Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992
Box 81, Folder 9, Cuomo, Mario, 1983-1989.
February 3, 1989

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
165 East 56th Street
New York NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Governor Cuomo has asked me to reply to your letter of January 3, in which you offered a range of thoughtful suggestions for addressing the drug problem.

As you are doubtless aware, the Governor has declared an all-out campaign against drugs in New York. In his Annual Message to the Legislature, he proposed numerous initiatives that are intended to address both the need for tough and effective drug enforcement and for expanded drug treatment and preventive education. Among those initiatives is the creation by Executive Order of the Statewide Anti-Drug Abuse Council, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Stan Lundine.

As Director of Criminal Justice, I sit on that panel, along with the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Health, the Director of Substance Abuse Services and the Director of the Division Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. The membership of this council reflects the Governor's approach to the drug problem. It is multidisciplinary, coordinated and directed simultaneously at law enforcement, treatment and preventive education. The Governor intends the Council to be his chief advisory group on drug policy and strategy. He has charged the council with a broad mandate to reach out to all segments of the public and private sectors for ideas and suggestions on how to combat the drug problem.

At its recently held first meeting, the council discussed the organization of a statewide conference or a series of conferences which would provide the opportunity for broad public input in the development of the council's recommendations to the Governor. No firm plans have been finalized as yet, however, the council has determined that planning for such a conference or conferences will be handled
by the State agency staff personnel who have been detailed to support the council's activities. I am informed that a number of options and formats are being developed for presentation to the council in the near future. I have taken the liberty of passing on your thoughtful suggestions to the persons in charge of preparing that presentation.

The Governor has asked me to express to you his thanks for your suggestions, your offer of assistance, and for your kind good wishes.

Very truly yours,

John J. Poklemba,
Director of Criminal Justice
Rabbi,

7/24/84

You have always been one of the people I look up to in respect and admiration. I'm deeply touched by your kindness and encouragement. Among other things we have in common is our love of Rabbi Yonahwitz. He so deeply affected me and left such a lasting mark on my life better for both of us.

Mario Cuomo
November 14, 1989

Dr. Harold Jacobs
295 Madison Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Harold,

It was a pleasure speaking with you.

Enclosed please find a copy of my letter to Governor Cuomo regarding your reappointment to the Board of Higher Education.

I hope it proves to be helpful.

Under separate cover I will send you a copy of my c.v. Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, president of Queens College, who has heard me lecture several times, has expressed high interest in my joining the CUNY Graduate Faculty in 1990.

I would be most grateful for your interest and support.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially, as ever,
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
November 14, 1989

His Excellency  
Governor Mario M. Cuomo  
State of New York  
Governor's Mansion  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I sincerely trust that this finds you, Matilda, and your family in excellent health.

My purpose in writing to you at this time is to lend my personal support to the reappointment of Dr. Harold Jacobs to the Board of Higher Education.

I have known Harold literally for decades since my college days. He has been dedicated to quality education with an inclusive vision for students of all races and creeds. Harold's entire life has been committed to moral and humanistic values, an essential force for contemporary education.

He is also a distinguished leader in the organized Jewish community and serves as a vital bridge between professional educators and New York's Jewish constituency.

I do hope that you would act favorably on his reappointment to this vital position.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Respectfully and cordially,
November 20, 1989

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you very much for your letters written on behalf of Dr. Harold Jacobs' reappointment to the City University Board of Trustees.

We appreciate the time you have taken to write on Dr. Jacobs' behalf. I assure you that we will give your recommendation every consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022-2746
Rabbi,

You have always been one of the people I look up to in respect and admiration. I am deeply touched by your kindness and encouragement.

Among other things we have in common is our love of Rabbi Menachem Mendel. The way he works with men and what should make life better for most of us.

Mario Cuomo
THE GOVERNOR HAS JUST CONCLUDED HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE. IT WAS A MOST EXCITING YEAR OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE STATE. HIS INSPIRED AND INSPIRING LEADERSHIP BROUGHT NEW HOPE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL CITIZENS OF THE "EMPIRE STATE."

AS WE LOOK BACK UPON THE PAST YEAR, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS SPECIAL REASON TO BE GRATFUL FOR THE GOVERNOR'S LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN JEWISH CAUSES AND CONCERNS.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE FIRST PUBLIC EVENT WHICH HE ATTENDED AFTER HIS ELECTION TO OFFICE IN NOVEMBER, WAS AN ISRAEL BONDS DINNER.

