



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

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

Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 56, Folder 11, Camp David - religious leadership meeting, 10 July 1979.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1979

To Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum

All of us here are grateful for your participation in the meetings at Camp David.

The President thought you might like to have the attached copy of his address to the Nation on Sunday, July 15, 1979, as a memento of those meetings.

I hope we may continue to call on you for your advice and help.

Sincerely,

*Hamilton Jordan*

Hamilton Jordan  
Assistant to the President

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum  
American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

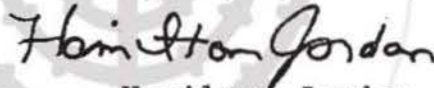
August 15, 1979

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you for your kind and thoughtful letter of August 2nd. I appreciate your congratulations and your good wishes and especially your offer of assistance. It's good to know we can count on your support in the difficult months ahead.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Hamilton Jordan

Hamilton Jordan  
Assistant to the President

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1979

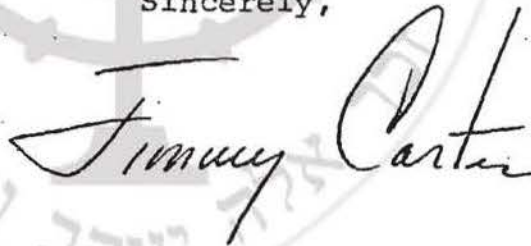
To Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum

Rosalynn joins me in thanking you for the inscribed copy of your essay, Religious Values in an Age of Violence.

Your guidance at Camp David has helped me set forth clearly our national goals and will be important in developing the policies we need to meet these goals.

I look forward to your continued counsel as we act together to realize our vision of a strong, renewed America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director of  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
Institute of Human Relations  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Carter, Pres Jimmy  
✓ Camp David  
Summit

September 27, 1979

President Jimmy Carter  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr President,

It was my very genuine privilege to be with you during the recent luncheon of Camp David alumni to discuss the follow-up on the energy and conservation program.

I am deeply grateful for your kind invitation to be present at the forthcoming reception for His Holiness Pope John Paul II at the White House on October 6th. Regrettably, that time falls both on the Jewish Sabbath and on the first day of Sukkot, the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles, and it will therefore not be possible for me to be present. Fortunately, thanks to the thoughtfulness of Cardinal Cooke, I will be present at several of the meetings and receptions for the Pope in New York City on October 2nd and 3rd.

I am also grateful for your kind invitation to attend the recent reception in honor of my beloved friend and long-time colleague, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos. While I was not able to be present for that I did spend an hour with the Archbishop taping a television program for CBS-TV on the discussions with you and had an opportunity to express my deep love and respect for him at that time. Incidentally, I had suggested that CBS invite you to be the center of that discussion but apparently your schedule did not allow for that. The program will be shown on Sunday, September 30th, at 10:30 in the morning and will be entitled, "The Invisible Threat," a phrase which was taken from your excellent July 15th address.

My major purpose in writing to you now is to bring to your attention an article by Mr. Leonard C. Yaseen, the chairman emeritus of Fantus Corporation, one of the major plant relocation firms in the United States. Mr. Yaseen has set forth some ideas about a conservation program that I believe is not only imaginative but is realistic and could advance the goal of conservation in a major way.



I hope that copies of this article - which is a condensation of a longer article which he has written - could be made available to those in charge of organizing the voluntary sector in advancing the cause of conservation in this country.

I plan to send copies of this article around to thousands of key national civic and religious leaders with a view toward urging them to begin undertaking some of the programs suggested by Mr. Yaseen at the earliest possible date. This program, I believe, could go a long way toward helping us achieve significant conservation and contribute to a goal of energy self-reliance.

I have just seen your statement disavowing that American Jewish leadership put pressure on you to cause the resignation of my good friend, Ambassador Andy Young. We plan to give considerable attention to this statement which is very much needed because a large number of people in the black community believe that "the Jews" are responsible for Andy's resignation and the resentment has become widespread. So I am grateful that you have cleared the air on this issue.

