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Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 63, Folder 1, Israel Coordinating Committee, 1988.



The American Jewish Committee

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July 21, 1988

Theodore Ellenoff
551 Fifth Avenue, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ted:

When we saw each other on Friday, I told you that Jerry Goldstein had asked me to draw up a statement of purpose for the Israel Coordinating Committee. Jerry understandably wants to make sure that we are all on the same wavelength as he begins chairing this committee.

The attached outline has been seen and approved by Jerry, as well as by Ira Silverman, Marc Tanenbaum and Bert Gold. If you approve it, we can go ahead with this plan. I look forward to hearing your reactions.

Sincerely,


Gary E. Rubin
Program Director

GER/ha
Attachment

cc: Jerome Goldstein
Ira Silverman
Bert Gold
Marc Tanenbaum

**OUTLINE FOR THE
AJC COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON ISRAEL**

GOAL: To coordinate Israel-related activities in various AJC commissions and departments to assure that all of our programs in this area are broadly known throughout the agency and work in mutually supportive ways.

- OBJECTIVES:**
1. To serve as an internal agency think tank on Israel where leaders from each commission can come together, discuss ideas and suggest new or improved implementation strategies.
 2. To share information across commissions and departments to assure that each sector of the agency knows about programs being planned or run that would have an effect on its work.
 3. To follow ongoing programs on Israel throughout the agency and assure that appropriate resources are committed to them.
 4. To suggest new ideas for Israel-related programming to be forwarded to appropriate commissions and departments to carry them out.

LIMITATIONS: This committee would not usurp the work or prerogatives of current commissions, departments or committees. It would not have "line authority" over other agency entities. Its function would be coordinative rather than operational. It be the place where an overview of our work on Israel is provided and programs suggested to improve overall function. It would not be the place where programs are run nor the locus for their direction.

- MEMBERSHIP:**
1. The committee should consist of 20-25 members (to assure an attendance of about 15 at each meeting).
 2. Members should be drawn from each sector of the agency that has Israel-related programming, including: the International Relations Commission (which has primary responsibility in this area), the National Affairs Commission (because of meetings with ethnic groups on Israel and expertise in areas such as inter-group relations and pluralistic education that should be part of our Israel agenda), the Interreligious Affairs Commission (because of extensive contacts with Christian groups on Israel), the Jewish Communal Affairs Commission (because of its academics missions and other special projects on Israel), the Community Services Committee (because of the

work of the chapters), and, of course, the Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations.

3. In addition, the committee should include some members of last year's Task Force on American Jewish-Israeli Relations who have given serious thought to this issue and proven their ability to make a contribution in this area.
4. As chair, Ted Ellenoff has appointed Jerry Goldstein.
5. Staffing will be coordinated from the office of AJC's program director. Staff from the International Relations Department should attend every meeting. Staff from other departments should attend as items on the agenda dictate. The agenda for this committee should parallel that of the staff coordinating committee on Israel.

OPERATIONS:

1. The Committee should meet three or four times a year.
2. To give an idea of how the Committee would run, if it were to meet in the very near future, the following could be on its agenda:
 - Programmatic follow-up on the Statement of AJC's Task Force on American Jewish-Israeli Relations.
 - Past experience and possible next steps in chapter programs on presenting the current situation in Israel to non-Jewish influentials e.g., ethnic and religious leaders, editorial boards, civic associations, etc.
 - Plans for AJC's Israel office.
 - The next year's program of the Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations.
 - Contacts with Israeli and American leadership on the current situation in Israel and AJC's role in these discussions.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

DATE: July 13, 1988

TO: Field Staff

FROM: Geri E. Rozanski *GER*

SUBJECT: PROGRAM PLANNING: ISRAEL

As you begin to consider how to put into action the 1988-89 program year emphasis on Israel, I wish to share with you several ideas that have emerged as core programs for the chapters. Many of these activities have engaged the chapters for some time. We are hoping that more chapters will take on these activities on a regular basis.

