



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 64, Folder 12, Israel Office [American Jewish Committee],
1980-1981.

December 1, 1980

His Eminence, Terence Cardinal Cooke
Archbishop of New York
452 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

My Dear Cardinal Cooke,

The great human tragedy that has befallen the Italian people has stirred the hearts of many of us in the Jewish community. I am personally heartened by the instantaneous response of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the central refugee relief and rehabilitation group of the American Jewish community, which has created an emergency relief effort for the Italian people.

While the American Jewish Committee and I personally will do everything possible to help mobilize financial and material support for relief of the suffering of this stalwart people, I wish to make an additional personal contribution of \$250 to Catholic Relief Services earmarked for your Italian relief program.

My reasons for doing so are severalfold:

First, I wish to express my personal appreciation of your leadership in this vital effort of succoring the victims of this heartbreaking tragedy. That appreciation is intensified by virtue of our earlier collaboration in behalf of the Vietnamese boat people and the Cambodian refugees in which your direction was so central.

Second, I wish to express my personal gratitude for the heroic stand that so many of the Italian people took in opposing Nazi anti-Semitism against Italian Jews during World War II. As a result of Italian courage and moral decency, fewer Jews were killed or deported in Italy under the Nazis than relatively in any other European country. I want the Italian people to know that we have never taken their friendship, their solidarity, and their help in saving Jewish lives for granted.

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Third, I want to express my personal appreciation of the long record of collaboration and friendship between the Italian and Jewish communities in this city and in the United States generally. That collaboration has been marked by mutual respect and reciprocal helpfulness, and has constituted a vital contribution to serving the common welfare of the American people in the context of a creative religious and ethnic pluralism.

Above all, I wish to do this on the eve of Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, whose central ritual calls for the practice of "shalach manot," the giving of gifts to the poor and suffering.

Together with you, Your Eminence, I pray that God will grant His peace to those many thousands of Italian brothers and sisters who have perished in the earthquake, and that those who survive will find some measure of solace and comfort in the knowledge that so many millions of Christians and Jews care deeply about their welfare and want to be present to them in their hour of need.

Respectfully yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT/es

Enclosure

2/19/81

AMERICA-ITALY SOCIETY, Inc.

667 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10021 / TEmpleton 8-1560

January 14, 1981

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

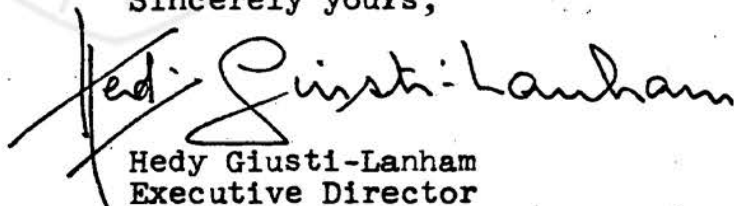
It is with great pleasure that I confirm our telephone conversation.

The panel discussion on "Italy's Earthquake - Italy's Challenge and Responsibility" will take place on Thursday, February 19, at 5:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of 122 East 58th Street in Manhattan.

The other members of the panel will be Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua, who was most eager to have you participate, Minister Alessandro Cortese de Bosis, whom you know and, finally, Furio Colombo, author, journalist, lecturer and Mr. Agnelli's personal representative in New York. He is a young man of extraordinary brilliance and I am sure you will enjoy meeting him. He looks forward with great pleasure to meeting you as, indeed, do I.

Until then, my thanks for all you have done for Italy in this tragic time.

Sincerely yours,


Hedy Giusti-Lanham
Executive Director