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Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 58, Folder 12, France, 1985-1988.



JAN 24 1985



The American Jewish Committee

European Office · 4, rue de la Bienfaisance, 75008 Paris · Tel. 522-9243 and 387-3839

NIVES E. FOX, European Representative

January 15, 1985

Dear Marc:

I forgot to mention in our last several telephone conversations that when David Gordis and I considered possible activities here I spoke of the idea I had described to you some time ago about putting out a pamphlet-booklet on Jewish museums in Europe (East and West).

I thought this could also be something of a joint venture with the European Council; and Gordis made it clear that it would then need to be a full partnership (funding too); but he seemed to like it very much and told me to go ahead with it.

I have therefore shared this with Nicole Goldman, including the fact that it had to be fully cooperative, and we are getting started, first with an estimate for printing (Gordis thought it should be compared to US prices) and then contacting the communities for the material and information.

Naturally, I will keep you informed about developments as we go along.

With very best regards,

Sincerely,

Nives E. Fox

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

cc: Harris

JAN 6 1987



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December 29, 1986

MEMORANDUM

To: Marc Tanenbaum
From: Nives Fox
Subj: Irangate - Europe

This is to respond to the December 11, 1986 memo concerning European "press coverage of Iran-US-Israel-Contras. (Did not receive David Gordis' memorandum, of December 8.

When the story broke, and particularly after President Reagan's declarations referring to "a third country's involvement" and later Attorney General Meese's pointing to Israel's role, there was a brief moment of possible scapegoating of Israel, at least in Jewish appreciations. Israel's clarifications and denials, however, considerably cleared the atmosphere. And all the information coming to light in subsequent reporting on the subject stuck to the US rather than to Israel.

I did make telephone rounds in several European Jewish communities and documentation centers to inquire about the manner of media reports in their respective countries and possible effects on the image of Israel. None had even saved clippings, none seemed especially concerned, none thought it useful or necessary to delve into the matter be it with a study or retracing unsaved coverage.

The enclosed article from Le Monde of December 19, published just as I received your December 11 note, is the last one I saw in France pin-pointing Israel's role. As you will see, it is factual and fair, and pretty much clears Israel of having been the initiator in this arms transfer or having gained financially. Note, too, that the writer is not known for his sympathy to Israel.

In Italy, for example, reactions to a Peres appearance on television and ensuing talk on the subject were good. The arms scandal was used by some Italian politicians (a natural given the forthcoming change in government there this March 1987) to attack warm supporters of the U.S. and Israel like Minister Spadolini. But this was part of the daily menu of internal politics and not important as far as relations or image of Israel is concerned. To emphasize the point, one of the

/...

persons I spoke with in Milan told me that several comments on the recent Palestinian camp battles in Lebanon were to the effect of: remember our articles condemning Israel for Sabra and Chatila in 1982? Why are we all so calm about Chatila today? No, Israel is not being blamed for this arms deal, said the Milan friend.

Something along the same lines came from the UK: "Yes, a bit of fallout." But only from those who are always anti-Israel and especially those who strongly objected about England's breaking diplomatic relations with Syria over the Hindawi case. The same people who also raised questions in Parliament about the disappearance of Mordechai Vanunu and those ever looking for ways to cast aspersions against Israel. But none of this was massive, our English friends insist, repeating that the criticism comes from sources known to be anti-Israel and anti-US, taking this occasion to attack the US, attack Israel's links to the US, brand Israel as a US puppet, used to do the US dirty work.

A variation to this theme also comes from Belgium: a few adverse reactions there too came from those generally critical of Israel who took the opportunity to point out that it is a state like all others, with the same faults and scandals as others, plus a willingness to be an intermediary for the US. But criticism of Israel in Belgium is stronger for its ties with South Africa than for its shipping arms to Iran: "Everyone knew Israel was supplying arms to Iran; and so what else is new?"

As you know, Europeans always had problems understanding some types of American upheavals. So it was with Watergate; and Nixon is still spoken of as one of the best presidents in US history, a great and wise statesman, etc. For the Iran-scam there is a sense that the entire matter was clumsily conceived and carried out, but also acceptance that this is the sort of foolish entanglement governments at times get into.

