

Box 1, Folder 1: Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith. 1966, 1975.
January 5, 1966

Mr. George Killion
American President Lines
601 California Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Killion:

I am sure that by the time this letter reaches you, your associates, Messrs. Mercer and Teige, will have conveyed to you the essence of our meeting with them today.

After our full discussion with them, we are satisfied that your company is making every effort to clear up the problem of the President Roosevelt's cruise. We recognize that the American President Lines strongly desires to have the President Roosevelt call at Haifa and that every effort is being made to make this possible. Messrs. Mercer and Teige advised us, too, that the company has called upon our State Department to assist in working out the problem and that they expect the matter will be resolved satisfactorily.

We would appreciate being kept informed of your progress and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Cordially,

Arnold Forster
Joseph Cohen, Esq.
Cohen, Schneider, Shamberg, & Jenkins
Floor Seven, Huron Building
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am most appreciative that you have sent me a copy of your recent letter to John Connor, the Secretary of Commerce, regarding the middle position which American President Lines finds itself with regard to a call at Haifa. I know of few situations in my years of experience in the steamship industry where we have encountered as frustrating an experience as this.

American President Lines originally requested authority from the Maritime Administration to operate the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT as a cruise ship Round-the-World. We had a two-fold purpose in this, namely that our PRESIDENTS POLK and MONROE with capacity for 92 passengers each plus cargo carrying facilities, had been withdrawn from service and replaced by new tonnage. Our new tonnage carries but 12 passengers per ship. There is a passenger demand for Round-the-World trips, and we were willing to experiment by taking the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT out of her regular Trans-Pacific service in the early winter and again in the fall to operate this ship for two Round-the-World westbound trips annually. As a cruise ship the U.A.R. regulations would have permitted us to call Israeli ports as well as U.A.R. ports, since by their criteria a cruise ship carries no cargo.

The Maritime Administration did not authorize a cruise for the PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, as these two Round-the-World voyages per year are considered an integral segment of our contract with the Government for this trade route. On that basis we must carry freight in addition to passengers. You appreciate this created a different situation so far as the U.A.R. regulations are concerned where all ships are prohibited from calling at Suez ports and Israeli ports if the vessel carries cargo.
January 10, 1966

The State Department has taken action with a request to our Embassy in Cairo to secure a relaxation of the U.A.R. regulations. I heartily concur in your viewpoint that if we are ever to be successful to secure the necessary permission this is the ideal moment considering that the American Government has just recently arranged to supply needed wheat to the people of Egypt. I, too, hope our Government will feel entitled to consideration by the Egyptian Government in return.

I am deeply grateful for your letter and again wish to thank you personally and on behalf of the American President Lines for your very thoughtful, dispassionate and logical presentation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

cc: Mr. Arnold Forster

P.S. I am enclosing a copy of a letter received on Friday from Mr. Arnold Forster.
January 25, 1966

Joseph Cohen, Esq.
Cohen, Schneider, Shamberg & Jenkins
Floor Seven, Huron Building
Kansas City, Kansas

Dear Joe:

I was away when your note about Thomas Mantel arrived. Of course, Tom is high on the list of those being considered by the committee for membership on the Commission.

It was good of you to write, and I look forward to seeing you over the weekend.

Regards,

Henry Edward Schultz

HES/g
January 4, 1966

Mr. Arnold Forster  
Anti-Defamation League of B'naï B'rith  
315 Lexington  
New York, N. Y., 10016

Dear Arnold:

I am enclosing herewith a photostat of my itinerary to South America.

I trust you will notify the friends of ADL, which you know in these various cities, that I will be there and will get in touch with them upon my arrival, and that I would like to discuss matters pertaining to my mission.

