



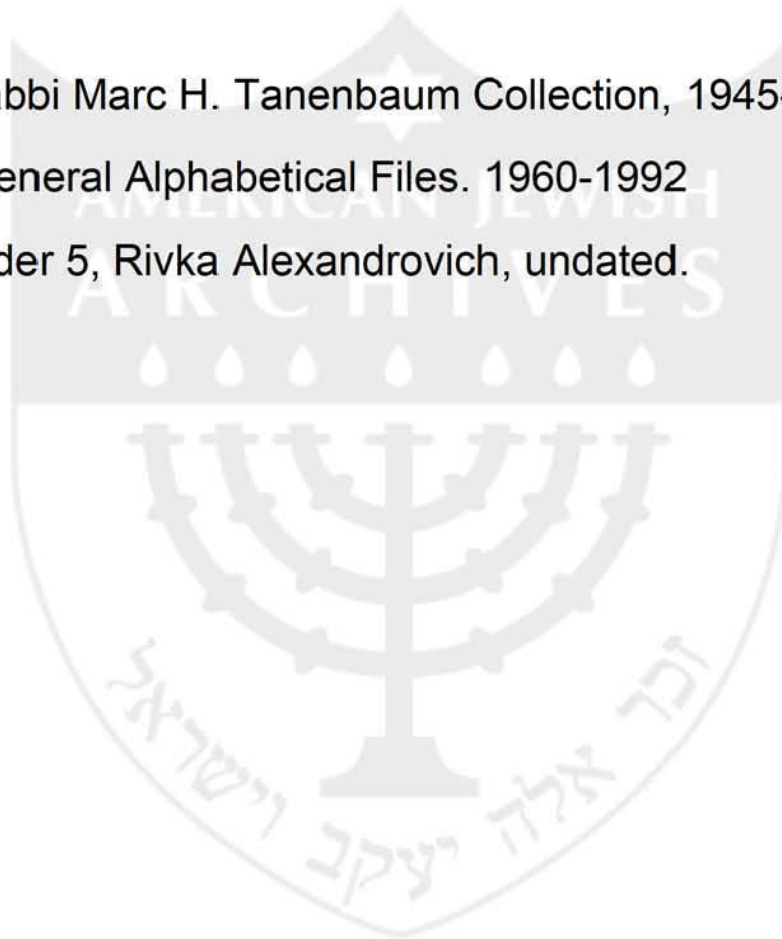
THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 90, Folder 5, Rivka Alexandrovich, undated.



RABBI MARC H.  
TANENBAUM

165 EAST 56 STREET

NEW-YORK

N-Y.

10022

USA



Jerusalem, Talpiot

En ZURIM

201-3

Rivka Alexandrovich



My very dear  
Marc!

Again thank you so  
very much for every-  
thing you have done.  
I shan't go into details.  
I hope we (I and Ruth)  
will be able to thank  
you personally when in  
New-York in December  
and kiss your lovely  
family

Now - to business.  
As you remember you wrote  
in one of your letters that  
to meet Pope Paul VI is  
possible. I immediately  
asked for permission  
at our Mistrad Hachme  
(that of Golda - meaning



Mechemya Levanou). It took  
him time to answer. And  
the answer was, that  
he, and Eban, and even  
... (hints to Golda) don't  
like the idea of going to  
the Pope.

I took it for granted:  
he (the Pope) is anti-Jewish  
and his position in the  
question of Jerusalem is  
indeed not too nice.

But then I thought  
the thing over and  
wrote a letter to  
Golda telling her  
among other things  
the following:

"Is it indeed correct for  
me not to make use of

the possibility to meet the Pope?  
I believe that all Jews also as  
individuals must follow  
all paths open to them. This in  
my opinion is an opportunity  
for this Pope to make amends  
for the sins of his predecessors.  
Wouldn't it be worthwhile  
to speak to him, if it would  
change something in the fate  
of Silvia Salmonsou?"

For a long time there  
was no answer. Then  
suddenly two days  
ago I was invited to  
the Foreign Ministry  
of Eban. A man  
named Prayay spoke  
to me. He said they  
think it rational  
for me to go to Rome  
on condition I act



on my own private behalf:  
I myself (!!!) must organize  
the meeting with the Pope.  
He recommended me  
to look for your assistance and parallel  
to write in my own name  
to Cardinal Joseph Slipsey,  
what I did and am  
sending you the copy  
of the letter. Well, a  
little bit strange, but  
it is not the time for  
offences and details.  
Silva is dying and that  
is no exaggeration.

Marc, darling, do whatever  
you can and in the  
shortest possible time.  
If the answer comes  
and if the answer

is positive cable the date and  
I'll leave immediately for  
Rome.

There is another way: the  
way through a man  
named Zaharia Stuster  
in Paris who is said to  
be a bosom friend  
of the Pope. Shall I  
approach him?

Please, Marc, answer  
me as soon as  
possible.

My love to your  
children.

Yours Rivka.

21. XI. 71

P.S. Perhaps to ask for Cardinal  
Heenan's help in the question  
of the Pope?

Rivka.



YOUR EMINENCE!

Only the question of life and death  
urges me to write this LETTER to  
you

I hope you remember Edward  
Kuznetsov - you were together  
with him in prison in Russia  
some words about Edward's  
life after he was released

He met a girl Silva Zalmanson,  
married her, came over to live  
in Riga (Latvia). They together  
applied for a visa to Israel  
and received a negative answer.  
For Silva it was her IV negative  
answer.

And then the misfortune came -  
the Leningrad trial in December  
1970.

Edward was sentenced to death,  
which was later replaced by a  
sentence of 15 (!!!) years, and  
Silva was sentenced to 10 years  
of prison.

The 27 year old girl is  
confined in Potmakh prison. Her  
physical condition is more than  
bad.

My daughter, Ruth Alexandrovich,  
who recently arrived to Israel  
after a year of prison in Potmah,  
where she was together with Silva,  
informed us that Silva has  
contracted tuberculosis with  
complications. She is losing her  
hearing and cannot digest her food.  
Her condition deteriorates from  
day to day and her life is in  
danger.

Your Eminence! Edward spoke  
of you with admiration and  
respect. He said you "act with  
love to people and respect to  
God" You opened the word of God for him.  
Do help 27 year old Silva!

Please, use your influence to  
further the humanitarian  
cause of the poor girl!

Perhaps you can organize  
a meeting with His Holiness  
Pope Paul VI for me? And,

please, make it clear for  
the Pope, that I have  
absolutely not the slightest



intention to involve His Holiness  
into any political activities. I'm  
going to ask only about Silva's  
release from prison - about  
saving her life

I know how great your  
personal influence is. I beg  
you to do anything possible  
for Silva (Albas, I am asking  
nothing for Eduardo!)  
I'll be so thankful to you, if  
you prompt anything of use

for Silva. His Holiness agrees to see me,  
I'm ready to be in Rome any  
time.

I know that the xv century doesn't  
differ between religious, it differs  
between those who believe and  
those who don't. And Silva  
is a religious girl.

God Bless you!

Respectfully yours

RIVKA ALEXANDROVICH

My very dear Marc!

I don't go into details  
- hope to meet you in  
N-Y. But, because I'll  
stay there for only  
a few days, do organize  
things so, that you  
can meet me on the  
very first day (12/XII).  
Pratt will evidently  
know more details.  
Eager to meet you  
Mirka, Ruth.

3/XII



My Dear Friend!  
Now it is high time  
to thank you again for  
all you have done for  
my family and are  
doing for the Jewish  
cause.

Ruth is at home, and  
life would be fine if  
not the image of poor  
Silva, dying in prison.

Give my love to your  
family.

I'll be happy to  
meet you in December

in N.Y. and to make Ruth's  
acquaintance with you  
and your family.

Please, post the letters  
I insert after you have  
read them and o.k.-ed  
them.

With Love  
Rivka





My Dear Marc!

My gratitude to you is inversely  
proportional to the time we met:  
the more days pass, the more am I  
thankful to you for all you  
have done and are doing.  
And not only for Ruth, but  
for Soviet Jews on the whole,  
for the Jews, the Jewish  
people, for Jerusalem. I  
earnestly mean what I  
am saying. You were the  
good angel of Ruth. And  
I hope, that you will also  
be the angel for the  
other arrested people, our  
people in Russia. The  
world gets tired of Jewish

problems and even the Jews  
themselves begin to feel bored.  
I ask you so very much to  
be a kind and wise adviser  
for Rabbi Riskin who is  
going to pay you a visit (or  
has he already seen you?)  
He will tell you in more  
details of our plans  
(our: Soviet-Olim + good American  
Jews). I hope you will  
give us your frank  
opinion and enlightened advice.  
Coming back to the question  
of my going to Rome.  
After many bitter days of  
thoughts I have come to the  
decision, that I have the  
moral right to act as I



Suppose I should act, as  
my heart prompts, as my  
duty towards my friends in  
Russia dictates. Even without  
the blessing of my Misrad (?)  
Hachme. But not in a question  
like that of going to Rome  
For the God knows what time  
I spoke to Levanon.

(Pratt → Neger → Levanon) about  
it. He says he has to  
consult the very, very ...

He promises to give me  
an answer whether they  
agree to my going to  
Italy next week. I don't  
think the answer will  
be positive, but in case  
it is I'd like to have



your opinion about it, and there is another consideration. Ruth is on the eve of being set free. I would like to move the stress from Ruth to the other women prisoners. What do you think about it, Marc?

A high-school in Israel which thinks that the pupils must be not only fine Israelis, but also Jews goes into studying the case of Ruth. They

have already issued

התורה והמצוות  
פרשת רות  
פרשת רות  
פרשת רות

now they are ready to

publish a second book, where  
your name is frequently to  
be met (they publish all the documents  
they think important - that's  
how you appear on every  
page). When it is ready  
I'll send it to you.

Sometimes I think of your  
role and a feeling of terror  
comes over me: I love you  
as a friend and I'm  
taken aback by the  
responsibility that lies on  
you. God bless you!  
How are the children?  
The little "man"? How is  
your lovely wife?  
I don't feel like describing



my life. I have got a flat  
already, but unless the  
family is together there  
can't be a feeling of  
home. I try not to  
allow the trifles of life  
make me forget about <sup>the</sup> bigger  
issues. All the best and  
my love to your family.

Yours Rivka

3/5

Jerusalem,  
Talpiot,

En-Zurim 201-3

P.S. I beg your pardon for the form of  
the letter: my furniture hasn't  
yet arrived. R.