



# THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

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

Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992

Box 28, Folder 6, Interreligious Affairs Commission, 1975-1977.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date November 26, 1975  
to Marc Tanenbaum  
from M. Bernard Resnikoff

subject

I have much pleasure in reporting to you that I was invited, as a representative of AJC, to join a group of 15 people at a private luncheon in the home of the Prime Minister in honor of Billy Graham.

Billy was passing through Israel from Hong Kong on the way to Nairobi for two days. He had only two appointments, one with the Prime Minister and the other with Golda Meir. In addition to Billy and his entourage, the Prime Minister had three ministers (Zadok, Raphaël and Hanzner), Shlomo Avineri and myself. I was previously asked to recommend local Christians appropriate to the occasion and I was gratified to note that those recommended were invited and were present (Bob Lindsey, Coos Schoneveld, Michael Krupp and Douglas Young's replacement).

The luncheon was exceedingly cordial and the atmosphere reflected what was obviously a positive conversation, before the luncheon, between Rabin and Billy. Later, the Foreign Office official in charge of the program told me privately that Billy had been most positive about Israel, said the right things about the U.N. resolution and re-affirmed his support for the integrity of the State as well as the integrity of the Jewish people.

When I was alone with him for a few minutes, I took the liberty of conveying to him your regards and he spoke very highly of you - as I knew he would. He was duly appreciative of the gift I gave him as a souvenir of his visit to Israel, consisting of a set of the three-volume Chronicles. He also spoke well of Gerry Strober.

All in all, it was a marvellous occasion, good for the ego and good for the AJC.

cc: Morris Fine  
Bert Gold



MBR/fp

ALPERIN	
BRECHER	<u>STAFF</u>
GERSEN	✓ RABBI T
JAFFE	✓ RABBI R
KALTENBACHER	✓ INGE GI
RD KAUFMAN	✓ JUDITH
IDESDORF	✓ SAMUEL
LEVITT	MARILYN
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ROOM 800A

RABBI MARTIN ZION

## STAFF

MARILYN BRAVEMAN

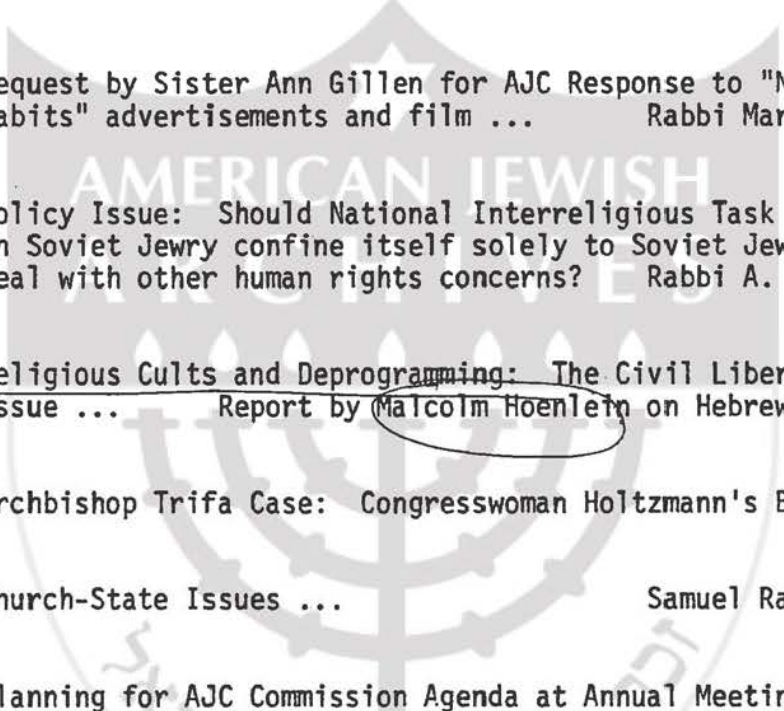
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## A G E N D A

NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1977, 3 P. M. AT AJC

MILES JAFFE, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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- ✓ 1. Progress Report on Women's Interreligious Dialogue  
on the Middle East ... Norma Levitt
  - ✓ 2. Request by Sister Ann Gillen for AJC Response to "Nasty  
Habits" advertisements and film ... Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
  - ✓ 3. Policy Issue: Should National Interreligious Task Force  
on Soviet Jewry confine itself solely to Soviet Jewry or  
deal with other human rights concerns? Rabbi A. James Rudin
  4. ~~Religious Cults and Deprogramming: The Civil Liberties~~  
~~Issue ... Report by Malcolm Hoenlein on Hebrew-Christians~~
  5. Archbishop Trifa Case: Congresswoman Holtzmann's Bill
  6. Church-State Issues ... Samuel Rabinove
  7. Planning for AJC Commission Agenda at Annual Meeting, May 11.



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STAFF

Judith Banki  
Rita Blume  
Inge Lederer  
Joel Gallob  
Rita Reznik  
A. James Rudi  
Marc H. Tanen

Robert Jacobs brought the meeting to order. At the  
stressed that we had a full agenda but would try  
. He also urged people to fill in a form indicating  
bcommittees (attached), for which chairpeople would  
nner meeting in San Francisco. Mrs. Diebbs

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28 nations where the film has been shown. This report, on which Mr. Gallob gave us the highlights, will be ready for distribution at the meeting in San Francisco.

Chairperson Jacobs and Rabbi Tanenbaum briefly reported on the boat people situation and that AJC had been the first Jewish agency to be heavily involved in showing interest and support for bringing these refugees into safe port which has led the way to other Jewish agencies becoming involved.

An extensive report on Oberammergau by Ms. Banki and Rabbi Tanenbaum followed, indicating that we are not as sanguine about the <sup>improvement of the</sup> next scheduled production, in 1980, as the ADL. Commission members discussed what may be done to meet with ADL people to avoid the impression that any Jewish agency was giving its stamp of approval to what remains a very negative impression of the Jewish role in the death of Jesus.

Owing to the pressure of time it was decided to leave the discussion of the German education project, on which Rabbi Tanenbaum was to report, as well as Ms. Gibel's up-to-date report on the implementation of the Interns for Peace project in Israel as well as the Falasha community in Israel, for another meeting.

A brief discussion of planning for the 75th Anniversary celebration of the American Jewish Committee and how our Commission might best make a contribution followed and Chairperson Jacobs recommended that everyone who had ideas in this area should volunteer to serve on the subcommittee for the 75th Anniversary.

The balance of the evening and the longest and most heated discussion came around reports of black and other Christian reactions to the Andy Young incident and the general question of strategy for dealing with groups critical of Israel

in the sensitive year ahead. While there was disagreement on strategy that Israel and the Jewish community in America should follow, most people agreed that in our struggle to present the Jewish point of view, it was important to stress the PLO Covenant which continues to call for the destruction of Israel as well as its continuous open resort to terrorism in pursuit of its goals. It was also pointed out by several staff and lay people that in its dealings with the black community, it would be wise for us to remember that disappointment in recent court decisions on affirmative action -- where Jewish agencies were perceived as being on the opposing side -- <sup>and</sup> playing as strong a role in some of the negative statements by certain black leaders around the Young crisis as the question of the Middle East.

Chairperson Jacobs brought the meeting to a close at 9:30 by quoting from a speech he had given to a black-Jewish meeting in Chicago, calling for mutual toning down of rhetoric, cooling down of emotions, and understanding.

Reported by Inge Lederer Gibel

9/18/79



January 15, 1979

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

If there is any way I can help the efforts of the International Rescue Committee please feel free to call on me.

I helped several Vietnamese families settle in this area through various churches and understand their culture and ongoing concerns, and problems, including their deep anxiety to be loved, accepted and what a life of crisis can do to a people.

As I mentioned in our session today we also helped an Iranian family settle here and are gaining a deeper understanding of their situation, and as usual I have a lot of the questions but few answers.

My husband and I very much appreciated your visit to St. Louis and hope we have helped expand our understandings of one another.

