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Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy

Chaplain Denver Mtz

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July 22, 1976

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Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 65 Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Marc,

Enclosed is a picture I took at the Denver conference of Air Force Reserve Chaplains. The people in it from left to right are: Rabbi Morris Rubinstein, Rabbi Jack Sable, you, Rabbi Victor Solomon, Chaplain Thomas M. Groome, Jr., Deputy Chief of Chaplains, United States Air Force and Rabbi Simeon Kobrinetz.

Once again let me tell you how impressed I was with your presentation at the conference. The chaplains I talked with were unanimous in their praise and I believe you really inspired them, and increased their sense of sensitivity. As you must be by now aware, the reserve components of the military chaplaincy include an unusual number of clergymen in key positions, many of whom are otherwise not reached by our normal interfaith programming. I applaud your pioneering efforts in this direction and hope that we will have ample opportunity to pursue our common interests in the future.

I hope your book is coming along well and that we will get together in the near future.

Cordially,

Gil
Rabbi Gilbert Kollin
Deputy Director

GK: gw
encls.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM
The New York Board of Rabbis, Inc.
10 East 73rd Street
New York NY 10021

RABBIS APPOINT RABBI TANENBAUM CHAIRMAN JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
New York: Rabbi Judah Cahn, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, today announced the appointment of Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, as Chairman of the Jewish-Christian Relations Commission of the rabbinical body.

The New York Board of Rabbis is comprised of 1,000 Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform rabbis and is the oldest and largest rabbinic organization of its kind in the world. It represents the religious and communal interests of the largest Jewish community in the world and cooperates closely with similar rabbinic organizations in practically every major center of Jewish population in the United States, and in other parts of the world.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has been a pioneering leader and thinker in interreligious relations and social justice movements during the past 25 years. A modern historian writing recently in Commentary magazine, characterized Rabbi Tanenbaum as "the leading figure among Jewish ecumenists" in the fields of interreligious relations and social justice. Newsweek magazine devoted its Religion section (Nov. 9, 1970) to an interview with Rabbi Tanenbaum describing him "as the American Jewish community's foremost apostle to the gentiles...who has been able to solicit support from all factions of the Jewish community."

He was the only rabbi present during the deliberations of Vatican Council II from 1962-65, where he was frequently consulted by Catholic authorities and Protestant observers about the substance of the historic Vatican Declaration on Non-Christian Religions which condemned anti-Semitism and called for "fraternal dialogue" and "mutual respect" between Catholics and Jews.

Under his direction, the American Jewish Committee has involved major Jewish scholars and religious leaders in national academic institutes and seminars with every major branch of Christendom - Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant, Evangelicals, Greek Orthodox, and Black Churches, with similar programs in every major city in the United States. Rabbi Tanenbaum also served as co-chairman of the first International Colloquium on Religion, Land, Nationalism, and Peoplehood, held at Hebrew University in 1970 which involved the participation of Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, African religions, as well as Christians and Jews. He also served as co-chairman of the first International Colloquium on Judaism and Christianity held at Harvard Divinity School in 1966.

He also helped organize a Congress of African leaders on "The Bible and Black Africa," in Jerusalem, and served as co-chairman with Prof. Eric C. Lincoln of the first national consultation on Black-Jewish relations at Fisk University.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has directed the landmark religious research studies examining inter-group content in Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish teaching materials in the United States, Italy, Spain, French-speaking countries, Germany and Latin America. These studies have been the basis of the revision of virtually all negative stereotypes in the textbooks produced in the 1970s.

A major force in the promotion of social justice and human rights, Rabbi Tanenbaum helped organize the American Jewish Emergency Relief Effort for Victims of the Nigerian-Biafran Conflict; he is national co-chairman of the Interreligious Coalition on World Hunger; and national co-chairman of the Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. He was also a founder and program chairman of the historic National Conference on Religion and Race, which has been regarded as a turning point for the promotion of civil rights in the 1960s. He has served on various Presidential, White House, and United Nations commissions on children and youth, aging, race relations, and poor and population problems.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has been frequently invited to serve as a Jewish spokesman before various Congressional and Senate Committee hearings - the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on "Moral Aspects of American Foreign Policy" (Jan. 1976); Senate Special Hearings on World Hunger and American's Food Policy (Dec. 1974); the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings on Jerusalem. He has lectured on moral issues before members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, the U. S. Marine Corps at Quantico, and the U. S. Army and Navy Chaplain Corps. He also serves on the 1980s

Project on Human Rights of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is a member of the steering committee of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Committee's Citizen Dialogue.

Rabbi Tanenbaum is the author and co-editor of "Speaking of God Today," "The Jerusalem Colloquium," "Our Moral Resources for International Cooperation" (in collaboration with Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr), "Religious Values in and Age of Violence," "Scripture, Theology and History: Perspectives of Evangelicals and Jews," has written numerous monographs and essays which have appeared in scholarly and general journals in many foreign languages (his essays on the "Holy Year and Its Origins in the Jewish Jubilee Year," published by the Vatican Commission on the Holy Year in 1975 has appeared in French, Italian, Spanish, German, Dutch and Japanese). He is also the interreligious academic consultant to the New Media Bible.

