



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

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Series A: Writings and Addresses. 1947-1991

Box 4, Folder 21, Report on fact-finding mission to Argentina,  
Brazil, Uruguay, 6-18 August 1984.



REPORT ON FACT-FINDING MISSION  
TO  
ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY  
August 6-18, 1984



P R E F A T O R Y   N O T E

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In September 1983, AJC President Howard I. Friedman and his fellow-officers invited me to become director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee. One of my early tasks, as I saw it, was to develop a first-hand knowledge of AJC offices and programs in Israel, Western Europe, Mexico, Central and South America.

From Nov. 9-18, 1983, William Trosten, then AJC acting director, and I accompanied AJC's national officers on a mission to Israel. There we met with key leaders in Israel's government, in other political parties, and from various sectors of Israeli life. We also undertook a detailed examination of our Israel office, headed by Dr. M. Bernard Resnikoff, and evaluated what our future needs were for our Jerusalem operation. On Sept. 9, 1984, Dr. David Gordis, AJC's executive vice-president, Mr. Trosten, and I traveled to Israel to implement our plans for strengthening our Israeli presence.

From Jan. 24-29, 1984, Sergio Nudelstejer of Mexico City, director of AJC's Mexican and Central American office, and I attended the national convention of FEDECO, the Federation of Jewish communities from throughout Central America (also attended by representatives from South American countries). As official participants in that important program, we were able to establish firm fraternal and programmatic ties with Jewish leaders throughout Central America as well as with government and Israeli ambassadors with whom we met in Guatemala, site of the convention.

On Feb. 24, 1984, AJC President Friedman led an officer's mission to Paris for an extremely successful week-long series of consultations with French President Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Cheysson, and five cabinet officers, and leaders of every major French Jewish organization. In consultation with Mrs. Nives Fox, director of AJC's Paris office, Bill Trosten and I, who accompanied AJC leadership on this mission, were able to assess the needs and possibilities of an expanded AJC program in Western Europe.

From March 27-30, I represented AJC at an international conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, co-sponsored by the Vatican and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC). At that meeting, we were enabled to explore further interreligious dimensions of our international program.

Other meetings were held with key international personalities French Commerce Minister Cresson (April 3), Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo (April 9), West German Ambassador Van Well (April 10), U.S. Ambassador Walter Stoessel (April 11), Mexican President de la Madrid (May 15) led by AJC's Theodore Ellenoff, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar (June 1). On May 14, President Friedman met in Bonn with West Germany's (FRG) Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

PREFATORY NOTE/2

From June 13-15, I met with leaders of the Hungarian Jewish community and government officials in Budapest to review the Jewish situation in East European countries. On June 16 and 17, an international conference on "Moral Values and Human Rights" was held in Ottobeuren, West Germany, where I was able to consult at length with Dr. Alois Mertes, Minister of State of FRG, and with Dr. Hans August Lucker, vice-president of the European Parliament.

On July 2, Mr. Leo Nevas, chairman of the AJC's International Relations Commission, led an AJC mission to Washington, D.C., where meetings were held with the Ambassadors and other Embassy officials of Austria, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

On July 12, Mr. Nevas chaired a meeting with Mr. Samuel Toledano of Madrid, President of the Spanish Jewish community, to discuss a proposed AJC mission to Spain.

On July 17, IRD staff met with Mr. Leslie Caplan, president of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, of Australia, to discuss closer AJC-Australian-Jewish ties, with Dr. Mohan Cheema who represented the World Sikh Organization (July 19), Mr. Leon Feffer of São Paulo, Brazil, President of the Jewish Cultural Association of São Paulo, Ambassador Sol Linowitz (July 25) to discuss the present situation in Central and South America, Argentine Ambassador to the U.S. Lucio Garcia del Solar (July 25) and with Mr. Robert Morley, director of the Southern Cone desk of the U.S. State Department.

Common themes were advanced by AJC throughout all these missions

<sup>o</sup>A call on all these governments to become assertive in opposing anti-Jewish and anti-Israel attacks at the United Nations and all other international bodies (An AJC memorandum detailing these attacks was left with these government officials.)

<sup>o</sup>A plea for greater systematic support of human rights and the cause of Soviet and Syrian Jewries. (Aide-memoires on "Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union" and on "Syrian Jewry" were given these foreign leaders.)

<sup>o</sup>A request for consistent efforts to counter the PLO and the international terrorism which threatens all nations.

<sup>o</sup>An affirmation of AJC support of governments and nations that uphold constitutional democracy, oppose all forms of totalitarianism, and advance the cause of universal human rights.

In keeping with this approach of gaining first-hand knowledge of the Jewish communities and their societies with whom we are vitally concerned, Jacobo Kovadloff, AJC's director of South American Affairs, and I undertook an intensive two-week mission to Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

PREFATORY NOTE/3

Based on previous missions of AJC officers and staff to these countries, and thanks to the extensive network of personal relationships that Jacobo Kovadloff has developed over many years throughout South America, we were able to hold invaluable discussions with top leaders in government, the Roman Catholic Church, the organized Jewish communities, and the media. The enclosed schedule of our meetings provides a clear idea of the broad range of the leaders with whom we met and discussed issues of common concern.

This summary of our mission furnishes an overview of the issues we explored and some of our major findings. We trust these will provide the basis for a constructive review of AJC's important work in South America and will enable us to analyze carefully what constructive next programmatic steps we should be taking in this vital area of our national and Jewish interests.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Marc H. Tanenbaum  
September 20, 1984

EGV

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ITINERARY OF LATIN AMERICAN MISSION, AUG. 6 - 18, 1984  
OF DR. MARC H. TANENBAUM, AJC DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND JACOBO KOVADLOFF, AJC DIRECTOR OF LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

MONDAY, AUG 6

- 8 30 a.m. - Breakfast meeting with RABBI ROBERTO GRAETZ, of the  
Associação Religiosa Israelita
- 11 30 a.m. - Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, meeting  
with CHANCELLOR REV. LAERCIO DIAS DL MOURA, S.J.; PROF  
EMANUEL BOUZON, the Dean of Theology and Humanistic  
Sciences, and DR ISAAC KERSTENETZKY, the Dean of Social  
Sciences
- 1 00 p.m. - Luncheon with FRED WEINSTEIN, Latin American director of  
HIAS
- 3 00 p.m. - Press interview with O Globo
- 5 00 p.m. - Meeting with DR. VIVALDO BARBOSA, Secretary of Justice of  
the State of Rio de Janeiro, RONALDO GOMLEVSKY, vice-  
president of FIERJ (Federation of Rio Jewish Community),  
and DR. PAULO GOLDRAJCH, president
- 8 30 p.m. - Dinner with DR. ESKENAZI PERNIDJI and DR. ELIEZER BURLA,  
counselor to Brazilian government

TUESDAY, AUG. 7

- 12 15 p.m. - Luncheon with ISRAEL KLABIN, president of Klabin Industries  
and former Mayor of Rio
- 3 30 p.m. - Meeting with CARDINAL DOM EUGENIO SALES, Archbishop of Rio  
de Janeiro
- 4 30 p.m. - TV interview on Brazilian Educational TV
- 7.00 p.m. - Reception with Rio's Jewish leadership
- 9 00 p.m. - Rabbi Tanenbaum lecture before the Associação Religiosa  
Israelita do Rio de Janeiro (Christians and Jews)

ITINERARY/2

B R A S I L I A

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8

- 12 00 p.m. - Luncheon with HON ROBERT G LOFTIS, Second Secretary, U.S. Embassy
- 1 30 p.m. - Meeting with senior staff, U.S. Embassy (briefing) JAMES BUMPUS, First Secretary, and ALEXANDER FLETCHER WATSON, Minister-Counselor
- 3 00 p.m. - Meeting with AMBASSADOR RAHAMIM TIMOR, Israeli Embassy
- 4 00 p.m. - Meeting with DR. ARTHUR DE CASTILHO NETO, General Secretary of the Ministry of Justice

S A O P A U L O

THURSDAY, AUG. 9

- 9 00 a.m. - TV interview on MOSAICO with FRANCISCO GOTTHILF
- 10 00 a.m. - Visit to Albert Einstein Hospital with RABBI HENRY SOBEL
- 11 00 a.m. - Visit to Associação Hebraica
- 12 30 p.m. - Luncheon with MARCOS ARBAITMAN and ERVINO SOICHER, president and vice-president of Hebraica
- 2 00 p.m. - Meeting with CARDINAL DOM PAULO EVARISTO ARNS, Archbishop of São Paulo
- 3 00 p.m. - Conference with DOM SINÉSIO BOHN of the Conférencia Nacional dos Bispos do Brasil (the National Conference of Catholic Bishops), the National Commission on Catholic- Jewish Dialogue, and the Sisters of Zion
- 8 30 p.m. - Lecture by Rabbi Tanenbaum on "Religious Values in an Age of Violence" at the Congregação Israelita Paulista (Present HON JOHN LEARY, Consul General of the U S A, HON ZVI CASPI, Consul General of Israel )

FRIDAY, AUG. 10

- 12 00 p.m. - Luncheon with DR. JOSE KNOPLICH, president of the Federação Israelita do Estado de São Paulo, LEON FEFFER, president of the Associação Universitaria de Cultura Judaica

ITINERARY/3

SÃO PAULO (cont'd)

FRIDAY, AUG. 10

- 3 00 p.m. - Conference with DOM LUCIANO PEDRO MENDES DE ALMEIDA, Secretary General of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB)
- 4 30 p.m. - Interview with Veja Magazine, Assistant Editor JOSE ANTONIO DIAS LOPES
- 6 30 p.m. - Sermon by Rabbi Tanenbaum at Congregação Israelita Paulista on "Fundamentalism and Fanaticism"
- 9 00 p.m. - Dinner with RABBI HENRY AND AMANDA SOBEL, guest, DR. BENNO MILNITZKY, president of the Confederacão Israelita do Brasil

SATURDAY, AUG. 11

- 3 00 p.m. - Interview with Veja Magazine
- 8 00 p.m. - Meeting with ROLF HERTZBERG, executive director of the São Paulo Jewish Federation

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MONTEVIDEU, URUGUAY

SUNDAY, AUG. 12

- 6 30 p.m. - Conference with members of the Comité General Israelita del Uruguay in home of general secretary, DR. PEDRO S. SCLOFSKY
- 10 00 p.m. - Dinner with DR. SCLOFSKY and vice-president, JULIO BENSON

MONDAY, AUG. 13

- 8 00 a.m. - Press interview Semanario Hebreo, editor, JOSE JEROZOLIMSKI
- 9 00 a.m. - Press interview La Manana and El Diario
- 10 00 a.m. - Meeting with Israeli AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL MATALON
- 11.00 a.m. - Meeting with U.S. AMBASSADOR ARANDA and Political Counselor JEROME L. HOGANSON
- 11 45 a.m. - Interview with El País
- 12 15 p.m. - Address before Board members of the Comité Central Israelita

ITINERARY/4

M O N T E V I D E O (cont'd)

MONDAY, AUG. 13

- 3 30 p.m. - Consultation with Archbishop of Montevideo, MONSIGNOR CARLOS PARTELLI
- 5.00 p.m. - Meeting with editor of El País, SR. MARTIN AGUIRRE (Former Ambassador to The Netherlands.)
- 6 30 p.m. - Meeting with editor of El Dia, DR. RAFAEL NOBOA, and editorial staff
- 7:15 p.m. - Conference of Christians and Jews at Comunidad Israelita del Uruguay

