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

Series G: Speaking Engagements. 1975-1992

Box 108, Folder 55, American Jewish Committee - Soviet Jewry meeting [Chicago, Ill.]. 23 November 1981.



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date November 16, 1981
to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
from Rabbi A. James Rudin
subject Agenda for November 23rd Meeting.

Here is the agenda for the Soviet Jewry Task Force Meeting in Chicago on Monday, November 23rd.

10⁰⁰

AJC office - Sr Ann / Sr Marie

11:00 AM

Press Conference of Task Force leaders at Chicago AJC office

12:00 - 2:00 PM

You will be giving a fund raising speech while Sister Margaret Traxler, Sister Ann Gillen, Dr. Andre Lacocque will be at the luncheon at the AJC

2:00 - 4:00

After you return from your luncheon the five of us will discuss the following agenda:

- a. Plans for the Tenth Anniversary celebration of the Task Force in Washington, D.C.
- b. Regional meetings in 1982
- c. Possibility of cooperation and/or consultations with religious and ethnic groups such as Lithuanians, Catholics, Latvian Lutherans and Ukrainians
- d. Funding of the Task Force, i.e. foundations, AJC direct contributions
- e. Possible new offices for the Task Force in Chicago
- f. Interreligious trips of key religious leaders to the Soviet Union
- g. Good and welfare

AJR:FM

cc: Sister Ann Gillen



Jacobs 11/23
(AIC Nov 23, Chicago, Ill)

July 20, 1981

Mr. Robert S. Jacobs
Friedman & Koven
208 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Bob,

This will confirm my acceptance of your thoughtful invitation to address the AJC fund-raising luncheon on November 23.

We will be meeting and talking a number of times before then so that I will have an opportunity to get your views on what kinds of concerns you might want me to focus on.

With much appreciation for everything that you're doing for us,

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

11/23

LAW OFFICES

FRIEDMAN & KOVEN

208 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

(312) 346-8500
CABLE ADDRESS "FREEZOR"
TELEX 254083

ROBERT S. JACOBS

ABE FORTAS
1200 TWENTY-NINTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007
OF COUNSEL

April 24, 1981

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

As I mentioned to you by telephone, the Chicago campaign is planning a major luncheon for fund raising purposes on Monday, November 23, 1981. Minimum gifts will be required.

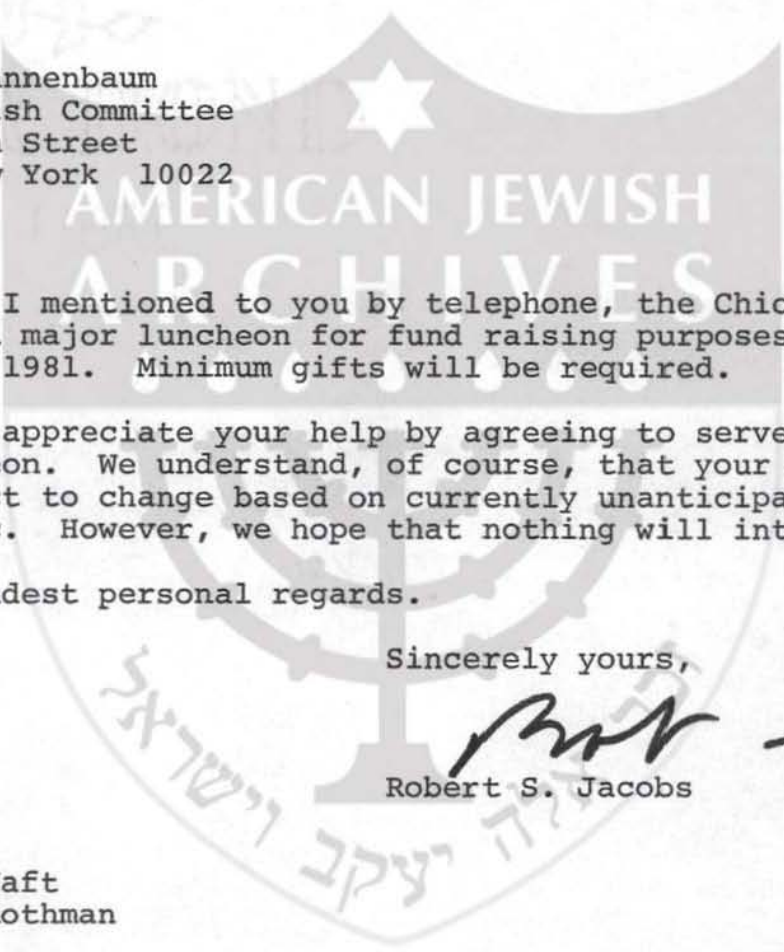
We appreciate your help by agreeing to serve as speaker at the luncheon. We understand, of course, that your schedule may be subject to change based on currently unanticipated conferences, etc. However, we hope that nothing will interfere.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,


Robert S. Jacobs

RSJ:cmd
cc: Howard Naft
Irving Rothman



GILBERT
OFFICE
NCA
1003



National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry

1307 SOUTH WABASH, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605

SISTER ANN GILLEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

312-922-1983

~~312-11330~~

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum ✓
Rabbi James A. Rudin
Sr. Margaret Traxler
Dr. Andre Lacocque

- F →
1. The meeting of the Task Force leaders will take place at the Chicago AJC office on Monday, ~~November 23.~~ There will be a press conference at 11 a.m. which we hope all can attend, followed by lunch at AJC afterwards.

Unfortunately Rabbi Tanenbaum will have to leave to give a luncheon talk after the press conference; but there will be a further meeting of the co-leaders at AJC as soon as Rabbi Tanenbaum returns.

We hope you can arrange to be there from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you can only attend one part of the meeting, we suggest that you come for the afternoon discussion where we wish to discuss future plans and policies.

2. The following agenda is proposed:
 - a. Plans for the 10th anniversary celebration of the Task Force.
 - b. Regional meetings in 1982.
 - c. Possibility of cooperation and/or consultations with religious ethnic groups such as Lithuanians, Ukrainians, etc.

Please send any added suggestions of agenda items to the Task Force Office.



National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry

1307 SOUTH WABASH, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605

SISTER ANN GILLEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

312 - 922-1983

Honorary National Chairman
HON. R. SARGENT SHRIVER

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Executive Director

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Executive Chairman

RABBI A. JAMES RUDIN

Consultation Coordinator

EUGENE DUBOW

Chairman, Coordinating Committee

DAVID GELLER

(* Deceased)

Task Force (in formation)

PROF. THOMAS E. BIRD
PROF. JERALD BRAUER
SR. GLORIA COLMAN
MSGR. CHARLES DEVLIN
REV. EDWARD FLANNERY
HOWARD A. GILBERT
MSGR. JOHN GORMAN
REV. DAVID R. HUNTER
BRO. MARTIN KLHETZ
RICHARD H. LEVIN
DR. CLYDE MANSCHRECK
SR. SUZANNE NOFFKE
REV. JOHN PAWLKOWSKI
REV. ROBERT PRUITT
PROF. J. COERT RYLAARSDAM
REV. STANLEY A. SCHMIDT
PROF. JOSEPH SITTNER
REV. PAUL STAGG
REV. JOHN STEINBRUCK
SR. ROSE THERING
SR. ANN PATRICK WARE
REV. WILLIAM WEILER
ELMER WINTER

October 30, 1981

Robert I. Smith, President
Glenmede Trust Company
229 S. 18th Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Dear Mr. Smith:

I would like to make an appointment to discuss the enclosed request for funds from the Pew Foundation for the Interreligious Task Force. As I plan to be in Philadelphia on November 11, I wonder if it would be possible for you to meet with me sometime that day?