ISRAEL

ON JANUARY 12TH, THE GOVERNOR ATTENDED A DINNER IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, YITZHAK NAVON, AND USED THE OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE IN COMMON: "BOTH YOUR NATION AND OURS, BELIEVE THAT THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF PEOPLE'S LIVES WHILE OTHER NATIONS WOULD BE CONTENT WITH MERE SURVIVAL.

"SO, EVEN WHILE YOU ARE UNDER SIEGE, STRUGGLING WITH THE ENORMOUS BURDENS OF DEFENSE; EVEN AS YOU SEEK TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR, ISRAELIS STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE -- MEETING THE NEEDS OF YOUR CHILDREN, YOUR AGED, YOUR HANDICAPPED. CONTINUING TO PROBE THE MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE AND TO CREATE WORKS OF ART."
THE GOVERNOR'S SUPPORT OF ISRAEL EXPRESSED ITSELF IN A VERY UNUSUAL AND PIONEERING WAY.

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH, HE SCHEDULED IN ALBANY HIS OWN 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE, AND INVITED JEWISH LEADERS FROM EVERY CITY OF NEW YORK STATE, TO BE HIS GUESTS. ALSO INVITED, WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.


"ISRAEL STANDS AS THE EMBODIMENT OF THE HUMAN WILL TO ENDURE AND TO TRANSCEND, TO PERSEVERE AGAINST THE FORCES THAT WOULD CRUSH HUMAN FREEDOM AND DIGNITY, TO BRING HOPE, DECENTY, EQUALITY WHERE THEY NEVER BEFORE EXISTED.

"SHE IS A LIVING PROOF OF WHAT A PEOPLE COMMITTED TO FREEDOM, CAN ACHIEVE."

THE GOVERNOR'S LOVE OF ISRAEL AND APPRECIATION OF IT AS THE MOST DEPENDABLE AND RELIABLE ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES, PROMPTED HIM TO ISSUE A COURAGEOUS AND FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION OF A COURSE TAUGHT AT SUNY AT STONY BROOK, IN WHICH THE PROFESSOR EQUATED ZIONISM WITH RACISM. HE OBSERVED, "IT IS A TEACHING WHICH IS, IN MY OPINION, INTELLECTUALLY DISHONEST AND PERNICIOUS, BECAUSE IT IS DESIGNED TO SERVE AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR GENOCIDE IN THE FORM OF A COMPLETION OF THE "FINAL SOLUTION" THROUGH THE ANNIHILATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL."

WHILE THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT REASSERTED HIS ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM, HE RESERVED FOR HIMSELF THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS APPROPRIATE MORAL REPUGNANCE OF THE COURSE. HE CALLED UPON THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE COURSE AND TO REJECT THIS EVIL AND OBSCENE TEACHING.

"THE SILENCE AT STONY BROOK IS THUNDEROUS", HE CONCLUDED.
AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT, THE PRESIDENT OF STONY BROOK DID OFFICIALLY DISASSOCIATE THE UNIVERSITY FROM THE COURSE AND ALSO PUT INTO MOTION, CONCRETE STEPS TO PREVENT SUCH A SITUATION FROM RE-OCCURRING.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ACCEPTED IN THE PAST YEAR, MANY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE UJA FEDERATION ISRAELI BONDS AND HELPED RAISE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR ISRAEL.

HOLOCAUST

THE GOVERNOR SERVICES ON THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST COUNCIL AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN INTRODUCING THE STUDY OF THE HOLOCAUST IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

ON APRIL 10TH, THE GOVERNOR ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF SOME 6,000 AT TEMPLE emanuel ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING. HE USED THAT OCCASION TO WARN THE WORLD AGAINST FORGETTING THE HOLOCAUST AND POINTED TO ANTI-SEMITISM AS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE WILL TO FORGET. ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM HE SAID,

"IT IS A DISEASE THAT SEEMS IMMUNE TO DESTRUCTION, WANING PERHAPS, BUT NEVER QUITE DISAPPEARING, ALWAYS CAPABLE OF REASSERTING ITS MALIGNANT PRESENCE.

"IT MAY APPEAR WITH DIFFERENT IDEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION, THE EMPHASIS CHANGED A BIT, THE TERMINOLOGY UPDATED, THE REASONING MADE MORE SUBTLE.