Of course, this does not mean that US credibility will not be challenged in the future by European governments, bodies and people, whenever suitable to their foreign policies and apt to bring advantages; or just simply when they wish to wave a flag or be proud. However, the Iran-contras arms deal chips are likely to fall on the US, not Israel.

The French Jewish community was much more upset about the tensions arising from the sordid murder in Besançon by Makkash, and when Israel declared that Makkash could not be extradited because of the danger of his being assassinated in a French jail. More understood and calming in this situation was the modified later stance taken by Israel, namely that this was a return lesson for France's release of Abou Daoud after Israel had asked for extradition.

Perhaps it all boils down to Europeans having a long history, and almost expectations, of government scandals and dirty deals, and being more prepared to overlook most of them. And this probably because they are also without illusions in the first place. Though the press here does criticize such happenings -- lately even beginning to do the kind of investigative reporting the US is admired for -- it and the public do not ever take the position that they are putting down angels or gods. They know to begin with that there is nothing pure and angelic in politics and governments.

cc: David Gordsi
Geri Rozanski



**The American Jewish
Committee**

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4, rue de la Bienfaisance
75008 Paris
Tel. 45.22.92.43 43.87.38.39
Nives E. Fox
European Representative

January 15, 1987

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Messrs. David Gordis and Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear David and Marc:

I am again facing a problem I wished would not become important for the rest of my employment with AJC: the dizzying ups and downs of exchange rates.

During the past year I have watched this rate go down, hoping that it would stop at a reasonable level. It has now reached a very serious and personally frightening point, the lowest in six years and, adding to the distress, a reading that there is still no end to the downward slide.

Checking with other US Jewish organizations in Paris -- JDC and Hias -- I learned that the first took steps to stop the salary erosion of their overseas staff one year ago; and the second is in the decision process. I therefore would like to ask that similar action be taken in my case: namely that a reasonable rate level be pegged and a differential between it and the actual exchange granted, as was done some fifteen years ago, under the same circumstances.

I believe a fair peg would be between Frs. 7.50 to 8.00 per dollar, and effective as of January 1, 1987. This is far below the heights reached a couple of years ago, but would permit relief from the present 6.00 and possible lower rate. I understand that JDC has set the rate at Frs. 7.80; Hias is still deciding.

Will not bore you with sordid personal details. Nonetheless, I urge your agreement to what I think is an equitable and justified request. My problem is quite serious, I feel it daily and it is causing considerable stress.

Thank you in advance for a rapid, and I trust favorable, decision.

With very best regards,

Sincerely,

Nives E. Fox

Marie Faure



The American Jewish Committee

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SEP 22 1986

September 17, 1986

Mr. David Harris
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street, NY, N.Y. 10022

Dear David:

Enclosed is my report -- long, but maybe you will feel you were present because of this -- copies of the resolution, the Conference program and list of participants, the list of European projects. Under separate cover I am sending all the printed matter I managed to pick up. As I told you on the telephone, since I became "officially present" at the meeting so late, there was no kit available. Still I scrounged stuff around, but almost all was from US organizations and you may already have seen it. Am not including the National Conference on Soviet Jews material, which I am sure you have.

I missed the night session at which I am told Yoram Dinstein gave a superb lecture about the Helsinki accords and how to use them. Unfortunately, neither he nor Prof. Seweryn Bialer had prepared their interventions in writing; but I am promised a copy as soon as transcribed, and assured that it will not be too long....

Also enclosed is clipping of interview of Shcharanski from Le Monde of September 11, which I thought well worth your reading. Shcharansky is far from being the only one who feels this way about Gorbachev and his new men and his modernity. As a matter of fact, there was surprise expressed here when, after his second meeting with Gorbachev in Moscow, this past July, President Mitterrand commented much more favorably about future relations and with greater (not full, just greater) belief about Gorbachev's sincerity. The more tender view is, as I said, not shared by many, rather the contrary and more so since the Daniloff affair. On the last, the feeling is that the Russians won again; and the diplomatic expulsions hassle between the British and the Soviets is much recalled as also won by the Russians, and showing the mettle of the "adversary."

Finally, Al Chernin broached the possibility of another World Meeting (No. 4? 5?) but the participants unanimously agreed that it was too soon to even think about it.

Last, truly, Mr. Gur (first name escapes me, but now political affairs section Israel Embassy, London) sends you warmest regards.

So do I,

As ever,

cc: Tanenbaum

Nives Fox



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Institute of Human Relations • 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • PLaza 1-4000

to: Marc Tanenbaum and Bill Trosten from R. Reznik
NIVES CALLED: 1/9/87

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1185 + breakfast....about \$200

Has not spoken to Salzmänn....Could not find
Gadaud in Paris

Depending on your departure, you might still
be able to meet with Klein.

What about appointment with Lustiger, is MHT
taking care of? Cardinal likes to know in
advance....

Is Shimon going to be in Paris too?

She spoke to Tullia Zevi who said very briefly,
that the thing that the Pope, O'Connor and the
Vatican Secretary of State discussed at length
was American Catholics....that the Middle East
trip was not the paramount issue that was dis-
cussed...Tullia repeated the statement made by
the Vatican about the existence of Israel and
its sovereignty are beyond questions.....etc.

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No. 491 AR

March 24, 1988

Dear Mr. Tannenbaum,

Please find enclosed the translation of the proposed topics colloquium for human rights which had been sent to us by the Mission du Bicentenaire de la Révolution Française et de la Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen.

Should you need any more information, don't hesitate to call me at 439-1415.

Sincerely yours,


Anne Clivot
Artistic Service

Mr. Marc TANNENBAUM
THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
Institute of Human Relations
165 East 56th Street
NEW YORK, NY 10022-2746

cc: Mr. Charley BROMBERG

Mr. TROSTEN ✓

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS COLLOQUIUM
SUBMITTED TO THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

**THE FREEDOM OF COMMUNICATIONS
IN EUROPE AND IN THE UNITED-STATES
FROM 1789 TO 1989**

Comparative Studies

1st half day : Article II of Declaration of the Human Rights
4 historians would be invited to participate : one French,
one American, one English, one Dutch.

**2nd half day : reinterpretation of the law in response to new
technologies (radio, télévision)**
The comparison will focus on the different systems - American
(private free enterprises), French, English, Italian (state
monopoly, partiel privatisations).
Law experts from the 4 countries will participate.

**3rd half day : freedom of information across international
boarders**
An examination of issues in international law concerning freedom
of information as prompted by technological advances such as
satellite communications. Experts will discuss current trends in
this evolving area of international law.

Anticipated Participants : Mr. Pierre Albert, Directeur de
l'Institut Français de Presse, Mr. Roland Drago et Mr. Jacques
Robert, professeurs de droit à l'Université de Paris et membres
du Comité Scientifique de la Mission du Bicentenaire.

Total number of participants : 20

Date : October 1989

Place : University of Paris II

F-41



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March 29, 1988

Rabbi Samuel I. Porrath
Temple Beth El of Greater Buffalo
2368 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, New York 14150

Dear Rabbi Porrath,

I regret to inform you that Rabbi Tanenbaum's illness has confined him to the Lenox Hill Hospital for at least another week.

Rabbi informs me that his physician has ordered him not to travel or accept any speaking engagements for the next month or so.

Rabbi Tanenbaum wishes me to express his deepest regrets at this development, but he feels that his present health condition provides him with no alternative. He asks that you convey his regrets and good wishes to all the parties concerned.

Sincerely,

Rita P. Reznik
Secretary to Rabbi Tanenbaum

RPR

bc: Mr. Arnold Gardner

F Y I



The American Jewish Committee

Institute of Human Relations
165 East 58 Street
New York, New York 10022-2746
212 751 3000

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March 30, 1988

Dr. Franz Henrich, Direktor
Katholische Akademie in Bayern
Mandlstrasse 23
Postfach 40 10 08
8000 Munchen 40
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Dr. Henrich,

I was delighted to receive your recent letter inviting me to take part in your Symposium on April 23 and 24.

Unfortunately, I have been in the hospital for several weeks to deal with a blood pressure problem. Thank God, I am recovering from that condition but my medical doctors have asked me not to do any travelling or lecturing for the next month or so.

I wish you every success in your Symposium and would be grateful to receive any copies of the proceedings.

With warmest good wishes and my prayers for God's richest blessings over you during this Holy Season.

