Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 25, Folder 1, International Council of Christians & Jews award, 1988.

The American Jewish Committee



PROGRAM

May 11-15, 1988 Grand Hyatt Hotel New York City

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

10:00 AM

CONCURRENT COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETINGS

A. NATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Alvin Room

Presiding Bruce M. Ramer, Los Angeles

B. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

Uris Room

Presiding
Miles Jaffe, Detroit

12:00 Noon

BOARD OF GOVERNORS LUNCHEON

Alvin Room

Presiding Leo Nevas, Fairfield County

Presentation of Interfaith Medallion Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Chair International Council of Christians & Jews

Response
Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director
International Relations Department

3:00 PM

WOMEN'S ISSUES STEERING COMMITTEE (members only) Palace Room

Presiding Ruth Septee, Philadelphia

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

4:00 PM

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Ballroom B

Presiding Steven L. Swig, San Francisco 82nd Annual Meeting Chair

ISRAEL IN THE MIND OF AMERICA

Remarks
Ben J. Wattenberg, Co-Editor
Public Opinion

Discussion

Address Hon. Shimon Peres Vice Premier & Foreign Minister of Israel

Video presentation from WWOR-TV's "Israel at 40"

Presentation of Israel 40th Anniversary Media Citation to WWOR-TV Edward E. Elson, Atlanta

Response
Farrell Meisel,
Director of Programming, WWOR-TV

6:00 PM

OPENING RECEPTION

Mezzanine Foyer

8:00 AM

PLENARY BREAKFAST

Ballroom A

Presiding

David H. Peirez, Long Island

THE NEW JEWISH POLITICS

Panelists Leonard Fein, Founder, Moment

Milton Himmelfarb, Contributing Editor, <u>Commentary</u>

The AJC Perspective

David Singer, Director

Information & Research Services Department

10:00 AM

CONCURRENT PROGRAM FORUMS

A. RELIGION IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

Ballroom B

Presiding Jack Lapin, Houston

Address

Dr. Ronald Thiemann, Dean

Harvard Divinity School

Response Alan L. Mittleman, Program Associate Interreligious Affairs Department

Program Implications for AJC

A. James Rudin, Director
Interreligious Affairs Department

10:00 AM

B. 20 YEARS OF INTERGROUP RELATIONS:
ENTERING A NEW ERA Broadway Room

Presiding Marcia Lazar, Chicago

Panelists Birch E. Bayh, Chairman National Institute Against Prejudice & Violence

Eleanor Holmes Norton, Visiting Fellow Georgetown University Law Center

Murray Friedman, Vice-chair U.S. Commission on Civil Rights & AJC Regional Director, Philadelphia

Moderator
Irving M. Levine, Director
National Affairs Department

12:00 Noon

PLENARY LUNCHEON

Ballroom C

Presiding Leo Nevas, Fairfield County

Invocation Rabbi Lawrence Grossman

Report of Nominating Committee Alvin S. Hochberg, Boston

Election of New Officers & Governors

Report of the Board of Trustees Edward E. Elson, Atlanta

Keynote Address
Bertram H. Gold, Executive Vice President

2:00 PM

CONCURRENT NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A. NATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

COMMITTEE

Broadway Room

Presiding

Ruth Septee, Philadelphia

ISRAELI & AMERICAN WOMEN: COMPARISONS & CONTRASTS

Panelists

MK Shulamit Aloni, Israel

Michele R. Lord, former Executive Director U.S. Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues

Response

Lesley Hazleton, author

Israeli Women: The Reality Behind the Myth

B. NATIONAL LEGAL COMMITTEE

Uris Room

Presiding

Elliot Goldstein, Atlanta

C. SOVIET JEWRY TASK FORCE

Julliard Room

Presiding

Richard Maass, Westchester

5:00 PM

APPEAL FOR HUMAN RELATIONS

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Broadway Room

In honor of Robert H. Haines

6:30 PM

GENERAL RECEPTION

Ballroom B

7:30 PM

82nd ANNUAL DINNER

Empire State Ballroom

Presiding
Theodore Ellenoff, New York

National Anthem Steven Zelinger, Washington, D.C.