I am looking forward to seeing you on January 29th. Please send me copies of the letters which you are writing to our South American friends.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC:hs  
Encl.
January 4, 1965

The Kansas City Kansan
8th and Armstrong
Kansas City, Kansas

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which I have just sent to the Secretary of Commerce, John Connor, and a copy to the American President Lines, which I believe is newsworthy.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC:hs
Encl.
January 4, 1965

The Kansas City Star
18th and Grand Avenue
Kansas City, Missouri

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which I have just sent to Secretary of Commerce, John Connor, and a copy to the American President Lines, which I believe is newsworthy.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC:hs
Encl.
January 4, 1966

Jewish Chronicle
7925 State Line
Kansas City, Missouri

Gentlemen:

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Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC: hs
Encl.
January 7, 1966

Mr. Henry E. Schultz  
Attorney at Law  
400 Park Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Henry:

As you know, I have advocated for a long time that we infuse young blood into the ADL Commission from among representative Jewish leaders throughout the country.

One of the young men I had in mind is Thomas Mantel of Indianapolis, who is now serving his second year as Regional Chairman of the Indiana Regional Advisory Board. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School and stands high in his community and in the State of Indiana.

His interest in ADL has been of long standing. In fact, he wrote a thesis on ADL in connection with his graduation from school. His father, Sam Mantel, is Past President of DGL #2.

A couple of years ago I succeeded in getting Tom accepted by the Nominating Committee to fill a vacancy on the Commission only to discover that the vacancy did not occur which he was going to fill. We decided then, however, that we would keep him in mind for future consideration.

Tom is now about 40 years of age. Indiana has never had an ADL Commissioner so long as I can remember and I believe Tom’s selection would be meaningful and would meet with the approval of our leadership in Indiana. Please have your Nominating Committee give him serious consideration.

With kind personal regards and best wishes to you, Rose and your family for a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year, I am

Sincerely,

[Signature]
December 17, 1965

you to undertake an assignment for us.

Having participated in the policy decisions surrounding ADL’s new involvements in Latin America and having studied our written reports and other miscellaneous data we have provided you, undoubtedly you now possess the necessary background for the following assignment.

My Latin American report touched rather superficially on a number of anti-Semitic tendencies in the various countries we covered. ADL would appreciate it if you were to make notes from our original report and, when meeting with ADL-BB representatives in the countries on your schedule, to probe more deeply the tentative conclusions we cited.

Which is to say, for example: We were told in Brazil that the "Jockey Club and one or two others" barred Jews from membership. We'd like to know what other posh social or recreational private clubs in Rio and Sao Paulo do not welcome Jews as members. Are there socio-business clubs which have similar restrictions?

In Buenos Aires we were informed that the Tacuara organization has been at a standstill for the last two years. But what does this mean? What is its actual membership roll, if known, today? How does it compare with the Tacuara membership roll of three years ago when allegedly the organization was in a heyday? What has caused the alleged slowdown, etc.?

I think, Joe, that if you reread our report, you will be able to make notes of what matters of the above kind should be probed a little more deeply.

...Dedicated to translating democratic ideals into a way of life for all Americans in our time.
December 17, 1965

Mr. Joseph Cohen
Huron Building
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Joe:

We are writing to ask you to undertake an assignment for us.

Having participated in the policy decisions surrounding ADL's new involvements in Latin America and having studied our written reports and other miscellaneous data we have provided you, undoubtedly you now possess the necessary background for the following assignment.

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I think, Joe, that if you reread our report, you will be able to make notes of what matters of the above kind should be probed a little more deeply.

"...Dedicated to translating democratic ideals into a way of life for all Americans in our time."
A second aspect of your assignment, if you will be so kind as to undertake it, is to probe more deeply with our ADL-BB people the readiness of Latin American communities to receive and accept our proposed operations.

When I receive your itinerary, the places and dates of your visits, I will then send letters to our people in each of the cities involved telling them of your plan to be there and arranging appointments for you.