AMERICAN JEWISH  
B U E N O S A I R E S , A R G E N T I N A  
A R C H I V E S

TUESDAY, AUG. 14

- 11 00 a.m. - Welcome by ALBINO GOMEZ, press secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Buenos Aires airport
- 4 30 p.m. - Meeting with U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANK ORTIZ and Counselor ANTHONY POLITO
- 5 30 p.m. - Meeting with DR. PUGLIESE, Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies (in Parliament) and advisor, DR. HUGO MINSC
- 7.30 p.m. - Meeting with Steering Committee of DAIA, DR. SION COHEN-IMACH, president

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15

- 2 00 p.m. - Meeting with Israeli AMBASSADOR DOV SCHMORACK and Minister AZRIEL GAL-ON
- 4.00 p.m. - Meeting with Foreign Minister, DANTE CAPUTO
- 5 00 p.m. - Press conference at the Foreign Ministry
- 7 30 p.m. - Lecture at the Post-Graduate Faculty, University of Belgrano, Director LUIS A. GIMENEZ GOWLAND
- 9 30 p.m. - Visit to Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano

ITINERARY/5

B U E N O S A I R E S (cont'd)

THURSDAY, AUG. 16

- 9 30 a.m. - DR. ADOLFO GASS, Chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- 11 00 a.m. - Meeting with LUIS PERELMUTER, president and members of AMIA Board
- 1.00 p.m. - Luncheon with ANTHONY POLITICO, Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy
- 7.00 p.m. - Meeting with PRESIDENT RAUL ALFONSIN
- 8.15 p.m. - Lecture by Rabbi Tanenbaum at the Centro Cultural San Martín of the Municipality of Buenos Aires

FRIDAY, AUG. 17

- 11 00 a.m. - Meeting with ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO QUARRACINO, president of CELAM
- 3 00 p.m. - Interview with Mundo Israelita, ARIEL PLOCKSHUK
- 4.00 p.m. - Interview with daily Clarín, MR. HALPERN
- 6 00 p.m. - Sermon at the Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina
- 9 00 p.m. - Reception by President of the Congregación, MR. GUILLERMO POLACK and MRS. AMALIA POLACK, president of the WIZO, Supreme Court Justice DR. CARLOS FYAT, Phillipine Ambassador to the EEC, and Jewish leaders

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September 1984

## REPORT ON SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION

The first overarching reality that impressed me during my first visit to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay was how different each country was from the other, and the differing character of each of the Jewish communities in these countries.

### BRAZIL

The first country we visited was Brazil, from August 6-11. Brazil defied all my popular images -- the Amazon jungle, the riotous Carnival of Rio de Janeiro, coffee beans, sambas, favelas, repressive military juntas. The dynamic realities of Brazil shatter the simplicity of those images:

Brazil occupies almost one-half of the South American continent. It is the fifth largest country in the world. With its population of 130 million people, it is the most populous country in Latin America and ranks sixth in the world.

With a gross national product of \$295 billion, Brazil is the world's eighth largest economic power. It is the largest market in Latin America. Brazil is also the fifth largest arms exporter--with Iraq the largest purchaser of Brazilian missiles, armored vehicles, and uranium, followed by Saudi Arabia, and Libya (more about this Brazilian-Arab arms connection later.) Brazil imports 40-45 percent of its oil from Iraq (somewhat diminished since the Iraqi-Iran war.) Significantly, of its total imports in 1983 of \$22.1 billion, some 51 percent were devoted to the purchase of crude oil mainly from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Libya, but increasingly from Nigeria and Angola (Brazil has recently been intensifying its trade and diplomatic relations in Africa and Asia.)

Brazil has strengthened in recent years its economic and industrial development -- of its GNP, some 38% is based on industry, 50% on services, and 12% on agriculture. The United States is Brazil's largest trading partner (non-oil), with 18% of Brazil's exports going to the U.S. (EEC is next with about 12%), and with imports (non-oil) from the U.S. amounting to 16% (Japan is the next providing 6%). Brazilian-U.S. relations are therefore an important factor in Brazil's economic and geopolitical situation.

Beclouding Brazil's economic development is its pressing international debt of \$95 billion (of which \$15 billion is short-term debt, \$80 billion long-term.) The U.S. plays a central role in the IMF and the World Bank in the present renegotiation of Brazil's debt payments.

Of the \$19.2 billion in foreign investments in Brazil (1982), the U.S. provided \$5.8 billion. There are about 238 American businesses in Brazil with 43,000 Americans working there. Only some 110,000 American tourists visited Brazil in 1983.

According to American Embassy officials in Brasilia with whom we met, Brazil has been pursuing an independent foreign policy, avoiding automatic alignments with any bloc (although it is a member of the "Non-Aligned Nations.") Brazil has kept a "low profile" on the international political scene, and under the cover of this "neutrality" it has pursued increased trade relations with the USSR, China, the Arab countries and Asia.

After 19 years of repressive military rule, Brazil moved in 1984 toward the establishment of representative democracy. On August 8, Jacobo Kovadloff and I were in Brasilia, the architecturally surreal capital city, when the two major political parties were holding elections for presidential candidates.

Despite some popular demand for direct presidential elections in January 1985, the Brazilian Congress voted in April that the next President will be chosen indirectly by the 686-member Electoral College. The Electoral College will select a civil president who will take office in March 1985.

The nominating conventions we witnessed in Brasilia were termed by the Latin America Daily Post (Aug. 11, 1984) published in Rio de Janeiro, as "an historic weekend with both major political parties electing their candidates for president and vice president of the nation in the first legitimate nominating conventions in more than two decades." While acknowledging that "there is a sizable group of citizens who believe the electoral college system is illegitimate," the Post noted that "the fact is that Brazil is already very close to being a 'true' democracy after the successful 1982 national elections for governors, state and federal congressmen and some subsequent mayoralties."

"Clearly we have a system in which public opinion plays a much greater role than at any other time since the military came to power in 1964, with Congress operating with great liberty, with freedom of the press assured...Brazil certainly has left behind the days when the military high command selected its candidate and imposed him on the nation...Brazil has shown that, even somewhat flawed, it is now a democratic nation," the Post added.

At the August conventions, the Social Democratic Party (PDS) nominated Paulo Salim Maluf, the former governor of Sao Paulo state, as its presidential candidate. The opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) nominated Tancredo Neves, the 72 year-old governor of Minas Gerais state.

In our meetings with leaders of the Jewish communities of Rio de Janeiro (Ronaldo Gomlevsky, newly-elected president of FIERJ, the Federation of Rio Jewish Communities; and outgoing president, Dr. Paulo Goldrajch; Israel Klabin, the impressive president of Klabin Industries and former mayor of Rio; Dr. Jose Knoplich, president of the Jewish Federation of Sao Paulo, Leon Feffer, prominent industrialist and president of the University Association of Jewish Culture) we were told that Tancredo Neves is a good friend of the Jews of Brazil and of Israel. Paulo Maluf, they said, is a Lebanese Christian, who while personally friendly with Jews, is deeply involved in heavy financial dealings with Arabs. Some Jews told us he has a reputation for corruption, and they are concerned over his possible election.

The concern is deepened by the startling fact -- told us by Israeli Ambassador Rahamin Timor -- that there are an estimated five million Arabs living in Brazil who exert considerable economic and political power. (There are about 200,000 Jews in Brazil, some 100,000 in Sao Paulo, "the Jewish capital of Brazil," about 65,000 in Rio; perhaps 15,000 in Porto Alegre; several hundred in government work in Brasilia.)

It is no accident that the PLO held a continent-wide congress in March 1984 in Sao Paolo (including representatives from the Caribbean) and announced that it was launching a continent-wide campaign to bring about the destruction of the State of Israel. Several left-wing Brazilian political spokesmen spoke at the congress or sent messages in support of the Palestinian cause. The inflammatory and hostile PLO rhetoric deeply upset the Jewish communities of Brazil.

On August 6, Jacobo Kovadloff and I, accompanied by Ronaldo Gomlevsky, FIERJ President, met with Dr. Vivaldo Barbosa, Secretary of Justice of the State of Rio, and on August 8 Jacobo and I met with Dr. Arthur de Castilho Neto, General Secretary of the Ministry of Justice in Brasilia. We began by expressing our interest in improving bilateral relations between the peoples of Brazil and the U.S., our welcoming the moves toward democracy, an end to the violation of human rights, and our support of the defense of human liberties. There was a good positive atmosphere established. We then expressed our deep concern over the PLO's published declarations which we said would incite hatred toward Jews as well as toward Israel.

Both Dr. Barbosa and Dr. Neto said they were aware of the PLO's activities which they were watching carefully. They informed us that a PLO magazine, entitled "Jerusalem," which contained a flagrantly anti-Semitic article had been suppressed. In similar phrases, both Justice officials said, "We will not allow bigotry to spill over from the Middle East conflict into Brazil." They indicated there were laws on the books that allowed them to take action to suppress the dis-

semination of anti-Semitic materials, and they asked us to send them any information we had regarding the dissemination of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," printed in Spanish in Brazil, which Jacobo promised to do.

Our conversation with Israeli Ambassador Timor at the Israeli Embassy in Brasilia was somber, even sad. Because of Brazil's heavy reliance on Arab oil and petrodollars, its heavy arms sales to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Libya, its growing commercial relations with Arab countries, relations between Brazil and Israel are at a low ebb. The large Arab presence in Brazil intensifies that condition. He feels very isolated in Brasilia. Almost plaintively, he urged us to encourage the Jewish leaders we were meeting with in Rio and Sao Paulo to keep in contact with the Embassy.

#### Brazilian Jewry

Brazil is a multi-cultural society ("mestizo" -- the basic ethnic stock is Portuguese; the 60% "white" population including Italians, Germans, Spanish and Polish; 30% mixed, 8% black, 2% Indian, the largest Japanese community in the world, outside of Japan, is in Sao Paulo; some 5 million Arabs.) "Despite class distinctions," Brazilian sociologists write, "national solidarity is strong and racial friction is minimal."

Brazilian Jewry is also multi-cultural. The Jewish population bears the traces of its immigration history -- 16th century migration of marranos from the Portuguese inquisition, 17th century Dutch conquest, 19th century Jewish migration from Tangier and Morocco settling in the north of Brazil in Recife, Belem, and Manaus, in 1871, French Jews from Alsace; 20th century immigrants from Eastern Europe (Bessarabia, Poland and Lithuania), in the 1930s, Jews from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Italy; after World War II, a substantial number of DPs immigrated, and the last big wave of immigrants came between 1956 and 1957 from Egypt, Syria and Hungary.

As a result, Brazilian Jewry is divided into many small groups and communities. In Sao Paulo, for example, there are more than 30 synagogues, most of them small. The largest community was founded by Jews from central Europe.

In an effort to unify these multiple communities, Jewish Federations have been established in Rio de Janeiro (about 65,000 Jews) and in Sao Paulo (about 100,000 Jews.) As indicated, Sao Paulo is considered "the Jewish capital of Brazil" and therefore has become the seat of the Confederation of Jewish Communities in Brazil, an umbrella group for the entire country.

