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Box 107, Folder 28, Brandeis Institute [Santa Susana, Calif.]. 2-4  
December 1977.



*mtg folder*

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December 6, 1977

Dear Marc:

It is just about impossible to describe how meaningful and just plain wonderful meeting you this past weekend was for me. And the prospect of our continuing to know and work with one another is even more exciting.

On behalf of the 500 people who had the good fortune to hear you, I add their thanks to my own. God bless you.

With love and admiration.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Prager*  
Dennis Prager

DP:ph

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
56-50 Wetherole St., #5A  
Rego Park, New York 11374

DR. SHLOMO BARDIN  
FOUNDER 1898-1976

THE  
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November 10, 1977

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

We are all looking forward to your being with us for the weekend institute of December 2-4, 1977, and below is a little more information on the weekend.

We usually have between 30 to 40 couples who stay here for the full weekend. You will have three sessions. The first is on Friday evening after dinner about 9:00 p.m. for about an hour, which is followed by an hour of questions and answers.

The Saturday session is in the afternoon about 5:30 p.m., and the question and answer session at 6:45 p.m. On Saturday, however, come a much larger number of members of our House of the Book Association, and there may be between 200 to 300 or more people. They come only for the Saturday session, and therefore the subject on Saturday must be such that people who will not have been here on Friday will not be handicapped because they did not hear your Friday lecture.

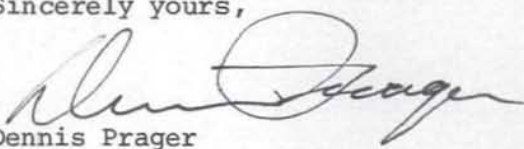
The third session is Sunday morning about 9:45 a.m. and is conducted the same way as the Friday session, e.g. one hour lecture and one hour questions and answers.

The best time to arrive on Friday is between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. at the airport, as it takes about an hour to drive to camp from the Los Angeles airport, and the program starts about 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Your session and lunch will be over about 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Therefore, your return reservations should be made for around 3:00 p.m. or after.

Please let us know your flight arrangements so that we can arrange to have you picked up at the airport. We are all looking forward with great anticipation to your stay with us.

All best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

  
Dennis Prager

DP:ph

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

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DR. SHLOMO BARDIN  
FOUNDER 1898-1976

November 10, 1977

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I am pleased to send you the latest Brandeis-Bardin  
Institute newsletter describing the Institute's  
1977/78 schedule in which you are featured.

I very much look forward to being with you here  
in December.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Prager

DP:ph  
Enclosure

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

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San Fernando Valley Task Force  
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Tel: 345-2446 & 769-0418

September 20, 1977

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Dear Clergymen,

We are members of GRASP (Grass Roots American-Israel Special Program). We want both Christian and Jew to speak with candor about our common concern for peace in the Middle East.

We all share the knowledge that man has developed the means to destroy contemporary civilization. Our age has been marked by the use of intimidation, power, violence and terror as standard means of settling conflicts. Our primary goal is to penetrate beneath the surface cliches and slogans which cover the public mind and to set in motion insights which lead toward understanding. We seek to fulfill the potential inherent in all of us for the achievement of harmony in living together on our shared planet.

On Nov. 2nd., Richard F. Logan, Prof. of Geography at U.C.L.A., will give a pictorial presentation on "The Several Faces of Jerusalem." Dr. Logan was a visiting professor at Hebrew University and a participant in a study mission sponsored by the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East. He has visited Israel, not only to study its geography, but to gain understanding of its many problems, its varied cultures, its economic situation and its difficult international position. His views, as a non-Jew, are not influenced by ethnic ties but reflect his own personal, non-political, position as an impartial observer. At the conclusion of the talk there will be an opportunity for discussion of the vital issues of the Mideast Conflict.

We hope you will meet with us

on: November 2, 1977, 2:00 P.M.  
at: The home of Dr. & Mrs. Moses Wurm  
13010 Hartland St., No. Hollywood  
Tel: 784-8028 (J. Shapiro) or 765-2690 (E. Wurm)

Directions: Vanowen to Ethel (1 bl. E. of Coldwater), North  
on Ethel to Hartland, turn right.

Sincerely,

*Janet Shapiro*  
Janet Shapiro

*Esther Wurm*

Esther Wurm  
Co-Chairpersons, Information Task Force

HUBERT J. RUBENSTEIN, M. D., F. A. C. S.

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4911 VAN NUYS BOULEVARD, SUITE 110  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91403  
TELEPHONE (213) 990-5630

August 10, 1976

Dear Family and Friends:

Elayne and I have recently returned from a 3 week tour of South America. It was both agony and ecstasy. Never in all of our travels have we been so welcomed by the local residents. The hospitality, love, and attention we received can never be forgotten.

