



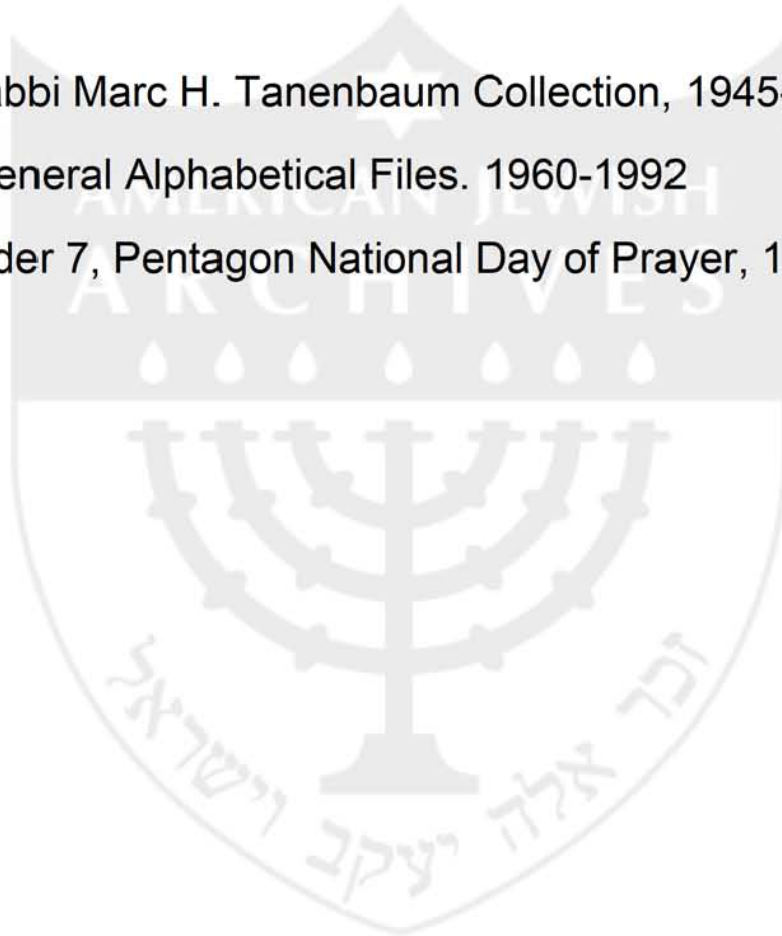
THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

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

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 87, Folder 7, Pentagon National Day of Prayer, 1989.



May 7, 1989

WINS Commentary
JTA column

THE PENTAGON, PRAYER, AND PLURALISM

by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

On the surface, it appeared to be a moral contradiction. The Pentagon sponsored a "National Day of Prayer" observance on May 4th. The anomaly, as I first perceived it, was that the Pentagon, the Defense Department, and all the branches of the armed forces which it houses, have one primary mission - the defense of the national security. The central objective of all military training is to be prepared to kill in order to protect the nation.

Prayer at its deepest levels is to affirm the preciousness of life, the pursuit of peace and social justice.

As the keynote speaker at that Pentagon observance, I sensed something special at work in this experience. The generals, the colonels, the foot soldiers, airmen, and sailors are no Prussian Junkers nor Janissaries, whose identify rested on obsessive destruction and killing for the sake of domination.

This is the military of an American democratic society, and its validation derives from its preparedness to defend human dignity, civil and political liberties, and social justice. In defending justice and liberty in the world, the Pentagon must at the same time, I believe, be continuously vigilant to uproot injustice, corruption, and fraud within its own household.

The military chaplaincy, which sponsored this Prayer Day, also ratified the singular ~~aspect~~ character of America's religious pluralism. One of the earliest interreligious structures in America, the chaplaincy's motto is "community without compromise." Every religious, racial, and ethnic group in America has the right to be totally and uncompromisingly committed to its own traditions, while being at the same time responsible for the common welfare.

The shared experience of Catholics, Protestants, Jews, blacks, whites - the backbone of the U.S. army, airforce, navy, and marines - in that Pentagon Prayer Day in full mutual respect was a healthy demonstration that the American genius of "unity in the midst of diversity" is alive and well.

Rabbi Tanenbaum is international consultant of the American Jewish Committee.



THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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

April 25, 1989

Major General
Norris L. Einertson
Chief of Chaplains
United States Army
Washington, D. C. 20310-2700

Dear Chaplain Einertson,

I appreciate very much your warm and thoughtful letter of April 3rd inviting me to offer the keynote address at the National Day of Prayer observances at the Pentagon on May 4th.

It is both an honor and a privilege to accept your kind invitation.

I look forward to receiving further details from Chaplain William L. Hufham, the project officer.

With warm personal good wishes, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

P.S. - I am working at my study on writing a book, and would therefore appreciate having mail sent to me at 45 East 89 Street, Apt. 18 F, New York, N. Y. 10128.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-2700

April 3, 1989



Chief of Chaplains

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
45 East 49th Street
New York, New York 10128

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

I am delighted that you will have time to address the Pentagon "National Day of Prayer" prayer breakfast on May 4, 1989. It is very important that the leadership of the Army keep aware of the total religious expression of the American people. We in the Chaplaincy do this through ecumenical activities that reflect Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths.

I am enclosing a copy of President Bush's proclamation of the event and a copy of the tentative program of activities. Chaplain (Brigadier General) Charles J. McDonnell will represent my office on the program with you. Unfortunately, I am committed to a meeting that day which has been planned for over a year.

The project officer in my office is Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) William L. Hufham (telephone 202-695-1409). He will handle all of the details and assist you any way possible.

Thank you again for willingness to bring the key address on this very important day in our national life.

Sincerely,

Norris L. Einertson
Chaplain (Major General),
United States Army
Chief of Chaplains

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-0200

24 May 1989

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

On behalf of all those who attended The National Day of Prayer Breakfast, we offer you our deepest appreciation for your having shared this special event with us. Your remarks were inspirational and your kind comments about the military services were very much appreciated.

Recently I was selected to become the Commander of the U. S. Army Western Command (WESTCOM) in Hawaii. Betty and I are excited about serving there with all the wonderful soldiers, civilian employees, and families. Although I do not know what the schedule at WESTCOM will be, I do know that I will seek an opportunity for you to visit. I would be especially honored to host you when you are in the islands. I will be in contact with you after my arrival in Hawaii in late July.

Again thank you for being with us. It was an experience that I look forward to again. Betty and I will keep you and your efforts in our prayers.

Very respectfully,

Mick

CLAUDE M. KICKLIGHTER
Lieutenant General, GS
Director of The Army Staff

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
45 East 89th Street
New York, New York 10128

*your comment had a
profound impact on my
life. Come for a
visit*



CARDINAL'S OFFICE
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

July 28, 1989

Dear Rabbi Tannenbaum,

Thank you for your very kind note of July 25.

I'm glad to see from your letter that you are home and hopefully recuperating quickly.

I appreciate the article you sent and your thoughts on this very sensitive issue.

Hoping all is well and praying for your continued good health, I am

Faithfully,


Archbishop of New York

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum
45 East 89th Street
New York, NY 10128

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For your file

May 4, 1989

TO: OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
Pentagon, 1E416
ATTN: Financial Management Division
Washington, DC 20310-2700

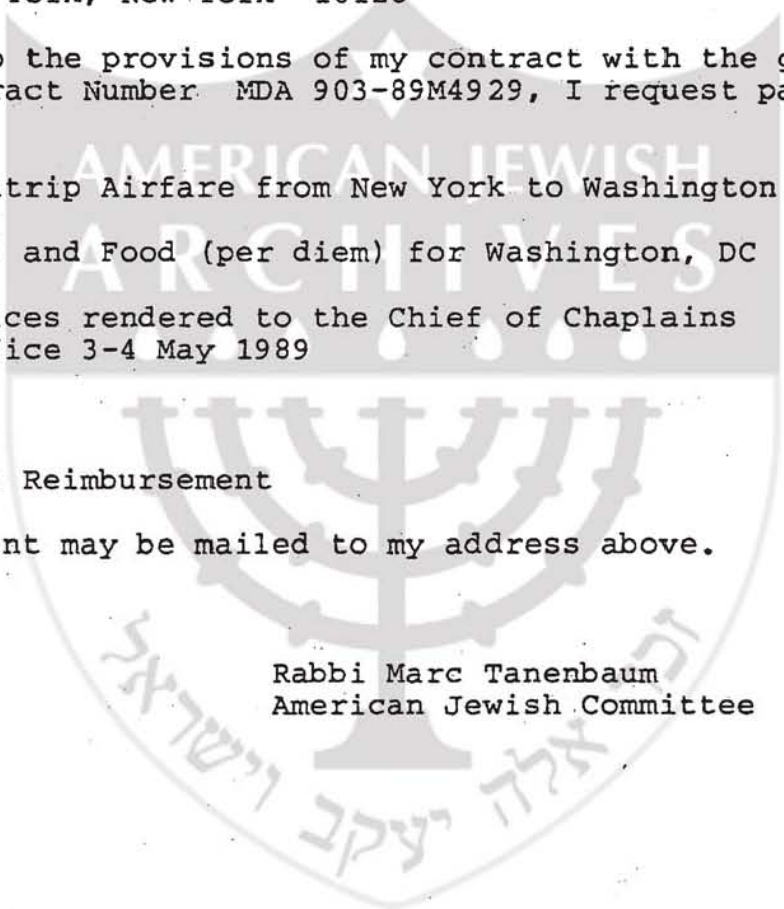
FROM: Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee
45 East 89th Street
New York, New York 10128

Pursuant to the provisions of my contract with the government under Contract Number MDA 903-89M4929, I request payment in the amount of:

Roundtrip Airfare from New York to Washington	\$126.00	198
Hotel and Food (per diem) for Washington, DC	160.00	131.41
Services rendered to the Chief of Chaplains Office 3-4 May 1989	500.00	
 	<hr/>	
Total Reimbursement	\$786.00	908.00

Reimbursement may be mailed to my address above.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
American Jewish Committee





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310-2700



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

May 24, 1989

Plans, Policy and
Training Directorate

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
45 East 89th Street (18F)
New York, New York 10128

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:

Thank you for your note of May 18 regarding the bureaucratic complexities surrounding payments. They are more so than most can imagine.

You will actually receive two payments, one enclosed with this letter. This check covers the taxi fares, tolls, telephone calls you itemized for me. The check is from our chaplains' fund in the amount of \$78.90. A separate check in the amount of \$786 will be issued from the contracting office here in the Pentagon for the expenses detailed in your contract. That payment has been requested by our office, and hopefully, it will come to you directly in the next few weeks.

Again, I want to thank you for speaking at our prayer breakfast. The good will and inspiration you brought achieved more than you or I will ever know.

Sincerely,

William L. Hufham
Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel),
U. S. Army

Enclosure

JAN 10 1989

January 6, 1989

Rabbi Dr. Marc H. Tanenbaum
Director, International Relations
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Marc:

I'm sorry you weren't able to be at ODC's First Annual Convocation on U.S. relations with the developing countries. Over two hundred participants, including a large number of Council Members, attended this day-long event. The meeting was a tremendous success and the discussions were lively.

The dinner on Tuesday, December 6 for Board and Council Members was devoted to introducing this year's new members and to reviewing ODC's program plans for the period ahead. It was obvious that the Council's expansion has given us a highly diverse and dynamic membership which will be a great asset to our work in the future.

The provocative remarks on December 7 by Congressman Lee Hamilton, and the panel of Bob Hormats, Daniel Sharp, and Bill Eberle focussed on policy priorities for U.S.-Third World relations in the 1990s. Group discussions on the issues of burden sharing with industrial countries, sustainable development and the environment, the IMF and Third World debt, and U.S. trade with the developing countries sparked considerable debate. The meeting culminated with an address by Mexican political leader, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, who outlined his views on future financial and business relations between our two countries.

I have enclosed the Annual Meeting packet and conference program, and would like to call your attention to the President's Report, ODC's Activities Report, and our brochure on upcoming ODC publications. These materials highlight the focus of ODC's work program for 1989. I hope you can review them and give us your reactions.

You missed an outstanding meeting, but I hope that you will be able to participate in future ODC events this year. This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 6, 1989. Please make note of this date in your calendar now.

My best wishes for a happy new year.

Sincerely yours,


John V. Sewell
President

Enclosure