Except for occasional sporadic episodes of anti-Semitism, Jewish religious and communal leaders told us that "there is no noticeable anti-Semitism either from the Government or from the general population." There are signs from time to time that there are people who dislike Jews -- such as a recent poll quoted by Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo that reported "12.7% of those polled consider Jews inferior to other Brasilians." Jews have done well economically in Brazil, with many in industry -- such as Leon Feffer of Sao Paulo and Israel Klabin and Adolfo Bloch of Rio -- and are prominent in the liberal professions (lawyers, doctors, architects, engineers, teachers, professors, scientists, and some artists and writers). This economic well-being has led to expressions of envy and dislike.

"There is no open discrimination against Jews in Brazil," we were told. Relations with the large, predominantly Lebanese Christian populations have been good. In recent years, there has been substantial immigration of Muslim Arabs from Syria, Jordan and the West Bank and they are regarded as unfriendly, but, as yet, not a dangerous element.

By and large, Brazilian Jewry is turned inward. Jews play a very minor role in government or politics. They have concentrated their energies and resources on strengthening their synagogues, their internal Jewish cultural, educational, social welfare and recreational life.

When I addressed the large Liberal (really Conservative) synagogues in Rio and Sao Paulo, I was impressed to see a large turnout of young people. Rabbi Robert Graetz of Rio and Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo, both trained at U.S. Reform Seminaries, both told me that the involvement of hundreds of young people in religious life gives them much nachas.

Most impressive is the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo, built by the Jewish community and considered the best hospital in Brazil. High government officials, including the President and Governors, use the hospital's facilities. To their credit, the hospital has devoted a special floor for free treatment of the poor people from the favelas. (During a recent flood in Santa Catarina province, some 75 Jewish teen-agers and university students organized a "Jewish peace corps," went to the afflicted areas and provided a variety of aid. (They were given much positive attention in the media.)

One of the most impressive institutions in Sao Paulo is the "Hebraica," the largest Jewish social club. With a membership of 24,000 individuals, and a magnificent sports center, Hebraica meets cultural, social and religious needs of the entire community. Side by side with the Congregacao Israelita Paulista, one of the largest synagogues on the South American continent (with 2,000 member fam-

lies), and the ten Jewish schools in Sao Paulo (with about 5,000 students, 30% of the Jewish student population), the Hebraica is the center of Jewish communal existence.

As in Argentina and Uruguay, Brazil's Jewish political life is Israel-oriented and is dominated by Zionist politics. Until recently, elections for Federation leadership followed Israeli political party lines -- Mapai, Mapam, NRP, etc. In the latest elections, a new young generation has begun to take over and is pledged to reorder the Jewish political system to follow far more the American Jewish model than the Zionist pattern -- while still remaining loyal to Israel. It remains to be seen whether they will succeed.

With all this intense, internal Jewish activity, Rolf Hertzberg, executive director of the Sao Paulo Jewish Federation, told us that "assimilation is easy and quite strong. No figures are available about the percentage of mixed marriages, but it can be assumed that their number is considerable." The young, effective Rabbis Graetz and Sobel, and the Jewish educational system, including the University Judaica programs are seeking to counter that trend.

In all our conversations with Jewish communal, educational, and religious leaders, we were asked for certain materials produced by AJC, and we promised to send them what we could, in addition to what Kovadloff has regularly provided them.

There was some conversation in Rio and Sao Paulo about their helping to re-publish COMMENTARIO. Following policy discussion at AJC national, we agreed to cooperate with them, but made it clear that they would have to accept responsibility for funding the publication. They are economically well able to do so.

#### Catholic-Jewish Relations

Latin America contains almost half of the world's Roman Catholic population. Brazil is the largest and most populous Roman Catholic nation in the world; of the 130 million Brazilians, 93% are Catholic.

There are 358 Catholic bishops, a number of them in the forefront of the social justice and human rights movement. (The recent Vatican challenge to "liberation theology" in Brazil and the existence of 70,000 Catholic "base communities" with four million members, indicates their political and social significance.)

I was astounded to find that the contact between the Jewish communities of Rio and Sao Paulo and the Roman Catholic church was limited to the point of being almost inconsequential. Only Rabbi Graetz and Israel Klabin (who is much respected by Rio's Cardinal Sales) maintain any meaningful contact with Catholic authorities. In

Sao Paulo, only Rabbi Fritz Pinkuss, the senior rabbi who is now ill, and his associate, Rabbi Henry Sobel, carry on any relationship with Catholic officials.

One of the reasons, we were told by Jewish spokesmen who were concerned by this lack of contact, was that many Jews had become comfortable with the right-wing, military governments and felt that Roman Catholic challenges to the status quo and demands for social justice and upholding human rights would be automatically interpreted as leftist movements opposed to the government. So they hid for cover, even though most Jews did not approve of human rights violations.

After much discussion with a whole spectrum of Jewish leaders, I was convinced they were being short-sighted in the long-term. There is a definite movement toward democracy in Brazil. Jews do not face threats to their security from the Government as much as they do from the growing militancy of the recent wave of Muslim Arabs and the PLO activists. Jews would therefore be wise to have strong allies from the most powerful group in the society; namely, the Roman Catholic Church.

As a consequence, Jacobo Kovadloff arranged a series of meetings with the highest authorities of the Roman Catholic church and they were without exception wonderful and positive experiences. In each instance, we insisted on having local Jewish leaders accompany us.

In Rio, we met with Cardinal Dom Eugenio Sales, and separately with the Chancellor of the Pontifical Catholic University, the Rev. Laercio Dias De Moura, S.J. After a long and friendly conversation with Father de Moura, we proposed the convening of a conference on "Moral Values and Human Rights" at his university. With two deans of faculty present (moral theology and social sciences), he accepted the idea enthusiastically and proposed that we hold it in April 1985 to mark the 20th anniversary of Vatican Council II.

Rabbi Graetz, who was with us, was enthusiastic over the agreement, and consented to be co-partner with us, the Rio Jewish Federation, and his synagogue. He said that that was the first time that has happened at the Pontifical University. At the meeting with Cardinal Sales, we invited him to take part in the conference, and to bring a message about supporting Catholic-Jewish relations, and he agreed to do so quite spontaneously.

During a two-hour luncheon with Israel Klabin, he said that was an important development for Brazilian Jewry and added that he would want to participate. We told him that we were eager to have him do so. (Perhaps he may even do so financially.)

In São Paulo, Rabbi Sobel accompanied Jacobo and myself to a meeting with Cardinal Paulo Avaristo Arns. It was a remarkable meeting begun with "abracados", and filled with affection and mutual respect. Cardinal Arns is a major force for human rights and care for the poor in Brazil. He loves Jews and Judaism, when a Jewish journalist, H. Herzog, was killed by police, Cardinal Arns sponsored a memorial service in the Cathedral and an estimated 100,000 people turned out. We proposed that a conference be held in São Paulo around October 1985 to mark the 20th anniversary of Vatican Council II's declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations. He accepted at once, and said he would participate.

On that same day, August 9, we met with the National Conference of Brazilian Catholic Bishops, led by Bishop Dom Sinesio Bohn, the National Commission on Catholic-Jewish Relations, and the Sisters of Zion. The next day, at a very moving meeting with the Secretary General of the National Conference of Brazilian Catholic Bishops, Dom Luciano Pedro Mendes de Almeida, held in the home of Rabbi Sobel, we discussed the general state of Catholic-Jewish relations in Brazil, anti-Semitism and the role of the church in combatting it, and relations with Israel. There was a universally positive and sympathetic response to all our concerns and a willingness to cooperate in programs that we proposed.

At both meetings there was agreement to join in sponsoring an October 1985 conference on Vatican Council II and Catholic-Jewish relations with promises of full and active participation. We were given a major study of Brazilian catechetical materials just completed on "The Image of Jews in Catholic Catechetics." (Jacobo has it, we plan to have it translated and determine how we can have it used most effectively in Brazil.)

In general, virtually every meeting in Brazil could not have been more gratifying, especially in terms of tachlis in program possibilities for AJC and the local Jewish communities.

Both the general, Catholic and Jewish media could not have been more generous in covering our visit, meetings, and speeches. (Rolf Hertzberg, just before we left, asked if we could use his services as AJC representative in Brazil. We need to consider.)

#### Conclusions

On Brazil, in sum, we came to the following conclusions:

1. On a political level, we need to explore how we can take advantage of the good state of relations between Brazil and the U.S. to try to counter, in however minimal ways, the increasing stranglehold Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and to a lesser extent, Libya, have on Brazil's Middle East policy. I have

no illusions about the possibility of success, but we need to talk to the Brazilian desk of the State Department, perhaps some U.S. industrialists, and others, and see what possibilities there are;

2. We need to establish contact with Brazilian government officials in the U.S. and at the U.N. to explore the possibilities of improving ties;
3. We need to strengthen our working relationships with the Jewish communal and religious leadership who are friendly and open to cooperation with AJC;
4. We need to move quickly to follow-up with all the Catholic authorities we met and implement the program commitments they gave us;
5. We need to strengthen Jacobo Kovadloff's ability to reach the press, radio and TV to his Spanish (Portuguese) materials which they received with such openness,
6. We need to cultivate ties with special individuals of major influence and financial resources, such as, Israel Klabin of Rio; Leon Feffer of Sao Paulo; and Adolfo Bloch of Rio.

#### ARGENTINA

Jacobo Kovadloff and I arrived in Buenos Aires on Tuesday, August 14 (following a two-day stay in Montevideo, Uruguay -- more about that later) and stayed until Saturday, August 18 (Jacobo stayed on for several days for follow-up and personal matters.)

My first impression of Buenos Aires is that it is a European city. I regularly felt that I was walking through Paris, Madrid or London. Argentina was settled predominantly by Spanish and Italian immigrants, with later admixtures of British, European (West and East), and some 500,000 Syrian, Lebanese, and other Middle Eastern immigrants.

Dr. Cohen-Imach, president of DAIA (the Central Jewish Federation) and Dr. Luis Perlmuter, president of AMIA (the central Jewish educational and cultural agency), told us that Argentina has a population of 29.6 million; some 10 million reside in sprawling metropolitan Buenos Aires. The Jewish population of Buenos Aires numbers about 230,000 people, and there are some 70,000 Jews scattered in the provinces.

Europeans constitute 97% of the population, and 92% of them are identified as Roman Catholic (Protestants are 2%, Jews 2%).

Argentina is the second largest country in Latin America, after Brazil, and the eighth largest in the world. One-third of Argentina's population resides in Buenos Aires, making it the focus of national life.

The pampas (the rich, temperate plains) which stretch from Buenos Aires through east-central Argentina, are among the richest farmlands in the world and year-round pasturage for its famed cattle industry. Argentina is one of the largest exporters of foodstuffs in the world.

As everyone knows, Argentina is in deep economic trouble despite its great national wealth. From the time of the military coup in 1943 led by Army Colonel Juan Domingo Peron (1897-1974) which ousted constitutional government, Argentina has gone through a roller-coaster of military coups and violent political upheaval which has been a disaster on many levels -- an unstable economy, virtual civil war between left and right, repression of human rights by the military junta that took over from Isabel Peron in March 1976, the defeat of the military in the Falklands/Malvinas crisis, the Beagle Channel conflict with Chile.

Argentina has a GNP of \$53 billion (contrasted with Brazil's \$295 billion) and 35% is based on industry (food processing, motor vehicles, textiles, chemicals, etc.); Agriculture, 13.7%, and Trade -- Exports \$7.6 billion, imports \$5.4 billion.

Argentina obtains about 20-22% of its imports from the USA amounting to \$1.2 billion (out of \$5.4 billion). In 1983, Argentina exported \$7.6 billion in goods and services, \$974.6 million went to the USA, representing about 13.2% of the country's total exports.

Argentina has been plagued by inflation for decades, with its 1984 rate setting a new record for the country -- about 600%. Its foreign debt is now estimated at more than \$40 billion.

On December 10, 1983, Raul Alfonsin, leader of the Radical Party (ideologically social democratic) was inaugurated President of Argentina. His commitment to return the country to democracy, bring to account the military junta that violated human rights, and in general to restore a regime of law and due process became a shot heard and felt throughout Latin America.

On Thursday, August 16, Jacobo Kovadloff and I had the privilege of a private audience with President Alfonsin in the Casa Rosada (the President's Pink House). The day before, we had an hour-long meeting with his Foreign Minister Dante Caputo (whom AJC officers had earlier met in New York on April 9).

Prior to our meeting with Alfonsin and Caputo, we met with U.S. Ambassador Frank Ortiz and Political Counselor Anthony Polito at the U.S. Embassy (arranged by the U.S. State Department Latin American desk).

Ambassador Ortiz, an impressive long-time foreign service officer, was friendly and candid. He told us (confidentially) that he thinks Alfonsin is a good man, deeply moral, and genuinely committed to democracy and human rights. But the political situation is so complicated, Ortiz said, -- with pressures from the Peronist, the military, the labor unions, the strong human rights groups -- that Alfonsin has not been able to take the decisive positions on the economy, and that could be his undoing. Thus, he noted, the Argentine government loses a million dollars a day in subsidizing airline and other forms of transportation. Unless it curtails such runaway expenditures and practices greater austerity, within a year or earlier the inflation rate will soar to one thousand percent.

No government can survive with an economy so imperiled, Ortiz said. Up till now, Alfonsin's people have been blaming America's high interest rates and have been avoiding "biting the bullet" in taking charge of their economy. If the economic issues are not dealt with decisively and soon, he added, he fears that all the hopes for constitutional democracy and human rights could collapse (God forbid!).

Ortiz nevertheless said that it was important that we encourage Alfonsin's movement to democracy and human rights; with all his complex problems, he needs that support.

President Alfonsin made a strong, positive impression on us for his warmth, directness and sincerity. We told him about AJC's support of constitutional democracy and human rights since our founding, and told him that President Friedman and our officers have made numerous public declarations welcoming his election and the principles of liberty and civil and political liberties for which he stood.

We then told him that on his next visit to New York, the AJC would like to present its Human Rights Award to him. He was genuinely moved and said he was honored to accept. He would let us know when he plans to visit the U.S. and would work out his schedule to be with AJC for the award. (We wanted to work that out during his Sept. 24-25 visit to the UN General Assembly, but his schedule for our meeting is impossible. We do have his commitment for a later date.)

We then discussed our concerns over two Jewish issues: a) the proposed law outlawing anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination; and b) Argentina's supporting anti-Israel resolutions introduced by Arab nations at Geneva last March.

On the first, he told us that he had just approved a text outlawing anti-Semitism and making anti-Jewish actions punishable by criminal law; he urged us to obtain a copy of the text from his advisor, legal counselor Nino (a Jew whom we later met in his building and who gave Jacobo a copy; we were the first Jewish agency to have it and Jacobo gave a copy to DAIA's president). The law has since been introduced to the Parliament for debate. (Jacobo is watching this carefully and we will respond to it when adopted.)

On Israel, he repeated what Caputo told us. "The vote was a mistake. We will not allow politics in the Middle East conflict to affect our votes on human rights issues. We will vote on issues affecting Israel based on their merits and not on the basis of preconceived alignments or blackmail."

While he said Argentina is part of the "non-aligned bloc," it is determined together with Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela to become "genuinely non-aligned and not aligned in one direction only" (meaning the Soviet-Third World bloc.) We strongly welcomed that policy direction.

As a predominantly European country, we felt in our discussion that Alfonsin sees himself oriented toward the West and the USA. At the same time, he is reaching out to establish economic relations with the USSR, China, African and Asian countries (as Brazil is doing).

With Caputo, we had a longer, easy, and friendly conversation. We discussed the same issues that we talked about with Alfonsin, and got pretty much the same answers. "We will not have knee-jerk anti-Israel positions," he told us.

At this point I got firm and he got a little uneasy when I said that he has been saying things like this to Jewish leaders for nine months now and the time has come to see those views expressed in action at the UN and at other international bodies. Unless that happens, the Alfonsin government's credibility will collapse in the Jewish community and that will be bad for all of us. I referred to the population conference then being held in Mexico, with the PLO and their third world supporters holding a gun at the head of the international community, and preventing the world from dealing with its massive human problems of economy, hunger, refugees -- unless they capitulate to the PLO-Arab view. Caputo acknowledged that as a serious threat and he said we will soon see changes in Argentina's positions. We told him we will look forward to that.

On Thursday morning, August 16, we had similar discussions with Dr. Adolfo Gass, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (a geshmakeh Jew), and on Tuesday evening, with Dr. Lee Pugliese, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies.

It is clear from all these conversations that there is much sympathy for our views and concerns, they will try to do right by Jews and by Israel; they are deeply dependent on America's goodwill to solve their crushing economic problems, and that they see American Jews, particularly "the powerful" AJC as a potential important friend and ally; but that they are also walking a tightrope politically while trying to cope with all the strong internal political pressures.

We left with each of the government people we met copies of our aide-memoires on "Anti-Jewish Hostility at the UN," "Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union," which they all promised to study.

#### Argentine Jewish Community

We deliberately met on our first day of arrival in Buenos Aires with the steering committee of the DAIA, the representative Jewish body headed by Dr. Cohen-Imach. We wanted them to understand why we came to Argentina, that our mission was to be complementary and supportive of their efforts, and that we had no intention to supplant their spokesmanship on Jewish issues.

Their response was immediate and affirming. They quickly began discussing substantive issues about anti-Semitism in Argentina, the need for a law (which had not been forthcoming), the anti-Israel votes. Then they asked us to represent these views to Alfonsin and Caputo because they felt for the powerful AJC to do this would reinforce their position, especially since Argentina needed U.S. aid and support so desperately. It was a wonderfully positive meeting. They asked us to inform them about what happened at our meetings with Alfonsin and Caputo and we did (for which they were additionally grateful).

It is evident that DAIA is still rocking under the attacks that they did not do enough to help the Jews who disappeared (desaparecidos) under the military, and they welcomed our constructive outreach to them.

They told us that anti-Semitism has declined under the Alfonsin regime, but they believe the anti-Semitic persons and groups remain intact waiting to act out again when the time is ripe. They attach much importance to the enactment of a law outlawing anti-Semitism with criminal punishments.

On August 16, at 11 a.m., we met with Luis Perlmuter and the AMIA board. They gave us a rather complete overview of their activities in education, Jewish culture, religion, and social welfare services, especially for the Jewish poor and elderly. It is a most imposing picture.

Clearly there are many internal Jewish problems -- rivalries between the Orthodox rabbinate and the Conservative Rabbinical Seminary; the DAIA elections based on Israeli party lines, which seem hopelessly inappropriate and anachronistic; the central role of the Israeli Embassy in shaping internal Jewish policies. Those require a full discussion of its own.

I lectured at the Post-Graduate Faculty of the University of Belgrano (Aug. 15), the Centro Cultural San Martin (Aug. 16), and preached at the Congregacion Israelita de la Republica Argentina (Aug. 17). I tried to make connections between Jewish values and ideals and contemporary human problems, and was gratified by the warm response. Both the university and the San Martin center invited me to come back to deliver "a cycle of lectures."

#### Catholic-Jewish Relations

We met with Archbishop Antonio Quarracino, who is one of the heads of the Argentinian church but who is also president of the Latin American Conference of Catholic Bishops (CELAM's) at his office. He is a longtime friend of Jacobo's and we gave him a reception last February at AJC in New York. He greeted us like brothers, with embraces and kisses.

We reviewed the present condition of Catholic-Jewish relations. He said that while they are good, there is really very little contact on any ongoing basis between Catholics and Jews in Buenos Aires. We proposed the holding of a conference with CELAM co-sponsored by AJC's Latin American office. He said he was eager to do so, especially since next year is the 20th anniversary of Vatican Council II.

But then, he said, almost dramatically: "You must reopen your office in Buenos Aires. It is difficult for me to sponsor a conference with an American group that has no presence here. You must come back."

He told us he was running a small conference with the World Jewish Congress' Latin American branch (5 Catholics, 5 Jews) but that he really wants to run a continent-wide conference under CELAM with the AJC. We told him that this is an important policy question for AJC and that we are now giving it serious thought. In the meantime, we are prepared to do what is necessary to co-sponsor the CELAM conference, either in Colombia (CELAM'S headquarters) or in Buenos Aires.

He asked us to send him a proposed program outline and we promised to do so.

On Friday night, Guillermo and Amalia Polack, president of the Congregacion and of WIZO, respectively, gave a lovely reception in our honor at their home. I had another long conversation with Israeli Ambassador Dov Schmorak (whom we met on Aug. 15) who felt our visits especially with Alfonsin and Caputo were very important for Argentine Jewry and for Israel.

Especially interesting, was the presence of the Philippine Ambassador to the EEC, an elegant lady, who is the chair of the steering committee of the Nairobi women's conference. Amalia Polack, an impressive person, informed us of the strong interventions she made with the Philippine ambassador in order to counter anti-Israel activity at Nairobi. Amalia asked us to send her any materials we have on Nairobi that she could disseminate to her contacts. Also present was Supreme Court Justice, Dr. Carlos Fyat, a good friend of Jews and of Israel.

#### Conclusions

On Argentina, in sum:

1. We have a role to play in using our American influence to impact on the Alfonsin Government's attitudes and policies toward Argentinian Jewry and Israel;
2. We can strengthen our programmatic bonds with DATA and AMIA, which I now believe will be welcomed;
3. We can play a unique role in sponsoring conferences at universities in Buenos Aires on pluralism and human rights -- for which we now have invitations;
4. We have an important role to play with our friends in the Roman Catholic Church in helping them counter anti-Semitism and strengthen positive attitudes toward Jews, Judaism and Israel.

#### URUGUAY

Jacobo and I arrived on Montevideo on August 13, and spent a non-stop grueling day of meetings and conferences until 1 a.m. the next night.

Uruguay is a small but interesting country. Out of a general population of nearly three million people, it has a Jewish population numbering about 30,000.

Like Argentina, it is also very much European, 85% white (25% Italian), 5-10% mestizo, 3-5% black. Roman Catholics are 66%, Protestants 2%, Jews, 2%, nonprofessing estimated at 30%. Uruguay, unlike Argentina and Brazil, has complete separation of church and state, and the Catholic church plays a recessive role in public affairs.

Of its \$9.4 billion GNP, 40% of its exports are wool and meat. It is a predominantly agricultural society, seeking to develop industry.