Invocation

President's Address
Theodore Ellenoff, New York

Presentation of National Distinguished Leadership Award

Response Robert H. Haines, New York

Greetings from Mayor Teddy Kollek in Jerusalem

Presentation of Israel 40th Anniversary Citation to the Education Corps, Israel Defense Forces Mimi Alperin, New York

"The Moral Dilemma of the Israeli Army"
Brigadier General Nehemia Dagan,
Senior Education Officer, Israel Defense Forces

Entertainment
The Dudaim, Israel

Benediction
Rev. Edward H. Flannery,
National Conference on Catholic Bishops

10:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Ballroom Foyer

8:00 AM

CONCURRENT "ACTION WHERE YOU ARE" BREAKFASTS

A. SOVIET JEWRY

Uris Room

Presiding
Richard Maass, Westchester

Special Report Morris B. Abram, President National Conference on Soviet Jewry

Panelists
Michael L. Lapin, Orange County

Richard Rice, Chicago

B. FAMILY POLICY: ISSUES & ACTION

Shubert Room

Presiding Rita Greenland, New York

Panelists
E. Robert Goodkind, Westchester

Harriet Kelman, Washington, DC

Lynn Yannick, Westchester

C. YOUTH & BIGOTRY WORKSHOP

Alvin Room

Presiding
J. Kent Friedman, Houston

Workshop Leaders
Irving M. Levine, Director
National Affairs Department

Joseph Giordano, Director Center on Ethnicity, Behavior & Communications

10:00 AM

PLENARY SESSION

Ballroom B

Presiding Mimi Alperin, New York

AMERICAN JEWS & ISRAELIS: DEFINING A COMMON AGENDA

Report of the National Task Force on American Jewish-Israeli Relations Sholom D. Comay, Pittsburgh

Discussion & Action

Israeli Perspective
Brigadier General Nehemia Dagan,
Senior Education Officer, Israel Defense Forces

Staff Resource Gary E. Rubin, Director of Programs

12:00 Noon

PLENARY LUNCHEON

Ballroom C

Presiding
Bruce M. Ramer, Los Angeles

Invocation
Rabbi Alan L. Mittleman

ELECTION '88: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Panelists

Rep. William H. Gray III, Pennsylvania

Rep. Jack F. Kemp, New York

Commentator

Michael Kramer, Chief Political Correspondent

U.S. News & World Report

Community Perspective

James M. Friedman, Cleveland

2:00 PM CONCURRENT PROGRAM FORUMS

A. AMERICAN JEWS & JAPAN: BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING Ballroom A

Dai

Martin Kellner, Los Angeles

Panelists Isaac Shapiro, Esq. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Dr. David G. Goodman, Associate Professor Center for East Asian & Pacific Studies University of Illinois

Future Role for AJC

David Harris, Washington Representative

B. LEADERSHIP FOR TOMORROW'S AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

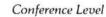
Ballroom B

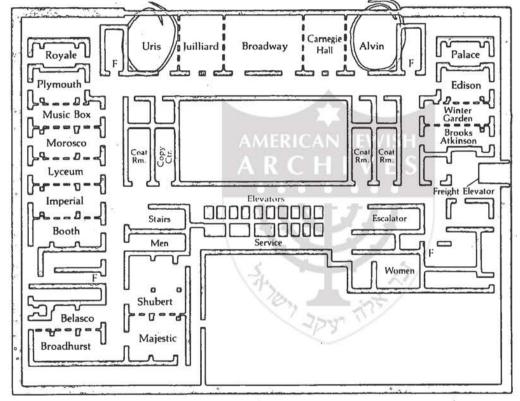
Presiding Charlotte G. Holstein, Syracuse

Panelists
Shoshana S. Cardin, past President
Council of Jewish Federations

Dr. Bernard Reisman, Director Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service, Brandeis University

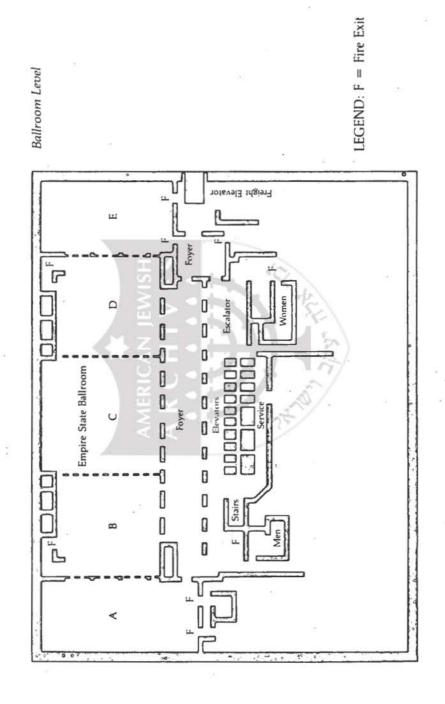
Program Implications for AJC
Steven Bayme, Director
Jewish Communal Affairs Department





GRAND HYATT HOTEL:

HEADQUARTERS — Belasco/Broadhurst Rooms
PRESS OFFICE — Brooks Atkinson Room
REGISTRATION — Ballroom Foyer



4:00 PM

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CABINET

(members only)

Lyceum Room

Presiding

Jerry H. Biederman, Chicago

7:30 PM

ONEG SHABBAT

Broadway Room

Presiding

Maynard I. Wishner, Chicago

TIES OR TENSIONS?:

DIALOGUE WITH EMERGING

ISRAELI LEADERS

Discussants

Ilana Dayan, Israel

Richard Goodman, Orange County

Sherry Merfish, Houston

Gil Samsonov, Israel

9:00 PM

OPENING OF ZELIG SEGAL

Shubert Room

JEWISH CEREMONIAL ART EXHIBIT

Personal appearance by the artist

Dessert Reception

SATURDAY, MAY 14

7:30 AM

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS & OFFICERS

BREAKFAST

Broadway Room

Presiding

Eleanor S. Lazarus, Cincinnati

9:00 AM

SHABBAT SERVICE

Shubert Room

Led by Rabbi Debra Cantor

10:30 AM

SHABBAT FORUM

Shubert Room

Presiding

Alfred H. Moses, Washington, DC

ISRAEL & AMERICAN JEWISH IDENTITY

Keynote Address

Leon Wieseltier, Literary Editor

The New Republic

Response

Lisa Blum, Israel

Concluding Remarks

Robert S. Rifkind, New York

SATURDAY, MAY 14

12:30 PM

PLENARY LUNCHEON

Ballroom C

Presiding Howard I. Friedman, Los Angeles

Invocation Rabbi A. James Rudin

TO MEND THE WORLD: THE LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST

Presentation of Akiba Award Howard A. Gilbert, Chicago

Response & Keynote Address Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis, Valley Beth Shalom

2:30 PM

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN PLURALISM
FILM SHOWING Shubert Room

"Minority on Minority: The Psychodynamics of Black-Jewish Tension"

SUNDAY, MAY 15

8:00 AM

PLENARY BREAKFAST

Ballroom B

Presiding

Ronald G. Weiner, New York

CONGRESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Panelists

Rep. Bill Green, New York

Rep. Charles E. Schumer, New York

10:00 AM

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Ballroom B

Presiding

Robert S. Jacobs, Chicago

STRATEGIC & POLITICAL REALITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Panelists

Judith Kipper, Guest Scholar

Brookings Institution

Aryeh Naor,

former Israel Cabinet Secretary

Michael Widlanski,

Middle East Correspondent,

Cox Newspaper Syndicate

12:00 Noon

ADJOURNMENT

82nd Annual Meeting

Steven L. Swig, Chair

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OCTOBER 27-30, 1988 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

83RD ANNUAL MEETING MAY 17-21, 1989 WASHINGTON, DC

The following organizations and companies have contributed to the New York Chapter gift packages: Abraham & Straus, American Enterprise Co., Avon Products, Inc., D'Agostino Supermarkets, Goldome, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., Monarch Wines, New York Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc., Red Apple Supermarkets, Inc., Remy-Martin, Shopwell, Inc., Sloan's Supermarkets, Inc.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

82nd Annual Meeting May 11-15, 1988

Grand Hyatt, New York City

Meeting Staff

Overall Charge		Shula Bahat
Program Coor	Marsha Turken	
Meeting Arrangements I CAN JEWISH A R C I-I I V F S		Nancy Merjos Phyllis Booth
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Press Room:	Overall Charge Radio & TV Print Media	Morton Yarmon Haina Just Joyce Kaplan Janice Hyman
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Please note: All sessions will be recorded professionally. Cassettes may be purchased at the conclusion of each session.

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Levine, Sally
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Westport, Ct Anaheim, CA Dallas

 $\underline{\mathsf{v}}$

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P

Paul, Joel
Peirez, David & Elizabeth
Pellettieri, Ruth
Pelz, Robert
Petschek, Charles & Elaine
Preuss, Mr. & Mrs. Kurt
Price, Fran
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S-Cont'd

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<u>T</u> .

Tanner, Harold & Nicki Tanner, Marcella Trieber, Edward Scarsdale, NY New York City New York City

U,V,W

Udell, Barton & Barbara Waterman, Elise Weiner, Ronald & Vicki Weinberger, Stanley & Betty Weinflash, Bernard & Ruth Weinstock, Margaret Weiss, Richard & Maryanne Winter, Elmer & Nannette Wishner, Maynard & Elaine Miami New York City Morristown, NJ Chicago Cresskill, NJ Mamaroneck, NY Los Angeles Milwaukee Chicago

X,Y,Z

Zeisler, Richard
Zelinger, Steven
Zimet, Amy
Zimet, Philip & Estelle
Zuckerman, Herbert & Janet

New York City Washington, DC New York City New York City S. Orange, NJ

as of 5/6/88



United States Holocaust Memorial Council

May 5, 1988

Rabbi Tanenbaum c/o The American Jewish Committee 165 East 56 Street New York, N. Y. 10022-2746

Dear Mark:

A long ago scheduled meeting in Washington pertaining to major issues concerning U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will prevent me from joining you on May 11 when you will be presented with the International Interfaith Medallion.

Throughout the years you have worked hard for the cause of interfaith relations; and you are truly deserving of this award.

Please accept my warmest wishes and congratulations on an honor so well deserved.

Give my best regards to Sir Sigmund Sternberg, and Lady Hazel. My wife Chris and I would like to hear from them.

Miles Lerman

ML:fme Please direct any reply to: 1138-B Chestnut Ave. Vineland, NJ 08360

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum 45 East 89 St. New York. N.Y. 10128

New York, May 6, 1988.

Dear Marc,

What a disappointment not to see you on this trip, but above all I am grieved to hear about your health difficulties. And what worry for your wife!

Please rest assured that you are both in my thoughts and prayers. May this forced "menuhah" be, in the end, a blessing.

As ever,

Clair

Mme C.Huchet-Bishop 107 rue de Vaugirard 75006 Paris. France

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IPM40NY NYK B
4-019742S130 05/09/88
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP
2124895547 FRS TDMT NEW YORK NY 25 05-09 0102P EST
PMS RABBI MARC TANNENBAUM, DLR ASAP, DLR
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMINTEE FROM THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMINTEE FROM THE AMERICAN JEWISH
165 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10022

CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING THE INTERNATIONAL INTERFACE MEDALLION.
WILL BE IN ENGLAND ON MAY 11 AND CANNOT BE PRESENT TO SHARE IN SUCH A
MEMORABLE OCCASION.

GERALD W LYNCH, PRESIDENT JOHN J COLLEGE

1304 EST

IPM40NY NYK B

IPM40NY NYK A 1-004629A131 05/10/88 ICS IPMTES1 RNO 04521 RENO NV 05-10 0648A PDT RYNA ICS IPM40NY DLR

4-003453S131 05/10/88 1CS IPMMTZZ CSP

PMS LEO NEVAS, AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING RPT DLY MGM, DLR IMMY, DLR

NEW YORK NY 10022-2746
BEST WISHES TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE AS YOU HONOR MARC TANENBAUM FOR HIS YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE. BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FAITH AND NATIONS IS NOT AN EASY TASK AND MARC HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH OVER THE YEARS, WORKING WITH COMPASSION AND DEDICATION, AS WELL AS WITH SUCCESS.

MAY HE CONTINUE TO GO FROM CHAIL TO CHAIL. WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.

ABRAHAM H FOXMAN NATIONAL DIRECTOR ANTI DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI
B'RITH
823 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
NEW YORK NY 10017

0836 EST

0851 EST IPM40NY NYK A

AGENDA FOR INTERFAITH AWARD TO BE GIVEN
TO RABBI MARC TANENBAUM BY SIR SIGMUND
STERNBERG, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS ON MAY 11, 1988
AT THE GRAND HYATT HOTEL, IN NEW YORK CITY

1) Welcome and Introduction of Sir Sigmund Sternberg - Leo Nevas

2) Sir Sigmund's Presentation of Award to Marc Tanenbaum

3) Marc Tanenbaum's Response

rpr

5/10/88





Institute of Human Relations 165 East 56 Street New York, New York 10022 212 751-4000

Morton Yarmon Director of Public Relations

The AJC protects Jewish interests the world over; combats bigotry and promotes human rights for all; defends pluralism, enhances the creative vitality of the Jewish people, and contributes to the formulation of American public policy from a combined Jewish and American perspective. Founded in 1906, it is the pioneer human-relations agency in the U.S.

82nd ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING MAY 11-15, 1988 GRAND HYATT HOTEL 109 EAST 42 STREET NEW YORK, NY 10017 (212) 883-1234 CONTACT: Press- Joyce Kaplan Janice Hyman

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AMERICAN JEW FOR RELEASE AFTER 12 NOON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

NEW YORK, May 11 . . . The International Council of Christians and Jews awarded its Interfaith Medallion today to Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of international relations of the American Jewish Committee.

The award was made by Sir Sigmund Sternberg of London, chairman of the International Council of Christians and Jews, at a meeting of AJC's Board of Governors just prior to the agency's 82nd Annual Meeting, scheduled through Sunday at the Grand Hyatt Hotel here.

The Council honored Rabbi Tanenbaum, asserted Sir Sigmund, "in recognition of the pivotal and often historic contributions that he has made during the past 25 years to the advancement and mutual respect between every major branch of Christendom and world Jewry, as well as to human rights and the relief of world refugee and world hunger problems."

An internationally known leader in interfaith affairs for over 25 years --currently as AJC's international relations director and before that as its interreligious affairs director -- Rabbi Tanenbaum has been a key figure in efforts to advance relationships between the Jewish community and the Christian and Muslim communities.

Since last December he has been chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), which coordinates relationships between major Jewish groups and the Vatican, the World Council of Churches, and other international religious bodies; and he was one of the nine-member delegation of IJCIC leaders who met last summer with Pope John Paul II and Vatican authorities in Vatican City and Castel Goldolfo.

Rabbi Tanenbaum was the only rabbi invited as guest observer at Vatican Council II, and participated in the first official audience of world Jewish leaders with Pope John Paul II in Vatican City.

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He has a long and distinguished career in international human rights, world refugee and hunger problems, and foreign relations concerns. He has served as a member of the prestigious Human Rights Research Committee of the Foreign Policy Association's Study of Priorities for the 1980s and as consultant to the Council of Foreign Relations. He is a member of the executive board of the International Rescue Committee, the Overseas Development Council, the Bretton Woods Committee, the National Peace Academy, and the American Jewish World Service.

Rabbi Tanenbaum serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, and is a founder and former co-chairman of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry.

Rabbi Tanenbaum has directed the landmark religious research studies examining intergroup content in Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish teaching materials in the United States, Italy, Spain, French-speaking countries, Germany and South America. These studies have been the basis of the revision of negative stereotypes in the textbooks produced in the 1970s.

A religious historian and authority on Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations, he has written and lectured extensively on the history, theology, and sociology of Judaism and Christianity.

In response, Rabbi Tanenbaum said he was grateful to the American Jewish Committee for making it possible for him to participate in history-shaping events such as Vatican Council II, together with his colleague and mentor, the late Zachariah Shuster, as well as in laying the foundations for opening the new world of Evangelical-Jewish relations with his friend, Dr. Billy Graham, and the Southern Baptist Convention, and strengthening ties with mainstream Protestants.

He lauded the AJC for supporting his participating in life saving mission on four separate trips to Southeast Asia between 1978 and 1980, which helped save thousands of lives of Vietnamese boat people, Cambodian, ethnic Chinese, and Laotian refugees.

While these have been dramatic highlights in his 25 years with AJC, Rabbi Tanenbaum said, perhaps the most enduring contribution of which he is most proud is helping organize networks of Christians and Jews in every major city in the United States, Western Europe, Central and South America, and Israel. "Jews and Christians coming together month after month, knowing each other as persons and not a caricatures, collaborating on major humanitarian and social justice issues, is the richest fruit of the Jewish-Christian dialogue movement. And the best is yet to come as Jews and Christians face together a world of violence, poverty, denial of human rights and nuclear threat, "he said.

The American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. Founded in 1906, it combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people everywhere.

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LIST OF GUESTS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION TO RABBI MARC TANENBAUM BY SIR SIGMUND STERNBERG, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988

GRAND HYATT HOTEL NEW YORK AT A

LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Banki, Paul. a maide

Tannen, Mr & Mrs. Andrew

Bennett, Sidonie - Marc's mother

Bennett, Dr. Georgette

Bishop, Claire - Wolf what

Boghossian, Vahe

Bondi, Jennifer
Consul General von Bredow
Crystal, MRS Mrs. Lester

Early, Tracy

Ehrmann, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph

Farkas, Ervin

Freund, Tibor.

-Gallob, Ben

Goldberg, Rosalie

Kelman, Wolfe 1666

Loweth, Elizabeth

Michelman, Henry Pobli - Squegond Com

Overlander, Mr & Mrs. Fred

Patterson, Dr. & Mrs. David - €x Ford Vw. V, Pearlman, Louis Phillips, Mr & Mrs Gary

Schneier, Rabbi & . Arthur ~

Schonfeld, Moses

Sternberg, Sir Sigmund

Banki, Judith

Bromberg, Charney

Geller, David

Gruen, George

Kovadloff, Jacob

Liskofsky, Sidney

Reznik, Rita

Rothman, Marilyn

Wolf, Gary

RESPONSE OF RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, ON RECEIVING "INTERFAITH AWARD" OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1988
AT THE GRAND HYATT HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY

This would be a meaningful and moving moment in my life under normal circumstances. Given my recent hospitalization, this event -- the receiving of the prestigious "Interfaith Award" of the International Council of Christians and Jews in the midst of your presence -- assumes a very special, even a rare quality of grace.

I must confess that an element of its specialness derives from the fact that this is one of the few events in my life that I did not have to arrange myself. That adds to why I am so touched and grateful for today. Sir Sigmund Sternberg, one of the most distinguished leaders of British Jewry and a statesman of the Jewish People, and the International Council of Christians and Jews, perhaps the most representative body devoted to the improvement of relationships between Christians and Jews internationally, quite spontaneously informed me several months ago that I had been selected for this distinction in recognition of my more than 25 years of service in the advancement of Jewish-Christian understanding. That spontaneity lends the luster of authenticity to this tribute.

With your permission, I should like to take just a few moments to reflect on some of the meaning of this occasion and award to me. It is most effectively synthesized for me in the writings of Dr. Ernest Becker, a brilliant but neglected cultural anthropologist. In his book, The Denial of Death, Dr. Becker states that human beings do not in fact fear death. What people fear is dying in insignificance. That is the real terror of death. He proposes that all of us -- at least most of us -- have a need to live our lives in a way that makes a difference, significant lives that give meaning to human existence. That is our immortality, Becker writes.

