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AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
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MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1961-1996.

Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

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3

Folder
3b

Civil rights [March on Washington], 1983.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

DC March

August 29, 1983

Mr. Herman Bistrin
410 F Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Herman:

It was good hearing from you. Your letter arrived today, after my return from Washington and the march. I am happy to tell you that there were no unpleasant incidents, the program, the march, the spirit, all worked out beautifully. The only difficulty was the weather, and, of course, we have no say in regard to that. It was very hot and muggy in Washington. But other than the discomfort the day was truly beautiful.

We also had a wonderful Shabbat service at Temple Sinai. Coretta King and members of her family were in attendance, it was a very lovely, lovely Shabbat service.

With thanks for your support and for taking the time to share your thoughts and with all good wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

meyer Bistrins inc

CORPORATE OFFICE

410 F STREET EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 707-443-6787

August 24, 1983

Thank you

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
U.A.H.C.
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I whole heartedly endorse you position on the August 27th March on Washington to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the celebrated Martin Luther King March of 1983. Undoubtedly, there will be some incidents that will be unpleasant, but all the positive aspects of our participation far outweigh any negatives that may come forth.

Though I live in a small and isolated community, with less than 75 Jewish families, it is important that our community be reminded of the historic mission that we have as Jews - to bring about a messianic age by not only words, but also by deeds.

Sincerely,


Herman Bistrin

pr/HB

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.

שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

DC March

no further

25 August 1983

Dear Alex:

Thank you for your letter of August 22.
I was delighted to see you and exchange views.

With regard to the March on Washington,
however, I regret that I am not in a position
to either support or oppose this event.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Warmest good wishes.

Sincerely,

Meir Rosenne

Meir Rosenne
Ambassador

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

DC March

August 22, 1983

The Honorable Naftali Lavie
Consul General of Israel
800 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Naftali:

In the event you missed the August 19 JTA, I enclose herewith a very fine article on that August 27 March on Washington. It is a very good review of what has transpired.

Events confirm the propriety of our decision to remain as participants in this March. We were instrumental in making some very important changes and indeed prevented a civil rights coalition from being coopted by third world leftwingers.

With warm regards and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

De March

±±

August 22, 1983

Rabbi Alan M. Sokobin
Congregation Shomer Emunim
6453 Sylvania Avenue
Sylvania, Ohio 43560

Dear Alan:

In responding to your letter of August 18, let me note at the outset that the UAHC's determination to continue its commitment to remain in the 20th Anniversary March was as the result of discussion by our Board. From the very outset our Officers and Board members were not only given reports, they were consulted and they discussed the situation fully. It was their decision that we retain our commitment and that we meet with the convenors of the March to share our concerns and to seek to have the committee take action to make certain assurances were forthcoming in regard to these concerns. They were.

The enclosed materials will give you the background and bring you up-to-date on what has transpired. We have kept the Board informed every step of the way and the latest mailing went out just last week.

Let me also note that we, as the UAHC, are not marching. We have not organized marchers, people will make their own decision as to the propriety of marching...I'm sure you will agree that is a personal option.

I will participate in the program by giving the Benediction at the very end of the day. Needless to note with a long program I can't be sure of the exact time but it will be late enough in the afternoon for me to be comfortable about participating.

Alan, we of the Union feel strongly that civil rights is important and that we must be involved in coalitions; and we are. Thus, Black legislators continue to support us on Israel and Soviet Jewry to an extent even greater -- would you believe -- than Jewish congresspersons and Senators. We can't let a few bad Jacksons drive us out of that coalition.

With warm regards and best wishes for a Shona Tova, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

THE TEMPLE - CONGREGATION SHOMER EMUNIM
6453 SYLVANIA AVENUE / SYLVANIA, OHIO 43560
(419) 885-3341

August 18, 1983
9 Elul, 5743

*We are not
avoiding
Sylvan Boulevard
break
sent paper*

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Alex:

I was deeply upset and offended when I learned that the UAHC planned on participating in the Martin Luther King Memorial March on Washington on Saturday, August 27.

I wonder at the propriety of being the only Jewish organization which is willing to march on the Sabbath. You may well consider it a mitzvah to participate in a civil rights demonstration on Shabbat and, in other circumstances, I might well agree with you. Nonetheless, because the call for a new coalition has made a serious and sustained effort to include groups actively supporting the PLO and, no less, actively opposing Israel and its adherents, the UAHC along with all other Jewish institutions should keep itself arms-length from this observance.

I would be embarrassed to see the President of the UAHC on the same platform as Sen. James Aberesk and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. It would be demeaning to have the leadership of our movement sandwiched in between those who have gone to Libya for a payoff and those who have maligned us in the black community.

Sincerely,



AMS/jd

De Mander

August 22, 1983

Mr. Jay W. Freedman, President
Washington Hebrew Congregation
Macomb St. at Massachusetts Ave., NW.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Jay:

By now I am certain you have received Don Day's response to your letter of August 16. I trust it will serve to assuage some of the concerns expressed by members of your Board.

I am taking the liberty of sharing with you a recent mailing to the UAHC Board of Trustees. As you know, our Board of Trustees has been involved in the decision-making process in connection with our participation in the 20th Anniversary March. The enclosed is but another up-date which was sent to our Board and I believe it will be of interest to you.

With warm good wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Leonard Abel
Donald S. Day, Esq.
Rabbi David Saperstein



WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION

MACOMB STREET AT MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016

Jay W. Freedman
President

August 16, 1983

Donald S. Day, Esquire
Saperston, Day, Lustig, Gallick
Kirschner & Gaglione, P.C.
1500 Liberty Bank Bldg.
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Don:

At last night's Board of Directors meeting at Washington Hebrew Congregation, there was a lengthy discussion concerning the UAHC's position with respect to the upcoming March on Washington in commemoration of the 1963 March.

Many members of our leadership were participants in the 1963 March, feel deeply committed to the aims of that event and believe that it is a moment worthy of commemoration. Nonetheless, many members of the Board have grave reservations about some of the directions this commemorative march has taken.

We are not unmindful of efforts the UAHC has undertaken to moderate what appeared to be anti-Israeli or anti-semitic planks in the stated platform of the organizers but the Board wanted me to express our concern not only with the decision to remain involved in the march but with the process by which that decision was reached. I know how difficult it is for any organization to be certain it accurately reflects the views of its members but between the decision on the march and the recent publicity over the appointments to the Civil Rights Commission, our Board has indicated that it wishes to know more about the relations between the Union and its membership in the development of positions on public issues.

I would appreciate learning whether other congregations have expressed similar concerns and whether the Houston convention will afford an opportunity to discuss this matter.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Jay W. Freedman

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Rabbi David Saperstein
Leonard Abel



*Send Jay
copy of my talk
on why we
stayed in.*

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

August 19, 1983

Mr. Jay W. Freedman
President
Washington Hebrew Congregation
Macomb Street at Massachusetts
Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Jay:

Thank you for your letter of August 16th which I read with a great deal of interest.

I certainly can understand the concern which members of your Board have expressed with respect to the decision to remain affiliated with the upcoming March on Washington. Certainly, there is room for a difference of opinion on this matter and the leadership of the Union was very much aware of the problem and every effort was made to thoroughly explore both sides of the issue before a final direction was determined.

For your information, Alex Schindler and Al Vorspan gave a complete report on the proposed March and the problems associated with it at a meeting of the Union's Officers preceding the June Board Meeting. At the Board Meeting itself, Al Vorspan and Dave Saperstein gave an additional comprehensive report and received the complete support of the Board on the recommendation of the Officers that the Union remain associated with the March if its leadership could be assured by Mrs. King and the March's leadership that Jewish concerns would



UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Mr. Jay W. Freedman

-2-

August 19, 1983

be recognized and responded to in a sympathetic, understanding way. Both the Officers and the Board were aware of the meeting of the major Jewish organizations which preceded the Union Board Meeting and the risks attendant to our continued participation in the March. Nevertheless, it was felt that, even though there were certain risks attendant to the decision, that more could be accomplished by remaining with the responsible leadership of the March than withdrawing from it and risking a permanent breach between the Black and Jewish communities.

The long and the short of it, Jay, is that both the Officers and the full Board were consulted and the decision to proceed received their full support even though both the Officers and the Board recognized that we undoubtedly would be criticized by some segments of the Jewish community for our continued participation. Certainly we are sensitive to the possibility that, whatever precautions may be taken, the responsible Black leadership may not be able to control what is said from the rostrum. We hope nothing untoward will occur but after weighing all of the risks involved, it was felt that more was to be gained by remaining within the coalition than withdrawing from it and we simply will have to deal with the risk of the unexpected.

