Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992
Box 76, Folder 7, West German visit, 1979.
Programme for the Visit of
Rabbi Marc H. TANNENBAUM
USA
to the Federal Republic of Germany
Study tour of representatives of the American Jewish Committee

Participants:
Mr. Richard MAASS, President
Mr. Morris B. ABRAM, Honorary President
Mr. Philip E. HOFFMAN, Honorary President
Mr. Bertram H. GOLD, Executive Vice-President
Mr. Miles JAFFE, Chairman, National Interreligious Affairs Commission
Rabbi Marc H. TANNENBAUM, Director, Interreligious Affairs Department
Mr. William S. TROSTEN, Director of Development

New York/USA

Period of stay: from March 23rd to March 29th, 1979

The programme for your visit has been arranged by
INTER NATIONES, Visitors' Office, Kennedyallee 91-103,
5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg, on behalf of the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government.

Programme-planning: Mrs. Barbara Kaiser/ Mrs. L.E. Simons

Tel. No.: 880-371
Az.: 2-009-2-12

On arriving in the Federal Republic of Germany you will have an opportunity to discuss the details of your programme with a representative of INTER NATIONES.

At each city you will be visiting during your stay you will be given a detailed programme on arrival.

If your escort fails to meet you and there is no message waiting for you at the Lufthansa information desk or the station information office, please go directly to your hotel.

We wish you a pleasant stay in our country.

Bonn, March 15th, 1979
Friday, March 23rd
9.00 hrs  Arrival München by LH 409 from New York

Welcome by a representative of Inter Nationes, München

Accommodation: Hotel Excelsior
Am Hauptbahnhof München
tel.: 55 79 06

Saturday, March 24th

Stay in München

Sunday, March 25th

The programme will be arranged and escort provided for by INTER NATIONES -Besucherdienst-München

Programme in preparation: talks with the Catholic and the Protestant Churches, the Jewish Community, the Bavarian State Government, and to Oberammergau etc.

Monday, March 26th
11.40 hrs  Departure München by LH 408

12.45 hrs  Arrival Köln/Bonn

Welcome by a representative of Inter Nationes, Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Accommodation: Hotel Continental
Am Hauptbahnhof Bonn
tel.: 63 53 60

Tuesday, March 27th

Wednesday, March 28th

Stay in Bonn

Thursday, March 29th

The programme will be arranged and escort provided for by INTER NATIONES -Besucherdienst-Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Programme in preparation: talk with members of the Political Parties, the Law Committee of the German Bundestag, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Defence, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany etc.

Departure open
The Federal Government has invited you to come to the Federal Republic of Germany for an informatory tour and is looking forward to your visit. You will be taken care of by INTER NATIONES, an association for the promotion of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and foreign States.

In order to help you prepare for your journey, the mission of the Federal Republic of Germany which has sent you the invitation on behalf of the Federal Government will gladly provide you with information material and answer any questions you may have in connection with your visit. In addition, it will be useful for you to know the following points:

Scope of the Invitation

The invitation covers your flight to the Federal Republic of Germany and back — usually on an aircraft of Deutsche Lufthansa —, and all flights or rail travel in your native country and within the Federal Republic of Germany connected with your trip. If for private reasons you wish to alter your route, any additional costs will be your own responsibility. During your stay in the Federal Republic your host will attend to your hotel accommodation, pay for the usual meals, and meet all costs arising within the scope of the official programme. You will appreciate that any expenditure over and above that, such as for long distance telephone calls, telegrams, postage stamps, souvenirs, private entertainment, etc. will have to be borne by you.

You will be accompanied by someone who speaks your own language or a language you understand.

Entry Into the Federal Republic of Germany

The Embassy or the nearest Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany will be pleased to provide you with information as to passport and visa requirements, vaccination regulations, etc.

You can bring any amount of foreign currency and traveller’s cheques into the Federal Republic of Germany and there are no restrictions on the amount you take out, in so far as the regulations of your own country do not provide otherwise.

The amount of luggage you can carry will be governed by international airline regulations. Your host will unfortunately not be able to meet the cost of excess luggage.

Flight or rail tickets will be sent to you in good time by the mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Programme

If possible, you will receive the general programme before you set out on your journey. The detailed programme will be handed to you as you arrive in each town. Should you want the programme to be altered in any way, please let your host know in good time. Your wishes will be taken into account as far as possible. If for important reasons you cannot make the trip, please notify the appropriate mission of the Federal Republic of Germany as soon as possible.

The INTER NATIONES representative who is to accompany you, will meet you on your arrival in the Federal Republic of Germany. In the event that he or she misses you owing, for instance, to a change in your time of arrival, please go to the information desk at the airport or railway station, or contact one of the INTER NATIONES offices on the enclosed list. You can also have your mail sent to these addresses so that it can be forwarded to you without delay.
Dress

You are advised before your journey to make some inquiries about the climate in the Federal Republic of Germany and bring the appropriate clothing. For receptions, visits to the theatre, etc., a dark suit will usually be sufficient.

The Federal Government wishes you bon voyage. INTER NATIONES will try to make your stay as pleasant as possible.

List of INTER NATIONES offices with addresses and telephone numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inter Nationes Besucherdienst</td>
<td>Kennedyallee 91-103</td>
<td>(02221) 8801</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter Nationes Besucherdienst</td>
<td>Taunusanlage 21</td>
<td>(0811) 728163</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6000 Frankfurt</td>
<td>728530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter Nationes Besucherdienst</td>
<td>Neuer Jungfernstieg 5</td>
<td>(040) 351301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000 Hamburg 36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter Nationes Besucherdienst</td>
<td>c/o Bayerische Staatskanzlei</td>
<td>(089) 237031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Königstraße 11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8000 München 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter Nationes Besucherdienst</td>
<td>Charlottenplatz 17</td>
<td>(0711) 296739</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7000 Stuttgart</td>
<td>291869</td>
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<td>Berlin:</td>
<td>Der Bevollmächtigte der Bundesregierung in Berlin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Geschäftsberich Presse und Information</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bundesallee 216-218</td>
<td>(030) 21261</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1000 Berlin 15</td>
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Illness or accident during the visit

If you fall acutely ill during your stay in the Federal Republic of Germany, your host will see to the appropriate medical treatment.
Programme for:

THE VISIT OF A DELEGATION
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
U.S.A.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Stay
March 23 - March 27, 1979

Accommodation
Hotel Excelsior
Schützenstraße 11
tel. 55 79 06

Bus service:
Messrs. Klaus Kurz
tel. 80 21 92

Escort
Miss Erzsebet András
tel. 98 99 81

Programme-organizer
Mrs. Christina Hederer
Tel. 2 37 03 302

München, March 23, 1979
Participants

Mr. Richard MAAS
President of the "American Jewish Committee"

Mr. Morris ABRAM
Honorary President

Mr. Philip E. HOFFMAN
Honorary President

Mr. Bertram H. GOLD
Executive Vice-President

Mr. Miles JAFFE
Chairman, National Interreligious Affairs Commission

Rabbi Marc H. TANENBAUM
Director, Interreligious Affairs Department

Mr. William S. TROSTEN
Director of Development
Friday, March 23

09.00 hrs. Arrival München-Riem airport on LH 409 from New York
Welcomed by Miss András
Transfer by taxi to the hotel "Excelsior"

subsequently - Rest -

11.00 hrs. Visit to the "Evangelisch-Lutherischer Landeskirchenrat"
Meiserstraße 13, tel. 55 951
Welcomed by D.Dr. Johannes Hanselmann, Landesbischof der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Bayern

12.00 hrs. Meeting with His Eminence Dr. Josef Kardinal Ratzinger, Archbishop of München and Freising - Erzbischöfliches Palais - Kardinal-Faulhaber-Straße 7, tel. 29 69 55

