



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 60, Folder 2, International Relations Department -  
organization and programming, 1985-1986.

OCT 9 1985

NEVAS, NEVAS AND RUBIN  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

COLONIAL GREEN  
246 POST ROAD EAST  
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT  
TELEPHONE (203) 226-1211

BERNARD A. NEVAS (1942)  
LEO NEVAS  
ROBERT H. RUBIN  
LAURENCE SAREZKY\*  
JAMIE KAY GERARD

OF COUNSEL  
EUGENE P. EDWIN\*\*  
STEPHEN E. NEVAS\*\*\*

\* ADMITTED ALSO IN  
VIRGINIA AND D.C.  
\*\* ADMITTED IN N.Y. ONLY  
\*\*\* ADMITTED ALSO IN MASS.

MAILING ADDRESS  
P. O. BOX 791  
WESTPORT, CONN. 06881

September 30, 1985

Dr. Marc Tannenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 E. 56 Street  
New York, NY 10020

Dear Marc,

I do not intend on commenting on your organization plan or program in detail but rather in its general concept.

1. I think that you ought to try to shorten it and make it more concise.

2. In your discussion of priorities on page four, the term "defense" of Israel is too limiting. We are talking about an Institute for Cultural Pluralism and the attempt to impact the society there.

3. Item C, I think could stand some broadening in terms of dealing with establishing international relationships and support for those communities outside Israel, USA and USSR.

4. Shouldn't there be a "D" for International Human Rights?

5. At the bottom of page one I think it is an over statement to refer to Africa and Asia.

6. I think that you ought to leave out reference to me as well as some of the others. Perhaps a breakdown of the top staff people and the areas of their activities might be included at the end.

7. I think the last paragraph on page three over-states and over emphasizes.

8. On top of page four, this portion might be condensed. There is an omission of sufficient emphasis of the Human Rights Area and the Blaustein Institute which is staffed completely by this department.

If there is any general suggestion it would be that too much emphasis seems to be placed on foreign ambassadors.

I think you might add one paragraph on a new program that we are instituting for our members to host foreign ambassadors and delegates. As a matter of fact I think that we ought to schedule a meeting for that purpose early in November. At that time we should invite the Chairman of the Womens Committee. But you expressed an interest in Mimi Alperin, Representative of the New York Chapter, who expressed an interest in Bea Hoffman, Lois Ellenoff and perhaps all of the formal members of the Steering Committee.

Sincerely,



LN/ekk



AJC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
- ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM 1985-1986

-----

BACKGROUND - An examination of the history of the Foreign Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee (see, for example, Prof. Naomi Cohen's history of AJC, among other studies), leads to <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ inexorable conclusion - at the zenith of its influence, AJC was perceived to be the most powerful organization in Jewish life. The basis for that perception rested largely on "the mystique" that AJC's Foreign Affairs Department was in many ways the "State Department" of AJC, and even beyond, of American Jewry.

That "mystique" grew out of the special quality of the collaboration of AJC leaders and the professional staff in international relations. By virtue of their personal stature and political connections, AJC lay leaders had extraordinary access to the most influential leaders in the U.S. Government, the United Nations, and in foreign governments. Through systematic study of issues, coordinated planning of program strategies, <sup>and</sup> preparation of background papers, AJC's Foreign Affairs professional staff provided indispensable backup for informed political interventions where needed, as well as for comprehensive education and interpretation programs among AJC chapter leadership, specialized foreign affairs audiences, and the media.

Three primary areas of concern have dominated the work of the Foreign Affairs Department since its inception. These areas continue today as the core of the reconstituted AJC International Relations Department. They are, in terms of priorities:

- A) Defense and interpretation of Israel on the U.S. and the international scene;
- B) Advocacy of the Human Rights of Soviet Jewry;
- C) Support of "Endangered Jewish Communities."

In pursuit of these three primary goals of the AJC's International Relations Department, during the past three years we have extended substantially our political and educational work with West European governments, the European Economic Community, the United Nations, Central America, Latin America, and some

beginning probes in Africa and Asia.

Thus, to be concrete, in all our meetings with heads of state and other government leaders of France, West Germany, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, the European Parliament President, and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, AJC's International Relations Department made available aide-memoires and kits of background materials prepared in a coordinated manner by our Israel-Middle East Division and the Jacob Blaustein Institute. These materials dealt with the following issues:

- A) Anti-Jewish Rhetoric at the United Nations;
- B) Israel-South Africa;
- C) Palestinian Women (prepared for the Nairobi Conference);
- D) Anti-Semitic Discrimination in Soviet Higher Education;
- E) Anti-Semitism in Soviet Publications
- F) The Right to Leave;
- G) The Soviet Human Rights Movement.

In a number of specialized interventions - notably, the Embassies of Japan, Sweden, Canada - our Israel-Middle East Division prepared background documents on the kidnapped Lebanese Jews, Jews in Syria, Iran, and Yemen. At his request, these documents were made available to Mr. Theo Klein, president of CRIF in Paris, who used these materials for his own interventions with the French Government.

#### ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Concern for the security and well-being of Israel in the context of promoting peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors is the heart of our international relations program. Probably seventy-five percent of our program, energy, and resources are devoted to political action, education, and interpretation of Israel in the domestic U.S. and foreign areas in which we work.

Our Israel-Middle East Division, headed by Dr. George Gruen, maintains regular (at times, weekly) contact with appropriate desks in the U.S. State Department, the Israel Embassy and Consulates, the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem (frequently through liaison ~~with~~ with our Jerusalem office) and with a number of Arab embassies.

As specific "Israel issues" arise, we have been able to represent our interests not only in Washington governmental ~~circles~~ circles through Hy Bookbinder, but as well through our now extensive network with Embassies of foreign governments in Washington or directly with key contacts in foreign governments, such as Germany in the Saudi arms sales; France in relation to Syria and Lebanon; Spain on the issue of diplomatic ~~relations~~ relations with Israel, etc. In addition, we have now organized key people in AJC chapters - Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, Boston, Cleveland, etc. - who have used our background materials in making representations to Consul Generals in their cities.

Major Israel-Middle East Issues:

A) Following a series of IRD staff consultations and IRC Steering Committee meetings headed by our able and dedicated chairman, Leo Nevas, we have designed a department-wide strategy for pressing our three departmental priorities - Israel, Soviet Jewry, and endangered Jewish communities - with major foreign governmental officials. (While Israel is the core issue, our concerns for Soviet Jewry and Jewish communities in Arab countries or other third world countries, such as, Ethiopia and the Sudan, are inextricably linked with the Middle East situation.)

In light of the UN's 40th anniversary observance, some 100 heads of state or their foreign ministers and ambassadors will be in New York through mid-October. In keeping with our IRD strategy, we have arranged meetings for AJC lay leaders and professional staff with the foreign ministers or ambassadors of West Germany, France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria, ~~and~~ the United Kingdom, ~~and~~ Spain, and Brazil. We have already met with the ambassadors of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, and Venezuela.

Our year-long strategy calls for arranging a regular series of meetings with key foreign affairs officials of other governments in Western ~~Europe~~ Europe, Central and South America, Africa and Asia. We have also begun and will continue with meetings with ambassadors and other influentials in Eastern Europe, notably, Hungary, Rumania, Yugoslavia (arranged with the USIA), Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union (a mission is planned for April 1986 to Kishinev and to Moscow and other key centers in the USSR.)

In each of the meetings held thus far - and in all future meetings - we plan to press the following concerns:

A) A more assertive role by friendly governments in combatting the hostile anti-Israel, anti-Zionist, and anti-Jewish rhetoric at the UN and all its allied agencies. (The success at Nairobi is a model to be followed.)

B) Pressure on the Soviet Union to allow the immigration of Soviet Jews, and an end to the harrassment of Soviet Jews and release of the Prisoners of Conscience;

C) A more vigorous defense of human rights in keeping with the commitments of the Helsinki pact;

D) A more effective counter-offensive against international terrorism;

E) A stand against the scapegoating of Israel as a primary supporter of the apartheid-regime in South Africa.

## II - ACADEMIC MEETINGS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE

A) Based on the success of the Nov. 1984 Academic Symposium on "Progress Towards Peace in the Middle East," arranged by IRD's Division on Israel and the Middle East, we plan a series of similar symposia involving Middle East academics and foreign affairs specialists in various parts of the country. The November symposium provided a series of practical recommendations that have guided AJC's policies and programs, and provided insights that have informed our resolutions and public statements.

(The sole limitations we face in planning these symposia are those of finances and secretarial resources.)

III - TOLERANCE AND PLURALISM WITHIN ISRAEL

A) The growth of Kach and Kahanism in Israel, among other forms of religious and political extremism, clearly underscores this issue as a priority concern. We have joined other Jewish groups in the U.S. in condemning this polarizing trend in Israel, which clearly spills over into straining Israel-Diaspora relations. IRD has just published, through its Israel-Middle East Division, two studies on Kach and Kahanism, and on Gush Emunim and Religious-Political Extremism.

IRD plans to make these studies widely available, and use them for raising consciousness about the seriousness of these movements to political democracy in Israel and to Israel-Diaspora relations.

As soon as we have a new director of our Israel office in place, we plan to work out a coordinated strategy with our Jerusalem office on how we can mount an effective education and interpretive program in Israel to develop a widespread understanding of incorporating a religious and political ideology of pluralism and civility within Israel's society. This should involve IRD in close cooperation with AJC's National Affairs Department and the Jewish Communal Affairs Department.

B) IRD will continue and intensify its collaboration with the International Sephardic Education Foundation (ISEF) whose program of Sephardic-Ashkenazic intergroup relations we have been supporting; Aluf Hareven's comprehensive program on Jewish-Arab relations; Interns for Peace "peace corps" program for Arabs and Jews in Israel; the Israel Civil Rights Association which we helped found through Blaustein financial support, among other such groups.

C) We will work on closer cooperative programming with Bert Gold's Institute on Israel-Diaspora Relations, especially as its program impacts on this pluralism area.

D) Religious liberty will require IRD attention during the coming months as a result of the furor in Israel over the Mormons, the burned Southern Baptist church, and attacks on the Jehovah Witnesses. We will need to work out a cooperative approach with AJC's Interreligious Affairs Department.



SOVIET JEWRY

A) We will continue our close collaboration with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the International Presidium on Soviet Jewry. We will continue to join in appropriate political representations with these groups. We will also make available, as we have, our studies on Soviet anti-Semitism and on human rights to these bodies which have increasingly been using our materials.

B) We will intensify our contacts with White House, State Department, and Congressional leaders to determine what special roles ~~will~~ we will have, supplementing those of the Soviet Jewry groups. As demonstrated, our regular and growing contacts with foreign governments enables us to try to widen the circle of support for Soviet Jews among Western governments, including those in Latin America.

C) By virtue of having two Russian-speaking members on our IRD staff, we will continue to play a special role in preparing studies monitoring the Soviet press and media, making those findings available to government officials, the media, and AJC membership.

D) We will continue to support the Jewish culture programs prepared under the leadership of Abe Silverstein and Richard Mass for broadcast to Soviet Jewry. (Our Israel office, as well as our IRD staff) is collaborating in this important undertaking.)

E) IRD plans a consultation shortly of Soviet experts to examine what opportunities may be opening for us in light of the summit talks between the U.S. and the USSR.

ENDANGERED JEWISH COMMUNITIES

A) IRD will continue to be in the forefront of seeking to relieve the plight of Jews in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Ethiopia. Our meetings and representations will continue with the Sephardic leadership in the U. S. and Israel; with a number of the Arab ambassadores with whom we have been meeting (Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan.)

B) Through ~~xxxx~~ Leo Nevas, we will continue to share these interests with such groups as the International League for Human Rights, Amnesty International, as well as our State Department

and appropriate foreign governments whose interventions may be of assistance.

C) IRD will coordinate these interventions, where possible, with leaders of Jewish communities, such as, Theo Klein in France; Samuel Toledano of Spain; Tulia Zevi of Italy; among others.

#### OTHER JEWISH COMMUNITIES

A) SOUTH AFRICA - Through Leo Nevas and David Harris, we are in ongoing contact with the Jewish community of South Africa. We met recently on two separate occasions with Ambassador Crocker, head of the African desk in the State Department, to review the latest developments in that country and to determine what further we might do beyond our recent debate and policy statement opposing apartheid.

The planned mission to South Africa in mid-October may open up further program implications for AJC.

B) CENTRAL AMERICA - We continue our close working cooperation with FEDECO, including helping them with religious, educational personnel and program materials. At the NEC in November, we will review the Central American situation and determine what our next steps need to be.

C) SOUTH AMERICA - IRD, through Jacobo Kovadloff, has maintained close ties with the Jewish communities here. We have a major conference planned by Sergio Nudelstejer in Venezuela Oct. 2-4. A Pan-American conference on Vatican Council II, coordinated by Jacobo Kovadloff, will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops on Nov. 2-5. Jewish communities from throughout South America are expected to participate in this major event.

D) WESTERN EUROPE - As a result of our Annual Meeting session on European Jewry, Jewish leaders in France, Spain and Italy have invited us to develop an exchange program with their communities, especially their youth. This could be an important IRD program, but its implementation depends on finances and staff resources.

COMMUNICATIONS - IRD desperately needs a newsletter to report to our members on the myriad activities in which we are engaged. Our program is one of the least well-known in the agency.

AJC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM PROJECTIONS 1986-1987

The accompanying document, drafted after careful and lengthy consultation with IRD professional staff and lay commission members, outlines the overall framework of AJC's International Relations Department -- its primary goals, methods of operation, and program activities in key regions around the globe.

As resources allow, we will work systematically to realize our geopolitical objectives in each of these areas in 1986. These program thrusts will necessarily be affected by the eruption of emergencies; crises, such as, the terrible killings by Arab terrorists in the Rome and Vienna airports; the murder of Lebanese Jewish hostages; etc.

Within the perspectives elaborated in the enclosed IRD document, we shall be paying special attention to the following priorities:

1) INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

As the scourge of international terrorism continues, it is vital that IRD contribute to a better understanding among the general public of the threat this poses not just to Jewish interests but to larger Western, democratic societies. IRD will continue to work closely with the U.S. Administration's Task Force on Counter-Terrorism and such groups as CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America) which are engaged in public education and interpretation. Simultaneously, we will again focus our conferences and research efforts on the threat posed by the ever-increasing challenge posed by the rise in Islamic fundamentalism.

2) ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

With a new director of the Israel Office to replace the retiring Bernie Resnikoff, it is expected that the Israel Office, in addition to its significant work in inter-group relations, will increasingly focus on strengthening relationships in the geopolitical sphere to permit an even greater exchange of information and views between key actors on the Israeli Government scene and AJC.

3) SOVIET JEWRY

As the most critical issue facing American Jewry next to the ongoing concern about the security and well-being of Israel, IRD will continue to intensify its efforts in the diplomatic sphere, seeking to interpret the issue to foreign governments as well as our own. We plan to convene academic and policy specialists to assess policy alternatives, and encourage visits by the chapters to

STUDIE  
Kaganan,  
Harris  
Baker

German Conf  
March '86.

Kishinev

meet with Soviet Jewish refuseniks. In connection with the 80th anniversary program year, IRD will seek to coordinate a monthly visit to the U.S.S.R. by a chapter group, totalling, it is hoped, 8-9 separate visits during the course of the year.

4) EASTERN EUROPE

This area will take on additional importance as opportunities to encourage the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Warsaw Pact nations (and Yugoslavia) present themselves. To assist in this effort, IRD will maintain close contact with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Department and consider a mission to several East European countries, possibly to include Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, in pursuit of this effort.

5) AFRICA, ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Significant opportunities exist for promotion of Jewish interest in these regions. Six black African countries now have full diplomatic relations with Israel and several others have established interest sections. There is, then, a momentum building towards closer ties, based in part on the special role Israel can once again play in development, and, in part, on a perception of the central role of the American Jewish community in foreign-policy formulation in the U.S. IRD will analyze and research the feasibility of greater involvement in this region, seek to develop ties with diplomats stationed in the U.S., and consider other appropriate roles.

We have been approached by the Australian Jewish community to conduct some joint activities, and there is growing interest in what possibilities for our programming exist with China and Japan. The San Francisco and Los Angeles Chapters are anxious to participate in a major new programmatic thrust in the region. (In a better budgetary period, IRD should have a professional staff person whose major area of responsibility is Africa and Asia.) Consultations with these and other chapters will continue, and it is likely that the Pacific region will be a focus of our attention at the N.E.C. meeting in Seattle.

6) FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

We have only now begun to turn our attention in a serious, if modest, way, to foreign diplomats stationed in the U.S., either at embassies, consulates or U.N. missions. The potential for major programming is quite considerable, but will, of necessity, be limited because of the shortage of staff time and resources. A core of lay people, who have expressed serious interest in the project, has been organized into a "task force" to set forth and agenda and programming possibilities.

Susan G. Halpern  
Ben Halpern  
(Human Rights Seder)

7) TWINNING

As a reaffirmation of our commitment to the well-being of Jewish communities around the world, IRD proposes a pilot project, to be announced at the 80th Anniversary meeting in Washington in May, to twin two or three AJC Chapters with smaller, perhaps even declining or threatened Jewish communities overseas. The basic premises for such an initiative are: a) There exist a number of overseas Jewish communities whose populations are already small and dwindling and who do not have the resources and facilities to maintain an active communal life. Some of them have little outside contact, other than the occasional mission or consultant that may pass through. b) AJC members and their chapters have a strong and abiding interest in international work, yet too seldom find a meaningful handle to participate in our efforts. To a limited extent, there are some ties that have already developed between southern and southwestern chapters and Mexico and Central America. Much more can be done throughout the country on a continuing basis.

Miami

8) COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Greater attention must be paid to finding appropriate means for conveying the significant international work in which IRD is engaged to relevant audiences. It is also essential that the important and often pioneering work of AJC's overseas offices be given greater attention and their studies and analysis wider distribution.

9) CHAPTERS

A serious effort has been started to develop closer ties between IRD and the chapters and to create program activities which benefit the larger international goals of AJC. This will continue to be a major emphasis of IRD's work, namely, the creation of timely and targetted programming that will benefit the chapters and, at the same time, harness the extensive talents of AJC membership in the pursuit of our aims. Two examples have already been mentioned - increased travel to the Soviet Union and "twinning." Other possibilities will be given serious consideration in the coming months.

CALENDAR  
OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

1986-1987

(As of January 6, 1986)

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day  
Spain/Portugal accession to the European Economic Community
- 3 President Reagan meets with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, Mexicali, Mexico
- 11 Ceremony honoring the governments of Curacao, Dutch West Indies, and the Netherlands, sponsored by the Curaco Jewish Community, AJC, and five other national Jewish organizations, Curacao
- 12-18 International PEN Club Meeting, New York
- 13 Jacob Blaustein Institute Executive Council Meeting, New York.
- 21 Congress reconvenes
- 30-Feb. 2 AJC BOARD OF GOVERNORS INSTITUTE, Tuscon Arizona

FEBRUARY

- 3-March 14 United Nations Human Rights Commission, Geneva, Switzerland

- 8-18 Congressional Recess
- 9 National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) Executive Committee Meeting, New York City.
- 10 National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) Board of Governors Meeting, New York City.
- 17 Washington's Birthday
- 16-19 National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) Annual Plenum, New York City
- 23-March 2 40th Anniversary of the London Conference of Jewish Organizations, sponsored by AJC and the Anglo-Jewish Association
- 26 Commencement of the Soviet Communist Party Congress, Moscow, USSR
- 3-March 14 UN Commission on Human Rights, 42nd Annual Session, Geneva, Switzerland
- MARCH
- 1 Congressional resolution barring arms sales to Jordan expires
- 11 Action Day for Soviet Jewry, sponsored by the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews and AJC, New York
- 16 French National Legislative elections
- 17 STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (10 am - 12:30 pm)
- 17 AJC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 19-21 Joint Colloquium on Minority Rights under International and Soviet Law (Right to Leave), sponsored by AJC and Institute Furostrecht, University of Cologne; Bonn, West Germany
- \* 18-April 3 Overseas Mission of Latin American Conference on Soviet Jewry
- 18 President Reagan meets with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Washington D.C.
- \* 26-27 Second Annual Steering Committee Mission to Washington, D.C.
- 26-April 7 (noon) Congressional Recess
- ? Mikhail Gorbachev's intended visit to Italy
- ? Conference of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America and Panama (FEDECO), Panama
- APRIL
- 1-14 Preparatory Meeting of the Experts' Meeting on Human Contacts, mandated by the Madrid Review Conference of the Helzinki Final Act, Berne, Switzerland
- 6-8 America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Annual Policy Conference, Washington D.C.
- 9-11 American Society for International Law Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- \* 10-21 AJC Overseas Mission
- 15-May 27 Experts' Meeting on Human Contacts, Berne, Switzerland
- 19 80th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Kishinev pogrom
- 20 European Council of Jewish Community Services, Geneva, Switzerland
- \* Tentative dates



24-25 Passover

30-31 Passover

MAY

4 Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry, New York City

6 Holocaust Memorial Day

14 Israel Independence Day

14 AJC BOARD OF GOVERNORS, Washington, D.C.

14-18 80th Anniversary Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

23-28 (noon) Congressional Recess

26 Memorial Day

29-June 1 Bi-annual Latin American Conference on Soviet Jewry,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

JUNE

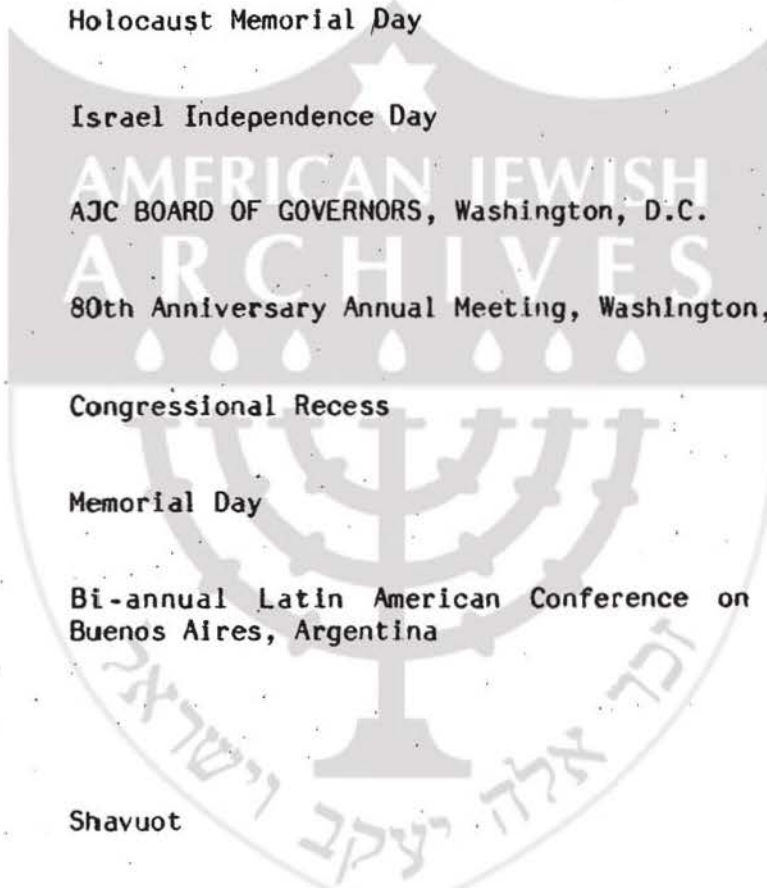
13-14 Shavuot

22 45th Anniversary of Nazi Invasion of the Soviet Union

28-July 7 Congressional recess

29-30 National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council  
(NJCRAC) Executive Committee and Commission Meetings, New  
York City

? Reagan-Gorbachev Summit Meeting, Washington, D.C.



JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 5-20 US/USSR Goodwill Games, initiated by Ted Turner, Moscow

AUGUST

- 13 25th anniversary of Soviet construction of the Berlin Wall.
- 11-Sept. 5 UN Subcommisison on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, 39th Annual Session, Geneva, Switzerland
- 16-Sept. 8 Congressional recess

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day
- 16 41st Session of the United Nations General Assembly commences
- 23-October 7 Preparatory Meeting for the Review Conference of the Helsinki Final Act, mandated by the Madrid Review Conference, Vienna, Austria
- 29-30 45th Anniversary of the massacre of 34,000 Jews at Babi Yar, Kiev, USSR

OCTOBER

- 4-5 Rosh Hashanah
- 13 Yom Kippur
- 18-19 Sukkot

- 23-25 Latin American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Boston
- 25 Prime Minister Shimon Peres yields power to Yitzhak Shamir under the Labor/Likud Coalition Agreement, Jerusalem
- 25 Sukkot
- 30-Nov 2 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, Seattle, Washington
- NOVEMBER
- 4 Election Day  
435 House seats, 34 Senate seats and 36 governorships open.
- 4 Vienna Review Conference of the Helsinki Final Act, Vienna, Austria. No closing date set.
- 11-16 Annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), Chicago
- 27-28 Thanksgiving
- DECEMBER
- \* 9 American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Annual Meeting, New York
- 10 International Human Rights Day
- 25 Christmas

\*Tentative date

Prepared by Susan Rothblatt

9737-IRD(5)  
1/7/86- og

86-550

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

OF THE

AMERICAN JEWISH

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

ARCHIVES

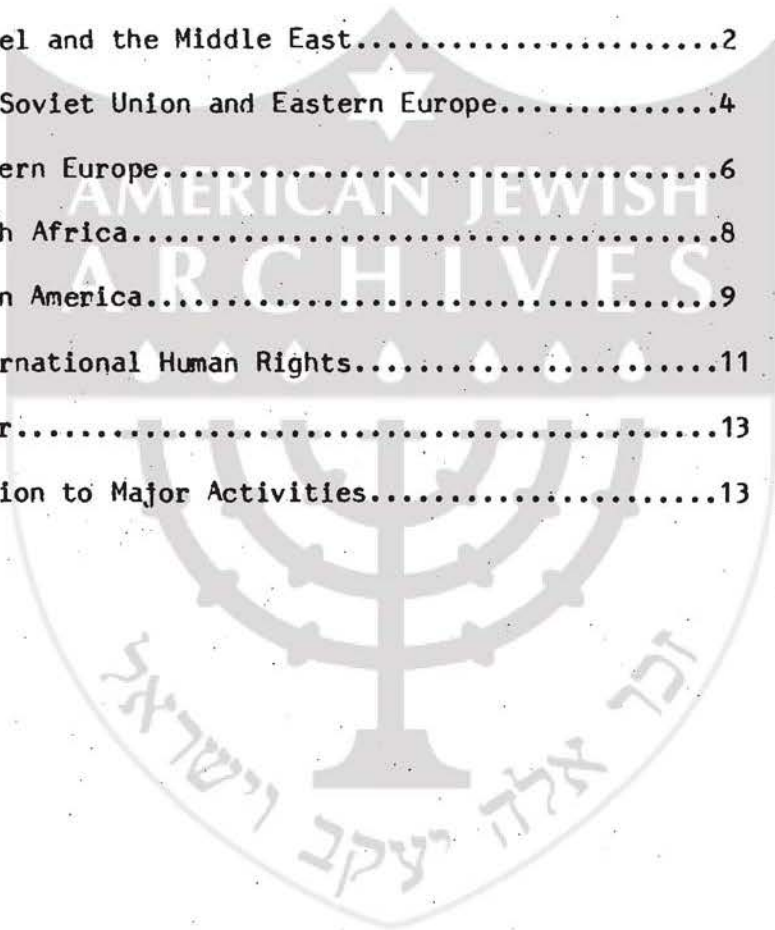
Major Program Activities: 1985



זכר אלה יעקב וישראל

## CONTENTS

I	Statement of Purpose.....	1
II	Methods of Operation.....	1
III	Major Activities: 1985	
	a) Israel and the Middle East.....	2
	b) The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.....	4
	c) Western Europe.....	6
	d) South Africa.....	8
	e) Latin America.....	9
	f) International Human Rights.....	11
	g) Other.....	13
IV	Time Allocation to Major Activities.....	13



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

I STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The American Jewish Committee was founded in 1906 in response to the brutal pogroms in Kishinev and elsewhere in Tsarist Russia. Since that time, AJC has maintained as its central purpose the protection of Jews around the world. In this pursuit, it has become a significant and respected factor on the international scene.

The goals of the International Relations Department today fall into five principal categories:

- a) Strengthening the security and well-being of Israel, interpreting its concerns in the United States and elsewhere, and seeking to contribute to the domestic quality of life, particularly in the sphere of inter and intra-group relations;
- b) Combatting of anti-Semitism and protection of endangered and otherwise vulnerable Jewish communities, including those in the Soviet Union, the Middle East and North Africa, Ethiopia, and South Africa;
- c) Enhancement of the quality of Jewish life, particularly in smaller communities in Central and South America, and Europe;
- d) Promotion of international human rights standards and adherence, including religious tolerance, the right to leave, human rights education, and respect for civil and political rights;
- e) Pursuit of inter-religious dialogue, especially with the Vatican and the hierarchies of the Catholic Churches in Europe, Central and South America, Africa and Asia.

II METHODS OF OPERATION

With a lay Commission on International Relations advising on policy direction, and a full-time professional staff of a dozen specialists in international affairs, located at AJC's New York headquarters and in offices in Jerusalem, Mexico City and Paris, together with a string of correspondents in several key countries, the International Relations Department pursues these five goals through: i) close contact with individual Jewish communities around the world; ii) fact-finding missions; iii) regular contact with foreign government officials, including diplomats stationed in the United States and in United Nations

agencies; iv) preparation of background studies and analyses; v) sponsorship of symposia, colloquia and conferences both in the U.S. and overseas; vi) frequent communication with U.S. government officials; vii) coalitions, when appropriate, with other organizations; and viii) press conferences, background information for the mass media, public statements and other means of public education and interpretation.

III Major Activities (January-November 1985)<sup>+</sup>

a) ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

i) Conferences and Symposia

- \* Consultation on "Censorship in a Democratic Society -- A Case Study: Israel," Jerusalem, January 1985
- \* Conference on "The Dhimmi" (Jews and Christians in Islamic lands), New York, April 1985
- \* Conference on "The Christian Presence in the Jewish State," Jerusalem, March 1985
- \* Conference on "Ashkenazi-Sephardi Relations," New York, June 1985
- \* Co-sponsorship of conference on Syrian Jewry, Paris, May 1985

ii) Publications

- \* Israel Press Highlights (weekly)
- \* Tefutsot Israel (quarterly in Hebrew on Diaspora communities)
- \* An Update on Israel's Economic Recovery Measures and U.S. Aid to Israel, January 1985
- \* Growing Political Leadership Roles of Sephardi Jews in Israel, February 1985
- \* Middle East Peace Efforts, March 1985

<sup>+</sup>NOTE: It should be emphasized that virtually every activity of the International Relations Department bears directly or indirectly on a concern for issues affecting Israel's domestic or international situation. Additionally, the reader will note other overlap in the activities listed below as a program may seek to address more than one goal.

- \* Jews in Yemen, March 1985
- \* Vatican-Israeli Relations Affected by Islamic Fanatics, April 1985
- \* The Kidnapping of Lebanese Jewish Leaders, April 1985
- \* Update on Seven Kidnapped Lebanese Jewish Leaders, October 1985
- \* The PLO Terrorist Attack in Cyprus and Israel's Response, October 1985
- \* Syria -- The Big Question Mark in the Middle East, November 1985

iii) Diplomatic And Other Initiatives

- \* Meetings with Vatican and other Catholic Church officials concerning the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel, February and October 1985;
- \* Contact with the American, British, French, Italian, Japanese, Lebanese, Spanish and Syrian governments, and other efforts, in behalf of seven kidnapped Lebanese Jews, April 1985 - present;
- \* Meetings with the foreign ministers of France, Sweden and West Germany concerning, among other key issues, "Zionism is racism" and anti-Jewish rhetoric at the U.N., September 1985;
- \* Ongoing communication with the Tunisian and U.S. governments and the Jewish communities in both France and Tunisia in the wake of the murder of four Tunisian Jews on Simhat Torah, 1985, and other anti-Semitic manifestations.

iv) Ongoing Work

- \* Contact with Israeli government officials in Israel, New York, Washington, the United Nations, Paris, Mexico City and elsewhere, and with U.S. Administration policy-makers;
- \* In Israel, the AJC Office serves as an important resource for Israeli government officials, the press, academics, immigrants, Christians and non-Israeli visitors, and is actively involved in seeking to reduce inter-group tension and promote greater



tolerance and understanding among all segments of Israel's heterogeneous population;

- \* Coordination with the AJC Washington Office and chapters concerning legislative initiatives affecting Israel, such as the foreign aid package and proposed arms sales to Arab states;
- \* Consultations and colloquia with American, Israeli and other academicians and regional specialists to assess Middle East developments and help formulate policy recommendations;
- \* Communications with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, America-Israel Public Affairs Committee and other national agencies on key issues.

b) THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

i) Publications

- \* Soviet Jewry: an Overview, March 1985
- \* Crisis in Soviet Jewry: A Call to Involvement, April 1985
- \* Gorbachev in Paris: Important Days in the Struggle for Soviet Jews, November 1985

ii) Diplomatic And Other Initiatives

- \* At every meeting with a foreign government official either overseas or in Washington or New York, the issue of Soviet Jewry -- emigration, cultural and religious repression, anti-Semitism, the prisoners of conscience -- is raised. In 1985 alone, AJC's concerns were voiced to representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Romania, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela, West Germany, Yugoslavia;
- \* In addition, AJC chapters have been encouraged to establish contact with foreign consular officials and to press the issue of Soviet Jewry, together with concerns about the Middle East, "Zionism is racism" and Nairobi. A half-dozen chapters met with diplomats from several West European and Latin American nations to discuss these topics;
- \* AJC helped conceptualize and implement an "action day" in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, with whom we work closely on all matters.

affecting Soviet Jewry, during which meetings were held with senior diplomats of approximately twenty foreign embassies, Washington, D.C., January 1985;

- \* AJC sponsored, together with the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, a similar "action day" in New York during which meetings were held with two dozen U.N. mission or consular officials, as well as U.N. Secretariat personnel, April 1985.

### iii) Missions

- \* A ten-member delegation of lay and staff members visited Hungary and met with government officials, representatives of the Jewish community, church leaders, and the U.S. ambassador, February 1985. The principal issues discussed included: bilateral relations with Israel, Soviet Jewry, U.S.-Hungarian relations, the Budapest Cultural Forum, and the Hungarian Jewish community;
- \* The International Relations Department assisted the Chicago Chapter in its planning of a mission to the Soviet Union in November 1985, and is working with other chapters to encourage such travel. At the same time, it has begun the planning of a leadership mission to the Soviet Union, scheduled for April 1986.

### iv) Ongoing Work

- \* Participation in the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry;
- \* Cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews and the Israeli government in behalf of joint efforts for Soviet Jewry;
- \* Involvement in discussions on political and diplomatic strategies on a regular basis with other member agencies of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry;
- \* Regular contact with the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, including a press conference for Romanian Chief Rabbi Rosen in New York, November 1985;
- \* Meetings with Administration officials, including State Department and National Security Council senior staff members;
- \* Participation in two major advertisements on Soviet Jewry in the Washington Post, March and November 1985;

- \* Concerning Eastern Europe, regular meetings with diplomats and other government officials from Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia in Washington, D.C. and New York. The goals of these meetings include: strengthening of bilateral relations with Israel; interpretation of the Soviet Jewry issue; re-enforcement of the position of the indigenous Jewish population; bilateral relations with the U.S., including the issue of most-favored-nation trade status; and refutation of the "Zionism is Racism" canard.

vi) Annual Meeting

- \* An off-the-record session at the 1985 Annual meeting was devoted to examining strategies for addressing the plight of Soviet Jewry. The speakers included a senior State Department official and the editor of Foreign Affairs (and a former National Security Council staff member).

c) WESTERN EUROPE

i) Publications

- \* The Jewish Community in West Germany, January 1985
- \* Jews in Western Europe: An Update, May 1985
- \* Italy and Israel, October 1985
- \* Spain/Israel Relations, November 1985

ii) Diplomatic And Other Initiatives

- \* In response to President Reagan's intention to visit the German military cemetery in Bitburg in May, which included the graves of members of the S.S., there ensued considerable contact with the White House, including a meeting with President Reagan, Donald Regan and Michael Deaver, other senior American officials and top leaders in Bonn in an effort to reverse the President's decision and to propose, instead, more appropriate alternative sites;
- \* Meetings were held with the French and West German foreign ministers to discuss the Middle East, Soviet Jewry, the United Nations and the Nairobi Conference, September 1985;
- \* Meetings were held with the Italian ambassador to the United States after the Achille Lauro affair, and with Spanish officials concerning diplomatic recognition of Israel, October 1985;

- \* Contact was established with the European Economic Community, NATO North Atlantic Assembly, and the regional human rights institutions located in Strasbourg, France, primarily to pursue the issue of Soviet Jewry and other human rights questions.

iii) Missions

- \* An AJC delegation visited Spain and met with government and parliamentary leaders, and Christian and Jewish representatives, as well as the ambassador of the U.S. The principal agenda items were: diplomatic recognition of Israel; human rights, including Soviet Jewry; Christian-Jewish dialogue and understanding; and international terrorism, February 1985;
- \* An AJC delegation visited Italy and met with three members of the Italian Cabinet, including the foreign and defense ministers, leaders of the Jewish community, and Israeli and American diplomats, and had a private audience with Pope John Paul II, February 1985. The principal agenda items with the Italians included: Italy's relations with the Arab world and Israel, Soviet Jewry, Italian-American relations, and international terrorism. In the case of the Pope, the points raised were: Vatican diplomatic recognition of Israel, Vatican Council II and Nostra Aetate, African famine, and international human rights.

iv) Ongoing Work

- \* Regular contact with individual West European Jewish communities, the European Council of Jewish Community Services and other key organizations;
- \* Close communication with the French Jewish community, West Europe's largest and most dynamic, via AJC's Paris Office, visits of AJC's leaders to France, and meetings with French Jewish leaders travelling in the U.S.;
- \* Meetings with State Department officials responsible for Western Europe;
- \* Encouragement of chapter meetings with West European consular officials.

v) Annual Meeting

- \* A principal focus of the 1985 Annual Meeting was an examination of the condition of West European Jewry and programmatic implications for AJC. The leaders of the Italian and Spanish Jewish communities and the president

of the Alliance Israelite Universelle were the featured guests.

