbalat Shabat, el Rabino Marc Tenenbaum, dirigió a los presentes un conceptual y emocionante discurso.



El Rabino Marc Tenenbaum, se dirige a los asistentes.



El Rab. Marc Tenenbaum, expresa su discurso.

CENA DE SHABAT

Posteriormente a los servicios de Kabbalat Shabat, fue servida la cena de Shabat, ocasión que fue aprovechada para rendir varios homenajes a distinguidos delegados que se encontraban presentes.

El Señor Manuel Tenenbaum, Secretario del Congreso Judío Latinoamericano en Argentina, recibió de manos de la Señora Ivonne de Mishaan, Tesorera de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala una pintura folklórica guatemalteca, como homenaje a su gran colaboración para la realización de la Convención.

Asimismo, fue también homenajeado el señor Moisés Mizrachí, Presidente del Distrito 23 de la B'nai B'rith con una placa que le hizo entrega el Señor Pinkus Rubinstein, Presidente de FEDECO, quien hizo mención sobre la gran labor que ha llevado a cabo el Señor Mizrachí, en beneficio de las Comunidades del área.



En la mesa de Honor, vamos de izq. a der.: Ing. Moshé Dayán; Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum; Sr. Moisés Mizrachí; Sr. Hannan Olami; Sr. Marcel Ruff; Sr. Edwin Shapiro; Lic. Mario Permuth.



El Ing. Roberto Stein, expresa palabras en honor al Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum, a quien vemos a su lado.



El Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum, agradece el homenaje de que fue objeto.



El Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum, recibe una pintura que le obsequió la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala.



El Sr. Moisés Mizrahi, muestra la plaqueta con que lo honró FEDECO. Sentados vemos al Sr. Ernesto Freund y al Sr. Luis Liberman.



El Sr. Moisés Mizrahi, recibió de manos del Sr. Pinkus Rubinstein una plaqueta en su honor.

Las actividades del día sábado 28, se iniciaron con los servicios de Shabar y Kidush. Posteriormente a ellos, se llevó a cabo la Cuarta Plenaria de la Convención.

CUARTA PLENARIA:

La Cuarta Plenaria de la Convención de FEDECO, consistió en un análisis de los problemas que amenazan la supervivencia de las Comunidades.

Los oradores en esta Plenaria, fueron: por Guatemala, el Doctor Benjamín Torún, Coordinador del Comité de Educación, el Licenciado Isaac Selechnik, Vice-Presidente del Centro Hebreo, y el Ingeniero Federico Licht, Coordinador del Comité de Relaciones Públicas de la Comunidad, quien fue el moderador en esta plenaria.

Por El Salvador, habló el Sr. Ernesto Freund, Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de El Salvador; por Honduras, el Señor Marcos Fiszman, Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de San Pedro Sula; por Costa Rica, tomó la palabra el Señor Jacobo Milgram y por Panamá el Señor Moisés Mizrahi, Presidente del Distrito 23 de la B'nai B'rith.



Dr. Benjamín Torun (Guate.)



Lic. Isaac Selechnik (Guate.)



Sr. Ernesto Freund (El Salvador)



Sr. Marcos Fiszman (Honduras)



Sr. Jacobo Milgram (Costa Rica)



Sr. Moisés Mizrahi (Panamá).



Una vista del público.

Cortesía:

TEJIDOS
IRIS

INTEXA

ALMUERZO TRIBUNA:

Durante el almuerzo, del sábado 28 tomó la palabra doña Rosita Luchtan, Presidente de la Wizo Guatemala Group. Quien presentó a la Señora Amalia de Pollak, Presidenta de la Wizo de Argentina. La distinguida Señora de Pollak, se dirigió a los presentes con un enjundioso discurso.



La Sra. Rosita Luchtan haciendo la presentación.



La Sra. Amalia Pollak, expresando un elocuente discurso.

QUINTA PLENARIA:

La Quinta Plenaria de la Convención de FEDECO, versó sobre el tema "Relaciones de las Comunidades de FEDECO con Israel y con Organizaciones Judías Internacionales". Y su orador principal fue el Señor Dan Barel, representante para Centro América de la Organización Sionista Mundial.

Como Moderador de dicha Plenaria fungió el Señor Manuel Yari.

Tomaron la palabra en esa ocasión, el Excelentísimo Sr. Embajador de Israel, acreditado en Guatemala, Ing. Moshé Dayán; el Sr. Karl Zukerman, Vice-Presidente del HIAS, así como el Invitado de Honor, Señor Hannan Olami, Encargado de Asuntos de Centro América y del Caribe, en Israel.