Also, may I bring with me Sister Gloria Coleman, Chairperson of the Philadelphia Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry and Sister Ann Marie Erst, who will be joining my staff in Chicago? Sister Gloria's work is well known in the Philadelphia area. Sister Ann Marie Erst has recently returned from eight years work for peace and justice in Ireland where she was called "the foundress of justice and peace study in Ireland".

Jews have responded to the needs of their brothers and sisters in the USSR in a magnificent outpouring of concern and help. The American Jewish Committee has assisted us in our efforts for both Christians and Jews. However, as yet Christian groups have not responded proportionately according to their number or potential.

The Martin Tanenbaum Foundation has given us an annual grant since 1972. Small grants have also been received from the Shubert and the Raskob Foundations and individual Jews and Christians have sent us small donations in response to our appeals for help. Now we hope that your foundation will give us this major grant which we are requesting in part or in full.

Sincerely,

Sr. Ann Gillen

SrG:rb
enc.

THE NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS TASK FORCE ON SOVIET JEWRY founded in 1972 by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice and the American Jewish Committee in Chicago, has made very significant contributions to the cause of international justice and peace in the past nine years (see attached background sheet).

At this time the Task Force is seeking a grant of \$100,000 to cover a two year period for the following purposes:

1982 - 1984

CAPITAL FUNDS:

1. Larger office space -
The Task Force has outgrown its present two room suite and needs larger quarters to accommodate an added staff person and to provide conderence and/or meeting space. \$ 10,000.
2. Equipment -
New and additional equipment is needed for added staff and special projects: 10,000.
Office equipment for added staff person and conference room.
Xerox machine
Typewriter
Addressograph
3. Salary for added staff person 25,000.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. PROJECT CO-ADOPTION, which is designed to bring together church and synagogue groups or families from such groups to "adopt" similar persons or groups in the USSR and Eastern Europe, establishing "lifelines of Hope" with them through correspond-ence, prayer and possibly, visits. These units are similar to those of Amnesty International, but they are unique in their focus on encouraging Jews and Christians to work together and for the human rights of their brothers and sisters. The Soviets try to divide such groups to maintain control in a re-pressive manner; the Task Force seeks to strengthen such groups in an effort to promote a higher level of freedom for both Christians and Jews. In addition, such cooperative ventures can be extremely helpful in countering anti-Semitism today while also promoting conciliation in regard to the problems of the past. (see attached materials).
2. TEEN TWINS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE:
Today many religious leaders are concerned about the number of young persons who are drawn to the "cults" away from their traditional religious affiliation. Young persons seek challenge and meaning as they approach adulthood. Both Christianity and Judaism can give a new dimension to these realities by adding a special link to similar young persons in the USSR and Eastern Europe who are denied opportunities of celebrating freely their bar or bat mitzvah ceremony or confirmation/conversation ceremony. Ritual celebrated in freedom can become relatively

meaningless if it is not related to the reality of religious struggle. In the USSR and Eastern Europe both Jews and Christians are struggling heroically to maintain or reclaim their religious identity and heritage. "Twinning" ceremonies provide a bond between young persons which can become a lasting challenge through prayer, correspondence and active efforts to strengthen the cause of peace through work for justice.

These special projects entail education and organization expenses:

1. Materials: development in greater detail, publication, dissemination: \$ 20,000.
 - a) Study-action unit for adults
 - b) Study-action unit for schools and youth groups
2. Conferences with religious leaders in various regions of the USA on "Religious Liberty and ethnicity in the USSR and Eastern Europe: How can we help our brothers and sisters?" 20,000.
3. Interfaith trips to the USSR, combining Christian and Jewish members to visit with Jews and Christians in various parts of the USSR and Eastern Europe. These units would include a Christian and a Jew, plus a special consultant and a tour leader who had already made such a visit. Such meetings sensitize leadership persons who are then more effective in helping Western groups to bridge the barriers of distance and culture which otherwise isolate Jews and Christians in the Eastern World. Supplemental funds to assist those who are unable to fund their own travel. 15,000.