Dominated by a military junta since 1977, Uruguay went through a virtual civil war between the Tupamaros guerrillas and the military government with heavy violation of human rights and much repression.

As we were in Montevideo, the society was preparing itself for a transformation from military rule to a democratic election.

In our meetings with the heads of the Uruguayan Jewish community and the abrasive Israeli ambassador, we were told that relations between Uruguay and Israel could not be better. There is substantial trade (Israel buys \$25 million a year in meats), Uruguay buys only \$3 million in technical supplies but efforts are being made to improve that. There are exchanges of diplomatic visits and cultural exchanges. But Uruguayan Jews are uncomfortable about the coziness with the military junta.

There is a very high rate of aliyah to Israel -- since 1948, some 12,000 Jews have emigrated to Israel. There is growing intermarriage. Jews are not very confident about the future.

Should the Blanco party defeat the ruling Colorado party which is so friendly to Israel, Jews also worry whether there will be any shift in policy toward a more "third world" policy.

While we had good meetings with U.S. Ambassador Aranda and editors of the major dailies, the Montevidean Jewish leaders wanted us particularly to help them organize their contacts with their Christian neighbors which were virtually non-existent.

At a meeting called by Dr. Pedro Sclofsky and Julio Bension, I addressed a large meeting of Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals and Jews -- the largest turnout they ever had, they told me. That night they proceeded to organize a Conference of Christians and Jews.

They asked for our continued contact and help and we promised to respond positively.

### SUMMARY IMPLICATIONS

Beyond the specific implications for AJC's future program activity in South America that have been suggested earlier in this report, there is the large over-arching issue: should AJC reopen its South American office in Buenos Aires?

On several occasions, Argentine government officials have invited AJC to return and have pledged their cooperation. In addition, as this report indicates, leaders of Jewish communities in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay have asked us to return to Buenos Aires. Catholic church officials clearly have welcomed our return as a program partner.

I am now persuaded that AJC should give positive consideration to taking that step. The question is what form should our return take? Should it be a modest office with a correspondent working under Jacobo Kovadloff's direction in New York? Should Jacobo be encouraged to return? Should it be a major staff person with a strong administrative operation to service South American Jewry (and world Jewry) in distinctive ways?

These are questions that AJC's International Affairs Commission will now have to consider and present to the officers and Board of Governors for determination.

September 20, 1984

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MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

EL DIA 8/15/84

*El rabino Dr. Marc H Tanenbaum, durante la visita que realizara a nuestra dirección*

## *EL DIA Recibió la Visita Del Dr. Tanenbaum*

El pasado lunes EL DIA se honró con la visita del director del Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales del American Jewish Committee rabino Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum que departió amablemente con nuestro director Rafael Noboa y los redactores políticos Sr. Horacio García Méndez y Mario Rebuffel.

Fundado en 1906 el American Jewish Committee es una de las más importantes organizaciones existentes en Estados Unidos en materia de derechos humanos. Si bien tiene como misión básica la de combatir la intolerancia y proteger los derechos civiles y religiosos de los judíos promueve a nivel mundial el mejoramiento de las relaciones entre todos los pueblos en aras de la tolerancia y el respeto que debe existir entre ellos.

El Dr. Tanenbaum es sin duda una destacada personalidad y es considerado en su país uno de los más competentes dirigentes religiosos de la actualidad. Posee un largo y distinguido currículum en la defensa de los derechos humanos, la protección de los refugiados y en general todos los problemas que afectan de una manera u otra la vida del hombre.

Su gira por estas latitudes americanas obedece a su deseo de conocer personalmente la realidad de nuestros países y tomar así conocimiento directo de las situaciones que hoy imperan en esta parte del mundo.

Explicó la forma en que generalmente se trata de actuar para la solución de problemas entre grupos radicalmente antagonistas de diferentes filosofías religiosas como ocurrió recientemente en la India donde tropas del gobierno debieron trabarse en combate con los miembros de la secta de los shiks de lo que lamentablemente resultó una cruenta batalla.

La organización a la que pertenece el Dr. Tanenbaum trata siempre de despertar la atención mundial sobre hechos que a su juicio requieren la intervención externa en forma de una acción concertada que presione sobre el gobierno —caso de India— o sobre las autoridades locales para defender los

derechos humanos que se ven amenazados.

Teniendo en cuenta la realidad de tantos países especialmente en algunas partes de África y el tremendo movimiento de refugiados que puede originarse cuando la guerra o la violencia interna promueven la huida de quienes ven sus vidas amenazadas el Dr. Tanenbaum afirmó la necesidad de una acción concertada para evitar estas verdaderas tragedias del siglo XX.

Nuestro distinguido visitante estuvo acompañado en la ocasión por el Sr. Isaac Hazán Nahmias director general del Comité Central Israelita del Uruguay y por el Sr. Jacobo Kovadlof director del South American Affairs and Spanish Media.



# EL PAÍS

MONTEVIDEO, MARTES 14 DE AGOSTO DE 1984

## La Realidad Judía en EE.UU. Vista por el Dr. Tanenbaum

Durante la breve visita realizada a Montevideo por el Director del Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales del American Jewish Committee, rabino Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum, EL PAÍS tuvo oportunidad de dialogar con el visitante sobre diversos aspectos de la función que desempeña, y de la realidad judía en los Estados Unidos.

Fundado en 1906 el American Jewish Committee es la organización pionera en los Estados Unidos en materia de derechos humanos. Su misión es la de combatir la intolerancia, proteger los derechos civiles y religiosos de los judíos allí y en el exterior y promover el mejoramiento de las relaciones humanas entre todos los pueblos del mundo.

El Dr. Tanenbaum, un hombre de edad media y pelo entrecano, con aspecto más bien de ejecutivo internacional, es una personalidad destacada, elegido como uno de los diez dirigentes religiosos norteamericanos más influyentes y respetados, en una encuesta nacional.

Ostenta una larga y distinguida carrera relacionada con los derechos humanos a nivel internacional, y en temas relativos a los refugiados, el hambre en el mundo, y las relaciones exteriores, habiendo prestado importantes testimonios ante el Congreso de Estados Unidos sobre esos tópicos.

### VER LA REALIDAD DE CERCA

En respuesta a la pregunta sobre el motivo de su gira por América Latina, el Dr. Tanenbaum responde "que al haberse hecho cargo del Dpto. de Relaciones Exteriores del Comité, ha querido palpar de cerca las realidades a nivel nacional y de la colectividad judía como primer paso para un desempeño eficaz de su tarea, ya que no es lo mismo leer lo que ocurre en un país que vivirlo de cerca".

Prueba de ello es la información fragmentada a que dio lugar una encuesta realizada en Estados Unidos por encargo del American Jewish Committee respecto a las minorías étnicas judíos, negros, católicos, etc. en ese país.

"El estudio era comparativo" afirmó Tanenbaum, "sin embargo algunas publicaciones aparecieron restringidas a los judíos y con los estudios hechas por el AJC distorsionados".

### MILLONARIOS E INSOLVENTES

"En los Estados Unidos hay más de 100 negras multimillonarias, como Sammy Davis por ejemplo. Si se toma la estadística y se dice sólo eso, no se indicaría el terrible problema de la pobreza entre los negros que representa el 50% de los desocupados en la mayoría de las naciones americanas".

—¿En qué estaban distorsionados esos estudios?

"La cultura y la educación son algo tan arraigado entre los judíos que se remontan a los orígenes de la Biblia. Para aprender era necesario leerla. De ahí en más el judío ha perseverado, y dejando de lado distracciones ha procurado mejorar su nivel intelectual y académico. La mayoría de ellos son profesionales o empresarios independientes".

### LA BANCA Y LAS FINANZAS

—¿Cuál es la relación de los judíos con la banca y las finanzas?

"Los judíos son activos en ambas, pero teniendo en cuenta un estudio realizado por 'Fortune 50', revista especializada en grandes industrias y corporaciones multinacionales que son las que dirigen la economía estadounidense nos encontramos con que en el último año entre esas 500 sólo había 2 judíos. El comercio y las finanzas están esencialmente en manos de procedencia anglo sajona. Los judíos no son tan dominantes como se los quiere hacer aparecer. Tienen influencia pero eso es lo apropiado y



El rabino estadounidense Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum con nuestro Director Martín Aguirre

surge de la naturaleza propia de la sociedad americana. Diferentes grupos en diferentes momentos a medida que ascienden en la escala económica, aumentan su influencia política.

### LOS JUDIOS SE ASIMILAN

—¿Cómo se integran judíos y cristianos? Hay algún rechazo?

Al contrario. La relación entre los judíos y los cristianos en Estados Unidos nunca ha sido mejor. A partir del Concilio Vaticano II de 1965, y merced al diálogo y trabajo conjunto en problemas sociales comunes tenemos relaciones formales con católicos, protestantes, anglicanos y evangélicos en todas las ciudades. El problema tal vez sea al revés, que somos demasiado bien aceptados. Hay muchos judíos que quieren abandonar la comunidad y asimilarse. 40% de los casamientos se hacen entre judíos y cristianos. Eso indica que el anti-semitismo tiene un nivel muy bajo. La gente no se casa con alguien que odia. Los judíos son perfectamente aceptados.

—¿Ocurra lo mismo al revés?

—Por supuesto. Interesan las cualidades personales, no la etiqueta que llevan. Esto podría crearnos un problema que es el de perder la comunidad pero es una importante pieza de evidencia a nivel de ciencias sociales, que la relación entre judíos y cristianos está en un alto nivel de respeto mutuo y aceptación.

### EL PAPA JUAN PABLO II

—Una última pregunta, usted participó en la primera audiencia de dirigentes judíos con el Papa Juan Pablo II. De líder religioso a líder religioso ¿qué impresión le produjo?

—Es un hombre que impresiona enormemente. Sin lugar a dudas una figura intelectual importante. Uno experimenta esa inteligencia al conversar con él.

## Reunión con el Presidente de Argentina

NUEVA YORK - El presidente de Argentina, Raúl Alfonsín, "merece todo nuestro apoyo moral y práctico", dijo ayer el director del Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales del Comité Judío Americano, Marc H. Tanenbaum, al retornar de una gira por el Sur del continente

Tanenbaum, al comentar sobre las impresiones de un viaje realizado en la segunda semana de este mes, dijo que el proceso de democratización de la Argentina ha tenido impacto en "Brasil, Uruguay y otros países latinoamericanos"

Tanenbaum informó que comunicó al presidente argentino su impresión de que el pueblo de los Estados Unidos "le brinda su apoyo en los esfuerzos para restaurar la democracia" Agregó que mientras Alfonsín lucha con sus grandes problemas económicos "merece y necesita todo

nuestro apoyo moral y práctico"

Agregó que se reunió con el presidente argentino y con el canciller, Dante Caputo, para discutir el proyecto de ley prohibiendo la discriminación racial y religiosa. Tanenbaum dijo haber recibido seguridades de que el proyecto pronto será sometido al Parlamento.