Hoping you received warmth of the spirit to help counteract the weather here.

Love to you, yours, the world and the beyond,

Dorothy, Michael, Chanda, Tovy & Jad McDaniel

dln

820 Warwick Lane  
St. Louis, Mo. 63122  
966-6528



# THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

**date** March 31, 1977

**to** Will Katz  
Brenda Shapiro  
**from**

Jim Rudin ✓  
**cc:** Harold Applebaum  
David Geller

**subject** Interfaith Commission on Human Rights of Greater Miami

We want to share with you our experience in attempting to form an interreligious task force on Soviet Jewry.

As early as 1973 the Florida area attempted to organize a group of Christian and Jewish clergymen patterned after the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. Such a group was formed under the chairmanship of Rev. Luther Pierce and included Baptist minister, representatives from the Archdiocese, the Episcopal Diocese, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, a Rabbi and lay leadership from the So. Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry. The single agenda item which emerged was the plight of Soviet Jews. This group sponsored a conference in December of 1974 on religious oppression in the Soviet Union. The conference was attended by approximately 65 people, many of whom were from the So. Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee and a sprinkling of attendees from the Christian community at large. The key note address (which has been shared with you in the past) was delivered by Prof. Leon Goure' of the University of Miami.

In January of 1975 Rev. Pierce left the community to assume pastoral duties in Connecticut and a replacement for the task force chairman was never secured because the agenda was presumed to be a uniquely Jewish agenda and one that clergymen were willing to assist on but not commit to. For 1975 and 1976 the task force functioned on an ad hoc basis, never meeting but sending telegrams and appeals when asked.

In the Fall of 1976, Dr. Zand and Ed Rosenthal, Director of the local CRC, met to discuss the reorganization of the task force as it was a priority item of AJC's and the local CRC. This office, wishing to learn from mistakes of the past, was firm in its declaration that such a task force should function separately and independent of the So. Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, a group of dedicated aggressive lay people who have done a yeomans' job in educating the Jewish community to the plight of Soviet Jews. It was also felt that there had to be a sincere commitment on the part of Jewish members of the task force to address themselves to matters on the Christian agenda as well as the plight of Soviet Jews. It was agreed that the focus of the task force work would be the Helsinki Accord, in that way broadening the task force agenda. A local United Church of Christ minister was selected by the AJC and the CRC director to attend the National Interreligious Task Force in Chicago held in December. The CRC committed \$250 in funding, AJC contributed \$50.

Upon his return, staff of both the CRC and AJC met with Rev. Bailar to discuss the formation of a local clergy group which would be motivated to address a human rights agenda. In January a meeting was held at the YWCA to explore the possibility for forming such a group with religious leadership throughout the community in attendance. Some lay leaders were also invited. In this first exploratory meeting many clergymen expressed interest in organizing such an interfaith group but made it



very clear that they wanted that coalition to address itself to a wide spectrum of human rights problems, i.e. Soviet Jewry, Anglican oppression in Uganda, repression of Catholic clergymen in Latin America.

Rev. Bailar convened the 2nd meeting on March 10, 1977 and invited judicatory heads of the major Protestant sects in the community, the Episcopal Bishop, the Archbishop of the Catholic diocese and three Rabbis; conservative, orthodox and reform. This meeting was held at Trinity Cathedral, the seat of the Episcopal diocese in So. Florida and was very well attended.

After much discussion, it was decided that the group would in its beginning stages restrict itself to clergy participation. It voted to call itself the Interfaith Committee on Human Rights, elected Rev. Richard Bailar its chairman, adopted a logo and letterhead (samples of which are enclosed) and elected the AJ Committee to be its secretariat and resource. A steering committee for the Commission is now in formation and is made up of the Archbishop, the Bishop, the Baptist judicatory head, the Methodist judicatory head, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ and a Rabbi. The group has sent letters to President Jimmy Carter and the Florida Congressional Delegation reaffirming support for the Administration's strong stand on human rights and expressing the hope that the Jackson-Vanick amendment be enforced. The group will meet in April to plan their participation in Solidarity Day scheduled for May 22 in Dade County, at which time they will be coordinating efforts with the So. Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry. There are preliminary plans to set aside succeeding Sundays to highlight other areas of concern: Baptist repression in the Soviet Union, Anglican repression in Uganda, the plight of Catholic priests in Latin America, etc.