La audiencia fue emocionada por las palabras de estos oradores.



El Sr. Dan Barel, expresa su discurso.



Sr. Karl Zukerman, Sr. Dan Barel, Ing. Moshé Dayán, Sr. Hannan Olami.

ELECCION DEL NUEVO EJECUTIVO DE FEDECO

Al finalizar la Quinta Plenaria, se llevó a cabo la elección del Presidente y Vice-Presidente de FEDECO para el período 84-86. Quedando electo el Señor Marcel Ruff como Presidente y el Ingeniero Moisés Sabbaj como Vice-Presidente.



Ing. Roberto Stein; Sr. Pinkus Rubinstein, Presidente saliente de Fedeco; Sr. Marcel Ruff, nuevo presidente de FEDECO.



El Sr. Marcel Ruff, recibe un abrazo de felicitación del Sr. Sergio Nudelstejer.

ESPECTACULO CULTURAL FOLKLORICO:

Posteriormente a la elección de los nuevos ejecutivos de FEDECO, se llevó a cabo un espectáculo cultural folklórico guatemalteco, con el magnífico grupo de Zoel Valdez.

Los asistentes se vieron complacidos con la excelente actuación del mencionado grupo.

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Una vista del espectáculo.

BANQUETE CON EL DISCURSO DEL INVITADO DE HONOR

El invitado de honor, de la XI Convención de Comunidades Judías de Centro América y Panamá, Señor Hannan Olami, quien es el encargado de Asuntos de Centro América y del Caribe en Israel, dirigió a la concurrencia un interesante discurso.



Una vista de los asistentes a la Convención.



El Sr. Olami, se dirige a los presentes.

PLENARIA DE CLAUSURA:

La solemne Plenaria de Clausura, dio inicio con las palabras del Excelentísimo Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Licenciado Fernando Andrade Díaz Durán, cuyo discurso está transcrito por aparte. A continuación se escucharon las palabras del Presidente electo de FEDECO, Señor Marcel Ruff, así como las palabras del invitado de honor Señor Hannan Olami. Por último se escucharon las notas de los Himnos de Centro América, Panamá e Israel.



El Exmo. Sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Lic. Fernando Andrade, clausura solemnemente la Convención.



Sr. Hannan Olami; Sr. Marcel Ruff; Canciller Andrade; Ing. Moshé Dayán; Lic. Mario Permuth; Sr. Moisés Mizrachi; Sr. Helmuth Seidel.

RECEPCION POSTERIOR A LA CLAUSURA

Posteriormente a la clausura, se llevó a cabo una recepción en la cual se contó con la presencia del Excelentísimo Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores Licenciado Fernando Andrade Díaz-Durán, así como de los demás delegados.



Durante la recepción, vemos sentados: Sr. Hannan Olami, Ministro Andrade, Embajador Moshé Dayán. Atrás parados: Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum y Lic. Marfo Permuth.



Disfrutando de la recepción vemos al Canciller Fernando Andrade y al Sr. Edwin Shapiro.

RECEPCION EN LA RESIDENCIA DEL EXCELENTISMO SR. EMBAJADOR DE ISRAEL ACREDITADO EN GUATEMALA INGENIERO MOSHE DAYAN

El Ingeniero Moshé Dayán, Embajador de Israel y su distinguida esposa, Señora Zipora de Dayán, ofrecieron una recepción en su Residencia a los asistentes de la Convención de FEDECO.

Los esposos Dayán, colmaron de finas atenciones a los asistentes.



Los anfitriones, Embajador Moshé Dayán y Sra. Zipora de Dayán.



Ing. Moisés Sabbaj y Sr. Marcel Ruff, nuevos ejecutivos de FEDECO.



Sr. Zukerman, Srita. Mennescoff, Sr. Mario Nathusius.



Lic. Mauricio Behar y el Lic. Isaac Selechnick.



Sra. Regina Engelberg, Sra. Gladys Mizrahi, Sra. Raquel Salem, Sra. Zolla Behar, Sra. Rosita Luchtan, Sra. Ivonne Mishaan, Sra. Rosita Aisenstadt Sra. Aida Selechnick.

MOMENTOS EN FEDECO



Sr. Karl Zukerman, Sr. Edwin Shapiro, Lic. Mario Permuth, Dr. Fred Weinstein.



Sra. Raquel Salem y Rosita Luchtan.



Srita. Faith Mennescoff



Sr. Oldrich Haselman



Lic. Mario Permuth y la Sra. Amalia Pollak.