1. **MEETINGS WITH KEY ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS:** Most AJC chapters have held special meetings during the past six months with local ethnic and religious leaders on the situation in Israel. The most effective results of the sessions held this spring will be analyzed and developed into a checklist for successful meetings for all chapters. This round-up will be prepared and made available to you this September. Please begin scheduling meetings now for any time thereafter. As we did in the spring series of meetings, national staff will be made available to chapters to facilitate these sessions if you feel it is helpful.
2. **MEETINGS WITH LOCAL EDITORIAL BOARDS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA ON ISRAELI ELECTIONS:** This will be an international story that can benefit from AJC interpretation on several key issues. The International Relations Department will have available by mid-September the backgrounders and other materials that will be necessary in order for you to conduct these meetings. As with item (1) if you feel it is helpful to have a national staff person present, we can accommodate you.
3. **COMMUNITY MEETINGS:** AJC has released the first statement of the Task Force on American Jewish-Israeli Relations. The statement together with its supporting documents is now being printed in booklet form. It might be quite useful to feature some of the findings in public meetings focusing on the broad organized Jewish community.
4. **DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH PROGRAM:** Many chapters currently engage in this program. We are suggesting that you focus specifically on advocacy for Israel, in particular when meeting with the Consul Generals of Japan, So. Korea, India and Black African nations. Please allow enough lead time

when scheduling these meetings so that there is adequate consultation in advance with the International Relations Department specialists.

5. **CHAPTER MISSIONS TO ISRAEL:** Several chapters have stated their intentions to put together a mission to Israel. It may be more feasible to get a group together by combining with other chapters. Ron Kronish, our new Israel Office Director and Yaacov Pnini can be helpful in facilitating the preparation for the Israeli end of the program, and other staff can also be counted on to assist your planning. Please call me if your chapter is considering such a mission.

Obviously you will need accurate up-to-date materials as soon as possible in order for you to fulfill these and other programs. International Relations Department staff have promised to provide these documents, as well as act as resources for all of your questions regarding Israel and the Middle East and Diplomatic Outreach meetings.

Please call me with any questions or comments.

GER/rt

cc: G. Gruen
G. Rubin
M. Tanenbaum
G. Wolf

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CONCLUSIONS OF THE EMBASSY CAMPUS CONFERENCE, 7/25

Participants at the conference included:

Asher Naim, Minister for Information, Israeli Embassy
Tzion Evroni, Consul for Academic Affairs, New York Consulate
Gershon Zohar, Councilor for Information, Israeli Embassy
Moshe Aumann, Consul General, Israeli Embassy
Stacy Burdett, Information Officer, Israeli Embassy
Zev Maghen, Information Officer, Israeli Embassy
Zvi Jankelowitz, University Services Dept., AZYF
Rabbi Robert Kaplan, Hillel/JACY
Jeffrey Ross, Campus Affairs/Higher Education, ADL
Al DeRoy, YIPME
Wendy Rosenberg DeRoy, YIPME
Win Meiselman, CAMERA
Mindy Shapiro, Hillel
Yehudit Barsky, ADL
Gary Wolf, American Jewish Committee

The meeting proceeded more or less based on the enclosed agenda, and after discussion the following committees were appointed to begin work immediately on the following projects:

1. A national 800 number hotline/clearing-house for students. Much of the remaining projects will utilize, and depend for their success on the effectiveness of, this medium. Opinions were divided on the question whether the hotline should provide only brief oral information, convey lengthier information only by mail, and function largely as a directory to already extant organizations, or be a more direct-link network to the students, provide more extensive information and advice by phone, while also sending information by mail and steering students to helpful organizations. The question under whose auspices to run this, how many (if any) new positions are required, and the status of these new employees (intern, full salary, part time) is related to the above issue, and along with it will be resolved by the committee:

Mindy Shapiro, Zvi Jankelowitz, Yehudit Barsky

2. The talking points folder will be compiled from existing pieces, when necessary compressed into one page and rewritten in the form of debating points.

Gary Wolf, Rabbi Kaplan, Moshe Aumann, Zev Maghen

3. Computer mail/bulletin board/disc dissemination project, possibly through bitnet.

Winnie Meiselman, Zev Maghen, Al DeRoy

4. The Embassy has taken responsibility for the increased campus distribution of positive, "politically neutral" exhibits, as well as for transferring a few hundred sets of its "Israel: Peace unto this Land" posters to Hillel for national distribution. AZYF's "The Israel Experience" should also be distributed, but it was not yet decided how.

