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January 8, 1981

Mr. Robert S. Jacobs
and the First National Bank of Chicago
Co-Trustees
The Ernest and Leonora Alschuler Foundation
...address....
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Bob and Friends,

I take the liberty of sending you a proposal for possible funding of a major program in the revision of German religious and secular education regarding the portrayal of Jews, the Nazi holocaust, and Israel in the German school system.

We regard this project as potentially ~~of~~ one of the most significant and far-reaching undertakings of the American Jewish Committee in helping to uproot the deep sources of anti-Semitism in German religions and culture.

It is most encouraging to us that the initiative for this cooperative venture has come from our partners in this comprehensive study-and-publications program, Professors Heinz Kremers and Michael Brocke, co-directors of the University of Duisberg's Institute on ~~xxxxx~~ Research in the History ~~xxxxx~~ and Religion of the Jewish People.

Our initial collaboration in a pilot project last year persuades us that this is an eminently worthwhile and do-able project that has the genuine commitment of the university community as well as of the West German Government's Department of Political Education.

We require a grant of \$25,000 to implement this program in 1981-1982. The American Jewish Committee is contributing additional funds out of its resources for the additional costs we will have for various aspects of this project not covered by this proposal.

We sincerely trust that you will find it possible to act favorably on our request for your generous support.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Interreligious Affairs Director

SPONSORSHIP - The University of Duisburg, one of the most prestigious

A PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR REVISIONS OF EDUCATIONAL TEXTBOOKS IN WEST GERMANY REGARDING JEWISH HISTORY, DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, TO COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL

AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL influential Institute on Research in the History and Religion of the

Jewish People, to engage in this vital undertaking on a three-year

BACKGROUND - Since the end of World War II, a series of outstanding studies and research projects have documented the subtle influence and should other needs arise, the project would be continued on a

that negative and hostile images of Jews and Judaism were had in a longer-term basis by mutual agreement.) The Department of Political

shaping an anti-Semitic cultural environment which the Nazis were Education

able to exploit in their genocidal campaign against the Jewish people. The purpose of this comprehensive educational program is to identify

systematically the sources of anti-Jewish images in Catholic, ~~and~~ Protestant, and secular teaching materials used throughout the

eleven laender (provinces) of the Federal Republic of West Germany today, and to prepare corrective teachings materials through the

production of new textbooks, ~~including~~ teachers' manuals, audio-visual aids, and related education tools.

SPONSORSHIP - The University of Duisburg, one of the most prestigious universities in West Germany, has invited the Interreligious Affairs

Department of the American Jewish Committee, to collaborate with its influential Institute on Research in the History and Religion of the

Jewish People, to engage in this vital undertaking on a three-year basis at the outset. (Should the project prove to be mutually satisfying

and should other needs arise, the project would be continued on a longer-term basis by mutual agreement.) The Department of Political

Education of the West German Government has indicated its serious interest in participating in this joint undertaking and in assuring that

the publications and other materials would be disseminated throughout the entire German educational system's religious and secular programs.

PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN - The co-directors of the University of Duisberg's Institute, ~~xxx~~ Dr. Heinz Kremers (a Protestant scholar) and Dr. Michael Brocke (a Roman Catholic scholar) have invited the American Jewish Committee to participate in a series of interdisciplinary research studies of religious, history, civic, and social studies textbooks. Taking advantage of several decades' of AJC's pioneering studies in content analysis of textbooks, the Institute will bring together ~~xxx~~ teams of scholars, teachers, textbook writers, and media specialists to identify the present state of the portrayal of Jews, Judaism, the Nazi holocaust, and Israel in teaching materials used in elementary, secondary, college, seminary, and university classes by the majority of German children and youth.

The following studies and publications are proposed:

(Note: Religious instruction is mandatory throughout the entire school system in the 11 provinces of West Germany)

- 1) Dr. Herbert Jochum - "The Personality of Jesus and Judaism in Curricula and Textbooks for Religious Instruction;"
- 2) Dr. Heinz Kremers - "The Historical Development of the Presentation of Judaism in Protestant Religious Instruction in West Germany Since the Nazi Holocaust;"
- 3) Dr. Heinz Kremers - "The Jews in the Textbooks and other Media of Instruction in Protestant Religious Education as Presented in Six Major Publication Series;"
- 4) Dr. Michael Brocke and Dr. Herbert Jochum - "Judaism and Jews in Textbooks Used in Catholic Religious Instruction - A Survey of Problems;"
- 5) Dr. Heinz Kremers - "The Jews and the Death of Jesus as an Historical, Theological, and Religious Pedgogical Problem;"
- 6) Dr. Ruth Kastning-Olmesdahl - "The Jews and the Death of Jesus -

Anti-Jewish Motifs in Protestant Religious Books;"

7) Dr. Herbert Jochum - "The Holocaust in Catholic Religious Instruction in the Federal Republic of Germany;"

8) Dr. Wolfgang Wirth - "Audiovisual Media for the Presentation of Judaism in Christian Religious Instruction;"

9) Dr. M. Bocke and Dr. H. Jochum - "Reader in Theology After the Nazi Holocaust - A Collection of German, American and Israeli essays on the Meaning of Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust for Modern Germany".

Basic studies of these themes will also be undertaken in civics, history, and social science textbooks that are today most widely used in Germany.

The Institute has already published its initial volume entitled, "Jews, Judaism, and the State of Israel." Additional volumes of positive information about the history, culture, and religion of the Jewish people as well as on the history of anti-Semitism will be published on the model of the first volume.

A conference is contemplated to be held later in 1981 bringing together the key educators, teachers, textbook writers, publishers, and media specialists to examine the findings assembled in the several textbook research projects. Discussion of how to counter negative and/or hostile images about Jews, Judaism, and Israel will then be discussed. Emphasis will be heavy on the introduction of positive teaching materials in the German school systems and general media as the most effective means of displacing the negative legacy of teaching.

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR 1981-1982

(Research studies, publications, conferences) \$25,000