I do hope that we can bring together a White House conference of religious leaders to concentrate on the issue of conservation with a view toward mobilizing massive public support behind this central issue.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Respectfully yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

cc: Mr. L.C. Yaseen

Enclosure

bc: Bert Gold  
Selma Hirsh  
Mort Yarmon  
Joel Gallob

A STATEMENT BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
ON CAMP DAVID MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

The meeting of religious leaders with President Carter was a sober, warm, stimulating and constructive experience. Beyond all else, it was a valuable expression of participatory democracy in our pluralistic society. Conscious of our respective religious differences we came together at the request of the President to explore what we could contribute to the common welfare of the American people as it faces one of the great watershed crises of our times.

The practical issues are clear - the need to gain energy independence from the OPEC cartel and its threat to the autonomy of American foreign policy; the need for effective conservation; the need for alternative sources of energy. But the moral issues are fundamental and equally crucial.- how to help the American people recognize that the era of superabundance is coming to an end and the urgent need for modifying lifestyles that puts an end to waste, materialism, and self-indulgence. As a result of Camp David I am hopeful that the major Christian and Jewish bodies will play a central and constructive role in enabling our people not only to survive but to prevail.

7/11/79

rpr

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1979

F-  
Camp Dant

Dear Marc:

Thank you for your letter of August 3.

It was my impression from our telephone conversation that you were going to get in touch with some members of the National Council of Churches to discuss their leadership role in organizing a religious meeting on energy conservation. I understood that after that discussion you were going to get back to me.

I have been waiting to hear from you about your conversations before proceeding and if I misunderstood your intention, please let me know. I look forward to working with you on this project. As you know, the President wants to have a hand in any way that is appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,



Anne Wexler  
Assistant to the President

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs  
The American Jewish Committee  
165 East 56th Street  
New York, NY 10022



# The American



## Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

*Carter, Jimmy Pres*

*Camp David - energy*

August 7, 1979

President Jimmy Carter  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Mr. President,

It was most gracious of you to take the time and trouble to write to me about my participation with other religious leaders in the Camp David seminar with you.

I found it a most creative and stimulating discussion, and was deeply moved by how much all of us shared your perceptions on the moral and psychological condition of the American people.

On returning, I have just written to Cardinal Cooke, Claire Randall and others proposing that we arrange to meet together shortly in order to mobilize systematic support in every major city in our country behind your energy and conservation proposals.

I am genuinely persuaded that Christian and Jewish leaders collaborating closely together can literally help turn America around on this issue, as we have done on the Indochinese refugees, world hunger, foreign aid, human rights, et cetera.

It will be a privilege to be associated with you in this massive challenge to our nation and our people. I hope you realize that my organization and I personally are available to be of every possible assistance in this vital area.

With warmest personal good wishes and my prayers for God's richest blessings over you, Rosalyn, and your lovely family, I am,

Respectfully,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

RICHARD MAASS, President ■ MAYNARD I. WISNER, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■ GERARD WEINSTOCK, Treasurer ■ LEONARD C. YASEEN, Secretary ■ ROBERT L. HOROWITZ, Associate Treasurer ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, Executive Committee ■ Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, ELMER L. WINTER ■ Honorary Vice-Presidents: NATHAN APPLEMAN, RUTH R. GODDARD, ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD ■ MAX M. FISHER, Honorary Chairman, National Executive Council ■ MAURICE GLINERT, Honorary Treasurer ■ JOHN SLAWSON, Executive Vice-President Emeritus ■ Vice-Presidents: STANFORD M. ADELSTEIN, Rapid City, S.D.; DAVID HIRSCHHORN, Baltimore; MILES JAFFE, Detroit; ALFRED H. MOSES, Washington, D.C.; ELAINE PETSCHER, Westchester; MERVIN H. RISEMAN, New York; RICHARD E. SHERWOOD, Los Angeles; SHERMAN H. STARR, Boston; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia; GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester; ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■ BERTRAM H. GOLD, Executive Vice-President

Camp David -  
religious  
leaders

August 3, 1979

Mr. Dick Ryan  
124 Harvest Lane  
West Islip, New York 11795

Dear Dick,

How thoughtful of you to write such a sensitive and ~~perceptive piece~~  
based on our interview about the Camp David meeting.

