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Box 107, Folder 23, Hadassah-WIZO Public Affairs Seminar
[Montréal, Québec]. 15 June 1977.





Jubilee in Jerusalem

יובל הדסה-ויצו
בירושלים

NOV. 6-16, 1977

Mrs. Charles [Clara] Balinsky
National President
Mrs. Allen [Mirial] Small
Convention Chairman

Hadassah-WIZO Organization
of Canada
Organisation Hadassah-WIZO
Du Canada
היסטודרות
הדסה-ויצו בקנדה

1310 Greene Avenue, 9th Floor
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Telephone: [514] 937-9431
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May 20th, 1977.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum,
National Director,
Interreligious Affairs Dept.,
American Jewish Committee,
Institute of Human Relations,
165 E 56 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

We are delighted that you will be participating in our Eighth National Hadassah-WIZO Public Affairs Seminar. As you confirmed, your presentation will be at 8:45 a.m. on June 15th, 1977. We have scheduled you for 8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., at which time we will break for lunch. We would like to continue again after lunch, at 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. At that latter time, we could break into workshops, using the resources of our more experienced participants, if you feel that there are practical exercises that could be done in a smaller grouping. We are open to your suggestions, and would appreciate hearing from you before we print our agendas.

Please mail your biography to us as soon as possible.

Kindly let us know your flight number and expected arrival time so that we can arrange for the limousine service. Once arranged for, your chauffeur will be waiting for you at the Hertz counter. We will confirm this later.

We are looking forward to your participation at our Seminar.

Yours very sincerely,

Sara Policoff for HN

Mrs. Sara Policoff, Chairman,
Public Affairs Seminars. =

Therelle :HN
5/24

HADASSAH-WIZO ORGANIZATION OF CANADA • ORGANISATION HADASSAH-WIZO DU CANADA • ה'אחאדאווז' ה'אדאסאח-ו'זו קנאדא



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Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, National Director,
Interreligious Affairs Dept.,
American Jewish Committee,
Institute of Human Relations,
165 E 56 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

The Eighth National Public Affairs Seminar of the Hadassah-Wizo Organization of Canada, will take place from Sunday evening, June 12th, 1977 to Thursday afternoon, June 16th, 1977 at the Sheraton "Le St. Laurent", on Ile Charron which is an island next to the Expo Islands, and across the St. Lawrence River from East-end Montreal.

The theme of this Seminar will be "The New Reality". From our total membership of sixteen thousand Canadian women, approximately sixty well-read women from communities across our continent will attend the four full days of study sessions. These seminars provide an Information Leadership course, aimed at updating and intensifying the knowledge of Hadassah-Wizo Public Affairs Dept. members -- both those already involved in action programs and informational activities, as well as potential workers and spokesmen in the sphere of Jewish and Zionist information work. Methods and techniques of action are, therefore, of prime importance.

An important aspect of our work has been Christian-Jewish relations. We have been holding "Dialogues" in Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Oshawa, Kingston, London, Calgary, and other communities. Approximate attendance at each "Dialogue" is 100. The non-Jews represent the leadership of all community organizations. For those centres who have held two or more such dialogues, and for those who need encouragement and knowledge about the value of this work in order to be inspired, we would welcome your expertise in this field, so that we might enhance our achievements in explaining our concerns to the non-Jewish community.

We are enclosing some material which outlines some of our Dialogues. We provide a kit for participants, including topical and background items relating to Zionism, and other subjects discussed. We would appreciate any comments that you might have regarding the material that we have enclosed. A start has been made -- now we must perfect our work for further, more effective communication.

We are truly delighted that you may be able to be with us, and are looking forward to your call telling us the date and time most convenient to you.

Yours most sincerely,

Sara Policoff
Mrs. Sara Policoff, Acting Chairman,
Public Affairs Seminars.

:HN
Encl.

1310 GREENE AVE., MONTREAL, QUE. H3Z 2B2
9TH FLOOR, TEL: 937-9431 CABLE HADASSAWIZO



Hadassah-Wizo Organization of Canada
1310 Greene Ave., Montreal, Que. H3Z 2B8

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPT.

January 18th, 1977

CANADIAN
AFFAIRS
Zionism
Christian-
Jewish
Dialogue

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPT.
FROM: MRS. AIDA MORRIS, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPT.

We are pleased to enclose the following, and hope that you will find the items helpful in operating your Public Affairs Dept.

ACTION: RE: ARAB BOYCOTT

ISRAEL
Political
Social

PLEASE ACT IMMEDIATELY

ACTION: ENJOY A "CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE" PARTY

ACTION: FROM YOU: "THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR . . . "

ACTION: BUILD A POSITIVE LIBRARY

ACTION: NEED A GIFT? HOW ABOUT A SUBSCRIPTION . . . "

ACTION: ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM

SOVIET JEWRY "DROP-OUTS"

SOUTH AFRICA & ISRAEL

ISRAEL-EGYPT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

ARTICLES: Soviet Jews: Israel Wants Them All
Drop Outs
Tekoah on the Soviet Dropout Issue
Activists Views on "Drop-Outs"
What About Soviet Jewish Emigrants Who Obtain
Visas to Israel -- And Go Elsewhere?
Close Vienna Camp Says Soviet Group
Aliya Activists Take Stand on Drop-Outs
The Sweet Fleshpots of Exile
Soviet Newcomers Glad to be Here
Soviet Jews Cry Out for Information
Israel-Egypt Agreement - Prospects and Risks
Bridge Across Africa
Arab, Black African States and Communist
Countries All Maintain Extensive Trade
With South Africa

WORLD
JEWRY
South-
American,
Soviet,
Iraqi,
Syrian

WORLD
POLITICS
American Policy
Soviet Policy
Arab Gov'ts.
Oil Economics

ACTION

LETTERS OF THANKS RECEIVED

It was an extremely thought-provoking day and one that I shall not soon forget.

*we gained a
completely new insight into
the State of Israel.*

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

More and more in my work I realize how very much we need each other, as people.

Gonta Club

I feel I now have a much better understanding of Jewish concerns and hopes. It is my hope that Christians and Jews everywhere will strive together to promote peace and understanding throughout the world.

*I do believe
that women have a
facility in reducing
barriers and meeting as
we did today in
friendship is a way
to peace.*

Art Gallery of Ontario
Volunteer Committee

INTER-FAITH DAY
TORONTO, ONT.

I was reminded of the words of André Gide, "To achieve human unity, one must have an affection for diversity". We all tend to associate chiefly with like-minded people and yet, it is in our very differences that our treasure, as members of the human family, lies. Our differences of heritage and background bring a wealth of experience to what we have to share with each other as members of the community of the world. Peace will only become a reality for all of the members of that world community when we realize that it is a community, in the true sense of the word -- not just a geographical proximity. As we come to know and love and trust each other, that community comes a little closer to a reality.

Reports of 4 Dialogues held within a 4-week period in 1976.

CHRISTIAN - JEWISH DIALOGUES

Within 4 weeks this Spring, 4 centres held Christian-Jewish Dialogues. All reports emphasize the intrinsic value of holding such events.

In order to give you as much information as possible in as little space as possible, we have presented excerpts from these reports. We will gladly provide you with the full reports if you want them. In alphabetical order:

EDMONTON

Condensed Excerpts from Report: EDMONTON PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPT.
CHRISTIAN-JEWISH SEMINAR, April 8, 1976.

Attendance: 110 (half non-Jewish)

Kit Material: Information on Israel, Hadassah-WIZO projects

Decorations: Blue and white Israeli hats, each having the name of a project taped to it.

Speakers: Opening: Council President Lois Sorokin welcomed:

- representatives of each group by name call and resulting applause of audience
- Hadassah-WIZO projects described

"A NON-JEW SPEAKS OUT":

PROFESSOR JOHN W. KLEINER, Assoc. Prof. of Christian Ethics and Church History, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon

- expressed importance of the seminar in order to create better understanding between Christians and Jews and to get to know each other better as persons
- suggested that rather than let things lie and be forgotten, Christians should go back through their heritage and come to terms with it
- spoke about Christian attitudes toward Israel, suggesting that at first glance these attitudes might seem quite favourable in Canada, but influential papers carry articles which expose deep roots of anti-semitism which makes it difficult for Christians to respond openly to Israel
- declared that a first step to a new understanding of Jews and an appreciation of Israel would be for Christians to work through and come to terms with the reality of their anti-semitism and of their complicity of the persecution of the Jews through the ages culminating with the Holocaust
- enumerated the significant number of groups and individuals within the broad spectrum of the Christian churches, who are sympathetic towards Israel, notably the C.C.I. -- Christians Concerned for Israel