Faithfully,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

MHT:RPR

→ MHT

International Jewish Committee
on
Interreligious Consultations

PERSONAL

March 28, 1988

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The Israel Interfaith
Association
P.O.B. 7739
Jerusalem 91.077, Israel

Synagogue Council of America
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New York, N.Y. 10016

World Jewish Congress
1 Park Avenue
New York N.Y. 10016

His Excellency
The Most Reverend William H. Keeler
Bishop of Harrisburg
4800 Union Deposit Road
POB 2153
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2153

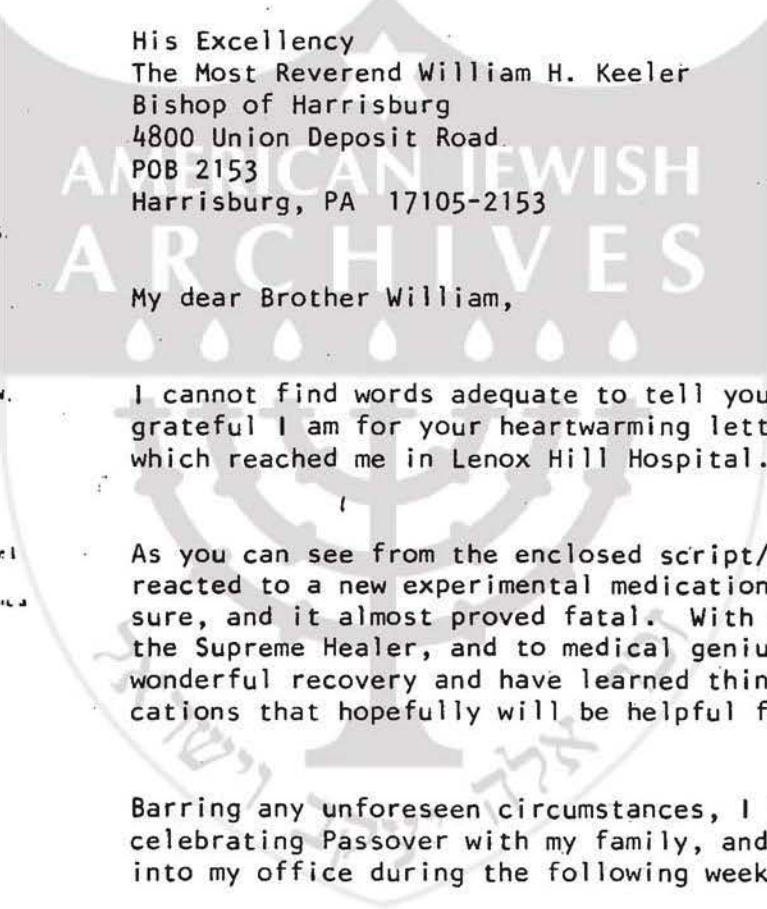
My dear Brother William,

I cannot find words adequate to tell you how moved and grateful I am for your heartwarming letter of March 15th which reached me in Lenox Hill Hospital.

As you can see from the enclosed script/column, I overreacted to a new experimental medication for blood pressure, and it almost proved fatal. With thanks to God, the Supreme Healer, and to medical genius, I have had a wonderful recovery and have learned things about medications that hopefully will be helpful for the future.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, I look forward to celebrating Passover with my family, and will ease back into my office during the following week.

I do want to take this opportunity to express to you my heartfelt congratulations and Mazal Tov on your recent designation as Episcopal Moderator of the Catholic-Jewish relationship in the United States. I have known Bishop Mugavero for many years as a dear friend and fellow-collaborator in our olive-tree orchard. I have every confidence that you will bring grace and distinction as his impressive successor.



His Excellency
The Most Reverend William H. Keeler

Page Two

In light of our past cooperation last summer, I would like to have an opportunity to meet with you following my return in order to discuss recent IJCIC developments in relation to our next planning meeting with Cardinal Willebrand's Secretariat. Perhaps you would wish Gene Fisher to join us.

Again, with deepest gratitude and my heartfelt blessing to you and our Catholic brothers and sisters during these Holy Days.

Cordially,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
Chairman

MHT:RPR
Enclosures

Jerry
Passover
Passover/Easter
Henry Hill

