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

Series D. International Relations Activities. 1961-1992.

Box 58, Folder 9, Foreign aid, 1978.



August 1, 1978

Hon. Sol M. Linowitz  
Coudert Brothers  
One Farragut Square South  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Sol:

I appreciated your letter and have been talking to a number of my colleagues here about ways and means of cooperating with you at the appropriate time on the world hunger undertaking.

Marc Tanenbaum, as you know, has been exceedingly active with the interreligious network, a most influential one, and on a number of projects that have a bearing on world hunger. The Fall Conference that is planned and described in the enclosed brochure is one of Marc's "babies" as is the enclosed statement by religious leaders (including a number of important Blacks) on foreign aid legislation. I am also enclosing the testimony on the subject of world hunger Marc gave several years ago before the Senate Committee Hearings, in which he elaborates on the rationale for Jewish involvement in this critical area.

All of this is to say that we do want to be of help and perhaps one day, when you are ready for it, we could bring together a few of our top staff to meet with you here in New York and discuss concretely how we might be of assistance.

I will be out of the office the first three weeks in September, but I will be here throughout the month of August and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

All the best, as always.

Cordially,

Selma Hirsh

SH:MRG

Encls.

*dc Marc Tanenbaum*

STATEMENT OF PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC AND JEWISH LEADERS ON  
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION

As representatives of the major religious communities in the United States we have come today to meet with President Carter and members of the Administration to offer our support for the development aid provisions of the Foreign Assistance legislation which will be voted on by the House of Representatives tomorrow. It is of the essence of the biblical faith which we share that the religious community stands with those who are the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. As the prophets spoke in behalf of the orphans and the widows, so we must address ourselves to the needs of those throughout the globe who live in conditions of absolute poverty, deprived of basic nutrition, without adequate shelter, education, health care or employment. We have both pressing needs and poor people here in our own society, but the added burden of the global poor is that they have even less voice and visibility ~~in our midst~~. Our purpose today is to call attention to the urgency of their needs and to reassert the moral responsibility we have as members of the international community to do our part on their behalf.

The Foreign Assistance legislation now before the Congress has already been stringently reduced. Efforts will be made in the House to reduce it even more drastically. We urge members of the House to resist such cuts in U.S. foreign development assistance. We especially call attention to the U.S. role in supporting multilateral programs such as The International Development Association; this program is aimed at the absolutely poorest people in the world. It deserves both more support and a better hearing than it has received in this Congressional debate.

None of the foreign assistance programs are perfect; the real question is whether with all their shortcomings they still are worthy of support. We believe they are. Speaking from a faith perspective, we affirm that in spite of divisions of sovereignty, geography and culture, we exist in the world as a single human family.

The poorest members of that family lay a moral claim upon our conscience. We cannot wait for a perfect program before we address that claim on our conscience. The existing international development efforts -- both bilateral and multilateral -- have improved significantly in recent years. They merit our support, as well as our efforts to reform them.

Finally, we are not ready to believe, even in the face of domestic problems of inflation, unemployment and debate over taxes, that the American public will refuse to contribute to the needs of the very poorest in the human family. We are, therefore, even less inclined to believe that they will retaliate against their elected representatives who vote for these programs. Indeed, the basic problem is that the case for the global poor has not been adequately put to the public so that a careful decision can be made. As religious leaders we accept our share of responsibility for not making the case strongly enough. Even at this late date, however, we urge our Congressional representatives to support the Foreign Assistance legislation before them; we pledge in turn to advocate the wisdom of such a choice with our constituencies.

July 31, 1978

MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS

July 31, 1978

ALLEN, Dr. Jimmy  
President, Southern Baptist Convention

BELL, Tart  
Director, Washington Public Affairs Program  
American Friends Service Committee

BRIDSTON, Dr. Keith  
World Council of Churches

BRODERICK, Most Reverend Edwin  
Executive Director of the Catholic Relief Services  
New York Catholic Center

COGSWELL, Dr. James  
Director, Task Force on World Hunger - Presbyterian Church, U. S.

CHAUNCEY, Dr. George  
Chairperson, Interreligious Task Force  
Director of Washington Office  
Presbyterian Church of the U. S.

CONFER, Bernard  
Executive Director  
Lutheran World Relief

GIBBLE, Lamar  
Chairman, International Affairs at NCC  
Church of Brethren

HAINES, Dr. J. Harry  
General Secretary  
United Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief

HEHIR, Reverend J. Bryan  
Associate Secretary for Office of International Justice and Peace

IAKOVOS, Archbishop  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America

KELLY, Most Reverend Thomas  
General Secretary of United States Catholic Conference

KREITMAN, Rabbi Benjamin  
Executive Vice President  
United Synagogue of America

LADD, William D.  
Personal Representative of President Spencer Kimball  
Member, Council of Twelve Apostles  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

MARSHALL, Dr. Robert  
President, Lutheran Church of America

NICHOLS, Bishop D. Ward  
AME

PILCHIK, Rabbi Eli  
President, Central Conference of American Rabbis

RABINOWICS, Rabbi Stanley  
Rabbinical Assembly

ROSENSWEIG, Rabbi Bernard  
President, Rabbinical Council of America

SHAW, Bishop Herbert Bell  
AME-ZION

SIEGMANN, Rabbi Henry  
President, Synagogue Council of America

STENNING, Ronald  
National Director  
CROP (Church World Services)

STOCKWELL, Dr. Eugene  
Associate General Secretary  
National Council of Churches  
Director, Division of Overseas Ministries

TANNENBAUM, Rabbi Mark  
American Jewish Committee

THOMAS, Dr. Robert A.  
Chairman of the Board  
National Council of Churches  
Division of Overseas Ministries  
Christian Disciples of Christ

VALENTINE, Dr. Foy  
Executive Director  
Christian Life Community of the Southern Baptist Convention