One of America's most effective and popular lecturers and orators, Rabbi Tanenbaum has lectured at major universities, seminaries, religious and educational bodies in the United States, Europe, and Israel and at numerous national and international conferences.

He has served as visiting professor at the Graduate Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland, and has lectured at Cambridge University, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Graduate Theological Union, Notre-Dame, Catholic University, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

He is a prize-winning weekly radio commentator over WINS-Westinghouse has appeared numerous times on the NBC-Today Show and other major network programs. Rabbi Tanenbaum is also the Jewish feature writer for the National Catholic News Service of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He holds eight doctorates, honoris causa, from major Christian and Jewish universities and seminaries, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, the latest of which is that of the Religious Heritage of America, "for building bridges of understanding between people of all religions, for exercising religious leadership in the struggle for social justice and charity, and for uplifting the true dignity of man under God." (June 1974)

His other written works include A guide to Jewish Traditions and Holy Days (Epic Records); co-authorship with Prof. Leonard Swidler of Jewish-Christian Dialogue (published by National Council of Catholic Men and Catholic Women). Rabbi Tanenbaum's essays and monographs on Jewish-Christian relations, and on religion, social justice and world community have been published in such volumes as Vatican II: An Interfaith Appraisal (published by the University of Notre Dame Press and Association Press); Torah and Gospel (Sheed and Ward); The Star and the Cross (Bruce Publishing Company); Concilium, The International Review of Theology, which published an essay of Rabbi Tanenbaum's on "How Modern Jews Celebrate Their History," in English, French, German, Dutch, Italian and Spanish. He has also contributed several articles on Catholic-Jewish relations to be published in the forthcoming Collier's Encyclopedia; as well as in numerous scholarly, religious, and general journals both here and abroad.

He is married to the former Helga Weiss, a psychologist, and has three children, Adena (17), Michael (14) and Susan (10).

In announcing his appointment, Rabbi Cahn declared, "The New York Board of Rabbis is gratified that a person of Rabbi Tanenbaum's outstanding record of achievement, dedication, and service has accepted our invitation to give us the benefit of his singular experience and unique leadership in our program for the promotion of understanding and collaboration between the major Jewish and Christian communities in this great metropolis. At a time when the nation and the city are confronted by such a barrage of moral and civic problems which threaten the very future of our society, we hope that the Board of Rabbis, augmented by the knowledge and skills of able people such as Rabbi Tanenbaum, will be able to make a meaningful and constructive contribution to advancing the welfare of the Jewish community and of our entire society."

→ Denver - Chaplain
msg folder

Pacific Palisades Community United Methodist Church, 801 Via de la Paz, Pacific Palisades, California 90272 Phone 454-552

Douglas A. Harrell, Doctor of Ministry · Pastor

July 19, 1976



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

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

The recent Chaplains' Conference at Denver was one of the truly outstanding events of my career. Never have I been so inspired by any conference. As a result of those most meaningful days, I feel that I am personally prepared for a more adequate response to the challenge of the Bicentennial emphasis and my future as a clergyman, Air Force Reserve Chaplain. I feel that I will be better prepared also as a private citizen for the present and the unfolding future.

I am certain that every person in attendance at the Conference will welcome the opportunity to express appreciation to you for any and every assistance and contribution you gave to that stimulating and rewarding experience. Every person, so far as I can ascertain, is most grateful to have had the privilege of being a part of the team which has been so capably led by our distinguished Command Chaplain Col. Hans E. Sandrock. One of the things we admire most about Chaplain Sandrock is the way in which he relates to and brings out of all of us the very best.

Personally, I am looking forward to the next few years of my life with very great enthusiasm. I sincerely hope and pray that the future will provide similar opportunities for in-depth training, development of further expertise and opportunities to use whatever creativity I have in the program of the Reserve Forces.

Best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Harrell

Douglas A. Harrell, Ch, Lt, Col, USAFR

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July 2, 1976

Chaplain Hans Sandrock
ARPC-HC
3800 York Street
Denver, Colorado 80205

Dear Hans,

I appreciate very much your giving me the privilege of sharing a day with that marvelous group of Air Force Chaplains and officers. I will cherish the memory of that experience for a very long time!

My warmest good wishes go to you on your forthcoming assignment in Europe. Let me know where you will be stationed. Should I be visiting Europe on some ecumenical or academic conference, I would welcome an opportunity to visit with you.

Since I will be away from my office until September, it would probably be a good idea to send the check to my home: 33-15 80th St., Jackson Heights, N. Y., 11372. My taxi and other expenses were \$35.00.

With warmest personal good wishes and my prayers for God's blessings over you and your loved ones.

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures