



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 107, Folder 8, Department of the Air Force [Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.]. 8 February 1977.



M. J. Felder

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL (AU)
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112



14 FEB 1977

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York NY 10022

Dear Marc

Need we add our thanks to those expressed by the students in their critiques? We are indeed grateful for your presentation to the Senior Class and trust that this is just the beginning of a relationship that will endure over coming classes.

Your presentation pushed the students to consider their ministry in the contemporary world on a deeper and broader plane. They will all be better chaplains for it and they have expressed their thanks in their critiques. We trust that you will not be overwhelmed by them.

Thank you again for lecturing at our school

Sincerely

"Jeff"

J. E. FLINN, Chaplain, Colonel, USAF 1 Atch
Deputy Commandant Critiques
Air Force Chaplain School

February 9, 1977

Bert Gold

Marc Tanenbaum

ARAB AIR FORCE TRAINEES AT MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE

On February 8th, I was at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, to give a couple of lectures on Jewish-Christian relations and pluralism. I had not realized beforehand that this is the Air University of the U.S. Department of the Air Force at which all air force line officers and chaplains take their advanced training.

My point in writing to you and to Ira Silverman about this is that during luncheon with the Commander and Chief of Chaplains they pointed out a table in the dining hall that consisted of some 25 air force officers from Arab countries - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, and the Persian emirates. The Arabs are at Maxwell for training, preparing them to fly American planes for their respective air forces.

I was told that there is one Israeli air force trainee, an ace who had shot down 12 Arab planes during the 1973 war. The Arabs don't talk to him, treat him as a non-person. In general, the Arabs cluster together, except when they are socializing with American air force personnel. One can imagine the propaganda and quasi-political role they play at this installation during the months or years they are assigned to Maxwell.

This raises the question of the role of Arab military trainees at other U.S. military installations. That certainly would seem to be worthy of investigation as part of the overall picture of Arab influences in America. Jewish chaplains could be helpful in evaluating this problem, and I would be glad to set up such a meeting for Ira, Morris, yourself, etc.

MHT:RPR

cc: Ira Silverman
Morris Fine

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL (AU)
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112



9 NOV 1976

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum

I am deeply pleased to acknowledge your letter of 4 November 1976. Thank you so very much, also, for consenting to come and address the students of our Senior Chaplain Course.

F → I am asking Chaplain Flinn, the Chief of our Academic Instruction Division, to schedule the date, 8 February 1977, as the day of your presentation. The general time block I'm asking for is from 7:40 A.M. through 10:35 A.M. There is a ten-minute break at the end of each fifty minute period. Also, a part of this total time span is to be spent in a question-answer exchange with you. I also hope to use a case study centered around some contemporary pastoral problems to further diversify our course content. The general theme under which we will be operating is "Ministry Within A Pluralistic Society." I am enclosing a short paper I have compiled on the subject for your perusal. I would welcome any material that you recommend to further define and clarify both the context and content of this "now" ministry.

I will be in further touch with you later on. An open ticket and invitational travel orders will be sent to you well in advance of your coming. In the meantime, please feel free to call me here at (205) 293-7705 for any reason you deem necessary.

Sincere best wishes to you and yours.

Cordially yours

John
JOHN R. PEARSON, Chaplain, Major, USAF
Texts and Research Officer
Air Force Chaplain School

1 Atch
Paper

① Theological
Discussion
Articles?
② Press
release
on
Empelland
Christ
Congress
x B/D

F → my father

November 4, 1976

John R. Pearson, Chaplain, Major, USAF
Texts and Research Officer
Air Force Chaplain School
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112

Dear Chaplain Pearson,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of October 20th.

I could accept the commitment now for either February 8th or 9th in light of the changed schedule that you suggest.

Although I am obligated by my commitments to the JWB Lecture Bureau for a certain minimum lecture fee I understand completely the standards which your Chaplain School has established and I shall be glad to accept the honorarium and expenses that you refer to.

Would you plan to let me know what the general theme of your Senior Chaplain Course is for this seminar. That will help me define my own subject matter so that it has some relationship to your governing topic.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL (AU)
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112

on file



20 OCT 1976

Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
New York NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum

This is a follow-up response to our phone conversation of Friday, 15 October 1976. You will recall that we discussed the possibility of your coming to the Air Force Chaplain School to address the students of our Senior Chaplain Course. We tentatively set the date for 13 January 1977. However, a review of our class schedule for 1977 reveals that I gave you the wrong dates for this particular course. Instead of 3-21 January 1977, as I indicated to you, the course is set for 31 January - 18 February 1977.

You and I also talked about a negotiable fee of \$500.00 as an honorarium. This fee would cover an overall time commitment of three hours. I have subsequently discussed this matter with the members of our Chaplain School faculty, and the fact surfaced that we have a set honorarium fee of \$100.00 plus travel expenses and provisions for room and board. This is different from my statement to you about the negotiability of honorarium. I apologize to you for this second bit of misinformation.

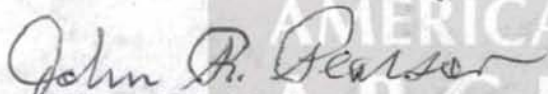
The standard honorarium fee mentioned above exists throughout our Air University complex. Persons such as Dean Rusk, William Ebenstein, James Schlesinger, and other leaders in the educational, business, and political world regularly visit the schools of Air University to address their respective students. The apparent rationale behind this low fee arrangement is that the interchange between students and lecturers is of inestimable value and, hence, highly beneficial to both. This is how we at the Air Force Chaplain School tend to regard the services of our guest resource people. The students who come to our Senior Course are persons who have served as ministers in the Air Force for fifteen or more years. Most of them are installation chaplains with responsibility for the supervision of from two to twenty-five other chaplains. A few will be staff chaplains at a headquarters or major

command level. All are in positions of leadership that ultimately impact on the whole Air Force. These are the kinds of persons with whom you would engage in creative and constructive dialogue, should you choose to come and serve us. Obviously, the impact of your message to them would be felt far beyond the walls of our school.

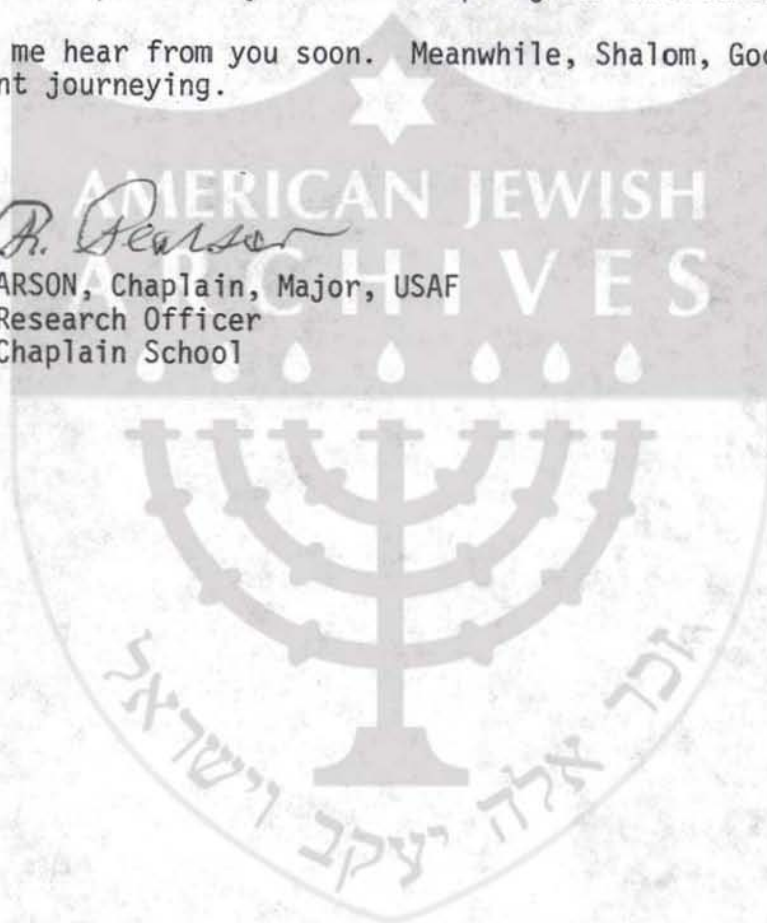
We certainly hope that you can see fit to come and address our Senior Chaplain Course. The impact of your recent message to our Reserve chaplains intensifies our eagerness to have you address the active duty chaplains. I sincerely hope that neither the dates nor the honorarium will prohibit you from accepting our invitation.

Please let me hear from you soon. Meanwhile, Shalom, God's speed, and pleasant journeying.

Sincerely



JOHN R. PEARSON, Chaplain, Major, USAF
Texts and Research Officer
Air Force Chaplain School



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL (AU)
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112



24 JAN 1977

↓
Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director
National Interreligious Affairs
The American Jewish Committee
165 E. 56th Street
New York NY 10022

time of day?

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum

Thank you for sending me a copy of your biographical sketch. Thank you, also, for reconfirming the date of 8 February 1977 as the time of your presentation to the students of our Senior Chaplain Course. ↗

Please Acus →
I am enclosing a letter which I will put into the hands of each student in our Senior Chaplain Class. I hope it will give you further insight into the thrust of our course on "Ministry Within A Pluralistic Society." I would welcome from you any printed material that you think will further clarify the topic, and which may be reproduced and given as a handout to our students. Also, please send me a black and white glossy photograph of yourself so that I may use it to publicize your coming.

Thank you again for consenting to come and address the students of our Senior Chaplain Class. I expect this period of meeting and sharing to be mutually and richly rewarding for all of us. Please let me know the details of your arrival and departure. We shall all be expecting you. Meanwhile, peace and well-being.

Cordially

John R. Pearson
JOHN R. PEARSON, Chaplain, Major, USAF
Texts and Research Officer
Air Force Chaplain School

OK - Taping - David yes!

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE CHAPLAIN SCHOOL (AU)
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: LMDC/HCS (Chaplain Pearson)

SUBJECT: Preparatory Work for Course Titled, "Ministry Within A Pluralistic Society"

TO: All Students of Senior Chaplain Course, Class 77-A

1. Please accomplish the following preparatory tasks:

a. Read, and give your personal reactions/responses to the handouts for the course - especially the ones bearing the course title, and the biographical sketch of our guest lecturer and resource person, Rabbi Tanenbaum.

b. Be prepared to give your personal definition of the term "ministry" and then tell how this concept becomes visible in your:

(1) Ministry to and with women.

(2) Ministry to and with youth and young adults.

(3) Ministry to single parent families.

(4) Ministry to Moslems (Muslims) and other persons of non-Jewish, non-Christian groups.

(5) Ministry to and among persons participating in the Charismatic Movement.

(6) Ministry to and among agnostics, atheists, and humanists.

(7) Ministry to and with chaplains of other faith groups.

(8) Ministry that seeks to help persons of diverse denominational, cultural, education, and racial backgrounds develop and experience a sense of oneness in God and/or in Christ - i.e. ministry that responds to God's call to serve "a changing people in a changing world."

2. Be prepared to share with other class members some of the "negotiable" and the "non-negotiable" aspects of your ministry: i.e. areas of your work in which you can safely make compromises versus elements of your vocation/belief system that you would not compromise.

3. Be prepared to do some small group work on questions/issues in Rabbi Tanenbaum's presentation.

4. I hope you will find this preparatory work positively rewarding. Your personal "feedback" on this whole activity is invited.

John R. Pearson
JOHN R. PEARSON, Chaplain, Major, USAF
Texts and Research Officer
Air Force Chaplain School