Embajador David Turgeman



Parados: David Rubinstein, Ruth Sirace, William Gralnick, Ariel Altalef, Dr. Torun, Lic. M. Permuth, Judith Alcahe. Sentadas: Rebeca Jacob, Karen Selechnik, Gladys Altalef, Lillian Altalef.



Rubén Merinfeld, Sra. Merinfeld, Sra. Milgram, Jacobo Milgram.



Sr. William Gralnick



Embajador Joseph Hassin



Sandy Koenigsberger

Cortesía:

ALMACEN
DUMBO

PERSONAS QUE HICIERON POSIBLE LA XI CONVENCION DE FEDECO PARA USTED

A continuación, les presentamos, las personas que de una manera u otra, colaboraron para que la XI Convención de Comunidades Judías de Centro América y Panamá, se lograra llevar a cabo, y alcanzara el éxito obtenido:



Lic. Mario Permut, Presidente de la C.J.G. Responsable General de la Convención. Colaborador Comité Transporte.



Ing. Roberto Stein, Vicepresidente de la C.J.G., Coordinador Gral. del Comité específico de FEDECO. Coordinador del Comité de sesiones plenarias y trabajo. Colaborador del maestro de ceremonia.



Ing. Mario Nathusius, Vocal de la Directiva de la C.J.G. Presidente del Comité Específico de FEDECO. Colaborador del Comité de Transportes.



Ing. John Turton, Vocal de la Directiva de la C.J.G. Asistente Director del Presidente del Comité Específico de FEDECO. Coordinador del Comité de Audio y Grabación.



Sr. Jacobo Camhi, Vocal de la Directiva de la C.J.G. Coordinador de Publicidad de FEDECO. Colaborador Comité Audio y Grabación.



Ing. Mack Trachtberg, Maestro de Ceremonia de FEDECO.



Ing. Saúl Mishaan, Coordinador Comité de Servicios Religiosos. Colaborador Comité Audio y Grabación.



Arq. David Altaef, Presidente de la Sociedad Magen David. Vocal de la Directiva de la C.J.G. Colaborador Comité Servicios Religiosos.



Dr. Benjamín Torun, Coordinador Comité Educación C.J.G. Asistente Director Comité Organizador Plenarias.



Sra. Ivonne de Mishaan, Tesorera de la C.J.G. Coordinadora Comité Agasijos y Comidas y Finanzas



Sr. Roberto Koensberger, Vocal de la Directiva C.J.G. Coordinador Comité Transportes.



Licda. Bertha de Permut, Coordinadora Comité Recepción y Turismo.



Sra. Rosita de Aizensadt, Secretaria de la C.J.G.



Ing. Federico Licht, Coordinador Comité Relaciones Públicas C.J.G. Coordinador de Finanzas FEDECO. Coordinador Comité Alojamiento.



Sra. Bonnie de Kleiman, Colaboradora Comité Recepción y Turismo.



Sr. Moisés Burak. Presidente Centro Hebreo. Colaborador Desfile Modas.



Sra. Lidya Liwer. Vocal directiva C.J.G.



Sra. Zoila de Behar. Pro-secretaria de la C.J.G.



Ing. Moisés Sabbaj. Vicepresidente de FEDECO.



Sr. Ariel Altalef, Director Revista Mabat, Colaborador Comité Fotografía FEDECO.



Sra. Julie de Burak. Coordinadora del desfile de modas.



Lic. Yehudi Sabbagh. Asistente Director Comité Audio y Grabación.



Sr. Mauricio Mishaan. Coordinador Comité Juventud C.J.G. Colaborador Comité Servicios Religiosos. Colaborador Comité Audio y Grabación.



Sra. Raquel M. de Cohen. Colaboradora Comité Recepción y Turismo.



Sra. Eva de Ruff. Vocal Directiva C.J.G. Colaboradora Comité Recepción y Turismo.



Sra. Enma de Yarhi. Colaboradora Comité Recepción y Turismo.



Sr. Lazaro Burak. Colaborador en grabación Video.



Sra. Michele de Camhi. Colaboradora Comité Recepción y Turismo.



Srita. Lucrecia López. Secretaria Oficina M. Permuth.



Sra. Lily de Rojas y Srita. Verónica Miller. Secretarias de la Oficina de la C.J.G. Colaboradoras en Comité de Registro e Inscripción.



Comité de Fotografía: Atrás: Rafael Arriaga; Adolfo Yarhi; Jaime Permuth, Coordinador del Comité; Igal Permuth y Daniel Ruff.



Además de las personas anteriormente mencionadas, colaboraron: Sra. Raquel S. de Cohen; Sra. Olga de Licht; Sra. Betsy de Dallies; Lic. Francisco Luna; Sra. Regina de Nigrin; Sra. Blanca de Mizrahi; Sra. Vered de Trachtemberg; Srita. Miriam Alcahe; Srita. Beatriz Alcahe; Sr. Sergio Boccalletti; Sra. Eva Sello de Van Beusekom; Sra. Beatris Sello de Boccaletti.



ACTIVIDADES PRE-CONVENCION

En vísperas de la XI Convención de FEDECO, se llevaron a cabo, en casas de distinguidos miembros de nuestra Comunidad, cocktails y cenas en honor a los ilustres visitantes del extranjero, que asistieron a la Convención.

El día 23 de enero, se llevó a cabo, en la residencia del Sr. Isaac Selechnik y señora, una elegante cena, a la cual asistieron delegados del exterior y miembros de nuestra Comunidad.

El día 24 de enero, en la residencia del distinguido Dr. Ludwig Rosenthal y Sra., se ofreció un cocktail, en honor a los delegados del exterior así como para varios miembros de nuestra Comunidad.

El día 25 de Enero, se llevó a cabo una elegante cena, en la residencia del actual Presidente de FEDECO, Sr. Marcel Ruff y Sra., en la cual se agasajó a los delegados de la convención y a miembros de la Comunidad.

POSTERIORMENTE A LA CONVENCION

En la residencia del Sr. Isaac Selechnik y su distinguida esposa se llevó a cabo una cena en honor a la Señora Amalia de Pollak, Presidenta de la WIZO de Argentina, a la cual asistieron numerosos invitados.

LISTA DE PERSONALIDADES DEL EXTRANJERO QUE ASISTIERON A LA XI CONVENCION DE FEDECO

Sr. Dan Barel	Representante para Centro América, de la Organización Sionista Mundial
Sr. Steven L. Cantor	Representante en Miami, del American Jewish Committee.
Ing. Moshé Dayán	Embajador de Israel acreditado en Guatemala.
Sr. Ernesto Freund	Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de El Salvador.
Sr. Marcos Fiszman	Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de San Pedro Sula.
Sr. William Gralnick	Representante del American Jewish Committee, Miami.
Sr. Joseph Hassin	Embajador de Israel, acreditado en Panamá.
Sr. Oldrich Haselman	Alto Comisionado en las Naciones Unidas para los refugiados, Rep. de Suiza.
Arq. Richard Holzer	Director de la Liga Anti-Difamación de la B'nai B'rith de Panamá.
Sra. Sharon Hamilton	Delegado de El Salvador.
Sr. William Krukowski	Sheliaj de la Organización Sionista Mundial en México.
Sr. Baruch Kfir	Representante del Keren Hayesod.
Sr. Youval Kamrat	Sheliaj de la Organización Sionista Mundial en Costa Rica.
Sr. Claudio Kahn	Vice-Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de El Salvador.
Sr. Luis Liberman	Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de Costa Rica.
Sr. Moisés Mizrahi	Presidente del Distrito 23 de la B'nai B'rith.
Sr. Jacobo Milgram	Delegado de Costa Rica.
Sr. Rubén Merinfeld	Presidente de la Confederación de Asociaciones Israelitas de Venezuela.
Lic. D. Donnell Morales	Naciones Unidas - ACNUR.
Sra. Faith Menescoff	Representante del American Jewish Committee, Miami.
Sr. Sergio Nudelstejer	Representante de México, American Jewish Committee.

Sr. Hannan Olami	Encargado de Asuntos de Centro América y del Caribe en Israel; asimismo, Invitado de Honor de la XI Convención de FEDECO.
Sra. Amalia de Pollak	Presidenta de la Women International Zionist Organization, WIZO de Argentina.
Sr. Pinkus Rubinstein	Ex-Presidente de FEDECO, Costa-Rica.
Sr. David Rubinstein	Delegado de Costa Rica.
Rabino Morton Rosenthal	Director de la Liga Anti-Difamación de la B'nai B'rith de Nueva York.
Srita. Ruth Sirace	Delegada de Panamá.
Prof. Rubén Sztenhendeler	Rabino de Guadalajara, México.
Sr. Helmuth Seidel	Presidente de la Comunidad Judía de Honduras.
Sr. Zalman Soffer	Representante para América Central del IGROT.
Sr. Edwin Shapiro	Presidente del Hebrew Immigrant Aid, HIAS, Nueva York.
Rabino Marc Tenenbaum	Director del American Jewish Committee.
Sr. David Turgeman	Embajador de Israel acreditado en Costa Rica.
Sr. Manuel Tenenbaum	Secretario del Congreso Judío Latinoamericano, Argentina.
Dr. Fred Weinstein	Representante en Sud América del HIAS.
Sr. Karl Zukerman	Vicepresidente del HIAS, Nueva York.

LISTA DE MIEMBROS DE LA COMUNIDAD JUDIA DE GUATEMALA, QUE ASISTIERON A LA XI CONVENCION DE FEDECO:

Srita. Beatriz Alcahe
Sra. Rosa de Aizenstadt
Arq. David Altaef y Sra.
Sra. Gladys Altaef
Lic. Roberto Alcahe y Sra.
Sr. Ariel Altaef Osers
Sr. Rafael Arriaga
Lic. Mauricio Behar y Sra.
Sr. Moisés Burak y Sra.
Sr. Jaime Camhi y Sra.
Sr. Adolfo Cukier y Sra.
Sr. Jacobo Camhi y Sra.
Sra. Raquel Sabbaj de Cohen
Sra. Raquel Mory de Cohen

Sr. Alberto Cohen
Sr. Scott Egan Wyer y Sra.
Sr. Peter Engelberg y Sra.
Sr. David Farchi
Sr. Alex Feterman
Sra. Carol Gerstenhaber
Sra. Lilly V. de Heinemann
Srita. Rebeca Jacob A.
Sr. Roberto Koenigsberger y Sra.
Sra. Bonnie de Kleiman
Sra. Rosa V. de Luchtan
Ing. Federico Licht
Sr. Saúl Mishaan Smeke
Sr. Mauricio Mishaan Smeke
Sr. Ezra Mishaan y Sra.
Dr. Samuel Mizrahi Zarco
Sr. Salomón Mizrahi y Sra.
Sra. Blanca de Mizrahi
Sr. Mario Nathusius y Sra.

Lic. Mario Permuth y Sra.
Sra. Mishke Pantil
Sr. Igal Permuth
Sra. Jaime Permuth
Sr. Marcel Ruff y Sra.
Sr. Daniel Ruff
Sr. Isaac Selechnick y Sra.
Srita. Karen Selechnick
Sra. Raquel V. de Salem
Ing. Roberto Stein
Sr. Mario Smeke M.
Ing. Moisés Sabbaj
Sr. Yehudi Sabbagh
Dr. Benjamin Torun y Sra.
Sr. John Turton y Sra.
Ing. Jack Trachtenberg y Sra.
Sr. Manuel Yarhi y Sra.
Sr. Adolfo Yarhi



Dígalos con árboles

¿Qué nexo mejor puede haber entre Ud. y la tierra de Israel, que un árbol? Cada árbol que Ud. regala es registrado en la Oficina Central en Jerusalem. Un árbol no es meramente algo bello que ha sido plantado en bosquecillos y en bosques. El retoño sembrado representará vuestras raíces en la tierra. Al plantar un árbol se expresa algo que va más allá de las palabras. Ud. está identificándose con Israel y ayudando al desarrollo del país.

DISCURSO DEL CANCELLER GUATEMALTECO LIC. FERNANDO ANDRADE DIAZ-DURAN

Mucho agradezco a los amigos de la Comunidad Judía de Guatemala, que me han honrado al invitarme a hacer uso de la palabra en mi calidad de Canciller de la República de Guatemala, en esta sesión de clausura de la Décima Primera Convención de Comunidades Judías de Centroamérica, que se ha desarrollado estos días en el apacible ambiente de esta ciudad de Antigua a la sombra del volcán de Agua, bajo el limpio cielo azul de Guatemala, en esta ciudad que ha sido considerada como un monumento colonial de América.

He aceptado la invitación con la mayor complacencia y vengo a esta reunión animado del mejor propósito de amistad y simpatía para hacer algunas consideraciones respecto de nuestras relaciones con el floreciente y siempre próspero Estado de Israel.

La relación de Guatemala con el pueblo judío se inicia desde mucho antes de la constitución del Estado de Israel, diríamos que cuando se discutía en el seno de las Naciones Unidas en una Asamblea donde se estudiaba el problema de Palestina. Guatemala se hizo presente con su actitud y su aprobación. Todos sabemos que Guatemala formó parte de la Comisión especial que estudió, formó y propuso al Organismo Mundial las formulas de solución y sabemos también de los derrogados y positivos esfuerzos que hiciera el delegado guatemalteco García Granados, con que se lograba una solución justa y satisfactoria proclamando el Estado de Israel. Fue el mismo García Granados quien anunció el reconocimiento de Guatemala al nuevo país desde la misma tribuna de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el 15 de mayo de 1948, inmediatamente después de los Estados Unidos de América. Guatemala fue pues, el segundo país del mundo en otorgar ese reconocimiento.

Guatemala también estuvo presente un año después, en mayo de 1949, a presentar sus argumentos en favor de Israel del ingreso como Estado ante las Naciones Unidas, en el mismo foro de la Asamblea General.

Luego vino la formalización de relaciones consulares y diplomáticas mediante la instalación de embajadas y la designación de enviados potenciales, se inició así una comunicación y mutua comprensión de amistad que por los años se ha hecho sólida y profunda. La ayuda de Israel a Guatemala, se ha puesto de manifiesto constantemente, así como la de nuestro país

en la medida que es posible tanto en formación bilateral, como los organismos internacionales en los que concurrimos ambos Estados.

Esta situación se hizo más especial y floreció por la suscripción de diversos convenios entre ambos países que han reunido sus mejores frutos.

El primero de los convenios se suscribió para incrementar los vínculos culturales, considerando que el acervo espiritual de ambos países es susceptible, y su cambio de labores entre los organismos y las entidades de cada uno de estos países.

De esta manera se auspician facilidades sobre bases recíprocas la labor científica, así como el canje de materiales de producción, artísticos, y el intercambio de estudiantes profesionales, autores, etc.

El segundo convenio es de cooperación técnica, es concluido con el propósito de establecer conocimientos recíprocos en el campo administrativo y de formación de personal por medio de especialidad para cada proyecto, mediante becas administrativas, informes sobre desarrollo agrícola, investigación científica bajo el estudio de expertos y grupos de especialistas.

Como consecuencia de estos acuerdos, más de 1,000 guatemaltecos han viajado estos últimos años a Israel para disfrutar de becas en agricultura, principalmente en el campo de riego, apicultura, en medicina, en programas de especialidad en educación, etc., además constantemente llegan a Guatemala técnicos para asistirnos en la ejecución de programas que comprenden las mismas materias enumeradas anteriormente. Cabe mencionar también la encomiable labor desarrollada a través de los años por el Instituto de Intercambio Cultural entre Guatemala e Israel, organizado por un grupo de funcionarios guatemaltecos y la Asociación Shalom, formada por los guatemaltecos que han vuelto de Israel.

Estos esfuerzos responden a un ideal común de cooperación y amistad que ya sobrepasa a la política internacional de ambos países, que se ponen en acción a pesar de los graves problemas que afrontan en sus distintas áreas los dos Estados.

En este sentido es oportuno referirse a las dificultades que sufre Guatemala tanto por su situación interna como por las perturbaciones procedentes del exterior.

Interiormente Guatemala viene afrontando hace tiempo la violencia y la turbulencia provocada por grupos armados empeñados en la transformación constitucional a través de la fuerza armada, y exteriormente la mayor preocupación por ahora, la pro-

voca la crisis que vive Centroamérica.

Pero además hay una relación, pues las dos son agredidas por influencias foráneas, son ya abundantes las evidencias que se han dado con respecto a que todo el contexto sobrepasa el designio, y digamóslo con sinceridad y franqueza "soviético" de influenciar y penetrar en esta región del mundo.

Guatemala no puede dejar de atender este significativo elemento y combate con energía la subversión interna y coopera decididamente con los países hermanos de la región y los que conforman el grupo Contadora en la búsqueda de formulas pacíficas que nos permitan resolver la crisis y que eviten a toda costa la destrucción de nuestras instituciones democráticas y las implantaciones de regímenes totalitarios.

La batalla contra estos embates además de deficiencias interiores, nos ha obligado a acciones que desde hace algunos años han producido el problema que se desplacen los derechos humanos, la cual se ha expresado de manera hábil, hasta el extremo de ocasionar una merma considerable de ingresos a Guatemala, sobre todo lo proveniente de la industria del turismo.

Quienes han tenido información son los medios de comunicación, que desfavorablemente distorsionan la información.

En cuanto a los derechos humanos, Guatemala ha sido objeto de juicios por las únicas organizaciones que tienen capacidad, éstas son la Organización Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y la Convención de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos.

Nosotros los hemos invitado para que vengan a Guatemala, se les han dado todas las facilidades del caso para que puedan visitar el interior y que vean como es la realidad de Guatemala y su limitación y entrevistarse con las personas del Gobierno de Guatemala.

Oficialmente por invitación del gobierno de Guatemala estuvo en el país la Comisión Interamericana. Yo personalmente, con motivo de la reunión de la OEA, a la cual asistí en el mes de noviembre, fui a visitar a la Organización de los Derechos Humanos para reiterarles en nombre y representación del Gobierno actual de Guatemala, la invitación para que este año nos visiten nuevamente.