"WHY ISRAEL MEANS SO MUCH TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE"

MR. ALAN ROSE, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

- talked briefly about the Holocaust; the establishment of Israel; the Soviet Union treatment of its Jewish citizens; the Israeli-Arab situation; and the United Nations as it is today, how U.N. resolution linking Zionism with racism was engineered, and what are its ramifications; historical development of Zionism

During the Question Period, chairlady read parts of the P.L.O. Covenant pointing out the P.L.O. aims of complete destruction of Israel

EVALUATION:

"Professor Kleiner's talk seemed to be well taken by our Christian guests in particular. On the whole they did not seem to take offence. They seemed to be most interested in what he had to say and wanted to know how they could help bring about changes in the church and its teachings. During his question and answer period, they asked many valid and good questions and I felt he answered them well.

"Mr. Rose's talk was also very well received. The evaluation sheets completed by most of the participants found his talk to be extremely informative. They were particularly interested in learning more about Zionism and its meaning.

"Our non-Jewish participants congratulated our Organization on a most informative and interesting day. They asked that more dialogue of this kind take place in the future and some even stated that it was time the Christians presented a similar day.

"I feel that the Seminar proved how vital it has become for Hadassah-WIZO to work in its own community through its Public Affairs Department. In Edmonton, we have become involved and known in the community during the past year through the Local Council of Women - a body of women made up of the various womens organizations in our city. We have a very active representative from our Public Affairs Dept. sitting on this board. Through this position we have come into contact with other womens groups and I believe, have thus begun a public relations programme of the greatest importance".

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Grossman, PAD Chairman.

KINGSTON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE, March 31, 1976.

The following paragraphs in the invitation sent to all women's organizations explained the intention of the Seminar: "One of the aims of our organization is the promotion of peace and understanding. In recognition of this important goal we have arranged a current events program focussing on the Canadian perceptions of Israel, particularly in light of the recent negative United Nations resolutions regarding Zionism and the Jewish people. We believe that women do have a facility in reducing barriers and that a woman to woman exchange of information would foster better understanding of each other and of the contributions women can make toward world harmony".

Over 100 women attended. In articles which appeared in the KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD, full recognition was given to the Kingston Hadassah-WIZO Public Affairs Dept. for the work done. In an article entitled "Church's attitude to Judaism termed 'ambiguous'" speaker Rev. Rolande de Corneille, director-general of the B'nai B'rith League for Human Rights was quoted as saying "The frightening thing for me, as a Christian, is that after 1,700 years Jewish people still live in the shadow of possible obliteration". The article describes also his involvement in having the Anglican Church of Canada accept a recommendation fifteen years ago "that Judaism be accepted and that the Christian churches cease trying to convert Jews".

An article entitled "Zionism: UN resolution shocked Jews" in the same newspaper, reviews the presentation by Alan Rose, National Executive-Director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and ends with the following quote: "In Canada, the time has long since passed when Jewish people had to fight to be equal, but the whole problem as Jews today in this liberal--small L--enlightened era is Jews have to fight not only for the right to be equal but within that equality for the right to be different".

By this extensive press coverage of both speakers, many people in the general community who did not attend the Seminar still benefitted by it. One complaint received was that it was unfair to have not included men as participants as well. Chairman Helen Esco reported "From the many kind words passed on to me, it was a most worthwhile project for all concerned".

INTER-ACTION '76

TORONTO INTER-COMMUNITY PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SEMINAR

April 29, 1976

Attendance: 120 Hadassah members

71 representatives from other groups- Church, Social, Service.

Speakers: Morning: The Honourable Ray McMurtry, Attorney General of Ontario.

- declared himself a Christian Zionist
- spoke honestly about Jews natural tendency of looking towards themselves for support and action in times of concern (as a result of historic anti-semitism); suggested we have many friends in Christian community who share our concern - that we should reach out to them.
- spoke glowingly about his trip to Israel; encouraged more Jewish sponsored trips for Christians.
- accused many Christians of un-Christianlike behaviour; something which could only be said by a Christian to others of his own faith.
- reaffirmed his conviction of the continuation of safe, secure viable Israel; condemned the U.N. resolution of November, the P.L.O. and their aims.

OVERALL, A VERY GOOD MORNING.

Miss Miriam Ziev, Vice-Consul joined him for the question period following his presentation.

Afternoon: Mrs. Evelyn Sommer, WIZO Representative to the United Nations.

- related incidents which occur almost daily at U.N. meetings where Israel is condemned by strong Arab controlled and sponsored resolutions.
 - gave a marvellous account of WIZO activities around the world, including work done for Arab women and children in Israel.
 - cautioned against the threat of politicization of the upcoming Habitat conference.
 - encouraged us all to act if that situation should occur.
- SHE WAS A DYNAMIC SPEAKER AND THE AUDIENCE WAS MOST IMPRESSED AND MOVED BY HER ADDRESS.

Follow-up: Letters of thanks were sent to the non-Jewish women. Included in the letter was a transcript of Mrs. Sommer's speech and an issue of the C.I.C. Newsletter for other current information. Appreciative letters were received by participants.

Evaluation: There is no question in my mind that this type of day is most useful - almost a necessity if we want to reach the grass roots of the community. One important result of this day: The lone male participant, a teacher at Humber College (Communications Dept.), approached us about setting up a class in Jewish studies, with a trip to Israel as a culmination to the course. He was introduced to Nick Simmonds, the Information Officer in Toronto for the C.I.C., and together they are trying to work out the arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,
Doodie Libman, Chairman '75-'76
Toronto Public Affairs Dept.

Excerpts from Report:

VANCOUVER PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPT. CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE, April 6, 1976.

"The attendance at our Seminar exceeded all expectations since this was a first attempt to involve all non-Jewish Women's organizations. The topic "WHY AN ISRAEL?" was mutually agreed upon by our committee and our non-Jewish speaker, Mr. Ashley Ford, is a Vancouver newspaper reporter and President of the local Press Club. As a recent visitor to Israel, Mr. Ford's words had an immense impact on the audience. It was with great personal conviction that he stated: "Israel is a dynamic, gallant country and its 3 million people have to combat not only hostile neighbours but never-ending world anti-semitism and the headlines of a sensation-seeking world press". He took the Vancouver press to task giving examples of double-standards in contrast to other countries. He cited a recent example when CBC news and other Vancouver daily papers headlined an incomplete story that seven Arabs were killed by Israeli security forces in Nazareth while simultaneously burying a story about two thousand Chileans missing following a military junta in that country.

"Alan Rose completed the picture in the afternoon session in a most eloquent and scholarly manner and his appeal to Canadians not to be neutral in times of need-
"If you sit on the fence too long iron gets into your soul" struck a responding note in one of the non-Jewish lady's during my conversation with her. She carried it a step further, quoting Dante "The hottest place in hell will be reserved for those who sit on the fence in the time of stress".

"The most gratifying aspect of the Seminar were the many telephone calls and and comments made by our non-Jewish participants. They were very impressed with the high calibre and touched by the warm hospitality extended to them at the Seminar. The President of a Baptist church expressed her sentiments in the following manner: "Anti-semitism is a Pandora box from which spring out not only atrocities against Jews but also contempt for Christ". She assured me that there is a positive effort by Christian writers and preachers to recognize the world role of Judaism.

"Our journey into the Christian world was made with great trepidation "The acceptance of risk is part of the vision". We took nothing for granted. The invitations which took the form of a personal letter had a pertinent appeal and we followed it up with a personal call. I would like to emphasize the importance of a personal phone call which brought about a commitment. A major source of friction in contemporary Christian Jewish relations is Christian hostility and indifference to the State of Israel. The long and tragic dialogue between the Jewish people and the rest of humanity has reached a special point of intensity. We are assailed from every international platform. There is an unscholarly, deeply-rooted prejudice which holds that to be unique is to be abnormal. However, let us not take the comfortable view that all who differ are doing it with malice. Dialogues conducted in a rational and calm atmosphere are needed. We have to give the rest of the world a serious and respectful response. We need a new intimacy of involvement. We have to show and prove that all we seek from history is our share of freedom. All we want is their respect. All we ask for is the Christian's world understanding and compassion".

Respectfully submitted

Mrs. J. Slyomovics
Seminar Chairman