Indicó Tanenbaum que Arthur Pereira de Castilho Neto, secretario general del Ministerio de Justicia de Brasil, le indicó que no será permitida la importación "a nuestro país de la intolerancia del conflicto del Medio Oriente"

Expresó también que le manifestó al funcionario preocupación por el hecho de que Brasil, el quinto exportador mundial de armas, vende grandes cantidades de equipos bélicos a Iraq y a Arabia Saudita. Dijo que se le pidió a Pereira supervisión estricta para evitar que esas armas "se transformen en un

chantaje económico contra Israel y en presiones políticas y sociales contra los judíos del Brasil"

Agregó que expuso a varios funcionarios brasileños la preocupación por una serie de acciones antisemitas así como otra dirigidas contra el gobierno de Israel realizadas en Sao Paulo, durante una conferencia de la Organización para la Liberación de Palestina.

Tanenbaum dijo que el Brasil "está pasando ahora por una serie de cambios políticos, económicos y sociales que pueden influir seriamente en las relaciones Norte-Sur y aún en la paz en el Oriente Medio"

Finalmente Tanenbaum dijo que todos los estadounidenses, cristianos y judíos, deben conocer "a ese gigante dormido cuando el Brasil comience a despertarse, nos afectará a todos" (UPI)

## SEÑALAMOS.

que el Embajador de Israel, Nathaniel Matalon y su colega de los Estados Unidos, Thomas Aranda, recibieron en sus respectivos despachos al Rabino Dr Marc H Tannenbaum y al periodista Jacobo Kovadloff, brindandoles el Director de Asuntos Internacionales del American Jewish Committee un vivo panorama de las relaciones judeo-cristianas en el mundo actual, que estan avanzando positivamente, esforzandose muchas jerarquias cristianas en cumplir con la declaracion vaticana "Nostra Aetate", en el sentido de respetar la forma en que los judios se ven a si mismos, que es la mejor manera de dejar de lado estereotipos que no condicen con la realidad, la dignidad y la creatividad del pueblo y del hombre judios

# Con el Rabino Marc Tannenbaum

Conociamos algo de la lucidez, el conocimiento y la experiencia del Rabino Tannenbaum a traves de muchos de sus articulos, parte de los cuales publicamos en los ultimos años en "Semanario Hebreo". Conocerle personalmente fué, pues, una enorme satisfaccion y una muy positiva experiencia para nosotros. Tiene mucho que decir y sabe como hacerlo.

Lo atestigua un impresionante curriculum del cual sobresalen entre muchas de sus responsabilidades, el de Director de Asuntos Internacionales del Comité Judío Americano y anteriormente su Director de Asuntos Interreligiosos, miembro fundador del Comité Unido de enlace del Secretariado Vaticano sobre Relaciones Judeo-Católicas, miembro del Comité Judío Internacional para Consultas Interreligiosas y de un Comité similar del Consejo Mundial de Iglesias (protestantes), único Rabino observador en el Concilio Vaticano II, miembro del Comité Asesor de la Comisión Presidencial del Gobierno de los EE UU. sobre el Holocausto, e integrante del Comité de Investigación de los Derechos Humanos del Estudio de Prioridades para la Década del 80 de la Asociación de Política Exterior de los Estados Unidos y otros cargos de similar jerarquia.

Su anfitrión local fue el Comité Central Israelita del Uruguay y para solo un dia y medio se le preparó una agenda, como nos dijo con humor, realmente "antisemita". —¿Se me quiere matar aquí? preguntó entre espantado, resignado y risueño. Ya poco después de llegar el domingo de tarde tuvo una reunión de más de tres horas con la Comisión para las Relaciones Judeo-Cristianas del Comité Central Israelita en el gentil hogar del Dr Pedro Sclofsky, Secretario General del C.C.I. y su esposa, donde nos relató interesantes aspectos y opiniones de su experiencia en la materia en los EE.UU. y en el mundo. También tuvo encuentros con la prensa.

El lunes de mañana tuvimos el gusto de desayunar con el Rabino Tannenbaum y grabarle un reportaje para "Semanario Hebreo" en compañía de nuestro apreciado amigo, el periodista Jacobo Kovadloff, director del De-

partamento Latinoamericano, y medios en español del Comité Judío Americano en Nueva York, que viaja junto al Rabino Tannenbaum en esta visita continental. Ambos huéspedes fueron recibidos por los Embajadores de Estados Unidos, Thomas Aranda y de Israel, Nathaniel Matalón y por el Arzobispo de Montevideo, Monseñor Carlos Parteli, a quien el Rabino Tannenbaum presentó sus respetos y con quien conversó sobre las relaciones judeo-católicas, que se estrechan en mutua cooperación a nivel mundial, con intereses en conocer las opiniones de Monseñor Parteli en lo relacionado con el ámbito uruguayo.

Al mediodía hubo una asamblea de dirigentes de la colectividad convocada por el Comité Central Israelita en su sede, de más de dos horas, respondiendo el Rabino Tannenbaum a muchos e interesantes preguntas que le fueron formuladas, participando más tarde en otra extensa reunión, esta vez con dignatarios de la Iglesia Católica, de diversas Iglesias Protestantes, el Gran Rabino Berman, Rabino Kriper y los integrantes de la Comisión del C.C.I. para las Relaciones Judeo-Cristianas. Asistieron alrededor de veinte personalidades cristianas, entre ellas el Vicepresidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Uruguaya, Monseñor José Gotardi, el Padre Orlando Romero y Leonel Veríssimo entre otros católicos, el Pastor Guillermo Milovan, y el Pastor César Rodríguez Jourdan, director del Instituto Ecuménico, entre mas figuras protestantes.

En nuestro próximo número ofreceremos mas detalles de las importantes actividades cumplidas con motivo de la presencia del Rabino Tannenbaum y de J. Kovadloff. Mientras, queremos felicitar al Comité Central Israelita por su preparación de todas las actividades señaladas y la eficiente movilización que ello requirió de su parte, siendo de justicia mencionar en ese sentido al Vice-presidente en ejercicio, Cr. Julio Bensión, al Secretario General Dr Pedro Sclofsky y al Director Ejecutivo Sr. Isaac Hazan, quienes personifican el esfuerzo realizado por dirigentes y funcionarios, con abnegación y asimismo, con gran éxito.

# LA NACION

Buenos Aires, jueves 16 de agosto de 1984

## Caputo recibió a un líder judeoamericano

Durante más de una hora estuvo ayer con el canciller, Dante Caputo, el director de Relaciones Internacionales del Comité Judío Norteamericano, rabino Marc Tanenbaum, quien realiza una gira por Sudamérica.

Al terminar la entrevista, el visitante y el director de Asuntos Sudamericanos de la entidad, Jacobo Kodadloff, concurrieron a la sala de periodistas acompañados por el director de Prensa del Palacio San Martín, señor Albino Gómez.

Explicó Tanenbaum que había manifestado al canciller el beneplácito de los judíos norteamericanos y de otros grupos por la transición pacífica de un gobierno de facto a un gobierno democrático, como la que se registró en la Argentina.

También señaló que habían hablado con el canciller a raíz del voto argentino en la reunión de Ginebra por los derechos humanos, donde, en marzo, nuestro país apoyó una propuesta árabe condenatoria de Israel por la conculcación de dichos derechos. Caputo -dijo- explicó que había sido una mala interpretación de las instrucciones emanadas de la Cancillería y que a partir de la asunción del

nuevo gobierno se estaba instruyendo a los diplomáticos en el sentido de que no se pueden apoyar aquellas posiciones sobre derechos humanos inspirados en ideas políticas.

Le expuso entonces el rabino Tanenbaum que mas recientemente, en el seno de la Unión Interparlamentaria Mundial, 13 de los 16 delegados argentinos de distintas corrientes políticas votaron una propuesta de Irak, en la cual se condenó a Israel por los derechos humanos y que, si bien se anunció que se habían abstenido, no había ocurrido así.

Ante este señalamiento, comentó el representante de la entidad judeonorteamericano, el canciller argentino le expresó que lamentaba la situación y le recordó que la actitud de los parlamentarios no puede ser controlada por el gobierno nacional.

Por último Tanenbaum informó que Caputo, cumpliendo con expresas instrucciones de Alfonsín, había dispuesto, "aun a costa de los inconvenientes que se pudieran presentar", que la Argentina sostendrá que "los derechos humanos no pueden ser discriminados por países o bloques de países", en todos los foros donde se presente el tema.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

August 16, 1984

Jueves 16 de agosto de 1984

LA RAZON

## Por un Error, la Argentina Condenó la Política Israeli, Afirmó Dante Caputo

EL rabino Marc Tanenbaum, director de Relaciones Internacionales del Comite judio-norteamericano, se entrevistó durante una hora con el canciller Dante Caputo con quien trato aspectos de la posición argentina sobre los derechos humanos y la discriminación racial. Al termino de la entrevista Tanenbaum acompañado por Jacobo Kovadloff director de Asuntos Sudamericanos de aque

lla entidad concurrió a la sala de periodistas de la cancillería para dar detalles de la entrevista. Informó que uno de los principales temas tratados fue el de la actitud del delegado argentino en la reunión realizada en marzo por la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra. En esa ocasión la Argentina votó favorablemente un proyecto de resolución presentado por los

árabes que condenaba energicamente la política Israeli. Según la versión de Tanenbaum, Caputo explicó que el voto argentino favorable a la resolución había sido un error ya que se habían dado instrucciones para que no se voten favorablemente aquellas resoluciones que mezclan cuestiones políticas con los derechos humanos. Tanenbaum también señaló que en una reciente reunión de la

Unión Interparlamentaria Mundial Irak había presentado una resolución contra Israel la que había sido votada favorablemente por los 15 representantes argentinos presentes, si bien se había dicho que era una abstención. Caputo respondió que lamentaba ese voto, pero que la delegación no era parte del gobierno, sino que se trataba de una delegación de parlamentarios de ambos partidos.

Informativo D.A.I.A (Buenos Aires)  
28 de Agosto de 1984.

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VISITA DEL RABINO MARC TANNENBAUM  
A LA D.A.I.A.-

El Rabino Marc Tannenbaum, titular de Relaciones Internacionales del American Jewish Committee, en vísperas de sus entrevistas oficiales con el presidente Alfonsín y el canciller Caputo, fue recibido en una sesión de la comisión directiva de la DAIA.

Después de las palabras de bienvenida por parte del presidente de la DAIA, doctor Sión Cohen Imach, el rabino Tannenbaum —quien vino acompañado por el director de asuntos latinoamericanos del A.J.C., Jacobo Kovadloff— señaló entre otras cosas su complacencia por hacer uso de la palabra en una entidad como la DAIA, conocida internacionalmente y apreciada como un ejemplo para otras entidades similares en diversas latitudes.

Transcribimos a continuación, el reportaje aparecido en Mundo Israelita (25.8.84), efectuado por el periodista Ariel Ploschuk.

AMERICAN JEWISH

**"EL AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE JAMAS SE DEJO ATRAPAR POR LA CAMPAÑA DIFAMATORIA CONTRA LA DIRIGENCIA JUEOARGENTINA," AFIRMO EN DIALOGO CON "MUNDO ISRAELITA" EL RABINO MARC TANENBAUM**

# Argentina democrática no puede votar contra la única democracia del Levante

Los judíos norteamericanos se sienten felices por la recuperación de la democracia en la Argentina y en las conversaciones que mantuve con el presidente Alfonsín y el canciller Caputo les exprese nuestro firme apoyo a los esfuerzos por afianzar el gobierno constitucional y el imperio de los Derechos Humanos. Pero también dejé en claro que ese espontáneo anhelo se vería amargamente desalentado si persistiere el inexplicable apoyo de la Argentina democrática a votaciones virulentamente antisraelíes orquestadas por los países árabes y sus seguidores oportunistas en los foros internacionales especialmente en la UN. La verdad que resulta incomprensible que un gobierno democrático como el surgido felizmente en la Argentina preste su espaldarazo a propuestas burdamente discriminatorias que tienden a destruir a la única democracia existente en todo el Medio Oriente como es el Estado de Israel.

