Rabbi: Human Survival 1980s Issue

By BARBARA H. STOOPS
Religion Editor

Governor Dick Riley took part in the introduction of the religious leader whom he met some time ago in the nation's capital, when both had been summoned to the White House to consult with President Jimmy Carter.

In his welcome to the rabbi and to the congress at Washington Street United Methodist Church where he is a member, Riley paraphrased a quotation from the Book of Jeremiah used at his inaugural service at the church.

The passage instructed religious people not just to sit and wait but to take part in bettering the community around them, Riley said, noting he was happy to welcome a speaker and a group of people who are committed to the common purpose of implementing Jeremiah's admonitions.

Last Sunday, Rabbi Tanenbaum was chosen to appear on national television with the Roman Catholic Father Andrew Greeley and Lutheran writer-critic Martin Marty to comment on the meaning and significance of the just-concluded Pope John Paul II visit.

He has taken part in two recent fact-finding missions to southeast Asia investigating the plight of the "Boat People." The resulting reports of these missions have been instrumental in raising the immigration quotas for refugees from southeast Asia, the Rev. Dr. Carl Evans, congress president, reported, as well as in sensitizing public opinion to the needs of the refugees.

He was invited to the Vatican for the pope's first official meeting with leaders of world Judaism. More recently, he was one of 12 religious leaders invited to Camp David to talk about energy and other problems.

South Carolina religious leaders must rally their people to preserve resources here at home and human lives around the world, an international interfaith leader urged in Columbia Thursday.

The overarching, fundamental issue of the 1980's is that of human survival, Rabbi Marc C. Tanenbaum, national director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, told members attending the third annual meeting of the Christian Jewish Congress of South Carolina.

"In an age when there are enough Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles in the silos of the United States — equivalent to 655,000 Hiroshimas — and the Soviets have at least that much, we face the possibility of what Billy Graham used to talk about: Armageddon," he said.

And he used the ultimate quote — "We are the first generation to be told we may be the last."

"We have to realize what President Carter is trying to do in the SALT II talks — securing survival of the human family and trying to move us away from the brink of disaster," he said.

And he urged support of American senators and congresswoman and said they are quite right to ask assurance so as not to leave the United States vulnerable to attack.

"However, we mustn't leave survival to small groups in Washington as though it is of no concern to us," Tanenbaum said.

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July 9, 1979

Mr. Robert E. Morris, Manager
Meetings and Conventions
Holiday Inn University
11200 East Goodman Road
Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654

Dear Mr. Morris,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 28 and the packet of general information which you sent to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum. The rabbi is currently on vacation and after a trip to Europe and Israel with other members of the President's Commission on the Holocaust is expected back in our offices about August 15th.

I am enclosing the requested glossy photo, biographical sketch and some other materials which I am sure you will find of interest.

I am certain that Rabbi Tanenbaum will be in touch with you immediately upon his return.

Very truly yours,

Miss Rita P. Reznik
Secretary to Rabbi Tanenbaum

Enclosures
August 8, 1979

Mr. Robert E. Morris, Manager
Meetings & Conventions
1979 Holiday Inn System Conference
11200 East Goodman Road
Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654

Dear Bob,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of July 31st.

This will confirm our understanding during our telephone conversation today, namely, that I will be happy to address each of the groups attending the Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, September 11th. I plan to arrive in San Francisco on September 10th. It will be necessary for me to leave on Wednesday morning, September 12th, for a meeting in Detroit of Polish Catholic and Jewish leaders. From Detroit I will return to New York on Thursday evening, September 13th. Perhaps the airline tickets could incorporate that itinerary and I will be glad to cover whatever additional costs there might be. I would prefer to travel via American Airlines, if that is possible.

I share your anticipation about this potentially exciting event and look forward to coming to know you better.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Interreligious Affairs Director

MHT: RPR

Enclosures
July 31, 1979

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

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

I hope that you had a pleasant vacation. I'm wondering if your call from President Carter shortened your vacation. I hope not.

Our Prayer Breakfast is fast approaching and the response to our meeting has been so strong that I have a very special favor to ask this morning. In order to accommodate the number of attendees that we anticipate, it is going to be necessary to use two rooms. Your message is too important to not allow each room to hear you personally and thus I would hope to present the entire program twice. In one room, I would like to start the breakfast with prayer and your message and then serve breakfast. In the second room, I would like to serve breakfast first while you are speaking to the first group and then have you address them. I know this puts a burden on you but I hope you will agree to it. You will be doing us a great favor.

Have you been able to determine how long we will have the pleasure of your being with us? As soon as you can advise me of that I will forward airline tickets to you. Do you have a preference of carriers and departure times?

I eagerly await your response. I am convinced that this is going to be our most outstanding breakfast ever.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Morris  
Manager  
Meetings & Conventions

REM/sgl
September 13, 1979

Mr. Michael Rose, President
Holiday Inns, Inc.
3742 Lamar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38195

Dear Michael,

I was delighted to have the privilege and opportunity of meeting you and your lovely wife.

You and your associates were most gracious to me during my brief visit with your conference, and I wanted you to know of my deep appreciation for all your kindesses.

I do hope we will have an opportunity to meet in the near future and get to know each other. Should you be visiting New York in the near future, it would give me much pleasure to have you as guest at luncheon at our national headquarters.

The American Jewish Committee is engaged in vital and important work in trying to better the world for the human family, and I believe that a person of your stature and influence should know more about what we are trying to do in "the people business."

Again, with many thanks and with every good wish for the New Year, I am,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

enclosures

bc: Bert Gold
    Bill Trosten
July 9, 1979

Mr. Robert E. Morris, Manager
Meetings and Conventions
Holiday Inn University
11200 East Goodman Road
Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654

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I am certain that Rabbi Tanenbaum will be in touch with you immediately upon his return.

Very truly yours,

Miss Rita P. Reznik
Secretary to Rabbi Tanenbaum

Enclosures
June 28, 1979

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

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

Enclosed you will find a packet of general information about Holiday Inns that perhaps will help you begin to prepare for your address to our group at the Wallace E. Johnson Prayer Breakfast.

I have also enclosed a copy of our working agenda so that you might have a feeling for the over-all program.

I am hoping that in early August perhaps that we can arrange a meeting in your office to allow you to meet several of our top executives and have a chance to get to know us and to understand our goals and philosophies.

If there is any additional information that I could provide you with at this time, please feel free to pick up the phone and I'll give it to you immediately.

Again, we are really honored to have you on our program. Could you please send me at your earliest convenience a black and white glossy photo and some biographical information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Morris
Manager
Meetings & Conventions

Enclosures 2

REM/sl
May 10, 1979

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

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

It was great news that you would be able to address our Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday morning, September 11, 1979.

In the near future I will begin to send you information about the Holiday Inn System that will provide you with the background of the organization you will be addressing.

Also for your information I have added your name to the mailing list so that you will see the promotion mail our owners are receiving to encourage them to join us.

At some time prior to the breakfast I would like to visit your office with several of my associates and have the opportunity to visit with you personally to answer any questions or provide any information about us that will allow your remarks to be most effective.

Thank you again for accepting our invitation.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Morris  
Manager  
Meetings & Conventions

REM/dw

P.S. We did not discuss honorarium. Will you please advise me what that will be.