13.00 hrs. Luncheon in honour of the delegation, given by Dr. Heinrich, director of the "Katholische Akademie in Bayern" Mandlstraße 23, tel. 39 1o 91 (1979 Symposium)

17.30 hrs. To meeting with Mr. Ernst-Maria Lang, architect, at the hotel "Excelsior"
evening at leisure
Saturday, March 24
morning
Opportunity to attend the religious service at the synagogue
Reichenbachstraße 27

- Due to Shabbat no program has been scheduled for this day

Max Ernst exhibit
Emp. Ludwig Palace

Sunday, March 25
09.00 hrs.
Departure hotel by bus for Oberammergau

11.00 hrs.
Meeting with the Mayor of Oberammergau
Mr. Ernst Zwick / Hans Meyer / Deputy Mayor
- Rathaus - , tel. 08822 / 4411

13.00 hrs.
Luncheon at the hotel "Alois Lang",
tel. 08822 / 4141
with Mr. Hans Schwaighofer and two other representatives of the "reformers"
Adolf Fischer, Joseph Lang

subsequently
Visit to the Passion Play House
and the surroundings of Oberammergau
(Ettal monastery, Linderhof Castle)

Monday, March 26
09.30 hrs.
Departure hotel by bus for the Dachau memorial site

10.15 hrs.
Arrival at Dachau-museum
tel. 08131 / 1741 (Mrs. Distel, head of the museum will be present)
subsequently at leisure
Opportunity to visit München museums and art galleries

15.00 hrs. Visit to the "Landesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde in Bayern"
Effnerstraße 68, tel. 98 94 42
Welcomed by the Honorary President
Dr. Dr. Simon Snopkowski, Dr. Segal

evening at leisure

Tuesday, March 27
11.40 hrs. Departure München-Riem airport on LH 408

12.45 hrs. Arrival Köln-Bonn
Accommodation: Hotel Continental
Am Hauptbahnhof
tel. 63 53 60
STATEMENT PRESENTED TO HIS EXCELLENCY HELMUT SCHMIDT,
CHANCELLOR OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, BY
THE HON. RICHARD MARSH, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
AT MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE LEADERS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1979, BONN WEST GERMANY

Your Excellency, Chancellor Schmidt,

It is with a genuine sense of privilege and gratitude that this delegation of leaders of the American Jewish Committee greet you today and express our feelings of privilege for this meeting with you. Our hearts are lightened by the knowledge that we have come together at a truly historic moment at which two potentially momentous international events intersect.

The first is that we meet but two days after the signing of the peace treaty between the sovereign states of Israel and Egypt, after thirty years of protracted conflict and painful loss of precious human lives.

The second is that we meet on the eve of the opening of the debate in the Bundestag of the Federal Republic of Germany on the abolition of the Oklo limitations on nuclear power, a measure which we believe will contribute to a safer world.

Our feelings of gratitude which we freely express to you today, Chancellor Schmidt, derive from our awareness that you personally and your administration of the West German Government have played a constructive, morally courageous, and decisive role in
helping to realize these historic developments.
We can be as official representatives of the
oldest pioneering human relations organization in our
country, and we are here both as Americans and as Jews.
As Americans, we have been blessed to live, to pray,
and to strive, with millions of our fellow citizens in one of the
greatest democracies that mankind has yet experienced, a
society governed by constitutional laws that honor the
dignity of every person, the human personality, by assuring
civil and political liberties to all its inhabitants, regardless
of their race, color, creed, or ethnic identification.

In the contemporary world, as you well know, the
causes of constitutional democracy and individual liberties are
subjected to mounting pressures from totalitarian ideologies,
dangerous militarisms from left-wing and right-wing
extremists who together have cast an alarming pall of
darkness over formerly free societies in many parts of the world.
Indeed, Freedom House (a research group that studies the condition
of human liberties throughout the world) has recently reported
that there are no more than nineteen (19) countries that
carry the title of "free" or "democratic" societies in the ensuring
of basic human liberties and human rights to their citizens.