I had no idea that you were planning to make such a significant story  
out of that interview centered around my own views on the meeting  
between President Carter and the religious leaders.

I do want you to know that I appreciate very much your thoughtfulness  
and your constant spirit of empathy and support of the work in which  
we are engaged.

With warmest personal gratitude, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Enclosures

cc: Bert Shanas



The American



Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

August 3, 1979

His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke  
Archbishop of New York  
452 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

My dear Cardinal Cooke,

I cannot begin to tell you how much personal pleasure it has given me to be associated with you during recent days in our common efforts in support of our nation during the Camp David "domestic summit" talks as well as in the great humanitarian work that we share in behalf of the Indochinese refugees.

Your leadership in both these events has been outstanding and I wanted you to know of my deep personal appreciation of the magnificent role that you have played in both these critical situations.

I sincerely hope that we will continue to collaborate together both in follow-up on the Camp David talks as well as in whatever we might be able to do to relieve some of the suffering of the hapless people from Indochinese countries.

May I take advantage of this writing to inquire about the possibility of our arranging for a small but prestigious delegation of the American Jewish Committee to meet with His Holiness Pope John Paul II during his forthcoming visit to New York. I recall with fond memories the opportunity that was provided at the Holy Family Church when the late Pope Paul VI visited the United Nations. At that time a delegation of some 23 Jewish leaders were invited to take part in an ecumenical gathering held at the Holy Family Church.

I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you at an early date to discuss the most constructive way in which a meeting between Jewish leadership and the Pope might be organized under your auspices.

Again, with deep appreciation and with warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

RICHARD MAASS, President ■  
MAYNARD I. WISNER, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■  
GERARD WEINSTOCK, Treasurer ■ LEONARD C. YASEEN, Secretary ■ ROBERT L. HOROWITZ, Associate Treasurer ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, Executive Committee ■  
Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, ELMER L. WINTER ■ Honorary Vice-Presidents: NATHAN APPLEMAN, RUTH R. GODDARD,  
ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD ■ MAX M. FISHER, Honorary Chairman, National Executive Council ■ MAURICE GLINERT, Honorary Treasurer ■  
JOHN SLAWSON, Executive Vice-President Emeritus ■ Vice-Presidents: STANFORD M. ADELSTEIN, Rapid City, S.D.; DAVID HIRSCHORN, Baltimore; MILES JAFFE, Detroit; ALFRED H. MOSES,  
Washington, D.C.; ELAINE PETSCHKE, Westchester; MERVIN H. RISEMAN, New York; RICHARD E. SHERWOOD, Los Angeles; SHERMAN H. STARR, Boston; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia;  
GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester; ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■

bc: Bert Gold  
Bob Jacobs  
Miles Jaffe  
Leonard Yaseen

49 Camp David  
Religious leaders



The American



Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • 212/751-4000 • Cable Wishcom, N.Y.

*F. Camp David  
Religious*

bc: Bert Gold  
Bob Jacobs  
Miles Jaffe  
Leonard Yaseen

August 3, 1979

Dr. Claire Randall  
General Secretary  
National Council of Churches  
of Christ in the U.S.A.  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Claire,

It was a genuine privilege to be associated with you at the Camp David talks as well as with the CWS in connection with the Indochinese refugee activity.

You bring such clarity, forthrightness, and dedication to these deliberations that it is genuinely an inspiration to work with you.

I had a call this morning from Ann Wexler inquiring what the next step might be in connection with organizing a national consultation of religious leaders on the energy crisis, in particular the conservation issue.

Ann said that the President would be prepared to address a national consultation that was well-organized and that would have a strong programmatic follow-through for increasing a commitment to conservation on the part of the American people.

I would very much welcome your taking the initiative in calling us together at an early date.

Again with much appreciation and warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially, as ever,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

RICHARD MAASS, President ■  
MAYNARD I. WISNER, Chairman, Board of Governors ■ MORTON K. BLAUSTEIN, Chairman, National Executive Council ■ HOWARD I. FRIEDMAN, Chairman, Board of Trustees ■  
GERARD WEINSTOCK, Treasurer ■ LEONARD C. YASEEN, Secretary ■ ROBERT L. HOROWITZ, Associate Treasurer ■ THEODORE ELLENOFF, Chairman, Executive Committee ■  
Honorary Presidents: MORRIS B. ABRAM, ARTHUR J. GOLDBERG, PHILIP E. HOFFMAN, ELMER L. WINTER ■ Honorary Vice-Presidents: NATHAN APPELMAN, RUTH R. GODDARD,  
ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES MARSHALL, WILLIAM ROSENWALD ■ MAX M. FISHER, Honorary Chairman, National Executive Council ■ MAURICE GLINERT, Honorary Treasurer ■  
JOHN SLAWSON, Executive Vice-President Emeritus ■ Vice-Presidents: STANFORD M. ADELSTEIN, Rapid City, S.D.; DAVID HIRSCHHORN, Baltimore; MILES JAFFE, Detroit; ALFRED H. MOSES,  
Washington, D.C.; ELAINE PETSCHKE, Westchester; MERVIN H. RISEMAN, New York; RICHARD E. SHERWOOD, Los Angeles; SHERMAN H. STARR, Boston; EMILY W. SUNSTEIN, Philadelphia;  
GEORGE M. SZABAD, Westchester; ELISE D. WATERMAN, New York ■



*Camp David  
Religious leaders*

August 3, 1979

Ms. Ann Wexler,  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

My dear Ann,

It was very good being with you at the July 10th seminar between the President and the group of religious leaders.

I concur with your view that it was a really stimulating and, in many ways, moving experience for me and I'm glad that the President, your colleagues, and yourself thought it was that useful. It is evident from the polls that certainly a majority of the American people who listened and watched the July 15th speech shared the President's perception of the seriousness of our problems, including the moral dimension.

As I mentioned to you over the telephone last Monday, I do think that the religious community can play a vital role in mobilizing the large segments of the American people in support of the energy program, particularly on the conservation issue. As soon as you're ready to talk about organizing a consultation of religious leaders, please let me know. I will try to do everything I can to be helpful.

I want you to know how much I appreciate all your courtesies and thoughtfulness during recent weeks. It made the giving up of parts of my badly-needed vacation all the more endurable.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

Camp David -  
Religious Leader -

August 2, 1979

Mr. Hamilton Jordan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Hamilton,

I was very glad that I had the opportunity to become acquainted with you during the July 10th session between President Carter and the religious leaders group. My only regret is that we did not have more time to get to know each other. I hope we can arrange to do so some time in the near future.

In behalf of the American Jewish Committee and for myself personally I want to offer you our heartiest congratulations on your recent designation by President Carter as Chief of Staff of the White House.

If there is any way in which I can be of helpfulness to the President of yourself in either professional or personal capacities I hope you will feel free to call on me. It is a great privilege to try to be of service to this marvelous country, especially at a time when it faces such serious problems.

With warmest personal good wishes, I am,

Cordially yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum  
National Director  
Interreligious Affairs

MHT:RPR

*Camp David  
Summit*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

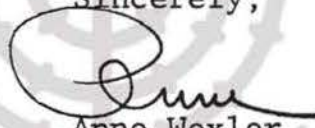
July 27, 1979

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum:

I send the enclosed photograph with my best wishes and thanks for your contribution to the Camp David meetings. Your good counsel is most appreciated.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



Anne Wexler  
Assistant to the President

Rabbi Mark Tannenbaum  
American Jewish Congress  
15 East 84th Street  
New York, New York 10028



MONDAY, JULY 16, 1979

**CHURCHMEN SAY NEED TO SACRIFICE  
CARRIES MORAL BENEFIT FOR NATION**

By Religious News Service (7-16-79)

NEW YORK (RNS) -- An ad hoc coalition of religious leaders has urged Americans to "turn the necessity for sacrifice to our own moral benefit and the attainment of justice throughout the world."

In a joint statement issued the morning after President Carter's televised address on the energy crisis and the crisis of confidence in the nation, they declared that "inevitably, there will be public debate on the specific proposals which the president has set forth. But all Americans, as a part of God's human family, have a duty in charity and in justice to join hands in meeting this crisis squarely."

Rather than seeking to avoid sacrifice, "let us turn the necessity for sacrifice to our own moral benefit and the attainment of justice throughout the world," the statement urged. "Despite stern features, there is nothing tragic about the changes which the crisis presents. On the contrary, it poses a challenge that could have a profoundly bracing effect on the national character."

Stressing that the burden must be borne fairly by all, the religious leaders commented that "given the structure of our society, there is always the danger that the rich and comfortable will go on their way undisturbed, while the poor, the disadvantaged, the politically weak will suffer cutbacks in the very necessities of life.

"In responding to the present crisis, it is imperative that we ensure that our national programs and policies and the sacrifices which they will entail will be just. We must never lose sight of the needs of the poor, the jobless and the more vulnerable members of our society."

The religious leaders pledged to take steps to reduce energy consumption in their institutions, set a good example to adopting simpler means of living, seek to formulate programs of energy assistance for the poor, elderly and disabled, and work to develop programs of education and spiritual formation to focus on "the moral issues underlying the present crisis."

(more)

PAGE -1-



The joint statement had been endorsed by some 35 religious leaders when it was issued at a news conference at The Interchurch Center. Four of the ten religious leaders who recently met with President Carter at Camp David participated in the news conference: Dr. Claire Randall, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, representing the U.S. Catholic bishops; Dr. Jimmy Allen of San Antonio, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention; and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee. Also at the news conference was NCC President William Howard.

Cardinal Cooke suggested that the crisis should be seen as "an opportunity to sacrifice," and an opportunity "to re-evaluate our true values in life." Stressing that "we live in an interdependent world," he pointed out that "even though we suffer at this time, the sufferings of people in other parts of the world, struggling for survival, are far greater than any we face today."

Dr. Allen asserted that one difficulty the nation has faced in tackling the problems before it is that they have constituted "an ill-defined crisis" in the minds of many. Citing "a need for the raising of consciousness," he said that one challenge facing the religious community was to sharpen the nature of the crisis in the minds of people.

Rabbi Tanenbaum emphasized that with a constituency of some 145 million people, the religious leaders who met with the president represent "the largest body of organizations, bar none, in the country." He declared that religious groups have already played a "central and decisive role" in shaping U.S. policy on world hunger and foreign aid, and are now taking a leading role in resettling Indochinese refugees. The same can be done in helping to meet the energy crisis, the Jewish leader maintained.

Mr. Howard commented that the fact that materialism still marks the attitudes of many Americans is "a reflection of our own failures in this area." Among steps that the National Council of Churches plans to take to deal with the problem, he mentioned the promotion of community forums on "the nature of our economy," and a meeting with corporation executives early in 1980 to discuss economic issues.

In discussing the need for changed attitudes among all Americans, the religious leaders stressed the need to focus on spiritual rather than material values.

"The quality of life is not going to be determined by the quantity of life," said Rabbi Tanenbaum. In the same view, Cardinal Cooke added: "It's important not that we have more but that we be more."



## TEXT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS' STATEMENT

By Religious News Service (7-16-79)

NEW YORK (RNS) -- Here is a text of the response by U.S. religious leaders to the president's address on July 15. The names of these subscribing to the statement appear in the order originally listed and include only those names that were available at the time of the statement's release.

-----

The energy crisis facing our nation points to a greater moral crisis -- the apparent inability of Americans to unite behind worthy goals. That commitment to the common good which has characterized our people in other times is vanishing, leaving in its wake an unhealthy preoccupation with individual interests. For a variety of reasons -- a sense of powerlessness shared by many of our citizens, increasing disinterest in social and political involvement, past evasions of responsibility by leadership, the complexity of current issues we face, and the persistence of social injustice -- we are experiencing an erosion of confidence and trust in one another and in the institutions of public life.