"BUT IT IS THE SAME DISEASE -- THE SAME PATHOLOGY WHEREVER IT APPEARS -- IN TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE STREETS OF PARIS, IN SWASTIKAS SMEARED ON THE WALLS OF SYNAGOGUES ON LONG ISLAND, IN CRUDE, HATEFUL SPEECHES DELIVERED FROM THE ROSTRUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS."

THE GOVERNOR HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN INVITED TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS. THIS YEAR, HE DECIDED TO HOLD HIS OWN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE. HE INVITED LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TO ATTEND AS HIS GUESTS. HE SCHEDULED A MEMORIAL FOR APRIL 15TH IN THE MORNING AT THE ISAIAH WALL. THIS LOCATION WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH IN RECENT YEARS HAS SERVED AS A PLATFORM FOR ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE.
IN URGING HIS AUDIENCE TO REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST, HE STATED, "LET IT BE A LIVING, BURNING PART OF US, IGNITING IN OUR SOULS A FIERCE RESPECT FOR LIFE, FOR ALL THAT RESISTS HATRED, RESISTS NEEDLESS BLOODSHED, THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS -- ALL THE EVIL HARBINGERS OF A FAILED HUMANITY.

"LET IT FIRE IN US AN UNBREAKABLE DETERMINATION TO PROTECT AND NURTURE THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL, THE JEWISH HOMELAND -- TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER. LET IT SERVE FOR ALL OF US EVERYWHERE AS THE SYMBOL OF VICTORY OVER OPPRESSION AND EVIL."

RUSSIAN JEWRY

THE GOVERNOR IS PROFONDLY CONCERNED WITH THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF RUSSIAN JEWS. IN HIS MESSAGE TO SOLIDARITY SUNDAY FOR SOVIET JEWRY ON MAY 16TH, HE SAID, "YOU GATHER HERE TODAY TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RAGING WITHIN THE SOVIET PRISON. THE JEWS OF THE USSR HAVE POINTED THE WAY FOR OTHER VOICES OF DISSENT. THEY HAVE GIVEN OTHERS COURAGE TO WORK FOR THE HUMANIZATION OF THEIR COUNTRY. THEY HAVE GIVEN COURAGE TO CHRISTIANS DENIED THE RIGHT TO PURSUE THEIR FAITH. THEY HAVE GIVEN COURAGE TO POETS WHO SING OF THE PAIN OF THE IMPRISONED SOUL. THEY HAVE GIVEN COURAGE TO ARTISTS, WHOSE ONLY DESIRE IS TO BRING BEAUTY TO LIFE."

ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18TH, THE GOVERNOR RECEIVED, IN HIS OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY, AVITAL SHCHARANSKY, THE WIFE OF ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY, ONE OF THE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION. DEEPLY TOUCHED BY HER APPEAL, HE DECLARED SEPTEMBER 15TH, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY DAY IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AND WROTE TO ALL GOVERNORS TO JOIN WITH HIM IN THAT PROCLAMATION. MOST OF THEM AGREED TO SO DO. THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO SIGNED A NUMBER OF PETITIONS ON BEHALF OF REFUSENIKS AND HAS WRITTEN TO RUSSIAN LEADERS ON BEHALF OF MANY OF THEM. HE CONTACTED THE PROCURATOR GENERAL OF THE SOVIET UNION, ALEXANDER REKUNKOV, TO APPEAL TO HIM TO ANNUL JOSEF BEGUN'S SENTENCE AND TO GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

KASHRUTH

TO INDICATE HIS INTEREST IN THE KOSHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THE GOVERNOR INVITED THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET IN HIS CONFERENCE ROOM. THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF CAME TO GREET ITS MEMBERS AND TO TELL THEM, "I
VIEW your presence as an ornament to my conference room and more so as a working committee whose efforts I join. My staff and I will be available in any way that you request, in your initiatives to prevent economic fraud perpetrated against the kosher consumer in the sale of non-kosher food as kosher.

This was the first time in the history of the state that a governor has invited the advisory committee to meet in his office and the first time that a governor visited with the committee. As the Jewish press observed, "It was the governor's way of paying a compliment to the Jewish community."

The governor is concerned about the high cost of kosher food products. He is now considering the establishment of a committee to study the problem and to bring in recommendations as to how to hold down kosher food prices.

Legislation

This year, the governor signed into law, bills which the Jewish community sought for many years.

Autopsy Bill

This bill prohibits autopsies to be performed without the permission of a surviving relative or a friend in the absence of compelling public necessity, if such a procedure is contrary to the belief of the deceased.