I recognize, of course, that this explanation may not fully satisfy the inquiring members of your Board as to the wisdom of the decision; hopefully, however, it will reassure you that the process followed was an appropriate one.



UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Mr. Jay W. Freedman

-3-

August 19, 1983

As to your inquiry as to whether other Congregations have expressed similar concerns, I can only state to you that we have received many expressions and letters of support and understanding from within the Movement as to the decision which the Board took on this particular matter. I would be less than honest if I did not inform you that the mail and telephone response has not been unanimously supportive, however, Certainly the preponderance of our communications from our constituency has been supportive by a very wide margin.

I hope you will find this letter responsive to your inquiry, even if not totally satisfying.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Most cordially

/s/ Don Day

Donald S. Day

DSD/mdr

cc: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler ✓
Rabbi David Saperstein
Mr. Leonard Abel



DC
Mard

August 15, 1983

Rabbi Hillel Cohn
Congregation Emanu El
3512 North "E" Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Dear Hillel:

How nice of you to write to Harris in support of our position on the March on Washington. I know he will be pleased to hear from you, even as I was and as I know Al will be. We've been getting some "klep" on this one and knowing of the support from out there in congregation land is a boon to us all.

With fondest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

RABBI hillel cohn

congregation emanu el / 3512 north 'e' street / san BERNARDINO, Calif. 92405

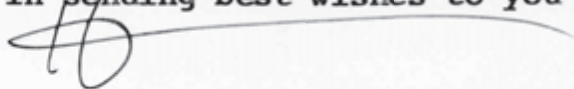
*Thanks -
your support always
heartening.*

Dear Alex -

Attached is a copy of a letter to Harris Gilbert in which I express my approval and support of the stand taken by the UAHC regarding the March on Washington.

Your endorsement of the march as a convenor adds even greater luster to your already magnificent work.

Linda (whom I have yet to meet) and Rita join me in sending best wishes to you and yours,



✓

RABBI HILLEL COHN
CONGREGATION EMANU EL
3512 NORTH "E" STREET
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92405
(714) 886-4818

August 10, 1983

Mr. Harris Gilbert, Chairman
Commission on Social Action
of Reform Judaism
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

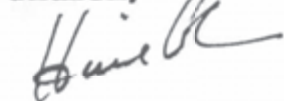
Dear Harris:

I want to respond to the recent communication sent to me and other members of the Board of Trustees of the UAHC regarding the civil rights march on Washington. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the meeting in Rye.

I commend and applaud the stand taken by the UAHC in endorsing the march. It is good to know that we are unafraid to carry out the mandate to pursue justice and to apply it even in uncomfortable situations. It makes me prouder than ever to be associated with the UAHC.

This is to let you know that I endorse your position. I have just finished preparing a sermon that I will be delivering this Shabbat on "The Limits of Pursuing Justice" based on the Torah text, "Justice, justive shall you pursue." The essence of the sermon is that we cannot back away from involvement in issue of pursuing justice just because we might be in association with some who do not share our commitments and concern for Israel. To do that would not only be dangerous; it would be an abandonment of our tradition.

Shalom,



Hillel Cohn
Rabbi

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Albert Vorspan

DeMare

August 15, 1983

Mr. Irving Schachtman
Unit T - Bldg. B
28 Morris Avenue
Summit, NJ 07901

Dear Mr. Schachtman: AMERICAN JEWISH

Martin Luther King was a good friend of the Jewish people. Jews do not or should not forget. He was no anti-Semite. Neither is his wife.

The civil rights coalition is important to us. Thus Black legislators continue to support us on Israel and Soviet Jewry to an extent even greater -- would you believe it -- than Jewish Congressmen and Senators. We can't let a few bad Jacksons drive us out of that coalition.

By remaining in the coalition, we were able to stop anti-Israel statements from appearing in the event's legislative packages. And we kept Aburezk and his gang from taking over the black movement.

In other words, which policy advances Jewish interests more? The easy road of ranting against the march, or the more serious effort to protect Jewish interests by staying in.

Your rude letter really doesn't deserve a reply, but at least you had the courage to add your name, and so I reply.

Admit it, you are a short-sighted person. Jewish leadership requires that we look beyond our noses and judge the long-range consequences of our decisions.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Aug 10th 1983

Dear RABBI Schindler

Glad To See you Celebrating
Dr. King's 1963 March with A pimp
Like Jesse Jackson Mr. ARAFA's FRIEND.

Then That other Bigot & Anti-Semite
J. ABDOUREZK who spends 23 hours daily
Setting up Anti-ISAEL Tactics.

As To Judy Goldsmith She goes
Where ever the medium will Take her
Ugly Picture.

I Support Jews & ISAEL.

You may Continue To Support the
Jew Haters Anti-Semites & Bigots.

I will do All in my power To
STOP All donations To the American
HEBREW Congregations.

Heil Hitler!!

Irving Schactman

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Ms. Judy Goldsmith
National Organization
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Rev. Benjamin Hooks
National Association
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of Colored People

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Dr. T.J. Jemison
National Baptist
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Mr. John Jacob
National Urban League

Mr. Cleveland Robinson
District 65, United
Auto Workers

Rabbi Alex Schindler
Union of American
Hebrew Congregations

Mr. William Winpisinger
International Association
of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers

Ms. Addie Wyatt
United Food and
Commercial Workers
International Union

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY MOBILIZATION
FOR
JOBS, PEACE AND FREEDOM

1201 16th Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 467-6445

Dc March

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrative Committee
National Planning Council & Representatives

FROM: Walter E. Fauntroy *WEF*
National Director

SUBJECT: National Planning Council Meeting

DATE: August 4, 1983

Our final regular meeting of the National Planning Council will be held on Saturday, August 13, 1983, in Washington, D.C. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. in the Executive Board Room of the National Education Association, 1201 16th St. N.W.

The primary focus of the meeting will be on the following items:

- . National Mobilization
- . Media and Communications
- . Legislative Platform and Issues Papers
- . Logistics
- . Program for August 27th

There may be other items on the agenda, therefore, your attendance is vital.

We need your assistance on the August 16th Radiothon. Unity Broadcasting has agreed to broadcast live the Twentieth Anniversary March on Washington Radiothon to thousands of listeners of the popular "Night Talk" program.

(over)

The radiothon will air from 12:00 a.m. until 5:00 a.m. There are many ways you can help make this, our last fundraising effort, a success:

- . contact your local affiliates and friends and ask them to listen to the broadcast.
- . call in during the radiothon and challenge others to meet your pledge.
- . send your pledge for the radiothon in advance to the national office. We will announce it during the broadcast.

During the entire year, we have often quoted Dr. Martin Luther King's famous statement "Now is the Time". We need your continued support. If you have not sent in your last monthly financial contribution, then do so immediately.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you on August 13th.

ATTACHMENT

Tour schedule
Logistics update
Things-to-Do
Checklist

P.S. Each Planning Council and Administrative Committee member will be sent a special invitation to march with the leadership contingent. Each member is entitled to submit the names of two other people within his or her organization who will also receive the special invitation. Would you submit those names to Carol Page in the National Office 202/467-6445 as soon as possible. For security reasons she will also need their social security number, phone number, place of birth and date of birth.

CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Asia Bennett
American Friends
Service Committee
Ms. Judy Goldsmith
National Organization
for Women

Rev. Benjamin Hooks
National Association
for the Advancement
of Colored People

Mrs. Coretta Scott King
Martin Luther King
Center for Non-Violent
Social Change

Dr. Joseph Lowery
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Ms. Bella Abzug
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Bishop John H. Adams
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Bishop James Armstrong
National Council of
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Mr. Harry Belafonte

Mr. Clyde Bellecourt
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Ms. Addie Wyatt
United Food and
Commercial Workers
International Union

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY MOBILIZATION FOR JOBS, PEACE AND FREEDOM 1201 16th Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 467-6445

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY MARCH

- DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION FOR BRINGING YOUR DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
- WIDELY PUBLICIZE YOUR ENDORSEMENT AND PLAN OF ACTION AMONG YOUR AFFILIATES.
- SECURE (WHERE PRACTICAL) ENDORSEMENTS FROM YOUR STATE AND LOCAL AFFILIATES.
- ENCOURAGE LOCALS TO JOIN COALITIONS OF CONSCIENCE IN TARGET CITIES.
- PROVIDE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OFFICE WITH YOUR LIST OF POTENTIAL LEADERS IN TARGET CITIES' AREA.
- TAKE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSISTING THE MOBILIZATION OF A TARGET CITY WHERE YOUR GROUP HAS ESPECIALLY STRONG LEADERSHIP.
- USE YOUR NATIONAL, STATE, AND COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO DISSEMINATE THE CALL TO ACTION, THE LEGISLATIVE GOALS, AS WELL AS NEWS ABOUT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE MARCH.
- SECURE A CONTRIBUTION FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION TO HELP DEFRAY LOGISTICAL COSTS.
- VOLUNTEER FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS IN TARGET CITIES OR WITH OTHER GROUPS ON TOUR TO PROMOTE THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON.
- WORK WITH NATIONAL OFFICE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR PARTICIPATION OF YOUR AFFILIATES IN THE SALE OF BUTTONS, POSTERS, AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL SALES ITEMS.
- WORK WITH THE NATIONAL OFFICE TO ENSURE THAT YOUR GROUP IS PROPERLY AND APPROPRIATELY REPRESENTED IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAM. (Send us the name of national officers expected to attend.)
- MAKE AVAILABLE YOUR DUPLICATION OR PRINTING FACILITIES FOR A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF SERVICE OR PERIOD OF TIME.
- SECURE USE OF MAILING FACILITIES OR DONATE STAMPS.

Please call Ms. Louise Anderson at 1-800-638-6415 or (202) 467-6445 for more information.

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International Union

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY MOBILIZATION FOR

JOBS, PEACE AND FREEDOM

1201 16th Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 467-6445

August 2, 1983

LOGISTICS UPDATE

MARCH DATE: Saturday, August 27, 1983

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

ASSEMBLY POINT: Marchers will assemble at 8:00 a.m. on the Mall, bordered by 14th and 3rd Streets, N.W. The Mall is located directly between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. An inspirational program will feature artists/entertainers/selected speakers which will begin at 8:00 a.m. The actual March to the Lincoln Memorial will start 10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLY COLOR CODE/LINE-UP: Matching balloons and colored signs will identify pre-assembly points for each contingent. Please take your group to the assigned area for line-up instructions.

<u>Color</u>	<u>Contingent</u>
Maroon	I. Elected Officials Co-Chairpersons Convenors / Planning Council Other V.I.P.'s
Green	II. Civil Rights/ Hispanics
White	III. Religious
Pink	IV. Seniors/Elderly
Yellow	V. Labor
Purple	VI. Students
Red	VII. Solidarity
Beige	VIII. Peace
Blue	IX. Women
Brown	X. Gay/Lesbian
Orange	XI. Environmental
Grey	XII. Multi-Issue Groups
Black	XIII. Cities arranged by state

MARCH ROUTE: The March will begin on 14th Street at the Mall, proceeding north to Constitution Avenue, west on Constitution to 17th, and south on 17th to feed into the Lincoln Memorial grounds at the Reflecting Pool.

PROGRAM: The program for the March will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial. At that time, major speeches on the theme of Jobs, Peace and Freedom will be delivered.

TRANSPORTATION: Each bus should have a bus captain. This person should not be a marshall or have any other responsibilities that day. (S)he will be primarily responsible for directing the bus to the appropriate parking area and keeping track of all riders on the bus. Each captain will receive a Transportation Kit from the Transportation Office no later than August 15, 1983 if the information has been called into the National Office.

Buses will be parked away from the March area at outlying parking lots. These lots are served by subway and/or shuttle bus to get out of town participants to the assembly area on the Mall. It is imperative that all participating organizations sending bus delegations to the event contact us at once for parking reservations, if you have not already done so. Our phone number is (202) 347-5283. Specifically, we need to know:

- Departure location(s).
- Name of organization and key person.
- Complete address and phone number of each bus captain.
- Number of buses coming to the event.
- Estimated day and time of arrival.
- Mode of transportation, other than bus (train, airplane, car pool, etc.).

Once we have received your specific request, we will assign you a parking location at either RFK Stadium, the Pentagon, or West Potomac Park, and send you a transportation instruction kit. Each bus may be expected to pay a \$10.00 parking fee to gain access to these parking locations. Additional city buses and subway cars will be used to handle inner city participants. The subway will operate at a reduced fare of 50¢ for one way and the HONOR SYSTEM will be used to collect fares on the subway.

HOUSING: Housing will be arranged for those attending the August 27th mobilization, if needed. Four types of accommodations will be available; a preference should be noted for either:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. Floor space (large facility for those with sleeping bags, blankets, etc.)	\$2 - \$5
2. Private homes (may involve floor space or cots, etc.)	\$2 - \$10
3. Campground outdoors	no charge
4. Hotel room (discount rates for double occupancy)	\$15 - \$40

Food will be the responsibility of individuals or groups attending. Accommodations will be coordinated with transportation logistics to minimize in-city travel time. Request for housing should be made by calling the March Housing Coordinator, Larry Weston at 202-347-5301. Be prepared to indicate city/state, name, and contact phone number, number of people needing housing, general type preferred, method of transportation (bus, car, train, etc.), date/time of arrival, and date of departure.

PROTOCOL FOR MARCHERS: WAYS TO BEAT THE HEAT

1. Dress in comfortable, light-colored clothing, but avoid stripping to a bare minimum outdoors because it exposes more skin to the sun.
2. Always wear a hat, sun visor or even carry an umbrella to keep the sun off your head.
3. While marching in the heat, a wet T-shirt, bandana or towel placed on the back, neck or shoulders provides extra cooling.
4. Avoid alcoholic drinks, including beer, as a means of replacing lost fluids. They cause your body to expel more fluids than you take in.
5. Keep a close watch on infants under age 1. A case of diarrhea or vomiting can quickly dehydrate an infant in such heat.
6. If on medications bring adequate supplies. Certain medications including tranquilizers, sedatives, antihistamines and diuretics (nerve, allergy or water pills) interfere

with the body's heat-control mechanisms. People on such medications should be careful.

7. If you have special health needs notify first aid command station on arrival.
8. Notify logistics if your delegation includes elderly, physically handicapped or hearing impaired.
9. Bring containers with adequate supplies of water.
10. The heat is particularly hard on the heart and circulatory system in general, and exertion aggravates the problem. The elderly in particular should avoid over-exertion.
11. Be sure that the food you bring is the kind that will not spoil (i.e. fresh fruits, vegetables, etc.)

Several thousand marshalls will be needed for the March on Washington to serve in the following areas: March route, First Aid, Staging Areas, Key Transportation Facilities, Emergency Passage Routes, Stages, etc. All individuals interested in marshalling will be asked to undergo training in these areas: Nonviolent Discipline, Communications/ Decision making, Team Coordination, Site-specific Duties, Emergency Procedures, March & Rally Logistics, Crowd Control/Facilitating, and Coordinating with other integral logistical components (police, park service, housing, transportation, sanitation, office operations, etc.)

KEEP WASHINGTON, D.C. CLEAN! Local coalitions are asked to designate four marshalls to staff the area before and after the March. Litter can be costly for such a national event. We will provide trash containers and other disposal units throughout the area.

FOR INFORMATION NOT COVERED ABOVE, CALL:

1-800-638-6415

(202) 467-6445

"

347-5303

National Office

Logistics Office



NAME OR ORGANIZATION/COALITION _____

Checklist

Number of buses reserved _____

Cars _____ Trains _____ Other _____

Expected time of departure from your city _____

Expected time of arrival in Washington, D.C. _____

Name of Transportation Coordinator _____

Media Coordinator _____

Number of Hotel rooms needed _____

Will anyone needing special arrangements i.e., Senior Citizens,
the physically challenged, etc., travel with your coalition?
_____. If so, how many? _____

Specify what special arrangements are needed _____

Have your local religious bodies endorsed the Twentieth Anniversary
March for Jobs, Peace and Freedom? _____

If yes, are they willing to bring their church buses? _____

RETURN TO:

Twentieth Anniversary March
1201 16th Street, NW
Suite 219
Washington, D.C. 20036

Office Use Only

Transportation: Shuttle Bus _____ Metro _____

Parking Lot _____

Name of Marshals _____

Cities Prepare for March

novel modes of transportation. A trainload will head northbound from New Orleans, picking up participants in Mississippi, Alabama and other southern locations where the civil rights struggle was born.

A national caravan will leave Los Angeles on August 14, after gaining momentum and support at the Rose Bowl. A midwest caravan of disabled people will depart from Chicago on August 23, and their buses will stop in Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Pittsburg and Baltimore.

Bicyclists from different regions--Minneapolis and New Haven--will begin rolling on August 23, while walkers representing an international delegation of African, Swedish and Norwegian women will trek the long journey from New York City.

The march has generated a determined grassroots "peoples campaign." Participants are financing travel expenses through cake sales, fish fries, and church raffles. Local coalitions are also utilizing "Jobs, Peace and Freedom" posters, buttons and pendants for fundraising.

U.S. Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy is National Director of the Twentieth Anniversary March. Co-Chairpersons include: Coretta Scott King, President, Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change; Dr. Joseph Lowery, President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Judy Goldsmith, President, National Organization for Women; Asia Bennett, Director of the American Friends Service Committee; Rev. Jesse Jackson, President, Operation PUSH; Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director, NAACP and renowned artist Stevie Wonder.

RABBI A. SCHINDLER



AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

STEPHEN WISE CONGRESS HOUSE • 15 EAST 84TH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028 • (212) 879-4500

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 4, 1983

D.C. March

Mrs. Coretta Scott King
Martin Luther King Center for
Non-Violent Social Change
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mrs. King,

Our colleague and fellow officer, Robert J. Lipshutz, sent us a copy of your letter to Rabbi David Saperstein of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

We were gratified by the good will expressed in your letter and by your sensitivity to the issues that concern us and that have thus far kept a large number of Jewish organizations from joining as sponsors of the 20th Anniversary March.

As you undoubtedly know, the American Jewish Congress has very special reasons to wish not to be absent from sponsorship of this March. Those reasons have to do not only with our long-standing and abiding commitment to the civil rights agenda, but with our participation in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on June 16, 1963, at which time Rabbi Joachim Prinz, who was then President of the American Jewish Congress, shared the podium with Dr. King.

It is for this reason that we were pleased to read in your letter to David Saperstein the following paragraph:

In the case where a divisive act occurs or statement is made, such as one which is anti-Israel or anti-Semitic or defamatory of any group in the coalition, the co-chairs will publicly disavow them as inconsistent with the spirit of the March and of the coalition.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King

Page 2

We take this assurance to mean that if any of the formal speakers at the March were to depart from your instructions to avoid divisive issues, and were to call for the establishment of a Palestinian State, or recognition of the PLO, or for a reduction of arms specifically to Israel, one of the co-chairs would publicly disavow such statements from the podium as a violation of the spirit of the March and of the coalition.

In this connection we wish to call your attention to the enclosed material on the March issued by the 20th Anniversary Mobilization in Philadelphia. As you will see, they deplore "the slaughter of the innocents in places like Lebanon or El Salvador". We assume this is an example of the kind of violation we are speaking of, and that it will be publicly repudiated.

We hope the preceeding does not misconstrue the intent of your letter as we would like to propose to our Executive Committee that the American Jewish Congress formally endorse the 20th Anniversary March on June 16th.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am,

Sincerely,

Henry Siegman

HS:jc
Enc.

20C March

August 2, 1983

Mr. Joseph Hochstein, Editor
The Jewish Week
774 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Mr. Hochstein:

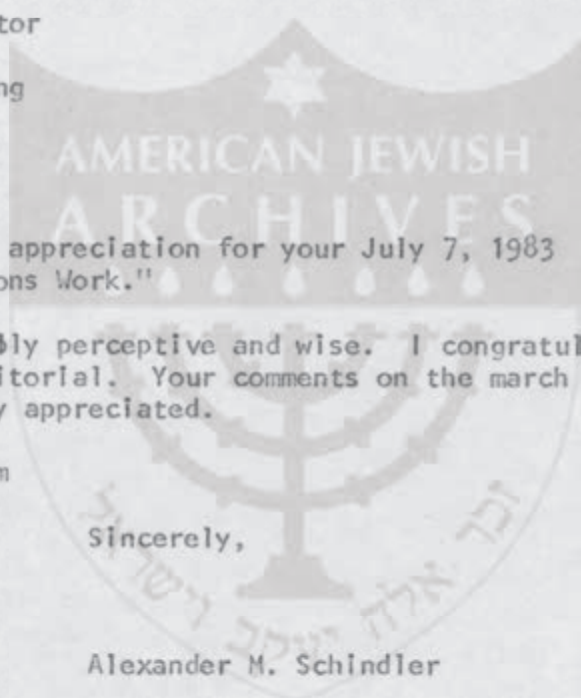
Just a note to express my appreciation for your July 7, 1983 editorial "Making Coalitions Work."

Your comments are remarkably perceptive and wise. I congratulate you on a very sensible editorial. Your comments on the march on Washington were especially appreciated.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



FROM: Richard Cohen

July 27, 1983

TO: 1. Alex Schindler
2. *ee ✓*
3.
4.

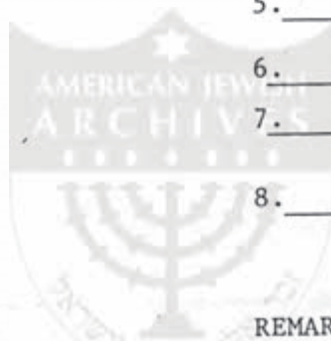
5.
6.
7.
8.

Please return ()
Your action ()
Your files ()
For your info ()
Let's discuss ()

REMARKS:

This is a remarkably wise, perceptive and sensible editorial on the importance of coalitions in general and the issue of the March on Washington coalition in particular. You might wish to send a note to Mr. Joseph Hochstein, Editor

The Jewish Week
774 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 20071



Please do
[Signature]
↓

JUL - 7 - 83

Making coalitions work

Because America is a nation of minorities, coalitions play a large role in our public life. And Jews have a large stake in the coalition process.

But sometimes a coalition goes sour, and Jews must decide whether to abandon it or remain within it in the hope of influencing it for the better.

Two current cases are instructive. One is the "New Coalition of Conscience," which is planning an event next month to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for civil rights. The Jewish War Veterans has withdrawn from the coalition, citing the presence of anti-Israel elements in the group.

In general, a coalition will exist to pursue a goal that is so important that members can set aside other differences to make common cause. In this case, the coalition leaders have failed to keep the coalition to its single purpose and, instead, have entangled the goal with other issues including the Middle East and American weapons supplies.

This violation of the single-issue principle of coalition behavior is accompanied by the involvement of people with an anti-Israel stance. That makes it difficult for a Jewish group to stay in such a coalition. Yet the Union of American Hebrew Congregations remains within the coalition; the UAHC is concerned that the Middle East issue can be manipulated but is also aware that anti-Israel purposes can be thwarted by a Jewish presence in the coalition.

Is it better to stay in, or get out? Since no single rule exists to answer such a question for all instances, each case requires a judgment about the coalition, its purposes, its members, and the Jewish stake in the issue. Since these judgments are seldom easy or simple, Jews need to be tolerant if not supportive of the decisions of community members who try to deal with this difficult process.

What Jews can expect from taking part in a coalition is, at the least, a chance to sensitize others in the coalition to the issues about which Jews care the most. In recent years, these have been Israel and Soviet Jewry, and the process has helped win support for Jewish positions while blunting the opposition. There are also pro-Israel coalitions in which Jews make common cause with evangelical Christians and others with whom we have important points of disagreement. These coalitions can have value, too.

One test of the value of Jewish involvement in next month's event will be whether its anti-Israel elements are subdued. No such question exists with regard to the other current example, a protest held last weekend against American involvement in Central America. There, no organized Jewish participation was evident, and anti-Israel demonstrators were prominent with signs and slogans attacking the Jewish state. Whatever position Jews take on Central America, they should have no hesitancy about condemning this diversion.

As to the overall question of whether Jews should continue to work through coalitions, or whether we should seek to go it alone by withdrawing into our distinct community, two points must be understood. One is that Jews are involved productively in many coalitions, on many issues. The other point is that we need the coalitions and they need us. Coalitions provide channels for promoting Jewish viewpoints to the general community, and, when effective, they make America a better place for all its citizens.

*Jo-P. 7
March*

August 1, 1983

Mrs. Mary S. Dagold, Secretary
Temple Emanuel
3301 Milford Mill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

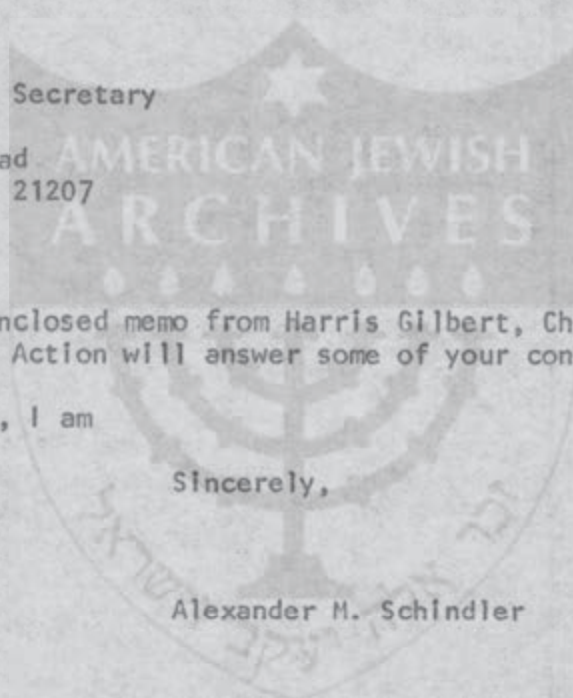
Dear Mrs. Dagold:

I believe that the enclosed memo from Harris Gilbert, Chairman of our Commission on Social Action will answer some of your concerns.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler





Temple Emanuel

3301 Milford Mill Road Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Area Code 301 - 922-3642

Rabbi Gustav Buchdahl
Cantor Alvin Donald

July 23, 1983

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President, Union of American
Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

*He -
Send him copy of
our explanation.*

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

The Board of Trustees of Temple Emanuel, acting on behalf of the congregation of Temple Emanuel, has directed me to write to you, expressing our chagrin at your decision to participate in the August 27th March on Washington.

This March will take place on a Saturday and thus violates a long-standing U. A. H. C. policy eschewing participation in events that take place on the Sabbath.

Furthermore, there are elements within the March Coalition which hold views antithetical to U. A. H. C. positions and interests, particularly vis-a-vis the problems of the Middle East.

Finally, we question the absence of any attempt to ascertain how the congregational constituencies of the U. A. H. C. would feel about supporting this March prior to your committing us to it.

We would welcome a timely response, particularly if it should lend understanding to your actions.

Yours truly,

Mary S. Dagold

(Mrs.) Mary S. Dagold
Corresponding Secretary
for the
Board of Trustees and Congregation of
Temple Emanuel

*Do not expect to
receive - are
judging letters
which span
week end //*

DC
March

Moskowitz

4901 Henry Hudson Parkway
Bronx, N.Y., 10471
July 31, 1983.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y., 10011

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Thank you very much for your
clear and detailed answer to my
letter questioning our participation
in the "Job, Peace, and Freedom" march.

I found your letter very cogent
and convincing. After reading it carefully
I am ^{reassured} ~~impressed~~ we are doing the
best thing.

Thank you for the trouble you
took to clarify my thoughts.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Latner

(SAM LATNER)

July 21, 1983

Mr. Morton P. Meisner
190 N. Delaware Avenue
N. Massapequa, NY 11758

Dear Mr. Meisner:

Thank you for your letter of July 13, with respect to the UAHC participation in the August March on Washington.

I am afraid that you are responding to a very one-sided and selective report. The issue is immensely complicated, but reduced to its essence the issues are these:

- 1/ The Jewish community played a major role in the original Martin Luther King march on Washington and it would be a major rupture in the relationships between Jewish groups and minority groups if there were no Jewish participation in the 20th anniversary.
- 2/ While there are some groups participating with whom we have differed with sharply on Israel and Middle East policy, we are staying in in order to use all of our influence to make sure that there are no attacks upon Israel in conjunction with this march and that the Middle East be kept out of the entire proceedings as irrelevant to an American civil rights demonstration.
- 3/ We are using our influence in the selection of speakers to assure that there is sensitivity to Jewish concerns.
- 4/ We have used our influence to extend the event to the weekend, so that it would not be merely a march on the Sabbath, in which we could not participate.
- 5/ As a matter of fact, the leadership of the UAHC, including myself, have sat down in very tough and frank discussions with Coretta King, Walter Fauntroy and other leaders to set forth our concerns and to make it clear that if those concerns are not addressed, we will quietly disengage.

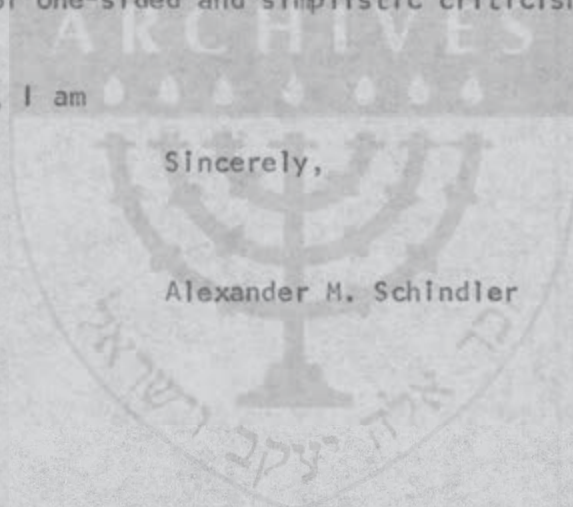
Mr. Morton P. Meisner
July 21, 1983
Page - 2 -

In our judgment, we have taken the most responsible posture to protect the interests of the Jewish community and not to leave the field to those who might wish us harm. Frankly, it is much easier to stand on the sidelines, but it does not help. Moreover, we continue to believe that it would be a tragedy for the Jewish community if there is a total rupture with black, Hispanic, women's and labor groups, who have joined in this undertaking, and we will do everything possible, despite the barrage of one-sided and simplistic criticisms, to carry out this responsibility.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



190 N. DELAWARE AVENUE
N.MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758
JULY 13, 1983

RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER
PRESIDENT, UAHC
838 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

DEAR RABBI SCHINDLER,

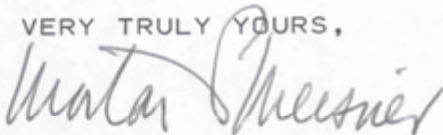
AS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF TEMPLE JUDEA, MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. AND AN
ACTIVE INVOLVED REFORM JEW, I AM OFFENDED BY THE POSITION TAKEN
BY YOU AND THE UAHC IN RELATION TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE
OF THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON PLANNED FOR AUGUST 27, 1983.

IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT UAHC WILL PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM
ALONG WITH SUPPORTERS OF THE PLO, THE CURRENT LEADER OF THE
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, THE PAX CHRISTE, SENATOR
JAMES ABOURZEK AND OTHER GROUPS ESPOUSING THE SAME ANTI-ISRAEL
POSITION.

TO FURTHER COMPOUND THIS ABOMINATION UAHC IS PARTICIPATING IN
THIS TRAVESTY ON THE SABBATH.

AS A CONCERNED REFORM JEW, I BELIEVE OUR MOVEMENT MUST ENDORSE
CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS, BUT WE MUST NOT LEND SUPPORT TO
ANY MOVEMENT IN WHICH ANTI-JEWISH, ANTI ISRAEL GROUPS PARTICIPATE.
TO CONTINUE TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE AUGUST 27TH EVENT IS TO COMMIT
A DISSERVICE TO REFORM JEWS AND THE TOTAL JEWISH COMMUNITY.

VERY TRULY YOURS,



MORTON P. MEISNER

CC; N.Y. FEDERATION REFORM SYNAGOGUES



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS—CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

To: UAHC Board of Trustees
From: Harris Gilbert, Chairman
Date: July 21, 1983
Subject: CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH ON WASHINGTON

At the Rye meeting of the Board, Al Vorspan and I reported on a controversy emerging within the Jewish and civil rights communities regarding the weekend of events, including the planned August 27 March on Washington to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the celebrated Martin Luther King march of 1963. We promised to send you an update on developments. This memo will serve that function. The situation remains fluid and we are monitoring it very closely.

It is important to know that Alex Schindler is a leading convenor of the event, along with other key leaders from labor, religion and other segments of American life. The march generated some questions and controversy among various Jewish national agencies who were invited to participate.

Some were concerned that the march was scheduled for the Sabbath, that the "call" for the march went beyond the scope of civil rights in America and among the 20 convenors and 200 endorsers there were a few outspoken critics of Israel. Because of these concerns, many Jewish agencies have refused to endorse the march and, in the process, became disassociated with its major civil rights thrust.

Since we share these concerns, but were unwilling summarily to disassociate ourselves, we arranged a meeting with Coretta King and Rep. Walter Fauntroy, co-chairpersons of the march, to discuss the problem. We set forth the need to convey our concerns and to seek assurances that would address them. They included stipulations that the divisive issues of the Middle East would be kept out of these events, that there would be no call for reduced aid to Israel or any attack on Israel or Zionism. It was also agreed that if, despite these precautions, anti-Israel activities arose on the day of the march, the chairpersons and Alex Schindler will issue a public statement repudiating such irresponsible statements or activities.

The leadership clearly wants our presence. They recognize that a major controversy on Israel would alienate not only the Jewish participants, but also labor and public interest groups, and would be subject to extensive press criticism.

Chairman
Harris Gilbert
Director
Albert Vorspan
Associate Director
Rabbi David Saperstein

•
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
TEMPLE SISTERHOODS
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
TEMPLE BROTHERHOODS
NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION
OF TEMPLE YOUTH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TEMPLE ADMINISTRATORS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TEMPLE EDUCATORS
AMERICAN CONFERENCE
OF CANTORS
ASSOCIATION OF REFORM
ZIONISTS OF AMERICA

Over the past month, Jewish organizations have been deciding how to react to the march. A number of local Jewish Community Councils are endorsing the commemorative events along with the UAHC. Most national Jewish agencies are not going to endorse the events. However, at the time this memo is being written, some agencies (including the American Jewish Congress) are still considering formal endorsement. The efforts of some groups to send out a joint letter, in the name of all national Jewish agencies, publicly criticizing the march, was rejected by the NJCRAC.

Many of the national agencies which are not participating themselves have expressed gratitude that we are involved, so that the Jewish community has some formal presence in these events, which reaffirm the national commitment to civil rights and equality. In addition, many of our traditional coalitional partners who are supporters of the weekend of events (such as organized labor and national civil rights groups, such as the NAACP) have pleaded with us to remain so as to work with them to prevent the manipulation of these events by the minority radical elements. We will continue to do so as long as the leadership abides by the agreements made and no anti-Israel activity takes place.

I am attaching an article by Al Vorspan, which describes the issue, as well as the dilemma confronting us on the United States Civil Rights Commission.



UAHC defends decision to join controversial march

By ALBERT VORSPAN

Blacks and Jews were once vital partners in America's liberal coalition. Their collaboration made the civil rights revolution possible. But in recent years liberalism has fallen on lean times and black-Jewish relations have been severely strained under the impact of controversies over affirmative action, Israel and the PLO, busing and a host of other divisive issues.

The black-Jewish coalition, apparently unraveling at the seams, appears to have held together in a number of local battles. There would not be black mayors in Chicago, Los Angeles and possibly even Philadelphia without Jewish voters who, in significant proportions, defied the law of political gravity which shaped the white ethnic vote backslashing in those cities.

So is the black-Jewish coalition a fading relic? Or, having survived the worst, is it now rebounding under the impetus of common concerns about the rise of hate groups and the dangers of social cutbacks and massive economic distress?

The answer may come in two current issues which have converged in a new black-Jewish crunch. The first is the question of Jewish participation in the upcoming March on Washington, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the celebrated Martin Luther King march of 1963. The second is the bitter conflict over President Reagan's dismissal of three members of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and his effort to replace them with three of his own nominees.

Angry controversy

The March on Washington has already produced angry controversy within the Jewish community — controversy which was reflected in a one-sided and selective report in *The Jewish Week* of July 1. The report asserted that the March is in the control of "left-wing" elements and that all Jewish groups, except the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, have repudiated it.

The actual story is much more complex than that report suggests. Among the main supporters of the March are the AFL-CIO, the Urban League, the National Education Association, the United Auto Workers, the United Church of Christ and others, hardly the "leftist" phalanx that Walter Lewis worries about. While it is true that some groups — like the Southern Christian Leadership

Conference — have been critical of Israel, the dilemma facing Jewish organizations was whether to stay in and to try to maintain the civil rights coalition or to withdraw and risk a rupture in already strained black-Jewish relations.

And there is a further dilemma. Can one exert more influence in defense of Israel and Jewish concerns from within or by abandoning the field to those who wish to exploit civil rights for Third World gains? Most national Jewish organizations chose to withdraw. The Jewish War Veterans, which had earlier endorsed the march, repudiated its stand.

The UAHC endorsed the march and has conducted tough and frank conversations with the march leadership, using its influence to assure that the Mideast is excluded from the agenda of the march, that the speakers be picked with sensitivity to Jewish concerns and that the leadership of the March repudiate publicly any effort by any groups to exploit the march for anti-Israel or anti-Jewish purposes. The leadership of the UAHC made clear that it seeks to strengthen Jewish-black cooperation, but that it would disengage from the march if it became clear that responsible and moderate groups could not control the dissident elements.

Jewish interests

Which policy advances Jewish interests more? Public Jewish attacks on the march, risking a black-Jewish confrontation as a media event? Or serious efforts to protect Jewish interests, while persevering in a good-faith effort to maintain decent relations with racial minority groups in America? Moreover, will Jewish groups ever again be able to be part of broad-based coalitions if we require a 100 percent certified kosher rating for every organization in the coalition? Are we painting ourselves into a corner of irrelevance in American life? And what interest does our splendid isolation serve?

The other current civil rights flap also reveals the growing split between Jews and civil rights groups — and within the Jewish community as well. The president has sought to purge the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and to replace three members with his nominees — one of whom is Morris Abram, distinguished Jewish leader. The response of the civil rights, women and Hispanic organizations has been powerful.

To them, the president's purge was a clear attack on the integrity and independence of the commission. Moreover, no president of the U.S. had ever before sought to pack or control the commission, thus politicizing a body which is designed to serve as an independent watchdog and con-

science for the American people. It is quite clear, from the public reports of the commission, that it believes this administration has tried to dismantle the entire civil rights legal structure, undermine enforcement, provide tax benefits to racist schools and — in general — reverse the civil rights gains of the past 25 years. The UAHC joined the overwhelming majority of organizations of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in protesting this unprecedented assault on the commission.

Break with tradition

Shockingly, several major Jewish national bodies broke with their traditional allies in the Leadership Conference and supported the president's maneuver. The impact of this defection threatened the very survival of the Leadership Conference and posed the real danger of a black-Jewish split. In addition, it is folly for Jews to write off blacks, Hispanic, women, religious and other groups. The Black Caucus in Congress voted more unitedly against Awas to Saudi Arabia than did Jewish legislators — and infinitely better than the new right, pro-Falwell senators the Jewish community has wooed so sycophantly.

So why did Jews support a president whom blacks and women regard as insensitive, if not hostile, to their deepest aspirations? Could it be that the "bait" of Morris Abram, an attractive choice, led Jewish agencies into the administration's trap? But one of the commissioners being purged is also Jewish — Rabbi Murray Saltzman of Baltimore. No, the national Jewish groups have justified their stand on nobler grounds — not mere support of one of our own, but because of the president's opposition to "reverse discrimination." How noble! It recalls the glory days when a national Jewish agency certified that Sen. Joseph McCarthy was not anti-Semitic. That he was cancerous to American liberty and the Bill of Rights was to them beside the point.

Now we have the bizarre scene of Jewish community relations agencies — who think of themselves as pro-civil rights — lining up in support of an unprecedented and morally repellent device by a president whose policies and rhetoric have profoundly alienated the civil rights community.

To have a friend, one must be a friend. An American Jewish community which expects allies to defend and support Israel and Soviet Jewry, must learn — once again — to understand and empathize with the concerns of others as well. Coalitions, like friendships, are two-way things, and the future of the American Jewish community may be adversely affected by judgments being made in the summer of 1983.

The author is vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and director of its commission on social Action of Reform Judaism. He is also a noted author and lecturer.

Heck -

Get me a clean
copy of this memo to
take to work. With
Monday.

Her S

DRAFT

Harris G, David S, Alex S,
Annette D

To: BOARD OF TRUSTEES, UAHC
From: HARRIS GILBERT, CHMN., CSA

Rye town Helton, Purchase

May, 1983

At the Rye meeting of the Board, Al Vorspan and I reported on a controversy emerging within the Jewish community -- and in the civil rights community -- regarding the planned March on Washington to mark the 20th anniversary of the original Martin Luther King march. We promised to send you an update on developments. This memo will serve that function, at least up to now; the situation is fluid and most difficult to predict.

As you will recall, if you were present at the meeting, Rabbi Schindler is one of the leading endorsers of the march, along with the other key leaders from labor, religion and other segments of American life. The march generated some questions and controversy among various Jewish national agencies who were invited to participate.

Some of them were concerned that some of the signers had been critical of Israel; that the march was scheduled for the Sabbath; and that the Call for the march was rather politicized. Because of these concerns, many Jewish national bodies have not endorsed the march.

Because we share these concerns, we arranged a meeting with Coretta King and Rep. Walter Fauntroy, co-chairpersons of the march, to convey our concerns and to ask for assurances on a variety of matters, including a stipulation that the divisive issue of the Middle East would be kept out of the civil rights march, that placards would be monitored, that the speakers would be picked with some sensitivity to Jewish concerns and that - if any of these go awry - the chairpersons would issue a public statement repudiating any irresponsible statement. Rabbi Schindler, Rabbi Saperstein and I felt that the leadership took our concerns very seriously; that they are making an honest effort to meet our needs and that we will stay in the coalition if these assurances are gained; and that, if not, we will quietly disengage.

Incidentally, they want Alex to be a major speaker, probably on Sunday, as the events will continue through the weekend of August 27-29, so the Sabbath is not a problem.

We informed the NJCRAC of these discussions and the agencies agreed to withdraw the joint letter of rejection (of participation in the march) which had been planned. It is clear that many Jewish agencies and communities are grateful

that we -- alone among the Jewish groups -- are in there seeking to protect Jewish concerns and interests and also seeking to preserve - if possible - the coalitions of decency in the area of human rights and equality.

We'll keep you posted.



July 19, 1983

Mr. Samuel Latner
4901 Henry Hudson Parkway
Bronx, New York 10471

Dear Mr. Latner:

I have just returned from overseas and found your letter of July 10 awaiting me. I am afraid that you are responding to a very one-sided and selective report on the Jobs, Peace and Freedom march in Washington. I have seen the article in the Jewish Week to which you refer and I must admit it does not do justice to the situation. The issue is immensely complicated, but reduced to its essence the issues are these:

- 1/ The Jewish community played a major role in the original Martin Luther King march on Washington and it would be a major rupture in the relationships between Jewish groups and minority groups if there were no Jewish participation in the 20th anniversary.
- 2/ While there are some groups participating with whom we have differed with sharply on Israel and Middle East policy, we are staying in in order to use all of our influence to make sure that there are no attacks upon Israel in conjunction with this march and that the Middle East be kept out of the entire proceedings as irrelevant to an American civil rights demonstration.
- 3/ We are using our influence in the selection of speakers to assure that there is sensitivity to Jewish concerns.
- 4/ We have used our influence to extend the event to the weekend, so that it would not be merely a march on the Sabbath, in which we could not participate.
- 5/ As a matter of fact, the leadership of the UAHC, including myself, have sat down in very tough and frank discussions with Coretta King, Walter Fauntroy and other leaders to set forth our concerns and to make it clear that if those concerns are not addressed, we will quietly disengage.

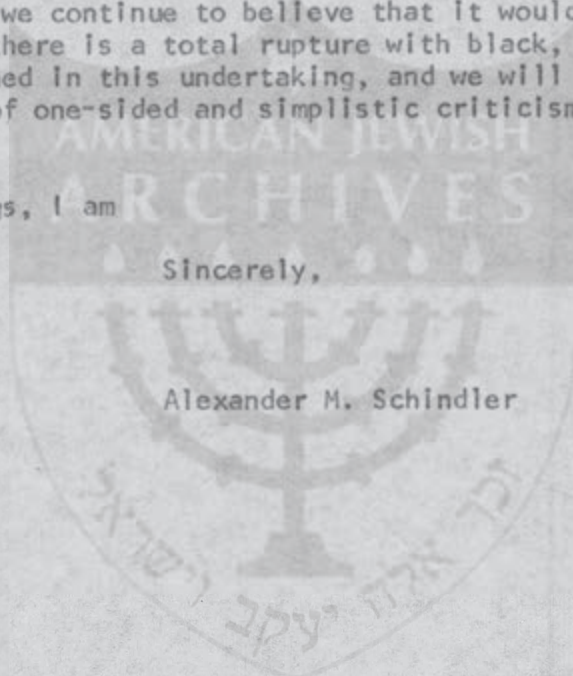
Mr. Samuel Latner
July 19, 1983
Page - 2 -

In our judgment, we have taken the most responsible posture to protect the interests of the Jewish community and not to leave the field to those who might wish us harm. Frankly, it is much easier to stand on the sidelines, but it does not help. Moreover, we continue to believe that it would be a tragedy for the Jewish community if there is a total rupture with black, Hispanic, women's and labor groups, who have joined in this undertaking, and we will do everything possible, despite the barrage of one-sided and simplistic criticisms, to carry out this responsibility.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



4901 Henry Hudson Pkwy.
Bronx, N.Y., 10471
July 10, 1983

Rabbi Alexander Schneider, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Ave
New York, N.Y., 10021

Dear Rabbi Schneider,

I must say that I am greatly surprised to
learn from a report in the "Jewish Week" of 7/1/83 that
you and the CABC will not withdraw from the 20th
anniversary march remembering the 1963 March on Washington,
this recent ^{one} being called a march for "Job, Peace & Freedom."
The article reports that this march is "taunted with
Anti-Israel, pro-PLO, and Soviet propaganda overtones."

Jewish group has expressed "concern over the
deviation from the theme of civil & economic rights of
the 1963 march, to foreign policy issues clearly

paralleling the anti-Israel stance of hard world countries.
The subjects of anti-nuclear plagues and anti-Africa
protesting is cited as another factor.

Dr. Joseph Lowmy, head SC.LC who has
spoken at a pre-PLO conference, is going. Bayard
Rustin, ~~organizer~~ organizer of the 1963 march, is
not. Nor is the Civil Rights Leadership Conference.

Just Israel Latessa, former U.S. Senator Abourock
is going. Several organizations who demonstrated against
Israel going into Lebanon to scatter the ^{servants} PLO are
going.

The article gives many good reasons for
boycotting Israel & opponents of the foreign policies
of the Soviet & refuse their support.

Assuming the article is true, I object
strongly to your presence there & the presence
of the U.A.H. ^{attestable} and member of the Reform
movement, a member of the congregation at
Central Synagogue, New York.
I would appreciate a reply.

Sincerely,
Sam Latner (SAM LATNER)

Edith J. Miller

July 7, 1983

Albert Vorspan

Today's mail brought two complaints about the Union's participation in the August march. Obviously the Jewish Week article of July 1st will bring forth additional correspondence. I have written to the two people noting that Alex is out of the country and their letter will be brought to his attention on his return. We will, however, have to have a unified response for I am certain you'll be receiving some letters in this connection in addition to those being sent to Alex.

Next 2 letters - Walpin + Kolodner
1/ acknowledged by me
2/ Draft for you per Al's comment
Attached -

FOR LETTERS ABOUT THE AUGUST MARCH (adapt it)

I am writing in response to your inquiry with respect to the UAHC participation in the August March on Washington.

I am afraid that you are responding to a very one-sided and selective report. The issue is immensely complicated, but ~~reducing~~^{reduced} to its essence the issues are these:

- 1/ The Jewish community played a major role in the original Martin Luther King march on Washington and it would be a major rupture in the relationships between Jewish groups and minority groups if there ~~were~~ were no Jewish participation in the 20th anniversary.
- 2/ While there are some groups participating with whom we have differed with sharply on Israel and Middle East policy, we are striving in order to use all of our influence to make sure that there are no attacks upon Israel in conjunction with this march and that the Middle East be kept out of the entire proceedings as irrelevant to an American civil rights demonstration.
- 3/ We are using our influence in the selection of speakers to assure that there is sensitivity to Jewish concerns.
- 4/ We have used our influence to extend the event to the weekend, so that it would ~~be~~ not be merely a march on the Sabbath, in which we could not participate.
- 5/ As a matter of fact, the leadership of the UAHC, including myself, have sat down in very tough and frank discussions with Coretta King, Walter Fauntroy and other leaders to set forth our concerns and to make it clear that if those concerns are not addressed, we will quietly disengage.

In our judgment, we have taken the most responsible posture to protect the interests of the Jewish community and not to leave the field to those who might wish us harm. Frankly, it is much easier to stand on the sidelines, but it does not help. Moreover, we continue to believe that it would be a tragedy for the Jewish community if there is a total rupture with black, Hispanic, women's and labor groups, who have joined in this undertaking, and we will do everything possible, despite the barrage of one-sided and simplistic criticisms, to carry out this responsibility.

July 19, 1983

Dr. Solomon Colodner
280 9th Avenue
New York, NY 10001

Dear Dr. Colodner:

The participation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in the August Washington march is a decision discussed thoroughly by the leadership of our movement. Our officers and Board examined the facts, discussed them at great length, and determined that we would remain as sponsors of the march. The decision was most certainly not a unilateral one on my part. What you should know is that the report which appeared in the Jewish Week, upon which you obviously based your own reaction, was very one-sided and selective in providing information. The issue is indeed complicated one, but let me share with you the essence of the issues as I see them:

- 1/ The Jewish community played a major role in the original Martin Luther King march on Washington and it would be a major rupture in the relationships between Jewish groups and minority groups if there were no Jewish participation in the 20th anniversary.
- 2/ While there are some groups participating with whom we have differed with sharply on Israel and Middle East policy, we are staying in in order to use all of our influence to make sure that there are no attacks upon Israel in conjunction with this march and that the Middle East be kept out of the entire proceedings as irrelevant to an American civil rights demonstration.
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- 5/ As a matter of fact, the leadership of the UAHC, including myself, have sat down in very tough and frank discussions with Coretta King, Walter Fauntroy and other leaders to set forth our concerns and to make it clear that if those concerns are not addressed, we will quietly disengage.

Dr. Solomon Colodner

July 19, 1983

Page - 2 -

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Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



July 7, 1983

Dr. Solomon Colodner
280 9th Avenue
New York, New York 10001

Dear Dr. Colodner:

Rabbi Schindler is out of the country and not due back at his desk until late July. Be assured your note of July 4, 1983 will be brought to his attention at that time.

Cordially,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

MEMORANDUM



From: DR. SOLOMON COLODNER

To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler Date: 7/4/83

I worked with several Reform
organizations for more than a quarter of a
century - as an educator and lecturer.

It is incredible to note that you
refused to decline the invitation to participate
in the Washington march to the Lincoln Memorial
on Sabbath, Aug 27th. You chose to join
anti-Israel groups and demonstrate your
solidarity with anti-Jewish groups who
urge the U.S. to cut off aid to Israel.

(Your behavior, at one time, duplicated
such attitude - but I thought you became
a leader - or is only pure rhetoric -
to maintain your position for a position
of power in the AHC??)

Your behavior as a "Jewish?"
"leader" is offensive

S. Colodner

July 19, 1983

Mr. Gerald Walpin
575 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Walpin:

Your letter in regard to the Jobs, Peace and Freedom March awaited me on my return. I am afraid that you are responding to a very one-sided and selective report. I have seen the article in the Jewish Week to which you refer and I must admit it does not do justice to the situation. The issue is immensely complicated, but reduced to its essence the issues are these:

1/ The Jewish community played a major role in the original Martin Luther King march on Washington and it would be a major rupture in the relationships between Jewish groups and minority groups if there were no Jewish participation in the 20th anniversary.

2/ While there are some groups participating with whom we have differed with sharply on Israel and Middle East policy, we are staying in in order to use all of our influence to make sure that there are no attacks upon Israel in conjunction with this march and that the Middle East be kept out of the entire proceedings as irrelevant to an American civil rights demonstration.

3/ We are using our influence in the selection of speakers to assure that there is sensitivity to Jewish concerns.

4/ We have used our influence to extend the event to the weekend, so that it would not be merely a march on the Sabbath, in which we could not participate.

5/ As a matter of fact, the leadership of the UAHC, including myself, have set down in very tough and frank discussions with Coretta King, Walter Fauntroy and other leaders to set forth our concerns and to make it clear that if those concerns are not addressed, we will quietly disengage.

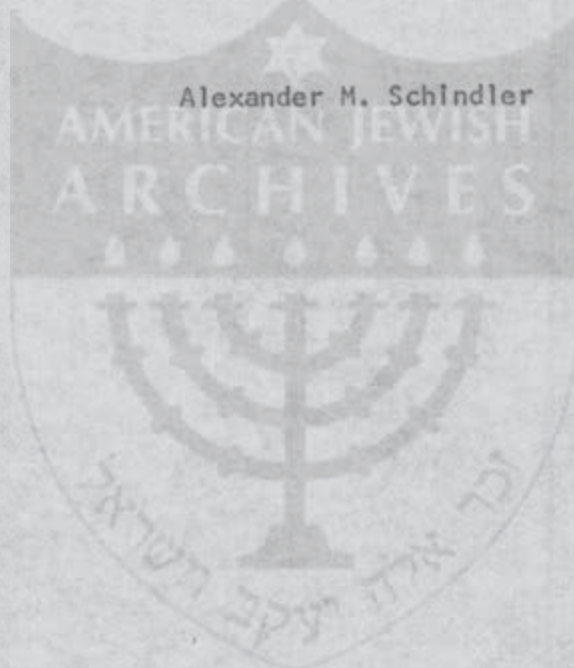
In our judgment, we have taken the most responsible posture to protect the interests of the Jewish community and not to leave the field to those who might wish us harm. Frankly, it is much easier to stand on the sidelines, but it does

Mr. Gerald Walpin
July 19, 1983
Page - 2 -

not help. Moreover, we continue to believe that it would be a tragedy for the Jewish community if there is a total rupture with black, Hispanic, women's and labor groups, who have joined in this undertaking, and we will do everything possible, despite the barrage of one-sided and simplistic criticisms, to carry out this responsibility.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



July 7, 1983

Mr. Gerald Walpin
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Walpin:

Rabbi Schindler is out of the country and not due back at his desk until late July. Be assured your recent note to Rabbi Schindler will be brought to his attention at that time.

Cordially,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

GERALD WALPIN
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 10022

Rabbi Alexander Scheindler
President, UAHC

Dear Rabbi Scheindler:

I urge you and UAHC to withdraw from the
Jobs, Peace and Freedom March. From the article in the
July 1st Jewish Week, it appears clear that the March
bears no relationship to the 1963 March and has
be adopted by organizations and persons who hold
views totally inconsistent with Jewish and Israeli
principles

Very truly yours
Gerald Walpin

✓

July 14, 1983

Rabbi Steven A. Moss
B'nai Israel Reform Temple
Post Office Box 158
Oakdale, New York 11769

Dear Rabbi Moss:

As Rabbi Schindler is out of the country and not due back until next week, I am taking the liberty of responding to your letter of July 11 so that you will have the requested information in advance of your July 21 Board of Trustees meeting.

The article by Walter K. Lewis in The Jewish Week is a very one-sided and selective report on the Jobs, Peace and Freedom march in Washington. The issue is a very complicated one and I am enclosing herewith an article by Albert Vorspan which I think you will find to be of interest. It will answer some of your questions.

As a matter of fact, the leadership of the Union including Rabbi Schindler, sat down in a very tough and frank discussion with Coretta King, Walter Fauntroy and other leaders of the march to set forth our concerns and to make it clear that if those concerns are not addressed, the UAHC will quietly disengage. In this connection the Union has used its influence to extend the event to a weekend, so that it would not merely be a march on the Sabbath in which we could not participate. The UAHC is also using its influence in the selection of speakers to assure that there is sensitivity to Jewish concerns.

The Jewish community played a major role in the original Martin Luther King march on Washington and it would be a major rupture in the relationships between Jewish groups and minority groups if there were no Jewish participation in the 20th anniversary. While there are some groups participating with whom we have differed sharply on Israel and Middle East policy, we are staying in in order to use all of our influence to make sure that there are no attacks upon Israel in conjunction with this march and that the Middle East be kept out of the entire proceedings as irrelevant to an American civil rights demonstration.

Rabbi Steven A. Moss
July 14, 1983
Page - 2 -

I hope that these comments together with Al's article will prove to be helpful to you.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

AMERICAN JEWISH

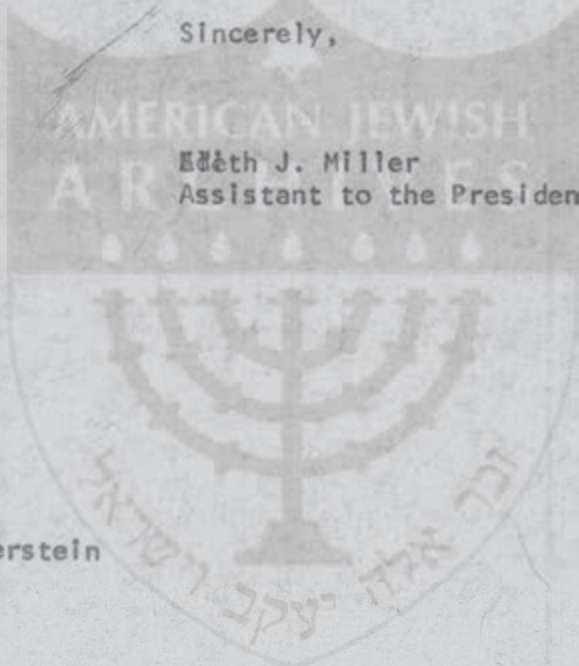
Edith J. Miller

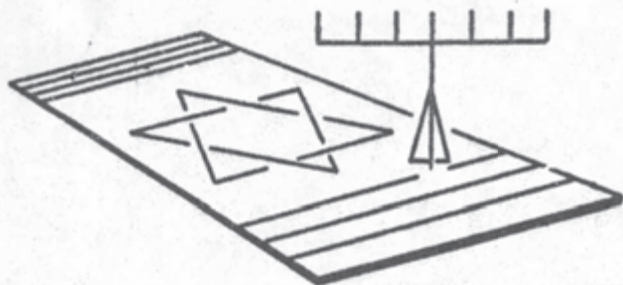
Assistant to the President

b

Encl.

cc: Rabbi David Saperstein





B'NAI ISRAEL REFORM TEMPLE

Idle Hour Blvd. & Biltmore Ave.
Box 158
OAKDALE, NEW YORK 11769
(516) 589-8948

July 11, 1983
Av 1, 5743

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

A member of my congregation showed me the attached article which was printed in the Jewish Week. After reading the article, I was as disturbed about its contents as was he.

I want to ask you as to the truth of the facts Mr. