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Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 13, Folder 8, Capucci, Hilarion [Archbishop], 1974.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

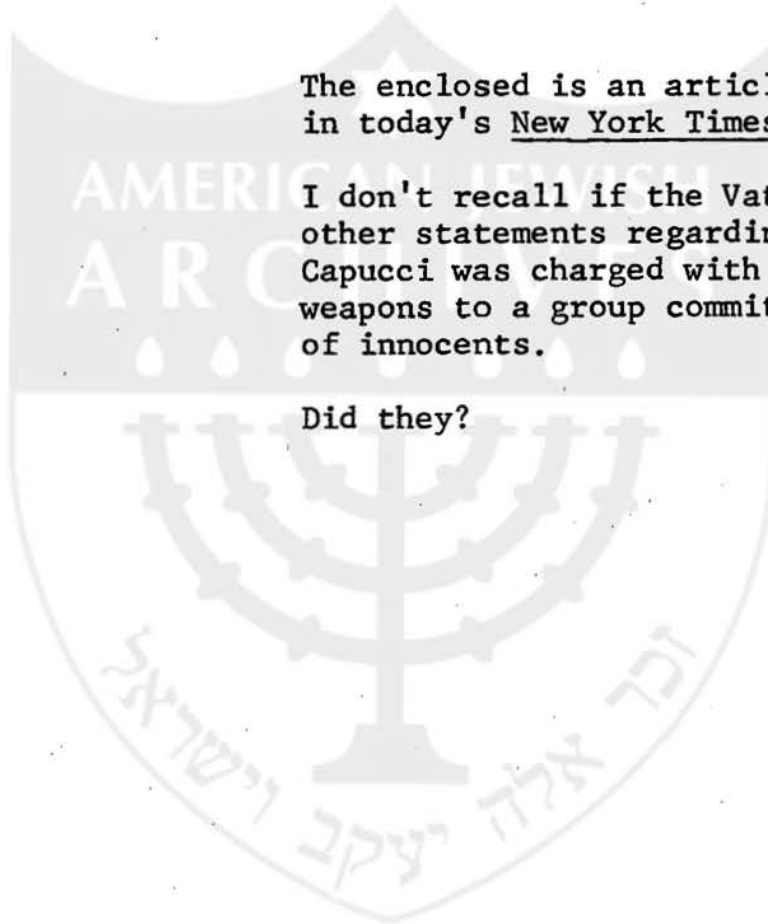
date December 11, 1974
to Marc Tanenbaum
from David Geller
subject



The enclosed is an article that appeared in today's New York Times.

I don't recall if the Vatican made any other statements regarding the fact that Capucci was charged with smuggling weapons to a group committed to murder of innocents.

Did they?



604-658-8851

STOP TERRORISM

An Open Letter to His-Holiness Pope Paul VI.

Your Holiness,

In September last, authorities in Israel apprehended a Clergyman in the act of smuggling arms and other explosives into Israel. These death-dealing weapons admittedly were destined for the hands of terrorists. Among other things they were to be used to maim and kill civilians, women, children, yes even religious pilgrims.

The Courier of these lethal devices was regrettably the Primate in Israel of the Greek Catholic Church, Archbishop Hilarion Cappucci.

The Israeli authorities afforded this man thorough due process of law and found him guilty of the crime with which he was charged and to which he ~~fully~~ confessed.

Although the verdict would have carried a life sentence to an Israeli and a death sentence behind the Iron Curtain and in all the Arab countries, in the case of Cappucci the government of Israel showed mercy by awarding him a 12 year jail sentence.

Now comes ^{Vatican Radio and} your representative in the Holy Land, the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop William Acquin Carew to contend that the sovereign State of Israel should relinquish its power to defend its citizens and guests from terrorist

acts suggesting that the criminal activities of a Church leader should be above the law of the land.

~~When a bomb~~

In so doing he seeks to impose upon Israel the status that Colonial powers inflicted on the developing nations of Asia and Africa in the nineteenth century.

Your Holiness, we offer to you the following declarations of Concern:

1. We deplore acts of terrorism everywhere which burden the freedom of our skys, the movement of religious pilgrims to holy places and the safety of innocent civilians.
2. We believe that the deterrent to terrorism is found in the speedy apprehension and stern punishment of the terrorist.
3. We believe further that no terrorist should be allowed special privileges merely because he operates under the guise of holy orders --- in fact the trust accorded a man of God renders criminal acts by him all the more **heinous**.
4. We affirm the sovereignty of the nation of Israel and the right of the Jewish people to their homeland. Therefore we are in full support of their right to apprehend and punish terrorists who operate within their borders against their citizens and guests.

We the undersigned commend ~~your~~ ^Y Holiness for your ceaseless efforts toward peace throughout the earth and we respectfully urge ~~Your~~ ^Y Holiness to lend the full weight of your office to these principles which must underlay ~~any~~ ^Y effort to eliminate the terrorism which threatens the safety and well being of ~~the~~ ^{people} of good will everywhere.