It is for these reasons that we are so very
much heartened by the firm dedication of the cause
of constitutional democracy and to the rule of law, and to
freedom of conscience in the context of religious and ethnic
pluralism - the "New Germany" which you personally
and your administration have demonstrated in innumerable
ways.

Your struggle to create a "New Germany" out
the ashes of the past - your decisive and unambiguous
Rejection of Nazi proto-Aryanism, its demonic racism and murderous anti-Semitism are not taken for granted, but consciously.

The American Jewish Committee and, we are confident, by the overwhelming majority of some 730 million American people...

The Jordan River is flowing today - a predominant political and economic force on the European continent and in the world at large - has also become a major bastion of freedom. In the years World War II era, the growth of this friendship, solidarity and mutual help between our American democracy and your Führer's democratic society is a bright ray of light in a darkening world order of increasing ideological repression.

We want you to know that the American Jewish Committee will do everything in its power to seek to advance this growing rapport and collaboration between our two democratic societies even as we will stand with you against whatever forces that will try to undermine this vital historic movement for human betterment.

That great German Jewish genius, Albert Einstein, whose 100th birthday this civilized world is now observing, expressed these sentiments aptly: "Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

As I mentioned earlier, Chancellor Schmidt, we are also here as Jews. To the Jewish people, Germany was once the scene of the growth of Jewish creative flowering, in philosophy, music, and economic well-being. Temporarily, in our recent history, it became the theater of Jewish suffering, an abyss of extermination and disillusionment that is without...
of anti-Semitism and prejudice invites Catholics and Jews to work together in "fruitful collaboration" to uproot prejudice and to serve the common human welfare. As far back as the 1950s, the American Jewish Committee recognized how destructive religious and racial prejudice was to society, and we pioneered with major Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish universities and seminaries in sponsoring religious and secular textbook studies as well as social psychological research. We are pleased that these efforts have resulted in the virtual total elimination of hostile or offensive teachings and group stereotypes in practically all Christian and Jewish educational materials. We should be glad to cooperate with the appropriate educational authorities - state and religious - in carrying out similar programs in West Germany.
precedent in the history of mankind.

This past Sunday, an American Jewish Committee delegation went to Dachau as an act of homage to the memory of the six million Jews, women, and children and to millions of Christians and other human beings whose lives were so brutally destroyed by the Nazis during World War II. We are still left dazed and bewildered by what we saw in that place of death and destruction. It is beyond description and surpasses all human comprehension. "He returns de Astor," Yehuda Amichai once called that vast system of murder.

There are only two responses to the Nazi Holocaust, capitulation to it, and thereby giving Hitler his final victory. There is no time for despondency and emptiness. The other, the only humanly viable course, is to seek to wrest some human meaning from that horror to learn some lessons by which such demonic evil can never be allowed to stalk our land again.

More than others, we believe that you have grasped these stark alternatives. If choosing life or death for mankind and for Germany. Your moving address, "Communicating" (November 9, 1978) makes clear the depth of your understanding of how faithful is the need for Germany and the world to face the Nazi tragedy and to find ways to create a consciousness and a method to prevent any recurrence of that cosmic disaster.

One of your paragraphs starts with a declaration of one of our great leaders: "We do not want your guilt. We want your responsibility."

"We do not want your guilt. We want your responsibility."
Chancellor Schuschnig, we are convinced that you personally understand that responsibility to the Jewish people and to mankind as a whole. We have come to Germany to have Germany, to ask for expressions in tangible form of that responsibility from the Federal Republic of Germany.