d) SOUTH AFRICA

i) Publications

- \* AJC Policy on South Africa, March 1985
- \* Israel and South Africa, April 1985
- \* The Jewish Community of South Africa, May 1985
- \* AJC Statement on South Africa, May 1985
- \* Media Myths: Fallacies about Israel's Ties with South Africa, November 1985

ii) Missions

- \* Ten-day leadership mission to Johannesburg, Pretoria, Capetown and Durban. Meetings with government officials, including two Cabinet ministers; leaders of the Jewish community; representatives of the black, colored and Asian communities; officials of the National and Progressive Federal Parties; the American ambassador and Israeli charge d'affaires; members of the academic, business, church and civil rights sectors; October 1985. The principal goals of the trip were: demonstration of solidarity with the Jewish community; information-gathering about the country's current turbulent situation; and an effort to seek to influence decision-making figures to move more rapidly in the direction of democratic, non-violent change, including the complete elimination of apartheid and the introduction of genuine power-sharing.

iii) Ongoing Work

- \* Close contact with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies;
- \* Meetings with senior State Department and congressional officials;
- \* Meetings with South African Jewish personalities traveling in the U.S.

e) LATIN AMERICA

i) Conferences and Symposia

- \* Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Nostra Aetate, in cooperation with the Committee of Relations between Churches and Synagogues, Caracas, Venezuela, October 1985;
- \* Pan-American Conference on Nostra Aetate and Catholic-Jewish Relations, co-sponsored with the National Conference of Brazilian Catholic Bishops and with the participation of the Latin American Conference of Catholic Bishops, Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 1985.

ii) Publications

- \* Bibliography on Argentine Jewry (Vol. III), in cooperation with the Argentine Jewish Documentation Center, June 1985 (in Spanish)
- \* Integration and Marginality: Oral Histories of Jewish Immigrants to Argentina, August 1985 (in Spanish)
- \* Report on the Earthquake in Mexico, October 1985
- \* Central America: A Backgrounder, November 1985

iii) Diplomatic and Other Initiatives

- \* Meetings with the Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Panamanian and Venezuelan ambassadors to the United Nations, New York, September 1985. Principal issues discussed: the current political and economic situation in Central America; the Contadora Process; "Zionism is racism" in the tenth year since its passage; anti-Semitic rhetoric at the United Nations; bilateral relations with Israel; and Soviet Jewry;
- \* Meetings with key political figures in several Central and South American countries as part of the particularly close relationship of AJC's Central and South American Offices with leading public officials in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela and other Latin American countries;
- \* In response to the devastating earthquake in Mexico, the Mexico office was heavily involved in assessing the damage to the Jewish community and offering its assistance to the Mexican government. In addition, the New York staff were

in close contact with the State Department and with volunteer ham operators and served as a clearinghouse for information about the Mexican Jewish community for anxious relatives and friends in the U.S. Finally, working closely with the Houston Chapter, two lay leaders of that chapter were asked to fly to Mexico City shortly after the earthquake to establish direct contact with the Jewish community and to make a needs assessment. One of the travellers was a doctor, thus permitting an evaluation of the medical situation. September - October 1985;

- \* As a result of very close contact with the Cuban government, the State Department and the small Cuban Jewish community during 1985 to monitor conditions on the island nation, progress was made in enhancing the quality of Jewish life with respect to Spanish-speaking rabbis, Jewish religious freedom, emigration and greater contact with co-religionists outside Cuba.

iv) Ongoing Work

- \* Close contact with the Jewish communities in every Central and South American country;
- \* Regular communication with the State Department, with Israeli Embassy officials stationed in Latin America, and with major public figures, including political, academic, and religious personalities, and the media;
- \* Staffing of the Latin American Conference on Soviet Jewry;
- \* Distribution of AJC programmatic materials, translated into Spanish, to Jewish communities throughout Latin America;
- \* The International Relations Department is responsible for a major Spanish-language media program which services both electronic and print media in the United States and throughout Latin America with press releases and position papers in Spanish.

iv) National Executive Council

- \* A special effort was made at the 1985 N.E.C. to further strengthen the bonds between AJC, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Central America and Panama (FEDECO), and individual Central American Jewish communities. Our goal is to identify the particular needs of these small communities, and to continue to develop appropriate AJC National and Chapter programmatic responses.

f) INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

i) Conferences and Symposia

- \* Colloquium on Human Rights Education in Latin America, sponsored by the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, July 1985. Representatives of the education ministries of a number of Latin American countries discussed the integration of human rights curricula into their educational systems;
- \* Conference on Religious Liberty and Human Rights, sponsored by the Jacob Blaustein Institute, together with Temple University's Department of Religion and the Journal of Ecumenical Studies, Philadelphia, November 1985. Participants from fourteen countries representing five world religions attended.

ii) Publications

- \* Anti-Semitic Rhetoric at the United Nations, (by Daniel Meron for the Jacob Blaustein Institute), March 1985
- \* Submission to the European Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the Resurgence of Fascism and Racism in Europe, April 1985
- \* Perspectives on Palestinian Women: Information for Participants in the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, Nairobi, Kenya, July 1985 (Note: Both a book-length and a summary report were prepared.)
- \* The United Nations Women's Decade Conference at Nairobi, July 1985: A Note on the Zionism-Racism and Palestinian Women Issues, September 1985
- \* A Dismal Anniversary: A Decade of the UN's "Zionism Equals Racism" Resolution, 1975-1985, November 1985
- \* With assistance from the Jacob Blaustein Institute, Joshua Rubenstein was able to prepare a revised and updated edition of his book, Soviet Dissidents (Boston: Beacon Press).



iii) Missions

- \* Assistance in the briefing and preparation of material for the 23-person AJC delegation that attended the Non-Governmental Forum of the Nairobi Conference on Women, July 1985.

iv) Diplomatic and Other Initiatives

- \* Participation in the discussions and planning of the non-governmental organizations in preparation for the Nairobi Conference, Spring and Summer 1985;
- \* Distribution of the study on Palestinian women (see above) to members of official delegations to Nairobi from the United States, Canada, Israel and numerous other non-communist countries, Spring and Summer 1985;
- \* Briefing of members of the American official delegation to Nairobi;
- \* Proposal for an annual International Day of Religious Liberty at the United Nations, which has been approved by the committee of non-governmental religious organizations and will now be submitted to the United Nations missions;
- \* Pursuit of the case of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Iosef Begun through UNESCO's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations in Paris.

v) Ongoing Work

- \* Regular contact with officials of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations Human Rights Center, and various U.N. missions, as well as U.S. human rights officials;
- \* Consultation with non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights and leading academic and legal personalities in the field;
- \* Monitoring of events at the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the General Assembly, and relevant specialized committees, conferences and divisions;

- \* Sponsorship of ongoing studies on a number of topics, including genocide, the right to leave, religion and human rights, religious intolerance, and the role of non-governmental organizations, as well as publication of a college-level human rights reader;
- \* Staffing of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights.

g) OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- \* In April, the Steering Committee of the Commission on International Relations, together with members of the Washington AJC chapter, undertook a two-day mission to Washington to discuss with senior Administration, congressional and diplomatic officials some of the principal issues on the international agenda of the American Jewish Committee, which include prospects for peace in the Middle East, Soviet Jewry, South Africa, Ethiopia and, at the time, the Bitburg controversy;
- \* Concerning the famine in Ethiopia and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, the International Relations Department during 1985 was engaged in a four-pronged effort: i) to assist in fund-raising efforts for emergency relief needs, ii) to sustain public consciousness through education and interpretation, iii) to encourage the U.S. government to continue to make available its maximum resources, and iv) to work closely with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Catholic Relief Services and Church World Service, as was done during, for example, the "boat people" crisis in Indochina, to define a long-term development strategy, including the use of Israeli expertise, i.e. the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, in arid-zone agriculture, desert hydrology, etc, in affected African countries.