This task, Joe, I know I need not tell you is an important one. But I know that you will be doing us an important and a very real service.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Arnold Forster

AF/jr
January 17, 1966

Jewish Chronicle
7925 State Line
Kansas City, Missouri

Re: American President Lines

Gentlemen:

I have just received from the Maritime Administrator of the U. S. Department of Commerce a letter in reply to my letter of January 4, 1966, a copy of which I enclose herewith. I have previously sent you a copy of the letter from the President of the American President Lines. Both of these letters, in my opinion, should be published as they give the public the Government's side of this delicate matter and it is only fair that the entire story be aired.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC:hs
Encl.
Kansas City Jewish Chronicle
7925 State Line
Kansas City, Missouri

Gentlemen:

I appreciate very much your publishing my letter to Secretary of Commerce, John Connor, in protest of action of the American President Lines in cancelling a visit of one of its "around the world" ships to Haifa. I received a reply from the President of the American President Lines which I think, in fairness to the American President Lines, should also be published by your newspaper and I enclose the same herewith.

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC:hs
Encl.
CC: Mr. Arnold Forster
January 12, 1966

Mr. Arnold Forster
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
315 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Arnold:

I am in receipt of a letter under date of January 10th from President George Killion of the American President Lines, Ltd. in response to my letter and copy of which he sent to you. He also sent me a copy of your letter as of January 5, 1966, which you had previously sent me.

I agree with Mr. Killion that he is in a "middle position" and that the State and Commerce Departments should extricate him.

Have you written to our South American friends on my behalf?

Looking forward to seeing you in New York, I am

Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC: hs
January 18, 1966

Mr. Joseph Cohen
711 Huron Building
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Joe:

I am delighted that you will be with us when we honor Mayor Lindsay at breakfast Monday, January 31st, in the Waldorf.

Looking forward to greeting you. I am,

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DS: df
MEMORANDUM

To: ADL Regional Offices
From: Arnold Forster
Date: January 10, 1966
Subject:

A day or so ago we sent you a copy of our friendly letter to George Killion, president of the American President Lines. We wrote that letter because Mr. Killion and other officers of the company told us that our press release -- leveling an accurate charge that the company had cancelled Haifa as a port of call for its S.S. President Roosevelt's "around-the-world" cruise out of fear of the Arabs -- was hurting them very badly.

You understand, of course, that we wrote the letter (so they could use it in answer to complaints) only after the president, a vice-president and the general counsel of the Line had reversed its decision -- and that the S.S. President Roosevelt will stop at Haifa after transiting the Suez Canal.

We agreed not to release any public statement at this time -- they obviously did not want it -- because clearly any such announcement could irritate the situation and cause it to change. For our purposes, it is sufficient that the facts become public after the ship has gone through the Canal and stops at Haifa.

This will be a clear signal to all concerned that U.S. flag ships, carrying tourists and cargo not destined for Arab or Israeli ports as final destination points, can negotiate the Suez Canal and nevertheless make Haifa a port of call.

Thus, the Egyptian effort to enlarge its boycott restrictions will have been frustrated -- because the American President Lines, goaded by ADL's action against it, successfully persuaded the U. S. Government (State Department) to dissuade Egypt in this effort.

We regard this as an important victory in the fight against Arab boycott depredations of American business. We'll let you know if anything changes. Meanwhile, we know you will refrain from making any of the foregoing public and thereby upsetting the apple cart.

AF: ha
Mr. Joseph Cohen  
Cohen, Schneider, Shamberg & Jenkins  
Floor Seven, Huron Building  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Cohen:

This is in reply to your letter of January 4, 1966, to Secretary Connor concerning the scheduling of a call at Haifa, Israel, by American President Lines on the Round-the-World voyage of the SS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT. You inquire specifically as to what the Government was doing on behalf of American President Lines to offset the pressures of the United Arab Republic.

In direct answer to your question, American President Lines had not advised us of its desire to call at Haifa, and this Agency only recently became aware of the controversy when press reports concerning cancellation of such a call were brought to our attention. As background information, the SS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is normally employed in American President Lines' Trans-Pacific Service. On October 30, 1964, American President Lines requested authorization from this Agency to transfer this ship to the Company's Round-the-World (Westbound) Service for one voyage to be made in the early part of 1966. The Maritime Administration approved this application for this voyage of the SS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT which will carry both freight and passengers in the Company's Round-the-World Service, a service which is conducted with freight ships alone.