In signing the bill, the governor explained, "In the heterogeneous state of New York, we must make every effort to accommodate the special heritage of our diverse people, while insuring that the common good is protected. With the enactment of the minor amendments noted above, the bill does strike a careful balance between the legitimate needs of law enforcement and public health and the constitutionally-protected religious beliefs of the deceased."

Get Bill

Another landmark piece of legislation was the Get Bill, which was characterized by the "Jewish World" as "a giant first step toward redressing a tragic and shameful injustice that increasingly has accompanied divorce in the traditional Jewish community."
THE GOVERNOR WAS AWARE THAT SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF JEWISH YOUNG WOMEN WERE NOT ABLE TO REMARRY BECAUSE THEIR HUSBANDS REFUSED TO GRANT THEM A RELIGIOUS DIVORCE. THE GOVERNOR STATED THAT "IT IS A TRAGICALLY UNFAIR CONDITION WHEN WOMEN ARE DENIED A RELIGIOUS DIVORCE "VINDICTIVELY" OR AS A FORM OF ECONOMIC COERCION."

THE BILL REQUIRES ANY PARTY TO A MARRIAGE, WHICH WAS SOLEMNIZED IN A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, TO VERIFY THAT ALL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO REMOVE ANY BARRIERS TO REMARRIAGE PRIOR TO A JUDGE ISSUING A CIVIL DIVORCE. THE "JEWISH PRESS" AND MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, HAILED THE GET BILL AS AN ACT OF GREAT SENSITIVITY AND COMPASSION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNOR.

RABBI MOSHE SHERER, PRESIDENT OF AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA, STATED "THIS WAS A VERY HAPPY DAY FOR MANY SAD PEOPLE AND THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IS INDEBTED TO GOVERNOR CUOMO FOR HIS ACTION."

HAYM SALOMON BILL

HAYM SALOMON WAS A GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOT AND REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO. HE PLACED HIS PERSONAL FORTUNE AT THE DISPOSAL OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND HIS TROOPS. THIS SELFLESS AND PATRIOTIC ACT PROVIDED ENCOURAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED FOR THE VICTORY IN THE WAR FOR FREEDOM. FOR MANY YEARS THERE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO HAVE A BILL PASSED TO DESIGNATE JANUARY 6TH AS HAYM SALOMON DAY IN PERPETUITY. THE BILL WAS PASSED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR, THUS PAYING SIGNAL TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AMERICAN PATRIOT AND JEW, HAYM SALOMON.

PROCLAMATIONS

A PROCLAMATION FROM THE GOVERNOR IS A PRIZED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EVENT IN NEW YORK STATE. IT REFLECTS THE GOVERNOR'S SYMPATHY WITH, AND UNDERSTANDING OF, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ORGANIZATION OR THE CAUSE IN WHOSE BEHALF THE PROCLAMATION IS ISSUED.

MANY PROCLAMATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WERE ISSUED THIS YEAR BY THE GOVERNOR. AMONG THEM ARE:

HAYM SALOMON DAY JANUARY 6
ORT DAY MARCH 2
81ST BIRTHDAY OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE MARCH 23
HADASSAH 70TH ANNIVERSARY DAY APRIL 7
HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY APRIL 10
WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING DAY APRIL 10
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE DAY APRIL 14
ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY APRIL 18
JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK APRIL 17-24
SOLIDARITY SUNDAY FOR SOVIET JEWS MAY 22
RAOUl WALLENBERG DAY OCTOBER 5
WEEK OF TRIBUTE TO THE DANES OCTOBER 23-30
OHEI CHILDREN'S HOME & FAMILY SERVICES DAY DECEMBER 18

IN HIS PROCLAMATION ON ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY, ISSUED APRIL 18TH, THE GOVERNOR SAID, "IN THE 35 YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE, THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS ABSORBED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS JEWS AND PROVIDED A HAVEN FOR THOSE FLEEING FROM LANDS OF PERSECUTION AND OPPRESSION.

"THIS YOUNG AND DYNAMIC NATION HAS CONQUERED THE DESERT, DRAINED THE SWAMPS, COVERED THE BARREN LAND WITH MILLIONS OF TREES, PERFORMED MIRACLES OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESTORED THE HOLY LAND TO ITS ANCIENT BEAUTY.

"THE STATE OF ISRAEL, FORGING A NATION OUT OF MANY EXILES AND CONFRONTING ENORMOUS PROBLEMS FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT, HAS FOUND THE ENERGY, THE KNOWHOW, AND THE COMPASSION TO EXTEND AID TO MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS."

