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MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

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Satellite broadcasting. 1970-1971.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

ISRAEL BUILDING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CENTRE

Jerusalem, April 20, 1971

(JCNS) Israel is building a Communications Satellite Centre on the hills not far from Jerusalem. When ready in May, 1972, it will make possible the transmission of live television programmes to and from the rest of the world, and open up hundreds of additional telephone and telex lines.

A model of the centre will be on show for the first time at the 7th Convention of Electric and Electronic Engineers which opens this week in Tel Aviv. A live communications centre has also been established at the exhibition site to which all Israel's international and national public, commercial and press communications services are connected.

Visitors will be able to dial the 13 digits comprising the international code for the United States and the telephone number for the New York "speaking clock" and hear the time given on the east coast of America.



MINISTRY OF POSTS

DIRECTOR GENERAL

המנהל הכללי

Ref. 10 SR 34

Jerusalem, 12 June, 1970

Mr. H.A. Friedman,
Executive Chairman,
United Jewish Appeal,
1290 Avenue of the Americas,
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Friedman,

Thank you for your letter of 3 June.

No facilities are available at present in Israel for direct TV transmissions out of the country. The Israel satellite Earth Station is planned to be operational sometime in 1972. At present the quickest way to transmit video signals to the U.S. is by sending the tape by air to Rome and there via the Italian earth station to the U.S.

While the provision of transmission facilities for voice and television is the responsibility of the Ministry of Posts, studio facilities are handled by our Broadcasting Authority - "Shidurey Israel". We shall be glad to contact you with the Authority during your visit here.

For the time being live voice-casts only can be arranged by us, in conjunction with the Authority, either from their studios or from almost any location in Israel.

I hope that the above answers your questions although "closed-circuit TV" as used in your letter seems to have a different meaning here and in the U.S. If you have further queries please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely,

D. Soroker

S. Soroker
Director General

General Electric Space Division

Valley Forge Space Technology Center

PO Box 8555

Phila, 19101

1. Availability of
shuttle
(ask Royal -
answer Friday)

2. possibility of mobile
Earth Station

3. in Europe - each
country separate

Transatet - Mobile Earth Station
for Satellite Communication



Handwritten notes in Hebrew:

3. 20/10/75
20/10/75
20/10/75

20/10/75

20/10/75

MEMORANDUM

Date June 19, 1970

To Mr. Irving Bernstein

From Peter B. Colwin

Subject

Re the attached cable - I spoke to a Mr. Haas and Mr. Howard Salasin at the General Electric Space Technology Center in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. The following is a summary of our discussion.

Transatel was designed by General Electric for use on ships so that it could point at a fixed target in the sky while the ship is pitching and tossing. It therefore has extra equipment which would not be needed on land.

The basic piece of the equipment is a dish type antenna with a diameter of 15 feet. This and the other component parts weigh approximately 33,000 pounds. It could be transported in a Boeing 707 Jet Freighter, or ship.

The unit requires 3 or 4 people to operate it and while it can be assembled in one or two days, GE indicates they prefer to set it up at least a week in advance for testing, etc.

Western Union International has prior rights on its use. If an Apollo Splash Down is scheduled for late January, 1971, it would not be available to anyone else.

The cost is \$40,000 plus \$2,000 per day from the time it leaves GE until it returns. This latter cost takes care of all of the expenses of the crew to man it.

What is particularly interesting is that they have a request from the American Broadcasting Company for its use in Bethlehm to transmit Christmas Eve services and therefore if there are no Splash Downs at that time and ABC is awarded its use, it will already be in Israel.

Mr. Salasin, the Project Manager, is calling me next week to indicate what the special cost would be to UJA if we are interested. He indicated that GE would make an offer more attractive than the \$40,000 plus \$2,000 a day. He would want to know the answers to two questions:

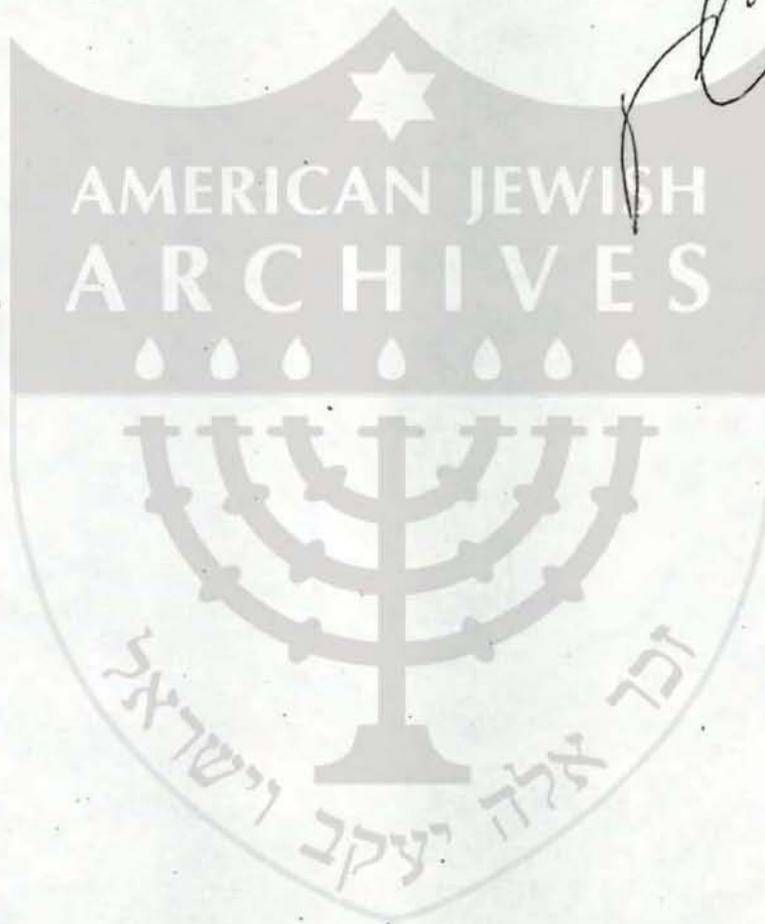
Mr. Irving Bernstein

June 19, 1970

- 1) Where would the unit be situated in Israel for our use and the reason for this question is one of security. Would we handle a 24 hour security or would they have to send personnel.
- 2) Is power available as well as fresh or salt water (it works on both) or would they have to include a diesel generator.

PBC/ds

cc: MT



[Handwritten signature]

October 13, 1971

Mr. Nathan L. Halpern
TNT Communications, Inc.
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Nate:

Rabbi Friedman, who is now working out of our office in Jerusalem, has passed along your letter of September 17.

As you know, UJA is most interested in following developments on the potential capacity for live satellite transmissions from Israel.

Our impression is that such transmissions will not be possible before sometime in 1973, at the earliest, but we would be grateful for the most up-to-date data you have on the subject.

I am leaving for Tel Aviv on October 14 for a couple of weeks and perhaps we can talk shortly after my return. Meanwhile, if your Operations department has come up with any report on this matter, I would very much like to see it.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

Melvyn H. Bloom
Director of Public Relations

MEB/cn

cc: IB HAF