The itinerary followed in American President Lines' Round-the-World Service does not include Israeli ports, nor does this Company have the authority to call at such ports in its Round-the-World Service. The limitations on its authority to make calls in the Mediterranean area derive from the fact that this area normally is adequately served by other United States flag operators with ships concentrating directly on the area, including Israeli ports. Consequently, American President Lines would have had to receive special permission from this Agency to call at Haifa. The Company did not request such permission, nor in any of the schedules submitted to us did it list a call at the port of Haifa. There is no evidence from the official record that American President Lines has receded from any final itinerary which included Haifa.
We understand that American President Lines is presently exploring with the Department of State the possibility of calling at Haifa with the SS PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT. Should the Company decide it desires to call at this port as a tourist call and requests permission to do so, this Agency would give careful consideration to such a request.

We agree with your assertion that all shipping lines should be permitted to use an international canal such as Suez and would do everything possible to alleviate any situation which would infringe on this freedom.

Sincerely yours,

Nicholas Johnson
Maritime Administrator
January 12, 1966

Dear Joe:

Despite the overwhelming problems he is attempting to solve, Mayor John V. Lindsay has set aside an hour and a half of his time for the Anti-Defamation League Appeal breakfast, which has become a tradition whenever the National Commission of the League assembles.

He has consented to be our guest of honor at the breakfast, Monday morning, January 31st at 8:30 A.M., at the Waldorf Astoria. At that time he will discuss with us some of the issues all Americans share in common. We have promised him that the session will be over promptly at 10:00 A.M.

It is my pleasure to invite you as one of a select group of ADL leaders from New York City and the rest of the country to attend this breakfast to meet with Mayor Lindsay.

It will also provide each of us with an opportunity to announce our gifts to the 1966 ADL Appeal that will stimulate and insure the success of our campaign.

A return card is enclosed for your convenience. I will be looking forward to its return and to seeing you at our breakfast with Mayor Lindsay.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DS: df
Enc.
January 12, 1966

Mr. Arnold Forster
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
315 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Arnold:

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Have you written to our South American friends on my behalf?

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Yours very truly,

JOSEPH COHEN

JC:hs
January 10, 1966

Joseph Cohen, Esq.
Cohen, Schneider, Shamberg, & Jenkins
Floor Seven, Huron Building
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am most appreciative that you have sent me a copy of your recent letter to John Connor, the Secretary of Commerce, regarding the middle position which American President Lines finds itself with regard to a call at Haifa. I know of few situations in my years of experience in the steamship industry where we have encountered as frustrating an experience as this.

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Joseph Cohen, Esq.        - 2 -        January 10, 1966

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I am deeply grateful for your letter and again wish to thank you personally and on behalf of the American President Lines for your very thoughtful, dispassionate and logical presentation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

George Killion

cc: Mr. Arnold Forster

P.S. I am enclosing a copy of a letter received on Friday from Mr. Arnold Forster.
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the National Commission

From: Benjamin R. Epstein

Date: January 6, 1966

Subject:

It is with deep regret that I inform you that Mrs. Sarah Rose, mother of Judge David A. Rose, vice-chairman of the National Executive Committee of the National Commission, passed away. Funeral services will be held at Temple Emanu-El, Newton Centre on Friday, January 7, 1966.

Letters of condolence may be sent to:

Judge David A. Rose
60 Nathan Road
Newton Centre, Mass. 02191

BRE: mp
ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
OF B’NAI B’RITH

315 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10016

MEMORANDUM

To: National Commission

From: Benjamin R. Epstein

Date: January 5, 1966

Subject: American President Lines

You will be interested to know that negotiations with the American President Lines are coming along. We hope to be able to report success very shortly. Meanwhile, attached is a letter of this date addressed to Mr. George Killion, President of the Lines; it is not for publication.

BRE: eg

Encl.
January 5, 1966

Mr. George Killion
American President Lines
601 California Street
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Mr. Killion:

I am sure that by the time this letter reaches you, your associates, Messrs. Mercer and Teige, will have conveyed to you the essence of our meeting with them today.

After our full discussion with them, we are satisfied that your company is making every effort to clear up the problem of the President Roosevelt's cruise. We recognize that the American President Lines strongly desires to have the President Roosevelt call at Haifa and that every effort is being made to make this possible. Messrs. Mercer and Teige advised us, too, that the company has called upon our State Department to assist in working out the problem and that they expect the matter will be resolved satisfactorily.

We would appreciate being kept informed of your progress and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Cordially,

AF:eg

Arnold Forster
B’nai B’rith Humanitarian Award

IN TRIBUTE TO

Joseph Cohen
OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS
JOSEPH COHEN is another way of saying generosity. The best kind. His is the generosity of the heart.

The name of Joseph Cohen is identified with a wide range of philanthropic activities. His leadership and benevolence have helped strengthen and perpetuate the Greater Kansas City Jewish Welfare Federation and Council, the United Community Campaign of Kansas City, Temple B’nai Jehudah and Congregation Ohev Sholom, to cite but a few.

His involvement in B’nai B’rith, working tirelessly to build and strengthen for the future, spans nearly half a century. A beloved past president of District 2, he is the founder of the B’nai B’rith youth movement in Kansas City, organizer of the Kansas State Association of B’nai B’rith Lodges, and a life member of the B’nai B’rith Anti-Defamation League Commission on which he served for 35 years. Lovingly, he has endowed his children with the same deep commitment to B’nai B’rith and Jewish life.

B’nai B’rith does not stand alone in recognizing Joseph Cohen’s contributions. The National Conference of Christians and Jews honored him with its Brotherhood Award. The Governor of Kansas recognized his wisdom and vision with an appointment to the State Commission on Civil Rights.

The challenging roles of communal leader and humanitarian are filled by his intrinsic sense of responsibility and a creative capacity for service. He brings to every endeavor the determination and dynamic ability which, as a distinguished trial attorney and past president of the Wyandotte County Bar Association, and as board chairman of two prominent state banks, have made him one of the Midwest’s leading citizens.

Who is deserving of honor? He, the Mishna says, who contributes to the dignity of mankind.
Joseph Cohen Given B'nai B'rith Award

By The Star's Own Service

St. Louis—Joseph Cohen, prominent area banker and lawyer, received the Humanitarian Award from District 2 of B'nai B'rith at an awards luncheon yesterday at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel here. David Blumberg, B'nai B'rith international president, presented the award to Cohen, who is past president of District 2.

The Humanitarian Award is the highest award conferred by District 2, which comprises eight Midwestern and mountain states. Recipients are chosen for their work in the area of social justice.

Cohen, 73, of 3030 W. 67th Terrace, Mission Hills, said at the luncheon: "I have seen this humanitarian service award conferred on presidents of the United States and other dignitaries who had performed great service to America. But in my wildest dreams I never expected to be chosen to receive such an award myself."

Cohen has been a lawyer in Kansas City, Kansas, almost 50 years. He is chairman of the board of the Rosedale State Bank & Trust Co., 3500 Rainbow, Kansas City, Kansas, and the Metcalf State Bank, 79th and Metcalf, Overland Park.

Cohen told the audience of about 750 persons that he joined B'nai B'rith after covering a meeting of the organization as a reporter for The Star, where he worked for seven years.

"I signed an application for membership at the age of 21 at a meeting of Beth Horon Lodge No. 599, Kansas City, Kansas, which I was assigned to cover as a cub reporter for The Kansas City Star. It was a love affair from the beginning," he said.

In more than 35 years of membership Cohen has served on the national commission of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and was elected a life member of the commission. He organized the Kansas State Association of B'nai B'rith Lodges and the Kansas State B'nai B'rith Women's chapters. In 1954, at the age of 32, he became the youngest president ever elected to head the organization up to that time.