REFLECTING THE GOVERNOR'S PHILOSOPHY OF THE STATE AS A FAMILY, IN HIS PROCLAMATION OF JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK OF APRIL 17TH, THE GOVERNOR STATED, "JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER MUTUAL RESPECT
AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALL STUDENTS AND ESTABLISHES A SCHOOL CLIMATE IN WHICH STUDENTS OF ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUND DEVELOP A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THAT OF OTHERS. OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WILL ALSO BE SPONSORING SPECIAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND EXHIBITIONS IN THE HOPE OF IMPROVING INTERGROUP AND INTERCOMMUNITY RELATIONS.

AN ELOQUENT SPOKESMAN IN CONDEMNATION OF ALL FORMS OF BIGOTRY AND ESPECIALLY ANTI-SEMITISM, THE GOVERNOR, IN HIS PROCLAMATION OF ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE DAY ON APRIL 14 STATED THE FOLLOWING, "ADL HAS COMBATED, COUNTERACTED AND EDUCATED AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM AND EXTREMISM. THE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTS THE SPECIAL CONCERNS AND INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IN UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THIS COUNTRY AND THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE. IT IS AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL, THE ONLY DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR AMERICAN EFFORTS TO SECURE A JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"ITS LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS SET AN EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS WHICH AFFECT THE WELL-BEING AND FUTURE OF EACH AND EVERY CITIZEN. IN PURPOSE AND PROGRAM, ADL ESPouses AND FULFILLS THE HIGHEST IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF AMERICANS OF ALL FAITHS, RACES AND BACKGROUNDS."

THE GOVERNOR WAS PLEASED TO ISSUE A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION ON OCTOBER 21ST, PROCLAIMING A WEEK OF TRIBUTE TO THE DANES. IN IT, HE SAID, "IT IS FITTING THAT WE COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESCUE OF THE DANISH JEWS AS AN OCCASION FOR THE EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE DANISH PEOPLE AND FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR FAITH IN THE HUMAN POTENTIAL FOR GOOD."

THE TRAGEDY OF RAUL WALLENBERG, ONE OF THE HEROES OF OUR TIME WHO HAD SAVED THOUSANDS OF JEWS AT A RISK TO HIS OWN LIFE DEEPLY TOUCHED THE GOVERNOR. IN HIS PROCLAMATION ON OCTOBER 5TH ANNOUNCING RAUL WALLENBERG DAY, HE EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING SENTIMENTS WHICH WE ALL SHARE - "HUMANITY MUST NOT FORGET THIS HERO OF OUR TIMES, WHO DISREGARDED ALL PERSONAL DANGERS AND COURAGEOUSLY, SELFLESSLY AND TIRELESSLY, LABORED TO SAVE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HE IS TO ALL OF US A SYMBOL OF MAN'S CONCERN FOR HIS FELLOWMAN. THE LEAST WE OWE HIM IS OUR BEST EFFORT TO SECURE HIS RELEASE.

"HIS IMPRISONMENT IS A GRIEVIOUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH BRINGS DOWN UPON THE SOVIET UNION THE CONDEMNATION OF ALL THOSE WHO LOVE FREEDOM AND BELIEVE IN THE INFINITE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING.

AMONG THE IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ATTENDED BY THE GOVERNOR ARE THE FOLLOWING:

**JANUARY 12**
DINNER HONORING PRESIDENT YITZHAK NAVON OF ISRAEL

**MARCH 22**
MEETING WITH JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE ON LEG. ISSUES

**MARCH 23**
81ST ANNIVERSARY LUBAVITCHER REBBE MENACHEN M. SCHNEerson

**APRIL 10**
40TH ANNIVERSARY WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

**APRIL 15**
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL ISAIAH WALL

**APRIL 19**
ISRAEL 35TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY RED ROOM CAPITOL

**MAY 12**
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

**JUNE 5**
58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KINGSBROOK JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER - HONORING THE GOVERNOR
JUNE 5 13TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE HEBREW ACADEMY OF NASSAU COUNTY
JUNE 9 YESHIVA UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
JULY 15 LONG ISLAND JEWISH WORLD INTERVIEW
AUGUST 11 SIGNING OF GET AND AUTOPSY BILLS
AUGUST 11 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR NAPHTALI LAVIE
AUGUST 18 MEETING WITH AVITAL SCHARANSKY
AUGUST 18 PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE FIRST APPOINTMENT OF A WOMAN, JUDITH KAYE, TO THE COURT OF APPEALS
SEPTEMBER 25 DEDICATION OF SCHNEIDER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - LONG ISLAND JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER
OCTOBER 2 HILLCREST JEWISH CENTER
NOVEMBER 5 UJA DINNER WESTCHESTER COUNTY
NOVEMBER 10 AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS HONORING ABE BEAME

ZIONIST RALLY - HEBREW INSTITUTE OF RIVERDALE
NOVEMBER 20 COMMITTEE FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF JEWISH EDUCATION, RABBI BECHT
NOVEMBER 25 ISRAEL BOND LUNCHEON HONORING LARRY SILVERSTEIN
NOVEMBER 28 ALBANY UJA DINNER
DECEMBER 5 DEDICATION OF DORMITORY AT THE RABBINICAL COLLEGE ZICHRON MOSHE, SOUTH FALLSBURG

THE GOVERNOR USED THESE OCCASIONS TO STATE HIS POSITION WITH REGARD TO MATTERS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

"MY SALARY FOR THIS SERVICE CONSISTED OF A CHALLAH.

"I WAS A 'SHABBOS GOY' AT THIRTEEN.

"IT WAS A TIME OF SWEET PERPLEXITY.

"ON FRIDAY EVENING, I WOULD ATTEND TO MY TASKS AT THE SYNAGOGUE, AND ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, I WOULD LIGHT THE CANDLES AND ATTEND THE ALTAR AT ST. MONICA'S.

"I REALIZED THAT THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE CHURCH HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON, IN ADDITION TO WORSHIP OF THE SAME CREATOR.

"IN THE SYNAGOGUE, I DID NOT UNDERSTAND A WORD OF HEBREW.

"IN ST. MONICA'S, I DID NOT UNDERSTAND A WORD OF LATIN.

"WHAT I DID UNDERSTAND, WAS THAT WHAT I FELT IN ST. MONICA'S, I SOON BEGAN TO FEEL IN THE SYNAGOGUE, AS I WAITED FOR THE SERVICE TO END.

"IT WAS THE POWERFUL SENSE OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURES AND PEOPLE, POOR, BUT SELF-RESPECTING, STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE THOSE GRIM TIMES, DRAWING STRENGTH FROM THE RICHES OF THE SPIRIT."

AT THE RIVERDALE ZIONISM RALLY ON NOVEMBER 10, 1983, HE WARNED AGAINST THE NEW ANTI-SEMITISM WHICH EQUATES ZIONISM WITH RACISM.

"...WE SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CLAIM THAT 'ZIONISM IS RACISM.'

"FOR IF ZIONISM IS INHERENTLY RACIST, THEN THE STRUGGLE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR IDENTITY IS, BY DEFINITION, EVIL -- INDEED, A MANIFESTATION OF ONE OF THE CENTRAL EVILS OF OUR TIME -- AND TO OPPOSES THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL WOULD THEN BE A MORAL GOOD."
"ISRAEL WOULD THUS BECOME AN OUTLAW STATE. PEACE IN THE MIDEAST WOULD THUS BECOME ATTAINABLE ONLY WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF ZIONISM AND ITS ADHERENTS.

"AND THOSE WHO ATTACK NURSERIES AND OPEN FIRE ON SYNAGOGUES WOULD BECOME NOT THE COLD-BLOODED MURDERERS AND TERRORISTS THEY ARE -- BUT OPPONENTS OF RACISM, FREEDOM FIGHTERS, GUERILLAS IN A WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.

"THAT'S WHY WE MUST SPEAK AS CLEARLY AS WE CAN EVERY TIME THE PROPOSITION OF ZIONISM IS RACISM IS REPEATED, OR ECHOED, OR PROPOSED. WHETHER IT IS DONE FROM A STREET CORNER, OR THE PODIUM OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, OR FROM A PROFESSOR'S LECTURE STAND.

"LET ME BE CLEAR:

"I'M NOT CALLING FOR A CENSORSHIP. FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEANS PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG. IT MEANS TEACHERS CAN TEACH VERSIONS OF HISTORY THAT ARE REPUGNANT TO US, THAT THEY CAN SPEAK OF ZIONISM AS RACISM. I WILL DEFEND THAT RIGHT AS FIERCELY AS I CAN. I ALWAYS HAVE.

"BUT WHAT CENSORSHIP DOESN'T MEAN, IS THAT THE REST OF US MUST SIT SILENTLY BY, REFUSING TO RAISE OUR VOICES, QUIETLY ACCEPTING A DOCTRINE THAT THREATENS US ALL."

ON OCTOBER 25TH, THE GOVERNOR SPOKE AT THE ISRAEL BONDS LUNCHEON HONORING LARRY SILVERSTEIN. IN URGING A GENEROUS RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S NEEDS, HE STATED," AMERICA MUST MAKE IT CLEAR TO ALL THAT ISRAEL WILL HAVE THE WEAPONS WITH WHICH TO DEFEND ITSELF; THAT AS LONG AS ISRAEL'S ENEMIES CONTINUE TO DENY HER RIGHT TO EXIST AND CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR WAR, ISRAEL WILL MAINTAIN ITS MILITARY SUPERIORITY.

"THE STRAINS THIS BURDEN PLACES ON ISRAEL ARE TREMENDOUS. A NATION OF IDEALISTS -- OF POETS, AND SCHOLARS, AND SCIENTISTS -- IS FORCED TO DIVERT ITS ATTENTION AND ITS RESOURCES TO THE CEASELESS NECESSITY OF DEFENDING ITSELF.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE. AND AS LONG AS THE THREAT TO ISRAELI DEMOCRACY CONTINUES, THE UNITED STATES MUST HELP ISRAEL TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT RESULT FROM SHOULDERING A MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY THAT BELONGS TO US ALL."

"I HOPE YOU WILL.

"YOU ARE THE INHERITORS OF A TRADITION THAT MILLIONS HAVE SUFFERED FOR -- DIED FOR -- A TRADITION THAT GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, AFTER GENERATION HAS REFUSED TO SURRENDER.

"THE ETHOS, THE ETHIC, THE FAITH OF JUDAISM ARE A PRECIOUS INHERITANCE, A PRICELESS POSSESSION AND A CHALLENGE TO A LIFE OF COMMITMENT.

"THOUSANDS OF GRADUATES OF YESHIVA WHO'VE GONE BEFORE YOU HAVE TESTIFIED TO THAT WITH THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF THEIR LEARNING, THEIR LOVE, THEIR DECENCY, THEIR STRUGGLE TO HELP OTHERS, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, STATUS.

"WHEN YOU CONTINUE IN THAT PATH, YOU WILL FILL YOUR OWN PROPER DESTINY AND MAKE THIS GREAT NATION, GREATER STILL."

APPOINTMENTS

THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED MANY JEWS TO SENSITIVE POSITIONS OF HIGHEST RESPONSIBILITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NOT A STATE AGENCY THAT DOES NOT HAVE AMONG ITS TOP LEADERSHIP SOME MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS ARE BASED, NOT ON RACE, RELIGION OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, BUT ON THE ABILITY OF THE APPOINTEE AND HIS OR HER FITNESS FOR THE JOB. THE LARGE NUMBER OF JEWISH APPOINTEES IS INDIRECTLY THE GOVERNOR'S TRIBUTE TO THE MANY TALENTED AND PUBLIC SERVICE Minded INDIVIDUALS TO BE FOUND IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. AMONG HIS MANY APPOINTMENTS ARE:

DAVID AXELROD
KAREN BURSTEIN
ORIN LEHMAN

COMMISSIONER, HEALTH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD
COMMISSIONER PARKS & RECREATION
ROBERT STEINGUT  
CHAIRMAN, WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD

STEVEN KATZ  
COMMISSIONER, MENTAL HEALTH

HARVEY COHEN  
SENIOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, COMMERCE

ROBERT SILVERSTEIN  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL, TAX & FINANCE

DAVID WEPRIN  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, BANKING

JOAN KAUFMAN  
CHIEF, BUREAU OF PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES

RICHARD KESSEL  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD

KALMAN FINKEL  
MEMBER LAW REVISION COMMISSION

DAVID PEIREZ  
MEMBER, JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DONALD BACHMANN  
CHAIRMAN, HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY

WILLIAM MACK  
MEMBER, URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORP.