Two things have been accomplished in this process. Dade County has not had a council of churches or similar centralized religious coalition since the Vietnam War. The single exception is the Metropolitan Fellowship of Churches, a fundamentalist organization with no participation from the liberal clergy or the Episcopal and Catholics. Their agenda is predominantly Evangelical and their image in the community negative. Attempts at such a coalition as we have formed have failed in the past because participants were selected as representatives of their religious bodies. It is hoped that this group can succeed where others have failed because they came together out of religious concern and represent only themselves and not their constituencies. It is felt that this frees them to be more decisive and act on important agenda items. They also see themselves better able to play an educational role in the community by bringing matters of concern to the attention of all.

I would expect that by next Fall they would be well enough organized and committed to their own process to sponsor a visit by Sister Ann Gillen to this community. They are now a fragile new-born babe whose growth will be followed closely. We also have the support of the National Council of Christians and Jews who sponsor dialogue groups on an interfaith basis for local clergy but who see this as a vehicle for taking action, a role the dialogue groups are prevented from playing.

# NEWS COMMITTEE

FROM THE

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE** Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, PLaza 1-4000

PRESS ROOM May 11-15  
71ST ANNUAL MEETING  
Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
Park Ave. at 50 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1977

VERTES SUITE  
212-355-3000

CONTACTS:  
Press - Natalie Flatow  
TV-Radio - Frances P. Rosenberg

NEW YORK, May 11.....A series of seminars for concentrated study of Jewish themes is the latest innovation offered by the American Jewish Committee's Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls.

A four-and-a-half-day seminar will be held on the campus of Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., July 11-14. Limited to 60 students, it is already oversubscribed.

A two-week study and travel seminar will be held in Israel October 9-23, and another December 19 - January 2, 1978, in cooperation with the University of Haifa. Four other seminars will be held in Israel during the calendar year 1978 -- in April, July, October and December. Each study tour will be limited to 30 students.

Information about the Israel seminars, as well as details about the Academy's various home-study courses, is available from the Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls, 165 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

E. Robert Goodkind, Chairman of the Academy Committee, in a report to AJC's Jewish Communal Affairs Commission, described the seminar programs as a "response to the expressed interest of Academy students who wish to spend vacation time in deeper pursuit of Jewish knowledge." However, he continued, participation in the seminars is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about Jewish history and culture.

Mr. Goodkind presented his report jointly with Yehuda Rosenman, Director of AJC's Jewish Communal Affairs Department, who also serves as Director of the Academy. They spoke at a dinner meeting of AJC's Jewish Communal Affairs Commission prior to the opening tomorrow of the national (more)

Elmer L. Winter, President; Richard Maass, Chairman, Board of Governors; Maynard I. Wishner, Chairman, National Executive Council; Theodore Ellenoff, Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Bertram H. Gold, Executive Vice President

Washington Office: 818 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 • European hq.: 30 Rue la Boetie, Paris, France 75008 • Israel hq.: 9 Ethiopia St., Jerusalem, Israel 95149  
So. Amer. hq.: Bartolome Mitre 1943, Buenos Aires, Argentina • Brazil: Av. Rio Branco 18, s/1109, Rio de Janeiro • Mexico-Cent. Amer. hq.: Av. E. Nacional 533, Mexico 5, D.F.  
CSAE 1707



organization's 71st Annual Meeting, a four-day event being held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here.

In his progress report on the Academy, Mr. Rosenman stated that more than 800 students had registered for its various courses since the correspondence school in Jewish studies was established two and a half years ago.