Y lo hemos dicho anteriormente y en foros internacionales, Guatemala no tiene nada que ocultar y es necesario que estas organizaciones serias y objetivas puedan informar tanto a los organismos internacionales como a la comisión, de lo que realmente sucede en nuestra Patria, en

cuanto a las Naciones Unidas, Guatemala solicitó hace más de un año los servicios de un relator especial. De esta manera llegó al país el Visconde Kolbeek de Curros, quien ha presentado un informe preliminar a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en su período ordinario a través de la 3a. comisión, este informe reconoce el mejoramiento de la situación de los derechos humanos en Guatemala. Guatemala no rehuye a sus responsabilidades y ha aceptado todo lo que es procedente de los informes en el Sistema Interamericano y la Organización Mundial.

Está en disposición también de aceptar las recomendaciones que se han hecho además de las medidas que el gobierno ha adoptado para mejorar en el país todo lo relacionado con la dignidad de las personas y los derechos humanos privados.

Se han emitido leyes de amnistía amplias y generosas que han resultado efectivos instrumentos de conciliación nacional para aquellos guatemaltecos que directa o indirectamente, desorientados, habían colaborado con la subversión y ahora han regresado por millares y se han acogido a la amnistía y ya están siendo reubicados en sus comunidades de origen.

Hace ya varios meses que se tomó la ley que había establecido los controvertidos tribunales de fuero especial y se han reestablecido las garantías para la defensa de los acusados en diversos delitos políticos y subversivos.

Se ha emitido la ley electoral correspondiente para que se pueda realizar el día 1o. de julio de este año, las elecciones para integrar la Asamblea Constituyente. El gobierno está empeñado en una apertura política que permita que el pluralismo sea una realidad en Guatemala y que las distintas corrientes puedan participar en proceso libre y abierto, sin limitación de ninguna naturaleza, es decir que Guatemala esté en el restablecimiento de su institucionalidad democrática lo más pronto posible; pues estamos conscientes que el sistema democrático es el que ofrece la mejor posibilidad para la realización de anhelos y objetivos de las grandes mayorías para el logro del desarrollo acelerado tanto en lo político y cultural como en lo económico y social.

En cuanto a refugiados que son consecuencia de la inseguridad y violencia desatada tanto en el país como en la región centroamericana como resultado de la subversión interior, se ha experimentado desplazamientos de un buen número de comunidades de las distintas etnias guatemaltecas que comprende la población autóctona.

Se ha provocado también la emigración de varios millares que han buscado asentamiento en México, nuestro fraternal vecino por el norte y el occidente, pero en cuanto a esto Guatemala tampoco ha sido indiferente y está desarrollando amplios programas de reasentamiento de comunidades que ofrecen toda clase de garantías y ayuda a los refugiados para que vuelvan a sus lugares de origen, para ello se han hecho gestiones ante el alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para refugiados y se ha mantenido una constante comunicación y cooperación con el gobierno de México, también se ha contactado a la Iglesia Católica y a otras iglesias en Guatemala, así como a la Cruz Roja Guatemalteca, México e Internacional. El procedimiento está en marcha, el Gobierno de Guatemala ha designado ya a su representante de la Comisión mixta que se integrará con funcionarios mexicanos para resolver este problema, nuestro representante es el Presidente de la Cruz Roja de Guatemala, el ciudadano Jorge Toriello. Pero Guatemala también ha recibido refugiados que han buscado en su suelo seguridad y oportunidad de rehacer su vida, nuestro país mantiene la puerta abierta y recibe a todo aquel que busca amparo y se acoge a nuestras leyes, así han llegado y se desenvuelven en el país millares de salvadoreños y nicaragüenses.

Actualmente se tramita el ingreso de 10 refugiados judíos procedentes de Cuba, quienes tendrán aquí la mejor acogida y podrán asentarse con toda confianza y seguridad, tanto ellos como para los parientes que posteriormente puedan seguirlos a su nuevo destino, y no solo esos diez, Guatemala está preparada para recibir a otros inmigrantes judíos, ya sea procedentes del Caribe o de cualquier otra parte del mundo que deseen asentarse en este país.