IV TIME ALLOCATION TO MAJOR ACTIVITIES

While it would be impossible to pinpoint with mathematical accuracy the proportion of staff time devoted to each of the subject areas listed above, an estimate would suggest the following:

- Israel and the Middle East	40%
- Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	15%
- Western Europe	10%
- South Africa	3%

- Latin America	15%
- International Human Rights	15%
- Other	2%

-----  
100

Prepared by David A. Harris

9860-IRD-4  
12/6/85-smm  
85-550-112



**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** December 13, 1985

**to** Leo Nevas

**from** David Harris

**subject** Additional International Relations Programming

Pursuant to yesterday's discussion, I would offer a few ideas of additional programs and directions worth considering:

(1) Travel to the U.S.S.R. - Using the theme of our 80th Anniversary year, I would like to see the sending of one chapter mission per month to the Soviet Union, that is, to identify 8-10 chapters each prepared to organize a small group to visit the U.S.S.R., in some cases possibly including Kishinev, and to stagger the visits over the course of the 1986-87 year. Detroit, Denver, Nashville and Atlanta are already interested in considering travel, and Chicago and Philadelphia have recently arranged missions. Not only would such a program again serve to re-affirm our original purpose, but also it would have significance for Soviet Jews and develop a large cadre of AJC members interested and experienced in the key overseas issue, apart from Israel, likely to be facing us for years, if not decades, to come.

(2) Twinning - As a reaffirmation of our commitment to the well-being of Jewish communities around the world, I would propose a pilot project, to be announced at the 80th Anniversary Meeting in Washington in May, to twin two or three AJC chapters with smaller, perhaps even declining or threatened, Jewish communities overseas. The basic premises for such an initiative are: 1) There exist a number of overseas Jewish communities whose populations are already small and dwindling and who do not have the resources and facilities to maintain an active communal life. Some of them have little outside contact, other than the occasional mission or consultant that may pass through. 2) AJC members and their chapters have a strong and abiding interest in international work, yet too seldom find a meaningful handle to participate in our efforts.

I have broached this idea informally, on the one hand, with Harold Applebaum and Jacob Kovadloff both of whom see potential for an important contribution by AJC, and, on the other hand, with a few chapter staff who are interested in learning more.

I should stress that I, for one, do not envision major expenditures of money by the chapter in its adopted community's behalf, but do see an effort to organize regular visits of members or, eventually, possibly involving a youth exchange, the sending of materials and books, etc. All of this would be done in close cooperation with IRD to avoid the creation of independent foreign-policy making centers in individual chapters.

... more

December 13, 1985

(3) Publication - Although AJC does significant work in the field of international relations, one of our major difficulties has been communicating the breadth and depth of our work to a larger audience who, though interested in foreign policy issues, remains largely unaware of our work. At the same time, there is also lacking among the publications of Jewish organizations and in Jewish periodicals, any serious, in-depth regular survey of the condition of Jews the world over, or examination of the larger issues which have immediate bearing on Jewish-related concerns.

Marc Tanenbaum and I have been discussing how we could start on a modest scale a regular newsletter, to appear, say, quarterly. It would, however, differ from other newsletters in not simply seeking to be a self-promotional piece but an interesting, engaging and timely publication that would further strengthen and underscore AJC's central position as the pre-eminent American Jewish agency in the field of international affairs.

(4) Asia and the Pacific - Major new opportunities are opening up to us in this increasingly vital region of the world. We have been approached by the Australian Jewish community to conduct some joint programming, for example, and there is growing interest in possibilities with China and Japan. The San Francisco and Los Angeles Chapters are anxious to participate in a major new programmatic thrust in the region, but before we are able to undertake such an effort we need to recognize the additional strain it will place on staff time and resources. In fact, I would go even further to suggest that, in a better budgetary period, IRD should have a professional staff person whose major area of responsibility is Africa and Asia. At the moment, we cannot adequately cover these areas, which represents a serious gap in our coverage and programming.

(5) Correspondents - While we do a good job of monitoring events around the world, we could be doing much more. A string of AJC "stringers" in key countries would add a great deal to: 1) our ability to monitor events as they happen and not after the fact, 2) our relationship with the Jewish communal structure, and 3) our ability to have a person "on the spot" for appropriate planning, interventions, etc. As I see it, we would pay a nominal fee (perhaps as little as \$100 per month) for this kind of reporting and presence.

(6) Foreign Diplomats - A major area of international activity in this country that is begging to be addressed, and that we have only now begun to turn our attention to in a serious, if modest, way, is with regard to foreign diplomats stationed in the U.S., either at embassies, consulates or U.N. missions. The potential for major programming is quite considerable, but will, of necessity, be limited because of the shortage of staff time and resources, notwithstanding the best intentions of a core of lay people who have expressed serious interest in the project.

(7) Israel - The possibilities are almost limitless in this area with respect to: a) Israel's interpretation in the U.S., U.N. and overseas, b) the quality of Israel's inter and intra-group relations, and c) the support we can make for increasing American business interests in Israel.

... more

December 13, 1985

These are but a few of the ideas that occur on the spur of the moment. I am sure that further consideration of the matter, and consultation with the other members of the Department, would produce a number of additional programming ideas in such areas as Catholic-Jewish relations, international terrorism, international human rights, joint programming with overseas Jewish and other organizations, etc. In other words, in a sense we are becoming victims of our own success. As we have broadened and deepened the work of the Department in the last two years, there are inevitably additional opportunities, not to speak of expectations, created. How do we properly address them (especially with additional limits on budget expenditures)? Each of the opportunities is important, though, of course, some more so than others, but we cannot for long turn them down before, inevitably, it will begin to have a negative impact on the agency's image, presence and clout in overseas work.

DH:mr

cc  
M.H. Tanenbaum