A development of the past year, he said, was a joint project with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, under which Academy courses are being introduced into adult study groups of Reform synagogues. Seven such Academy-synagogue groups are currently in operation, five in Westchester County, N.Y., and two in Chicago. Twenty additional congregations across the country are expected to join the project in the fall.

Quoting Rabbi Leonard A. Schoolman, Director of Program for UAHC, Mr. Rosenman pointed out that Academy courses were "an ideal method of combining independent and group study, and provide superior material for chavurot and other study groups."

Another achievement of recent months, Mr. Rosenman continued, was the broadcasting by the NBC-TV network, through its owned-and-operated stations, of a series of ten half-hour programs based on ten Academy courses. This series, titled "Issues in the Jewish Experience," has already been seen in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. It is scheduled to be shown in Washington, D.C., May 23 - June 3, and in Cleveland June 20 - July 1.

In his descriptions of the seminar programs, Mr. Goodkind stated that the seminar at Brandeis would be devoted to study of the major prophets, with special emphasis on the prophet Jeremiah. Students, who are expected to have read assigned materials in advance, will discuss their reactions to these materials under the direction of Dr. Nahum Sarna, Dora Golding Professor of Biblical Studies at Brandeis University. The seminar content will be based on the Academy course on Biblical Thought.

The seminars that will be held in Israel in October and December this year, Mr. Goodkind continued, will deal with "The Zionist Idea and Its Realization." They will be based on the Academy course "Zionism: Its History and Ideology."

Next year's seminars in Israel will be devoted to "A Study of the Bible Through Archeology."

All Israel seminars will be coordinated by Prof. Uri Rappaport, Professor of Jewish History at Haifa University, who serves as Academic Dean of the Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls, which is a joint project of the AJC and Haifa University.

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

77-960-58  
4/26/77  
EJP,REL



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 5, 1977

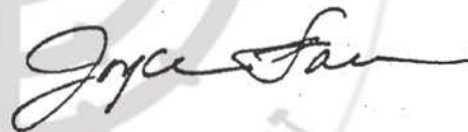
Dear Marc:

Thanks so much for the release concerning the United Presbyterian Church. I did find it of great interest and appreciate your sharing it with me.

Sister Ann Gillen has written to say that you will both be in Washington accompanied by Rabbi James Rudin on the 14th and 15th of July. She suggested a time, which I have confirmed, for 10:00 A. M. on Thursday, July 14.

I look forward to this meeting. With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Joyce R. Starr, PhD.  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street,  
New York, N. Y. 10022



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS  
COMBINED ARMS CENTER AND FORT LEAVENWORTH  
FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66027  
Office of the Post Chaplain

ATZLCH

21 February 1980

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
65-50 Wetherole Street  
Apartment 5A Rego Park  
New York, NY 11374

Dear Friend,

What a great pleasure it was to have you share with us this past week at Fort Leavenworth. Both the breakfast and the afternoon message/presentation was much appreciated.

You have a powerful message, a special gift and a sensitive heart. All came into focus for your audiences here!

I do hope that your schedule has slowed down a bit to allow you some much deserved rest.

Again, my sincere thanks for what you have given us - not the least of which is your friendship.

Warmly,

PAUL W. LEMBKE  
Chaplain (COL), USA  
Post Chaplain



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20057

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 23, 1977

Inge Lederer Gibel  
National Coordinator  
Visitors to Israel Program  
The American Jewish Committee  
Institute of Human Relations  
165 East Fifty-six Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mrs. Gibel:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of March 1. Any friend of Taffy's is a friend of mine. I guess you know that I enjoyed her thoroughly, she could not have been more helpful. Arrangements were fine, every thing necessary was laid on, and what little I could possibly have lacked in the normal tour was covered by the foreign office as extraordinary kindness and helpfulness. I came to the group as you know as an outsider, and to my delight was taken in with warmth and friendship. All this was aided by some real professionals like Rabbi Matt Simon, who knows Jerusalem as well as or better than he knows Washington. In addition we were very lucky in the person of Brenda Korn whose archeological knowledge is extraordinary. She was really quite the best guide I have ever seen, and managed to on the whole neither be jejune or obtrusive. That is a tough balance to strike with a bunch of clerics and academics.

