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

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 107, Folder 40, Baptist-Jewish Meeting [Richmond, Va.]. 25
September 1978.



The General Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia

Richard M. Stephenson, Executive Secretary - Virginia Baptist Building - Monument Avenue at Willow Lawn - P.O. Box 8568 - Richmond, Virginia 23226 - Telephone 804/282-9751

Phillip E. Rodgerson
Department of Missions

804-282-6045

September 19, 1978

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

We are looking forward to having you share in our Baptist-Jewish Dialogue at the Roslyn Retreat Center September 25-26, 1978.

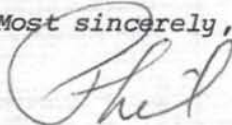
Enclosed is a copy of the program so that you may get an overview of the entire conference.

We have made a reservation for you at the Roslyn Retreat Center and are looking forward to having you share this time with us.

If you are flying to the conference if you will let me know your schedule, we will be glad to have someone to meet you at the airport. It is too far to take a limousine or taxi to the Roslyn Retreat Center.

If there is any other way that we can assist you as you make your preparation to attend our conference please feel free to call me.

Most sincerely,



Phillip E. Rodgerson

PER/pct

Enclosure



NEWS

FROM THE

COMMITTEE

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 751-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, *Director of Public Relations*
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, September 22....A series of regional dialogues, co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Jewish Committee, to explore the theological foundations of Christianity and Judaism, prospects for peace in the Middle East, human rights, separation of church and state, and the persecution of minorities in the Soviet Union, was announced here today.

The dialogues are part of a continuing relationship begun nearly a decade ago by the American Jewish Committee and the Southern Baptist Convention. The latter constitute the largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

The first of these dialogues will be held next Monday and Tuesday, September 25-26, when the American Jewish Committee and the Virginia Baptist General Board will hold a conference at the Roslyn Retreat Center in Roslyn, Virginia. Featured speakers will include: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee; Dr. James Wood, Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Sister Ann Gillen, Executive Director, National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry; Dr. G. Ronald Goulding, Staff Director, Division of Evangelism and Education, Baptist World Alliance; Dr. Glenn Hinson, Professor of Church History at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Dr. Carl Sheingold, of the Jewish Communal Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee.

Among others who will address conference sessions will be Dr. Richard M. Stephenson, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Baptist General Board; Jack M. Kreuter, Acting Chairman of AJC's Richmond Chapter; Philip E. Rodgers, Secretary, Department of Missions of the Virginia Baptist General Board; and Selma Baxt, Assistant Area Director, AJC.

A second conference, which will focus on human rights in the Soviet Union, will be held Thursday, September 28, at the Jewish Community Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The state-wide conference is sponsored by the South Carolina Christian-Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee.

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Sister Ann Gillen and Rabbi A. James Rudin, Assistant National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, will address the session. Both attended the recent Belgrade Conference on the Helsinki Final Act, and Sister Ann recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union. Professor Carl Evans, of the University of South Carolina, who is President of the South Carolina Christian-Jewish Congress, will preside. The program was originated by the Reverend Larry Bryson, Director of the Missions Department of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and William Gralnick, AJC's Regional Director for the Southeast.

The South Carolina Baptist Convention and the American Jewish Committee are also planning an interreligious dialogue among theological and communal leaders of the two faiths to be held next Spring. A similar program is planned for North Carolina Baptists and Jews in early 1979.

The series of dialogues between the Southern Baptists and leaders of the Jewish community is a follow-up to a conference held at Southern Methodist University last December. Dr. Jimmy R. Allen, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Rabbi Tanenbaum were the principal participants in the conference.

Assessing the importance of the upcoming conferences, Rabbi Tanenbaum pointed out that "whatever the eventual outcome, and hopefully it will be the peaceful one we all devoutly pray for, the Camp David summit meeting dramatically illustrated the centrality that religious commitment continues to play in the lives of key actors in the human drama today. Vital religion can be a powerful reconciling or polarizing force in human affairs. We believe that people who take the Bible seriously as the healing Word of God are morally bound to seek to translate the Biblical Covenant into a social reality characterized by love, compassion, and human solidarity. This series of regional conferences, involving key Baptist and Jewish clergy and scholars, is a serious effort to contribute to the building of the unity of God's human family while learning to respect the infinite richness of diversity."

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

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