All our art, literature, music, culture, even religion are ways of making a statement, leaving a landmark that we have not simply endured as animal life endures, but that we have lived lives of purpose and meaning. In short, Becker asserts, each of us has a powerful need to make a difference through our living, to help ennoble the human condition. That, he says, is true immortality.

As I have thought about my past 27 years with the American Jewish Committee, I experience feelings of deepest gratitude for AJC's having made possible opportunities for living a life of such high meaning, enabling contributions to be made in many areas of importance to the Jewish People and to society at large -- in some cases contributions, I trust, of lasting, even transforming value.

In retrospect, it is remarkable that AJC's lay leaders and professional leadership supported activities literally in every decade during which I have been associated with AJC, that helped change the course of history for the better.

In the 1960s, AJC made possible the participation of my beloved colleague and mentor, Zachariah Shuster, and my precious teacher, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, both of blessed memory, and myself, in Vatican Council II. The Council was a transforming event which has radically changed the course of 1900 years of Catholic-Jewish relations, much of it now for the better. In the 1970s, we were able to pioneer with Dr. Billy Graham and the Southern Baptist Convention in opening a new world of Evangelical-Jewish relations which continues to this day.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, AJC enabled my taking part in four separate International Rescue Committee missions to Southeast Asia that literally resulted in the saving of thousands of lives of Vietnamese Boat People and Cambodians, and led to the resettlement of a half-million hapless refugees in the United States. Earlier in the mid-1960s, we were able to engage in similar life-saving roles in the Nigerian-Biafran conflict, and then in Ethiopia, and in the drought-ridden Sahelian zone of West Africa.

In the 1980s, we were able to make significant gains with major European countries -- both West and East -- particularly in West Germany through the excellent work of William Trosten and his predecessors, as well as in Latin America, led by Jacobo Kovadloff and Sergio Nudelstejer, that require further serious, responsible cultivation. And now in 1988, we are beginning to explore the possible importance to Jews and Israel of Japan and the Pacific Rim in light of their powerful geo-political and economic presence in America and in the world.

While these were the dramatic and historic highlights, we conjured with those challenges while concentrating much of our energies on the priorities of Israel, Soviet Jewry, endangered Jewish communities in Ethiopia, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Central America and elsewhere. We visited Oberammergau several times to bring about changes in their Passion Play. We implemented religious textbook studies, and we sought to combat teaching of contempt against Jews and Judaism in cooperation with friends such as Mme. Claire Huchet-Bishop, a great Christian lady who graces us with her presence.

I will never be able to thank adequately, Dr. John Slawson and Bert Gold, who put up with my idiosyncracies and mishigas, my specialized shtiks, but also gave me the freedom and support to do what I thought had to be done in our common interest. They instilled in me one crucial motto -- which is the motto of AJC at its best -- be effective, know the facts and do it right.

Ted Ellenoff, Leo Nevas, our AJC officers, our eminent former presidents, our professional colleagues -- for me especially those in interreligious affairs and international relations -- our chapter leaders, our area directors -- that is the moral and human framework without which none of this history could have been made, decade after decade. And I am confident that under Ira Silverman's leadership as Executive Vice President that tradition of significant accomplishment will continue and expand.

In truth, I feel deeply that this award is to be shared with the American Jewish Committee, the ICCJ, and those thousands of extraordinary Christian and Jewish leaders who collaborated with us throughout the United States and in other parts of the world to bring about this "revolution of mutual esteem." There are few greater personal satisfactions for me today than that of being embraced as friend and colleague by these Chrisian and Jewish leaders in virutally every major city in the United States and in many parts of the world.

There is a Hebrew phrase acharon, acharon chaviv -- "the last is the most beloved." My magnificent, beautiful, and brilliant wife, Georgette, has saved my life in many ways. It is difficult to imagine that any human being can give more to another than my wife has given to me. During our years together, Georgette has made me possible.

Sir Sigmund, ICCJ, AJC, and my family of friends, for this memorable day, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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