Me complace expresar ésta, tanto a la sociedad de ayuda de los inmigrantes hebreos que preside el señor Edwin Shapiro, quien nos ha honrado con su presencia durante esta convención, como a la Comunidad Judía Internacional en general, todo esto es de conocimiento oficial y estamos seguros que el gobierno de Israel comprende nuestra posición, pero era necesario extenderme un tanto en las explicaciones, para conocimiento de quienes han participado en esta Décimo Primera Convención de Comunidades Judías, en vista que habíamos dicho anteriormente en las muchas exageradas y distorsionadas versiones que han circulado y han deformado la imagen de Guatemala en el exterior, esa comprensión a que me refiero hace más estre-

cha nuestra relación con el gobierno israelita, que ha proseguido sus programas y proyectos de ayuda a nuestro país de la misma manera cordial y eficiente que cuando comenzaba, lo cual hace más intenso el permanente agradecimiento que rendimos a aquel gobierno y a su pueblo, pues esto demuestra que no obstante factores adversos y situaciones de crisis, la actitud de Israel es siempre la misma de apoyo y estímulo, siguiendo el principio de que Israel considera que uno de sus cometidos humanos superiores es contribuir al progreso de los países en desarrollo.

Es digna de incommo esta actitud de Israel, pues solo en los primeros doce años de ayuda, había recibido más de 3,000 becarios de los 5 continentes y había enviado 3,500 expertos a las diferentes regiones del mundo. Hasta el año pasado estas cifras se habían más que doblado. Esto es una clara demostración de que el país no está agobiado pese a la gravedad de sus problemas que se plantean en la zona de tanto conflicto donde han estado ubicados y que se desenvuelven rodeados de hostilidad. Pero todo esto parece irlos superando siguiendo los principios que rigen su política exterior.

En efecto en una vieja publicación de la Cancillería Israelita, se declara que la política exterior de Israel se basa entre otros en estos conceptos: la paz en Medio Oriente debe apuntarse en tratados alcanzados por medio de negociaciones entre los bandos que obliguen a su cumplimiento contractual, se fijarán entonces fronteras convenientes seguras y reconocidas, se garantizará la ayuda mutua, se podrán encarar las situaciones pacíficas de los problemas y se evitará la agresión directa o indirecta.

Prueba de la buena fe de Israel fue el logro de los acuerdos de Camp David de 1978, y yo quiero en esta oportunidad reiterar la admiración del Gobierno de Guatemala por la lucha del pueblo judío para su independencia y por su integridad y por la paz.

Finalmente, al declarar solemnemente clausurada esta convención, quiero formular mis mejores votos por la prosperidad de Israel, porque la paz sea una realidad en el Medio Oriente y que esa misma paz pueda ser alcanzada a través de la negociación y el respeto mutuo de Centroamérica y sobre todo desearles a la Comunidad Judía Internacional su continua superación y agradecerles que la Décimo Primera Convención haya sido realizada en nuestra patria.

Muchas gracias

BECARIOS A ISRAEL

Recientemente han viajado a Israel, dos nuevos becarios; el primero de ellos es el Doctor Milward Roland Van Tuylen Guerra, Catedrático de la Facultad de Ciencias Médicas de la Universidad de San Carlos, quien gozando de media beca atenderá un Curso de Salud Pública que tendrá una duración de un año.

El Curso de Salud Pública se llevará a cabo en el Hospital Hadasa de la Universidad Hebrea de Jerusalén y sus participantes recibirán el título de Master en Salud Pública. Dio principio el 8 de enero del año en curso.

CURSO DE SERVICIOS DE SALUD EN LAS ZONAS RURALES. Este curso se desarrollará del 17 de enero al 16 de marzo del presente año, patrocinado por la División de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y el Centro de Estudios Cooperativos y Laborales del Estado de Israel.

Con media beca para este curso salió favorecido el Doctor Jorge Antonio Yax Chajchalac, quien presta sus servicios en la Dirección General de Servicios de Salud como Médico Jefe del área de salud del Departamento de Totonicapán.



De izquierda a derecha, Licenciado Rolando Baquix, Presidente de la Asociación Shalom, Dr. Milward Roland Van Tuylen Guerra, el Señor Embajador de Israel Ing. Moshé Dayán, el Dr. Jorge Antonio Yax Chajchalac y el Periodista Francisco Montenegro Sierra. Los Médicos nombrados fueron despedidos en la Embajada de Israel con motivo de su viaje a aquel país a atender Curso de Salud Pública.

TRIBUNA BIBLICA:

En el salón social del Templo Maguen David, se llevó a cabo el 15 de enero la primera Tribuna Bíblica de este año.

En esa ocasión, disertó el Excmo. Sr. Embajador de Israel, Ing. Moshé Dayan, quien abordó el interesante tema "La Idea de la Justicia en la Biblia".



El Embajador M. Dayán, se dirige a los asistentes.



Sra. Bárbara Rivar; una invitada; Sra. Zipora Dayán y Sra. Bina Polonsky.