## Entrevistó ARIEL PLOSHCHUK

Estas categoricas palabras fueron enunciadas con la cabal precisión que es su característica por el rabino Marc Tanenbaum, titular de Relaciones Internacionales del American Jewish Committee, en un dialogo exclusivo con MUNDO ISRAELITA. Como hemos informado en una edición anterior el nombrado dirigente estuvo días atrás en esta capital en su primera visita a nuestro país acompañado por el director de asuntos latinoamericanos de dicho organismo el portavoz Jacobo Kovadloff, quien tiene en su haber una profunda trayectoria al servicio de las cosas institucionales en nuestro medio.

El rabino Tanenbaum es una figura de relevantes perfiles en los altos niveles del liderazgo Judeoamericano. Por su formación judía y sentir cívico —tan propio del espíritu convencional de los Estados Unidos— concentró sus mayores esfuerzos en el campo del entendimiento intercon-

fisional y la lucha contra las prevenciones religiosas y raciales en todas sus formas y alcances. Baste recordar, como testimonio de la importancia de su gestión en tan sensibles esferas que asistió como único rabino, en condición de "observador especial" a las deliberaciones del Concilio Vaticano II e integró el primer grupo de dirigentes judíos que fueron recibidos por el papa Juan Pablo II a poco de asumir la máxima jefatura de la Iglesia Católica.

Espíritu sensible y abierto a todas las reclamaciones judías despliega como es obvio por las responsabilidades que conllevan sus funciones, una intensa labor en defensa de la imagen e integridad de la vida judía, y no sólo en la Unión sino más allá de sus fronteras, en América Latina, con el enfoque colocado hoy por hoy, en la caliente área centroamericana que también se proyecta "sensible" en la visualización judía.

No es de extrañar entonces la resonancia que su breve visita despertó en nuestro medio, tanto en el ámbito comunitario como, mas señaladamente en las esferas gubernativas políticas y eclesiásticas. Es obvio, por lo tanto que este periódico entrevistara al huésped para recabar sus opiniones sobre sus gestiones en la metrópoli y condensar sus reflexiones sobre algunos temas mas que acutantes para la vida judía de esta hora especialmente en lo atinente a nuestra comunidad al cabo de sus encuentros aquí. El rabino Tanenbaum, pese a sus múltiples compromisos y su agenda llena dio marca de preferencia al diálogo con MUNDO ISRAELITA, en una conversación que se extendió mucho más del tiempo oficialmente fijado ya que el imperativo primordial del dirigente judío es estrechar la comunicación "con nuestro periodismo", según su certeza asentada.

(Continúa.)

(Viene de la página anterior.)

Desde luego, la pregunta inicial que le hacemos a nuestro interlocutor se refiere a las impresiones recogidas luego de sus entrevistas con el presidente de la Nación doctor Alfonsín y al canciller Dante Caputo.

El rabino Tanenbaum, tras puntualizar los conceptos que expresara al primer mandatario y al titular del Palacio San Martín, y que consignamos en el comienzo de la presente nota agregó:

—Tanto el presidente Alfonsín como el ministro Caputo concidieron en repudiar terminantemente toda forma de agitación antisemita o de prejuicios religiosos o raciales. Por un elemental principio moral de la democracia hemos de combatir el antisemitismo en la Argentina, expresaron coincidentemente el presidente y el canciller. Los dos me aseguraron que no escatimaran esfuerzos para extirpar el odio antisemita en todas sus formas y tácticas agitadoras. En ese sentido, he sido informado que en los próximos días el gobierno enviará al Congreso un proyecto de ley que tiende a introducir un instrumento legal para sancionar la acción disociadora del antisemitismo y el odio racial.

—Esto en cuanto a la "clásica" agitación antisemita. Y qué habló sobre la no menor importante cuestión que hace a la actitud oficial ante Israel y la campaña distorsionante antiselital a nivel mundial?

—Como era de esperar —y como también señalamos precedentemente— me hice intérprete de la inquietud de los judíos de los Estados Unidos por la lamentable posición argentina en los últimos años, al apoyar iniciativas agresivamente antisraelitas, lanzadas en el contexto de difamar a Israel y, por extensión, a todo el pueblo judío. Destacó la extrema sensibilidad judeonorteamericana por posturas arbitrariamente antisraelitas y con satisfacción puedo decir que tanto el presidente como el ministro afirmaron que, en adelante se retomará la tradicional política de equidistancia argentina ante la situación de Israel y el Medio Oriente. Le manifesté claramente a mis interlocutores

que hay que terminar con el chantaje obstruccionista árabe en las conferencias mundiales. No puede ser que encuentros tan importantes como el reciente sobre la cuestión demográfica internacional o asambleas convocadas para analizar preocupantes temas económicos sociales, culturales o estrictamente técnicos sean explotados sistemáticamente para migrar a Israel y al sionismo, en una aberrante desnaturalización de tales convocatorias internacionales. Tengo la impresión ahora que el gobierno democrático de la Argentina procurará rectificar los pasos equivocados de un reciente pasado, y promoverá una política para superar tal acción chantajista especialmente en el confuso Terceiro Mundo.

—Usted se reunió también con dirigentes de la DAIA y de otros sectores institucionales. Por otra parte, ha seguido de cerca la vida judíoargentina y mantuvo contacto en distintas oportunidades en Nueva York con sus voceros representativos. Así las cosas, ¿puede darnos su opinión sobre la campaña difamatoria de que fue objeto la dirigencia comunitaria judía de nuestro país por parte de elementos interesados, a raíz de su conducta durante el sombrío pasado, no tan lejano, vivido en la Argentina?

—Como visitante no soy el más indicado para emitir opiniones sobre la cuestión. Sólo es del caso recordar, como pauta definitoria de conducta judía una sabia sentencia de la Guemaré: "No juzgues a tu prójimo si no estás en el lugar de los hechos producidos". La comunidad judíoargentina atravesó entonces por días críticos y muy difíciles, y es incuestionable que la dirigencia comunitaria judíoargentina estuvo a la altura de sus deberes judíos y luchó con entereza y dignidad por la defensa de los intereses judíos, dentro de las posibilidades de la grave emergencia. Esta tenaz acción ha tenido el reconocimiento de todo el mundo judío. Pero, insisto sólo los judíos de la Argentina son los que tienen la autoridad natural de juzgar a sus dirigentes. Es de recordar, dentro de ese contexto y saliendo, por supuesto las distancias, que también se lanzaron encarnadas acusaciones contra los dirigentes

judíos de Occidente (especialmente de Estados Unidos), por su presunta "negligencia" en producir los máximos esfuerzos para rescatar a nuestros hermanos del Holocausto. De toda forma queda bien en claro el American Jewish Committee jamás se dejó atrapar por la campaña difamatoria aludida.

#### ANALIZAR RACIONALMENTE

—A la luz de la dramática experiencia de estas últimas décadas y luego de lo sucedido con las comunidades en Cuba, Nicaragua y, más todavía en los países de la ór-

bata soviética, ¿existe algún "espacio político" para de desarrollar una vida judía bajo un régimen comunista?

—Por tratarse de un problema muy delicado éste debe ser analizado muy razonadamente y no caer en apocalípticas generalizaciones. Yo estuve sin ir muy lejos días atrás en Hungría. Allí viven unos 80 000 judíos remanentes de la populosa comunidad de preguerra. Pude observar ciertas formas de actividad comunitaria. Hay una comunidad bien organizada, que cuenta con libertad para cultivar nuestros valores religiosos. Incluso funciona un seminario rabinico al que también concurren jóvenes judíos de otros países del bloque soviético, en un esfuerzo formativo de futuros dirigentes espirituales para esa zona. Como se ve, esos judíos pueden moverse con cierto margen operativo, siempre y cuando que no incurran en lo político "y sus alcances concomitantes". También desde el polo opuesto del espectro político vemos que en un régimen autoritario derechista como el uruguayo, también se mantiene en plenitud la vida judía. Esto sea dicho, sin dejar de reconocer que el totalitarismo, por su misma naturaleza denigrante rebaja la dignidad humana y, por lo tanto contradice los principios humanistas judíos.

—Y en cuanto a Nicaragua?

—El rabino Tanenbaum, protagonista de una encendida controversia sobre la posición del régimen sandinista frente a los judíos, tras una breve reflexión, afirma

—Veo en Nicaragua país que visité algún tiempo atrás, sólo quedan actualmente tres familias judías. Por lo tanto (y sin entrar en el análisis del "éxodo" producido), no tiene sentido hablar del problema judío en ese país centroamericano. Allí, en esas condiciones, el antisemitismo no existe en su versión clásica. En cambio funciona una activa oficina de la OLP, con cerca de un centenar de agentes profesionales, al servicio de la agitación antisionista y antisraelí en toda la convulsionada zona.

Ese es el grave peligro que desde la óptica judía, encierra la Nicaragua sandinista para nosotros. Por consiguiente estamos ante una amenaza de un antisemitismo distinto de carácter político. La lucha para enfrentarlo también debe adecuarse a lineamientos políticos y no convencionales.

—No produjo preocupación entre los judíos norteamericanos el avance de

Jesse Jackson?

—Sí, su predica suscitó visible amargura, especialmente la lanzada por el líder negro Louis Farrakhan aliado de Jackson. Sin embargo, hay que señalar que la estridencia publicitaria de éste es manifiestamente superior a su verdadera gravitación. La convención demócrata no aprobó ninguna de las cuatro propuestas del precandidato negro, incluso la que abogaba por el "estado palestino". Esto es un síntoma alentador de la madurez política de la Unión; por otra parte los líderes responsables negros toman distancia de las posturas demagógicas de Jackson, y son conscientes de su peligro para los derechos civiles en la Unión. En cuanto a los dos candidatos —Reagan y Mondale— ambos se destacan por su probada amistad por Israel y apoyo a sus reclamaciones de seguridad.

## O ESTADO DE S. PAULO

### Rabino dos EUA fala sobre a violência

O rabino norte-americano Marc H. Tanenbaum chega hoje a São Paulo, a convite da Congregação Israelita Paulista, para fazer uma palestra esta noite sobre "Valores Religiosos numa Era de Violência". O rabino, diretor de relações internacionais do American Jewish Committee, é conhecido nos EUA por sua atuação na defesa dos direitos humanos. Tanenbaum integrou três grupos de norte-americanos enviados ao Sudeste asiático para investigar o drama dos refugiados vietnamitas, conhecidos como *boat people*. Ele também coordenou diversas operações de ajuda a vítimas de guerra do Líbano, Nigéria, Uganda, Afeganistão e América Central. Além disso, fundou uma organização de apoio a judeus e cristãos oprimidos na União Soviética. Em 1979, foi convidado pelo então presidente Jimmy Carter para ser porta-voz da comunidade judaica nos acordos de Camp David. Tanenbaum também é conhecido como um líder ecumênico e foi o único rabino presente ao Concílio Vaticano II. Sua palestra será às 20h30, na CIP, em inglês com tradução simultânea.

### *Rabino dos EUA avalia o diálogo com católicos*

O rabino Marc Tanenbaum, um dos mais influentes e respeitados líderes ecumênicos dos Estados Unidos, chegou ontem a São Paulo, para avaliar o progresso do diálogo católico-judaico no Brasil. É a primeira vez que o rabino visita a América do Sul e, além de manter diversos contatos com a coletividade israelita, ele participa hoje à noite de uma conferência sobre o tema "Valores Religiosos numa Era de Violência", que será realizada, às 20h30, na Congregação Israelita Paulista.

Diretor de relações internacionais do American Jewish Committee, Tanenbaum foi o único rabino presente ao II Concílio do Vaticano e participou da primeira conferência oficial concedida pelo papa João Paulo II a líderes judaicos mundiais. Segundo o rabino Henry Sobel, que é seu anfitrião em São Paulo, "Tanenbaum dedica sua vida à aproximação com os cristãos, ressaltando as raízes judaicas do cristianismo e a indivisibilidade dos direitos humanos".

Nascido na Ucrânia, onde seus pais eram vítimas de perseguição religiosa, Tanenbaum emigrou, ainda criança, para os Estados Unidos fundador e dirigente da comissão

bilateral do Secretariado do Vaticano para Relações Católico-Judaicas, "seu trabalho ecumônico é um elemento catalisador para as atividades por nós exercidas no Brasil", disse o rabino Sobel, ressaltando que, há dois anos, em São Paulo, foi criada, sob o patrocínio da CNBB, uma comissão nacional do diálogo católico-judaico, "que se concretizou com a publicação de orientações para os católicos no relacionamento com os judeus". Sobel acredita que o trabalho ecumônico, "conforme a receptividade, sensibilidade e apoio que nunca faltou da CNBB nesse sentido" poderá, "em futuro breve, expressar publicamente o reconhecimento da comunidade judaica do Brasil pela iniciativa do Vaticano em reconhecer o Estado de Israel".

O rabino Tenenbaum será recebido hoje pelo cardeal-arcebispo de São Paulo e, em seguida, participa de uma reunião da Comissão Nacional do Diálogo Religioso Católico-Judaico, juntamente com dom Luciano Mendes de Almeida, secretário-geral da CNBB, e dom Sínésio Bohn, bispo responsável pela linha ecumênica da confederação. Amanhã à tarde, o rabino embarca para Buenos Aires.

## PERISCÓPIO

# MARC H. TANENBAUM, ESTE MÊS EM SÃO PAULO, DARÁ PALESTRA NA CIP

Dr Marc H Tanenbaum diretor de Relações Internacionais do American Jewish Committee tem uma longa e notável carreira no campo da luta pelos direitos humanos

Ex diretor de Assuntos Interreligiosos do AJC o rabino Tanenbaum foi apontado numa recente pesquisa de



opinião publica como "um dos 10 mais influentes e respeitados líderes religiosos dos Estados Unidos". Um artigo de capa na revista New York o descreveu como "o principal líder ecumônico judeu da atualidade".

Foi convidado pelo presidente Jimmy Carter para ser o porta voz da comunidade judaica norte americana num grupo de dez líderes religiosos e acadêmicos encarregados de avaliar a situação nacional nas reuniões de cúpula realizadas em Camp David em 1979. Foi também nomeado consultor da "President's Commission on the Holocaust".

A convite do "International Rescue Committee" o dr Tanenbaum integrou três comitivas de líderes americanos enviados para investigar a tragédia dos "boat people" vietnamitas e das vítimas cambojanas contribuindo assim para salvar a vida de milhares de refugiados indochineses. Coordenou também diversas operações de auxílio às vítimas de guerra e opressão no Líbano, Nigéria, Uganda, Etiópia (os falashas), Afeganistão, Polônia, Haiti e América Central. É fundador e co-presidente do "National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry" que dá assistência a judeus e cristãos oprimidos na União Soviética e Europa Oriental.

Em março de 1979 foi convidado a reunir-se em Bonn com o chanceler Helmut Schmidt e parlamentares alemanheses para discutir a revogação do estatuto de prescrição em relação aos criminosos de guerra nazistas.

Dr Tanenbaum é fundador e dirigente da comissão bilateral do Secretariado do Vaticano para Relações Católico-Judaicas bem como de um órgão similar sob os auspícios do Conselho Mundial de Igrejas. Foi o único rabino presente ao Segundo Concílio do Vaticano e participou da primeira audiência oficial concedida a líderes judaicos mundiais pelo Papa João Paulo II na Cidade do Vaticano. Foi também o primeiro judeu a discursar perante 4000 delegados participantes da Sexta Assembleia do Conselho Mundial de Igrejas realizada em Vancouver no mês de julho de 1983.

Atuou como conselheiro da Rede NBC de Televisão por ocasião da elaboração dos filmes "Jesus de Nazaré" e "Holocausto".

Orador dos mais requisitados já marcou sua presença nas principais universidades e instituições religiosas dos Estados Unidos, Europa e Israel bem como em diversos congressos nacionais e internacionais. É autor e editor de inúmeros livros e artigos.

Dr Marc H Tanenbaum proferá uma conferência na Congregação Israelita Paulista na quinta-feira dia 9 de agosto às 20:30 horas. Seu tema será "Valores Religiosos numa Era de Violência". Falara em inglês com tradução consecutiva para o português.

Todos estão cordialmente convidados para assistir e prestigiar uma personalidade brilhante de renome mundial.

# O GLOBO

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## Teólogo judeu defende aproximação com cristãos

Reconhecido mundialmente por sua atuação em campanhas de defesa dos direitos humanos, o teólogo Marc H. Tanenbaum, diretor de Relações Internacionais do Comitê Judaico-Americano, vê no fanatismo e na falta de compreensão do significado do pluralismo étnico, religioso e político a causa da dificuldade de convívio que impera hoje entre os povos.

No Rio desde o começo desta semana, Marc Tanenbaum tem encontro marcado hoje pela manhã com o Cardeal Eugênio Sales, para tratar de assuntos relacionados com o nível de entrosamento da comunidade judaica com a Igreja Católica no Brasil. Este entendimento tem sido uma das principais preocupações de Tanenbaum desde menino, quando ouviu as primeiras histórias sobre o ódio e a vingança nas relações entre judeus e cristãos.

Doutor em Literatura e Teologia, rabino da Igreja judaica, Marc Tanenbaum, que nasceu nos Estados Unidos, foi apontado em recente pesquisa como "um dos dez líderes religiosos mais influentes e respeitáveis da América". Em 1979, foi convidado pelo Presidente Jimmy Carter a participar, como líder judeo-americano, nos encontros de Camp David. Tomou parte também nas delegações encarregadas de investigar a situação de refugiados vietnamitas e cambojanos e de vítimas de outras guerras e conflitos.

O Dr. Tanenbaum acredita que esses confrontos tenham hoje uma conotação bem diversa da que levou os russos da igreja cristã ortodoxa a atirar um parente seu nas águas de um rio. Por trás das disputas territoriais e do desejo de controle das fontes de petróleo e de outras riquezas está o fanatismo, que agora não é só religioso, lembra. Este é o grande mal de nossos tempos, alerta, por que pressupõe inevitavelmente o de-



Tanenbaum combate o fanatismo para melhorar o convívio entre os povos

sejo de extermínio de todas as tendências de pensamento — religioso, político, filosófico, moral — contrárias ou mesmo divergentes da facção mais sedenta de poder.

Para o teólogo americano, o diálogo e o pluralismo em todos os níveis poderão conduzir os povos a um melhor entendimento.

### REVELAÇÃO

Marc Tanenbaum era bem criança quando ouviu de seu avô o relato de como um de seus tios, judeu, havia sido condenado à morte por um grupo de cristãos em um vilarejo da Ucrânia, durante as comemorações da Semana Santa. A morte, por aforamento, foi a resposta do grupo da igreja ortodoxa russa à acusação de que "Jesus Cristo havia sido morto pelos judeus", conta o teólogo. Durante muitos anos, ele acreditou que a Igreja cristã fosse assassina de judeus.

— A reconciliação aconteceu quando comecei a ter amigos cristãos que falavam em compaixão, em benevolência, em amor. A grande revelação viria bem mais tarde, durante o Concílio do Vaticano II, quando o Papa João XXIII designou o Cardeal Bea para estudar as relações entre o mundo católico e o mundo judaico.

# Rabbi Tanenbaum To Speak on 'Religious Values in an Age of Violence'

**SÃO PAULO (BH) —** Dr Marc H Tanenbaum, director of international relations of the American Jewish Committee, will deliver an address at the Congregação Israelita Paulista Rua Antonio Carlos, 653), on Thursday, August 9 at 8:30 p.m. He will speak in English, with consecutive translation into Portuguese on the theme 'Religious Values in an Age of Violence.'

Rabbi Tanenbaum has a long and distinguished career in universal human rights. Formerly

the AJC's interreligious affairs director, he was designated in a recent national poll as "one of the 10 most influential and respected religious leaders in America." A cover story in *New York* magazine described him as "the foremost Jewish ecumenical leader in the world today."

Dr Tanenbaum has served as a member of the prestigious Human Rights Research Committee of the Foreign Policy Association's Study of Priorities for the 1980s. In recent years, he has

testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee on "Moral Imperatives in the Formation of American Foreign Policy." He has also testified before Congressional committees on world refugee and world hunger problems, and played a key role in organizing White House conferences on Foreign Aid.

President Jimmy Carter invited Dr Tanenbaum as the American Jewish leader among ten national religious and academic

spokesmen to discuss "the State of the Nation" at Camp David summit meetings in 1979. He was also appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on the President's Commission on the Holocaust.

At the invitation of the International Rescue Committee, he joined delegations of prominent American leaders to carry out three separate fact-finding investigations of the plight of the Vietnamese "boat people" and Cambodian refugees, which contributed to the saving of tens of thousands of lives of Indochinese refugees. He has organized many relief efforts for victims of war and conflict, including Lebanese, Nigerians, Ugandans, the Falashas of Ethiopia, Afghans, Haitians, Central Americans and Polish refugees. He is a founder and co-chairman of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, which aids oppressed Jews and Christians in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In March 1979, he was invited to consult with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and German parliamentary officials in Bonn on the abolition of the statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals.

Dr Tanenbaum is a founder and leading member of the joint liaison committee of the Vatican Secretariat on



Dr Marc H Tanenbaum has a long and distinguished career in universal human rights

Sao Paulo, Brazil Week of August 5, 1984

BRAZIL HERALD, SUNDAY/MONDAY, AUGUST 5/6, 1984

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was consultant to the special "Jesus of Nazareth"

Rabbi Tanenbaum has lectured at major universities, seminaries, religious and educational bodies in the United States, Europe and Israel, and at numerous national and international conferences. He is the author and editor of several published books and articles.

All are cordially welcome to attend the Thursday address and lend prestige to a brilliant and world renowned personality.

For further information, please establish contact with Rabbi Sobel at 256-7811 (São Paulo)

He served as consultant to the NBC-TV nine-hour special "Holocaust" and earlier