RICKI RUBINSTEIN  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OFFICE FOR THE AGING

STEPHEN BERGER  
MEMBER, MTA

HOWARD SCHULMAN  
MEMBER, PORT AUTHORITY-NY &NJ

ARTHUR KREMER  
MEMBER, PUBLIC AUTHORITY-CONTROL BOARD & CAPITAL PROGRAM REVIEW BOARD

ELLEN CONOVITZ  
DIRECTOR, NYC GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

RONNIE ELDREDGE  
DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S DIVISION

LAWRENCE KURLANDER  
DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE,

ILENE MARGOLIN  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HUMAN SERVICES,

ETHAN RIEGELHAUPT  
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
JEWS ARE LETTER WRITERS. THE GOVERNOR HAS RECEIVED LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF LETTERS FROM JEWS COMMUNICATING TO HIM THEIR REACTION TO MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE JEWISH AND GENERAL COMMUNITY. AMAZINGLY, THE GOVERNOR FINDS THE TIME TO READ EVERY ONE OF THESE LETTERS. EITHER HE ANSWERS THEM HIMSELF, OR ASKS ONE OF HIS STAFF TO RESPOND.

AMONG OF THE MOST INTERESTING COMMUNICATIONS WAS A LETTER ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:

"DEAR GOV

PLEASE SEND ME MY A BIRTHCARD(SIC) BE 105 YEARS OLD ON 7-31-83.

P.S. PLEASE SEND THE BIRTHCARD (SIC) IN JWES(SIC) OR HEBREW."

I WROTE THE FOLLOWING REPLY FOR THE GOVERNOR IN YIDDISH:
DEAR FRIEND:

I WISH YOU MUCH LUCK AND GOOD HEALTH ON YOUR 105TH BIRTHDAY. MAY GOD GRANT THAT YOU REACH THE PROVERBIAL 120 YEARS. THEN, WE WILL ASK FOR MORE.

WITH MANY BLESSINGS, I AM,

SINCERELY YOURS,

MARIO M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR SIGNED HIS NAME IN YIDDISH CHARACTERS.

EVIDENTLY, THE WRITER ASSUMED THAT THE GOVERNOR COULD SPEAK AND WRITE BOTH HEBREW AND YIDDISH.

IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNOR'S TREMENDOUS SUPPORT IN THE PAST YEAR OF ISRAEL, SOVIET JEWRY AND EVERY WORTHY JEWISH CAUSE, IT IS NOT TOO FAR FETCHED AN ASSUMPTION...
Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 E. 56th St.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

It is our pleasure to send you posters announcing the 1983 State of World Jewry Address at the 92nd Street Y, to be delivered by Norman Podhoretz. The State of World Jewry Address was established at the Y to provide a forum for major Jewish leaders to assess the political, social and spiritual condition of the Jewish people in Israel and throughout the world. Mr. Podhoretz, Editor-in-Chief of COMMENTARY Magazine and a renowned author and lecturer, will be presenting what promises to be an important and stimulating synthesis of the problems and challenges that confront the Jewish people today.

We would greatly appreciate it if you would post the announcement of this lecture in a prominent place so that members of your institution can be informed about this major event in the Jewish community.

Many thanks for your cooperation. If any further information is desired, please do not hesitate to call the Education Office of the Y, 427-6000, ext. 162.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Lavey Derby
Jewish Omnibus Co-Ordinator, Director, Jewish Family Education

October 27, 1983
Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

As you may know, the 92nd Street Y has made numerous contributions to the cultural, social, and educational life of New York City. For the past five years, the Y's Lecture Series (for singles), has attracted experts representing a wide variety of fields such as Dr. Theodore Rubin, Alan Dershowitz, Erica Jong, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, among many others. The purpose of these lectures is to present to our large and diverse audience topics of contemporary concern, facilitating social awareness and involvement.

At this time, I am writing to invite you to participate in our summer, 1984 lecture series which is held on Tuesday evenings beginning June 12 through August. The program generally begins at 8:15 pm with the lecturer speaking for about 40 minutes, followed by twenty minutes of questions and answers.

Audience response to recent lectures indicates a growing interest in Jewish concerns in the 1984 election. I believe that your contribution to Jewish causes and communal responsibilities makes you a prime person to speak to these issues. Your dedication to furthering Jewish human rights here at home as well as the world over has made you one of the foremost leaders in the Jewish community. I am sure our audience would be greatly interested in hearing what you have to say on this timely topic.

As a non-profit agency we are able to offer only a token honorarium. However, I believe that the quality of the audience the 92nd Street Y attracts will provide its own compensation. Enclosed is a copy of our 1983-1984 program highlights (this series can be found on page 21 for our fall program).

It is my hope that this letter has sparked your interest in participating in this program.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

Susan Weisfuse
Susan Weisfuse, Director
Adult Division
Group Service Department

SW:ejs
Enclosure