Obviously the thing that had the principal impact on me was the City of Jerusalem, and as an old city boy, I am very glad we stayed there. Its archeology is facinating and considerably more available to the layman than I had realized. I began life as a Medievalist, I was thus facinated by the extent and beauty of the Crusader Ruins. The trip to Vad Yashem was moving and recalled a good bit of history, and the only real disappointment were the christian holy places whose squalor beggars description.



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One of the advantages of having a car at my disposal was that I was able to talk to a lot of the soldiers, and I enjoyed this enormously. I also enjoyed the general courtesy and helpfulness of everyone I met. Israel is one of the few places where one really can travel on English and French, and the one instance when I tried to do something that I could do in neither (purchase an umbrella) I found out that in matching the salesman's Yiddish with my German we made out.

I suppose like all tourists I was awed by Massada, especially by the engineering feat of King Herod being able to water a mesa 2,000 years ago. I was also struck by a moment of recreated history, when I could lean on the northeast corner of the fortress and peer down into the Roman camp. It must have been those hundreds of years ago possible for the defenders to hear the noise of the evening cooking, the laughter of the soldiers, and the clank of pots. It made for a haunting kind of oral memory.

Obviously for me one of the essential parts of the trip was the three visits to the universities and the three long and interesting conversations with faculty members in the evening. I got an amused reflection in that obviously I made comparisons. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the last High German University I have met. The City University can find two reflections in Israel: the first is what I would call CUNY "classy," Tel Aviv; and the second CUNY "more realistic," Barsheba. I am sorry I missed Haifa, but in the short time allotted I feel pretty good about what I was able to accomplish.

Needless to say at the various university discussions there were plenty of opportunities for exchanges and for other contacts, one or two of which have already been realized in fact.

I was struck by the vitality and the quality of the institutions. I was also struck by the deep sense of service that seems to fill them. Even the High German University is thoroughly conscience of the needs of its students, of the rhythms of the republic that surrounds them, and of its necessary adaptation to what must for want of a better term be called a state of siege. This also is true at Tel Aviv, which adds the excitement of a big city university, and to me at least the echoes of CUNY. In all cases the relationship to the central government is far deeper and richer and fuller than American universities would allow themselves to have, or than most of them can imagine.



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I had a great deal of fun checking up with Bernard Avital on my conviction that Israel would essentially be once peace is restored an exporter of talent and training. The English language medical school at Tel Aviv strikes me as so quickly convertible into the service of Black and Arab Africa that I am staggered that American newspapers have not given it more coverage. Needless to say it was marvelous to be able to check this out with Avital, and he was probably the most helpful single individual with whom I dealt.

Your letter asked about my "understanding of the area." The one thing of which I am certain is that I now know enough not to write a book. Probably the briefest way to put it was that I went both understanding and sharing the American support of Israel, and my week in Israel merely strengthened this conviction.

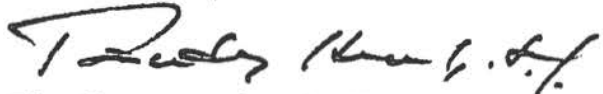
Perhaps I ought to put the conclusion in a more personal form and tell you I am positively planning to go back, and regretting that I don't see any way to do so at least in the immediate future.

The other thing I really ought to say to you and everyone at the American Jewish Committee concerned with the trip was "thank you" for making this first one possible. In a sense Israel, and above all Jerusalem, have to remain a spiritual home. To cite my own part of the testament, the gospel read in the Mass last Sunday has the haunting phrase, "Salvation is of the Jews." I am sorry that I did not have more time to walk and roam around that part of Israel which would fascinate me most from the point of view of prayer, and that is the Sea of Galilee. But I keep telling myself that that pleasure is reserved for a return trip.

It would probably be a lot easier if I came to you and told you all these things, but since you asked for them in a letter here they are.

Again my thanks.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy S. Healy, S. J.