5. The Committee for the political exhibit will create "Peace: A Challenge to the Arabs." It will be sufficiently inexpensive and portable to create 20 to 50 copies and circulate them throughout the country.

Yehudit Barsky, Moshe Aumann, Zvi Jankelowitz, Win Meiselman, Zev Maghen

6. The committee on streamlining the speakers bureau and lists is: Tzion Evroni, Zvi Jankelowitz,

7. The committee on reaching the campus press is: Tzion Evroni, Win Meiselman, Al and Wendy DeRoy, Jeff Ross

8. The committee for organizing Israeli students on campus is: Rabbi Kaplan, Danny Siman (ISFI)

9. The committee to put together a national (or regional) Concerned Jewish professors and students conference is:

Win Meiselman, Tzion Evroni, Rabbi Kaplan

Obviously not all of these projects will be completed in time for the coming school year, but if the committees meet in person and by phone over the next two weeks and really put their hearts into this, there is no reason we should not be establishing contact with and providing material and services to students by mid-September. If we procrastinate, the Arabs won't, and we will leave the students in the same (more likely, a worse) situation they were in second semester of last year, and miss this unprecedented opportunity to get them involved in the struggle for Israel. They are our most powerful force for the present, and our only resource for the future.

The participants agreed to meet at 11:00 AM, Thursday morning August 11, at Tzion Evroni's office at the New York Consulate. There the various committees will report on progress or (preferably) completion of their projects. Only when projects are complete will any organization take the funding question seriously.

JUN 11 1988

memorandum

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date : June 9, 1988
to : James Rudin
from : Andrew Baker



cc: Eugene DuBow
George Gruen
David Harris
Geri Rozanski
Ira Silverman
Marc Tanenbaum ✓

subject : Christian Churches and Israel

Moshe Aumann, the Israeli Embassy Consul General and official responsible for relating with Christian communities, called me at your suggestion to see if we could help identify some local Christian leaders to meet with Dr. Uri Gordon, Advisor to the Foreign Minister for Church Affairs, while he was in Washington.

We scheduled an informal breakfast session and sent invitations to a small group drawn from the participants in our Black-Jewish dialogue and our Catholic-Jewish dialogue and from the leadership of the Interfaith Conference. We received a nice response (attendance list attached) and the program took place this morning. Though Dr. Gordon spoke slowly and softly, he grew on people and, I think, impressed them with his sincerity and candor. I would count the program a success, and there are two points, though seemingly obvious, that should be made:

1. Much of Dr. Gordon's presentation and the questions of participants dealt with the Uprising on the West Bank. People were appreciative of the opportunity for a direct exchange with an Israeli government official about matters that were much on their minds.
2. Dr. Gordon also offered his description and analysis of Christian churches in the Middle East, which emphasized their inherent anti-Israeli bias as an inevitable consequence of their minority status in a Moslem world and their concern over growing Islamic fundamentalism, while at the same time untouched by the post-Holocaust self-analysis and development in Christian-Jewish relations that mark the Western churches. He was also able to answer very specific questions regarding reported incidents between Israeli soldiers and church figures on the West Bank and the more general relationship between the government and Christian churches in Israel proper.

We should give thought to using Uri Gordon and/or others in the future in a more comprehensive way, by bringing them together with local Christian leaders in our chapters around the country. Since our Christian-Jewish dialogue work is ongoing, and since the subject of Israel is continually discussed, it could have a very positive long-term impact.

Best regards.

Breakfast Meeting with
Dr. Uri Gordon, Advisor on Church Affairs to
the Israeli Foreign Minister

Thursday, June 9, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

ATTENDANCE

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District Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Room 526
Washington, DC 20004

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Rev. Don Conroy
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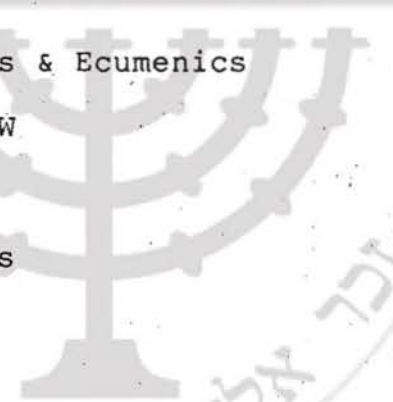
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