We accept as tangible signs of that responsibility, which we greatly welcome, the growing, ongoing, and intensified political, moral, and economic support by the Federal Republic of Germany for the security and safety and well-being of over three million Israeli Moslems and natives in the sovereign State of Israel. Israel stands at the center of the religious and historic consciousness of Judaism and the Jewish people. With that the Holy Covenant, it is one of the major assurances of Jewish survival and home in the modern world.

Another sign of that responsibility, which has become very meaningful to the Jewish people, has been the unexpected and overwhelming response of large segments of the German population, particularly its young people, to the NBC television series, "Holocaust," with which the American Jewish Committee was privileged to be associated. Millions of German people, in response to viewing "Holocaust," clearly have made a decision to face up to the reality of Nazism in the German past, and to try to learn its true meaning for combating anti-Semitism and its anti-democratic and anti-humanistic thrust.

Hailed as we, and many others, are by that unprecedented by present of conscience, then we believe that a comprehensive, systematic program in state and religious schools—from elementary schools through university education—is required if that display of conscience is to become an integral in knowledge.
We are in the process of understanding the universal moral implications involved. The atrocities committed by the Nazi regime and the subsequent efforts to bring them to justice have been a source of encouragement for us. The American Jewish Committee has played a role in various programs with educational and religious institutions, and we are pleased to collaborate with German educational authorities in pursuing this vital goal.

Beyond these tangible evidences of cooperation, we firmly believe that the transatlantic partnership can help us face the Nazi past and to establish a more equitable and just relationship between nations. We are convinced that the present generation, still bearing the scars of this historic legislation, but being witness to the rise of a new era of tolerance, moderation, and respect for human rights, can contribute to a future where the Institute of Limitation in Memory and Reconciliation plays a significant role.

We must not forget the lessons of the past and the responsibility we bear to ensure that such atrocities never happen again. The American Jewish Committee has been involved in various initiatives to promote peace, understanding, and cooperation between nations. We are confident that these efforts, supported by both the "old Jewish community" and the "New Jewish community," will lead to a brighter future where diversity and tolerance are cherished values.
This would take place at a time when neo-Nazis and former SS members organized as "Third Reich veterans" appear to be gaining strength, or at the very least are asserting their activities through public rallies and anti-Semitic propaganda. The organized white-nationalist Nazi criminals who serve the Hitler regime, and who seek to falsify history by denying the genetic fault of the Holocaust would feel vindicated. There is a rising awareness in the Federal Republic that we have important work to do to educate German young people about the realities of the Second World War and the crimes perpetrated by the Nazi regime. How could any such critically-needed educational programs be even minimally successful if young people were to be given the message that the Federal Republic of Germany regards the chapter on Nazism as closed?

Would not the maintenance of the statute of limitations argue to human society and to the world at large that mass murderers who engaged premeditatively in the "greatest crime in history" are immune from prosecution? Would not the failure to abolish the statute of limitations encourage criminals to feel free to boast about their crimes with impunity in the face of victims within andoutside Germany who still suffer the consequences of their action? Can we apply to this unique and unparalleled crimes the conventional argument of "rehabilitation of criminals" or of reparation and forgiveness? Would not such decisions have the effect of rendering these grotesque and barbaric acts as somehow "normal"? Even if not truly intended, such indeed would
be a predictable consequence.

In some judgment of the American Jewish Committee and that of many expert jurists, there exist no legal obstacles to abolition of the statute of limitations if it is executed as a general measure applicable to all murder. While there appears to be no binding international rule, there are numerous precedents in the laws of many civilized countries not favor such abolition. The practical effect in terms of number of anticipated prosecutions and trials appears to be small. Under these circumstances, the decision to abolish finally the barriers to bringing mass murderers to their justice should clearly be guided by compelling moral and political considerations.

Together with Chancellor Schendel, we are convinced that such a decision by the Bundestag and under your Statemanship would enable the New Germany to embark on a new era whose hallmark would be the message that "history need not be a itching past to the present, but rather a promising post to a creative and hopeful new future" for Germany for the Jewish people and for the cause of democracy in the world at large.