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

Series A: Writings and Addresses. 1947-1991

Box 5, Folder 34, Response to Mayor Ed Koch, Undated.



DRAFT - RESOIBBSE TO MAYOR KOCH

I categorically reject his statement which is simply untrue and has no ~~basis~~ ^{basis} in fact. *Nothing that I said in the Times article was not said before by Cardinal O'Connor and Mayor Koch*

Besides, Mayor Koch has little credibility in criticizing anyone else over talking with the press about private meetings with Cardinal O'Connor. On Aug. 12, Mayor Koch gave the New York Times ~~an~~ a detailed report on his private, off the record breakfast meeting on July 17 with Cardinal O'Connor and Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu over the identical subject and he said practically the same things that I was quoted as saying in the Times Dec. 22 story.

In the Aug. 12th interview, Mayor Koch said, in reporting on his private meeting with Cardinal O'Connor, that the Cardinal's "statement may in fact be an effort to resolve one of the major sticking points in Catholic-Jewish relations - the resistance of the Vatican to recognize Israel diplomatically.

"I believe it is his desire to do what he can in a responsible way to effectuate that diplomatic formal recognition as soon as possible, Mr. Koch said."

In the Dec. 22 Times interview ^{with which Joseph Berger requested} with me, I said practically the same thing that the Mayor is quoted as saying; namely:

"According to Rabbi Tanenbaum, the Cardinal told him before and after the Cardinal's trip to Lebanon ~~in~~ in June of his deep interest in helping to bring about a Middle East peace. ...He believes ~~that~~ he's particularly well situated to try to play that role, ~~because~~ because he regards himself as a genuine and trusted friend of the Jewish people."

It is both illogical and principle
I cannot understand ~~either the logic nor the moral decency~~ ^{that suggests} that if Mayor Koch says ~~something~~ ^{that} Cardinal O'Connor is a friend of the Jewish people, that's an act of statemenship ^{virtually same} but if Rabbi Tanenbaum says ^{supposed to be} the identical thing it's a terrible mistake,

Frankly, the Mayor is grandstanding and scapegoating, and I wish he would stop ^(abusing his office) at the expense of the Jewish people

I categorically reject his statement which is simply untrue and has no basis in fact. Nothing that I said in the Times article was not said publicly before by ~~Cardinal O'Connor~~ Mayor Koch himself.

On Aug. 12, Mayor Koch gave the New York Times a ~~detailed~~ report on his private, off-the-record breakfast meeting on July 17 with Cardinal O'Connor and Israeli Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu over the identical subject and he said practically the same things that I was quoted as saying in the Times Dec. 22 story.

It is both illogical and morally indecent to suggest that if Mayor Koch says that Cardinal O'Connor is a friend of the Jewish people who seeks to promote peace in the Middle East, that's an act of statesmanship but if Rabbi Tenenbaum says virtually the same thing, it's supposed to be a mistake.

Frankly, the Mayor is once again grandstanding and scapegoating, and I wish ~~he~~ he would stop abusing his office at the expense of the Jewish people.

~~Mayor Koch~~

RESPONSE BY RABBI MARCE H. TANENBAUM, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, TO MAYOR KOCH

Mayor Koch's

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