Herein lies the true significance of President Carter's speech to the nation on energy and the economy. As religious leaders, we welcome the President's call to action.

Inevitably, there will be public debate on the specific proposals which the president has set forth. But all Americans, as a part of God's human family, have a duty in charity and in justice to join hands in meeting this crisis squarely. There can be no hanging back, no waiting for others to carry the load, no naive expectation that our problems will be solved by technology and money only. Americans must make the transition from a world where energy was cheap and plentiful to one where it is expensive and limited in supply. This will mean changes in the way we live, a return in part to the simplicity that distinguished earlier generations. It will require giving up certain conveniences, and our habits make that difficult. But even when viewed from the blandest moral perspective, the great majority of Americans are far too dependent on the ethics of materialism. We consume an inordinate share of the earth's resources; we waste what people in other nations need. Rather than seeking to avoid sacrifice, let us turn the necessity for sacrifice to our own moral benefit and the attainment of justice throughout the world. Despite stern features, there is nothing tragic about the changes which the crisis presents. On the contrary, it poses a challenge that could have a profoundly bracing effect on the national character.



The burden, of course, must be borne fairly by all. Given the structure of our society, there is always the danger that the rich and comfortable will go on their way undisturbed, while the poor, the disadvantaged, the politically weak will suffer cutbacks in the very necessities of life. In responding to the present crisis, it is imperative that we ensure that our national programs and policies and the sacrifices which they will entail will be just. We must never lose sight of the needs of the poor, the jobless and the more vulnerable members of our society. The United States is still wealthy and resourceful enough, energy crisis or not, to face change without further aggravating social and economic disparity. Moreover, equity in sacrifice is the key to motivating people.

Our present crisis offers us an opportunity to reexamine the value of the common good. If we cannot all pull together, we will certainly fall to fighting among ourselves, and a constructive solution will be lost. A carefully defined effort to solve the energy crisis and our economic difficulties, inspired by a communitarian ethic, can have a unifying effect on all Americans as we seek a more just and human future.

The religious community stands ready to help shape that future. In the coming months, we will take steps to intensify our efforts to reduce energy consumption in our churches, synagogues, schools, hospitals and other religiously sponsored institutions. We will urge all religious leaders to set a good example by adopting where possible simpler means of living. We will ask our religious bodies to formulate programs of emergency assistance for the poor and the elderly, the disabled, and those for whom the spiraling costs of fuel and home heating oil present especially critical problems.

We will work together to develop programs of education and spiritual formation to bring home to our people the moral issues underlying the present crisis. Finally, we will undertake interreligious efforts to urge our congressional and other government leaders to move with greater speed, determination and unanimity in responding to our present economic and energy needs.

We pray and trust that God will inspire us all to follow a more modest way of life, free from dependency on luxuries mistaken for necessities. We profess loyalty to a standard higher than mere materialism. History has called on us to demonstrate that we mean what we profess. It is up to us to lead, to demonstrate the reality of our moral commitment.

----

Cardinal Terrance Cooke of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; Dr. Jimmy Allen, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas; Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of interreligious affairs, American Jewish Committee, New York; Dr. Claire Randall, general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ U.S.A., New York; Rev. William Howard, president of the National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A., Princeton, N.J.; Archbishop John R. Quinn, president, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, San Francisco; Archbishop John R. Roach, vice-president, National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Phoenix, Ariz.



Archbishop Joseph C. Bernardin, former president, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cincinnati; Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., general secretary, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington; Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas, New York; Rev. Otis Moss, pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland; James E. Andrews, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Atlanta; Kenneth L. Teegarden, general minister and president, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis; Rev. William K. Cober, associate general secretary, American Baptist Churches, Valley Forge, Pa.

Robert Bellah, sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley, Calif; Bishop James Matthews, United Methodist Church, Washington; Tracey K. Jones, Jr., first vice-president of the National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A., general secretary, Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, New York; Francis Brown, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, Philadelphia; Dr. Cynthia Wedel, one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches, Washington; William Thompson, stated clerk, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Princeton, N.J.; Bishop Patrick F. Flores, Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso, Texas.

Bishop Chester A. Kirkendoll, recording secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A., Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Birmingham, Ala.; Bishop William R. Cannon of the United Methodist Church in Atlanta; Dr. James R. Crumley, Jr. president, Lutheran Church in America, New York; Rt. Rev. John M. Allin, presiding bishop, The Episcopal Church, New York; Bishop Charles H. Foggie, secretary, Board of Bishops, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Pittsburgh; Metropolitan Philip Saliba, The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Englewood, N.J.; Dr. Harold Bennett, executive committee, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Adrian Rogers, president, Southern Baptist Convention, Memphis, Tenn.; Dr. Foy Valentine, executive director, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. David Preus, general president of the American Lutheran Church, Minneapolis; Most Rev. Torkom Manoogian, archbishop and primate, Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, New York; Dr. Sloane S. Hodges, general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., Washington; Dr. Joe V. Hodgkiss, president of the National Council of Community Churches, Worthington, Ohio; Dr. Avery D. Post, president of the United Church of Christ, New York.



→ CAMP DAVID  
RELIGIOUS  
LEADERS

## THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

**date** July 12, 1979  
**to** Bert Gold and Bob Jacobs  
**from** Marc H. Tanenbaum  
**subject** REPORT ON CAMP DAVID MEETING OF PRESIDENT CARTER  
WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS

On Monday morning, July 9th, I received a telephone call from Hy Bookbinder alerting me to the fact that I would shortly receive a call from Ann Wexler of the White House staff inviting me to come to Camp David with a group of religious leaders. Shortly thereafter, Ann called and said that the President has invited ten religious leaders to Camp David to discuss with him moral and social aspects of the current energy crisis.

The Christian representatives who were invited (and who actually showed up) were: Cardinal Cooke; Claire Randall of the National Council of Churches; Dr. Jimmy Allen of San Antonio, retiring president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Archbishop Iakovos, patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church; Dr. David Preus, president of the Lutheran Church of America; Methodist Bishop William Cannon of Atlanta; the Rev. Otis Moore, a black pastor of Cleveland; Hispanic Bishop Patrick Flores of El Paso, Texas; Dr. Robert Bellah, dean of the sociology department at Berkeley. Father Hesburgh and David Riesman of Harvard were invited but could not attend. I was the only Jew present.

By prearrangement, Bookie, Bob Jacobs (who was in the White House for an AJC meeting with Bob Lipshutz on the Webber case) and I met at four p.m. for preparatory conversations with Ed Sanders prior to Camp David. Also the day before, I had preliminary conversations with Selma Hirsh and Phyllis Sherman who gave me a briefing memo. from Shrub Kempner and the Jewish Groups letter on Energy policy to President Carter - all of which were most helpful. (Bookie also suggested that we say hello to Vice-President Mondale and Bob Lipshutz which we did.)

At 5:45 p.m.; I went to the Diplomatic Room of the White House to meet the Christian leaders. It was a kind of ecumenical "agape" since the majority of us have been friends for many years and called each other by first names. Around 6 p.m., Ann Wexler and her staff escorted us to the Presidential helicopter and we were flown to Camp David.

We arrived about 6:40 p.m. and were immediately taken to the Laurel Cabin - where much of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement terms were hammered out. Camp David is a rustic jewel, exquisitely maintained and a genuine Shangri-La for peaceful retreat.



A few minutes before 7 p.m., President Carter appeared, accompanied by Rosalyn, Amy and his top staff - Hamilton Jordan, Jody Powell, Gerry Rafshoon, Pat Caddell, Ann Wexler, Rick Hertzberg (Carter's chief speech-writer). After shaking hands and getting acquainted, the President asked us into the large conference room to begin our discussion. Not incidentally, Rosalyn and the entire staff joined us for the entire discussion, with all of them (including several additional speech-writers) taking non-stop notes. (The President and his aides were all dressed casually, all us clerics were in usual heavy, somber religious-type gear.)

The President opened the meeting with a personal, very Evangelical Christian prayer, asking for Divine wisdom and moral strength from Jesus Christ in "this Christian fellowship" to enable us to cope with the great issues of our times. (In keeping with the "fairness doctrine," the President asked me to offer the closing prayer which I did by starting with "Avinu she-bashamayim" (Our Father who art in Heaven) and we all held hands around the table; and so a Christian "agape" became a Hebrew "havurah.")

President Carter then began the meeting with a statement, apparently pretty similar to what the papers report he had been saying to other groups who have come to Camp David: he is deeply concerned about the malaise in America, the restlessness, the anxiety, the uncertainty, the collapse of trust in and credibility of authority - all authority from the President throughout most other levels of society's institutions. He was also concerned about the decline of morality. He attributed much of this malaise to the traumas America suffered as a result of the assassinations of JFK, RFK, Martin Luther King, Vietnam, Watergate, etc. He then said that much of this disorientation appears to make it difficult for Americans to respond to the leadership of himself when he calls for constructive response to the energy and other crises.

He then asked for our views on how we saw the present situation, what we think might be done to help him reach the American people, and what the religious institutions themselves could do to help mobilize the American people.

In the early round of responses, there was a certain amount of pietistic sycophancy thanking God for the inspiration of his "Christian leadership." Cardinal Cooke, after appropriate words of thanks for inviting us and for his moral example, moved the discussion to a more analytical level by raising in a general way the issues of rampant materialism and self-indulgence. Then, Bob Bellah and I took off - in what became something of a dialogue between us - about the general systemic malaise which is a consequence of living in a nuclear age where universal annihilation is now conceivable for the first time in history (I cited Billy Graham's telling phrase the week before at "Honor America Day": "We are the first generation to be told that we may be the last."), the death of symbolic immortality after Hiroshima and Auschwitz (quoting Robert Jay Lifton), the anxieties over Skylab and DC-10s, the widespread poisoning of the atmosphere and earth through toxic wastes, etc.

The energy crisis - sufficient problem in itself - elicits an anxiety overload that has been accumulating from these developments since World War II.



One of the widespread responses to these uncertainties and insecurities, we said, has been an escape into personal pleasure - "Let's eat and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Hence, rampant materialism, unbridled consumerism, me-first-ism, the culture of narcissus.

All of that self-indulgence was possible in an era of superabundance in America - cheap oil and gas, unlimited raw materials, the American cornucopia for the past 200 years. We have now crossed a watershed - oil and other fossil fuels grow scarce; and that is but a foretaste of other major scarcities for which the American people is equally unprepared - water, minerals, raw materials that are also becoming increasingly scarce. Soon we need to expect a whole range of mini-OPEC cartels in bauxite, copper, aluminum, tin rubber, etc.

It is essential, therefore, we said, that we prevent OPEC from succeeding in strangling America's (and Western Europe's) economy and in intimidating our foreign and domestic policies - for if they succeed in the present instance, American and others will become hostage to every other cartel that is waiting in the wings.

(The President disclosed that he was prepared to blast OPEC in his famous undelivered speech, but has decided to take a "softer" approach - undoubtedly a response to Saudi Arabia's making available an additional one million barrels of oil daily for six months.)

All this brought on a general and brief discussion about the need for energy independence, alternative sources of energy, and conservation. Subsequently, I made available copies of our Jewish Groups' statement on these issues to each of the Christian participants and to the President and his staff as a basis for further discussion.

On consumerism, we talked about the cultural contradiction that has to be faced - namely, America is a free enterprise system whose economic growth requires constant material expansion which has been translated into non-restrained consumerism and much wastefulness. Now we are talking about inaugurating a massive effort to realize restraint, modest consumption habits, discipline in an era of stringency.