The agonizing part of the trip was the state of the Continent. South America is seething with political unrest. In Argentina, they average twelve political assassinations daily. We were vividly reminded of this when we got off the plane in Buenos Aires, only to see soldiers armed with automatic machine guns stationed every 100 yards or so. In Peru, there is a 10 p.m. curfew, so mandated to prevent the organization of an armed uprising. In Lima, anyone on the streets after 10 p.m., whether driving or walking--may be shot on sight. It was rather scary looking out of our room in the Sheraton Hotel and seeing no cars moving except military vehicles and two armored tanks stationed in front of the hotel.

I did not become an expert on Latin American politics in 3 weeks. I do not have proposals for curing their problems. But one thing became quite evident in each of the five countries we visited--that the United State of America is not popular there. As one young Brazilian college student put it, "Lyndon Johnson spent too much money and human energy on Vietnam, while ignoring the needs of his neighbors to the South, and the Nixon-Ford administrations haven't done anything to improve this situation". Whether this is the reason or whether they are just completely frustrated in not being able to set their own houses in order--so they blame us--I don't know. Although I heard talk of the entire continent being a candidate for Castro-like take-overs--I rather concluded that they are more with the "3rd World"--playing Russia vs. the U.S.A, and fearing both but loving neither.

With this brief political background, the main purpose of our trip was a mission sponsored by the Brandeis Institute to visit the Jewish Communities of Bogata, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Lima. We went there to create a bridge of friendship among groups in the diaspora, to exchange experiences and to discuss the Brandeis concept and methodology of living Judaism. Our group consisted of 26 members, led by Dr. Leo Kaplan (who had made the trip last year) and Rabbi Jo Telushkin.

As you may know, the Brandeis Institute was founded by Dr. Shlomo Bardin, who was sponsored and financially supported by the late U. S. Supreme Court Justice, Louis D. Brandeis. The latter's dictum: "To be a good American, one must be a better Jew"--was given to Bardin--and under his inspired leadership over the past 36 years, a successful American institute dedicated to making secular and non-secular Jews both better Jews and better citizens, has grown to maturity. As

Bardin put it, our colleges and universities turn out educated technicians, who frequently have little to do, or are not concerned with the conduct of man, or with the relation of man to man (i. e. 25% of the elite guard of Hitler had doctor's degrees).

So it was our duty--assigned by Dr. Bardin--to spread the message of the Bible to love thy neighbor as thyself--and to create a dialogue with our Latin American Jewish neighbors. Unfortunately, our beloved Shlomo Bardin died just 4 weeks prior to our departure, at the age of 77. His memory has been an inspiration to us.

Our trip was complete in seeing all of the usual tourist sights in the various countries--including Machu Picchu and Iguassu Falls, but the outstanding aspect of our trip was the people we were privileged to meet.

In Bogata, our chief sponsors were the Hane family. Dr. Paul Hane, a former French radiologist, and now the owner of a large textile factory, has lived in Columbia for the past 50 years. He and his wife, Rachel, and their four charming children, never let us out of their sight. The first night, they hosted a cocktail party in our honor, to which they invited all the rabbis and lay leaders in Bogata (estimated attendance: 100 people). It was a fascinating evening, with no less than eight languages being spoken. The next day we were invited to their Sports Club, which had not only a beautiful golf course, but tennis, bowling, and an Olympic sized indoor pool. After an afternoon of recreation, we were joined for dinner by 35 local community leaders at the Sports Club, followed by an exchange of speeches and toasts. Elayne and I left Bogata on the third day, to spend an extra two days with the Poppers in Santiago--but our group told us that after five days in Bogata, there was not a dry eye in the crowd when it came to bidding goodbye to our new-found "family".

Of course, our personal highlight of the trip was Santiago, where we were royally entertained in the United States Embassy residence. The very first night in town, David was awarded an honorary degree by the Technical University of Chile. This was held at the prestige private club in Santiago, and was attended by all of the professors who had any part of their education in the United States. We were very proud of our Uncle, the Ambassador, who gave a beautiful acceptance speech in Spanish--even though all attending (estimated at 75) spoke English well.

David and Florence graciously invited our group to a cocktail party at the U. S. Embassy residence. Dave fielded the questions very well without being an apologist for Chile. When asked about anti-semitism in Chile, he said that it did not seem to be a problem (which answer was confirmed by the Rabbi and others). In fact, David pointed out that the Minister of Justice and the General who is second in command of the Air Force are Jewish. When one of our group, who himself escaped from Nazi Germany, asked David whether there was any difference between the government of Chile and that of the 3rd Reich, he pointed out that the military junta which rules Chile has no avowed intention conquering any other countries and that they have no State policy of racial or religious discrimination.

It is unfortunate that Chile has such poor press in the U. S. To begin with, we encouraged the overthrow of the late Marxist dictator, Salvatore Allende. Now, we complain about the military dictatorship. At the recent meeting of the Organization of American States, Henry Kissinger put Chile and Cuba in the same category

in regards to their depriving citizens of human rights. The fact is that Chile is no worse than most of the other Latin American countries in that regard--and Chile probably has the most stable government on the Continent. Compared to the shooting in Argentina and Peru, Chile is a tranquil country--with safety for its citizens when they go out day or night. Columbia may boast of having a democratic government, but that apparently means that the people are free to starve to death. In Bogata, pick-pocketing is an art-form, and mugging is common-place.

Chile would like to have an ally in the United States. It is the most anti-communist government in South America, which draws them to the U. S. and away from Russia and the "3rd World". The present government inherited some tremendous economic problems--and it seems to me that we could do well to help them out. But when will our government learn to use economic aid as a propoganda tool? One wag in the Los Angeles Times recently defined foreign aid as "When you take money from the poor people in a rich country and give it to the rich people in a poor country"!

By far and away, the most dynamic and charismatic leader of the Jewish Community of South America is Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer. This third generation "Connecticut Yankee" first came to Buenos Aires in 1959, a few years after graduating from Dartmouth College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Prior to his arrival, there were only orthodox shuls on the continent--and assimilation of the Jewish youth was rampant.

In 1962, Rabbi Meyer founded the "Seminario Rabinico Latino Americano", which so far is the only rabbinical seminary at the university level on the continent. Graduates of this Seminary--after completing their studies in Jerusalem---now serve as rabbis in Mexico, Columbia, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Chile, and in Argentina. After having touched this man, young rabbis go out and are able to muster up the spiritual strength to stem the tide of assimilation in their varied communities.

As Marshall put it, the threat of anti-semitism is far out-weighed by the threat of disinterest and assimilation. Behind this is the abysmal political unrest at home, the distrust of the U. S. A., and even hostility towards Israel on the part of some of the new-left rebels.

In addition to his other duties, he is the senior rabbi at Congregation Bet El. We had the privilege of attending Friday night services there. I have never witnessed such complete participation by the congregants, to say nothing of the youngsters. After the services, we met the day school and high school kids. To our amazement, the children came up to us, reached out to touch us, and spoke to us in broken and not so broken English. I could not have pictured the same scenario if the roles had been reversed and a group of foreigners visited an elementary school in the U. S. A. I must conclude that we learned more than we taught during our five busy days in Buenos Aires.

The only country that really let us down was Brazil. Dr. Kaplan had written all the rabbis and lay leaders in Rio, but they were too busy to meet with us. It may be coincidence, but Brazil was the only country of the five which voted in the United Nations to declare Zionism as racist. (The other four abstained, which, I guess, is some kind of a victory.) I have a feeling that the Jewish Community in Brazil needs us more than we need them. One Jewish Brazilian merchant explained his country's U. N. vote on its dependence upon Arab oil and/or investment capital. If that is true, the Arabs will find other ways to put down the local Jewish community.



Fortunately, Elayne and I got lucky in Rio. We had been given a name to look up from a friend at home. Paulo Protasio and his charming wife, Letansia, turned out to be dynamite people--international jet-setters, and one of the wealthiest families in Brazil. Our only regret was that we only had two days in Rio. The Protasios proved that you don't have to be Jewish to be beautiful hosts to strangers.

The final country visited was Peru. There the hospitality was warm and genuine, but the country is so poor and the political unrest is so overbearing--we got the impression that anybody who could, would leave the country and emigrate to the U. S. A. or Israel.

It has been one month since our return, and we are still glowing. I could not help but feel that if North American Jews can build a bridge to South American Jews, what's to prevent other citizens of these countries from following suit? And maybe--just maybe--we could teach the world how to survive in this age of the big bomb. By now, after 2000 years, we have become experts in the art of survival when surrounded by hostility.

Our Love to all,

P182

Hugh

P.S. I forgot to say why we are still glowing, and how our trip concluded on an unbelievable high note. Bicentennial Fourth of July is reason to make any American proud. And how can any Jew not be proud of the Entebbe Rescue on the same day. But if you happen to be both American and Jewish, You can't stop smiling.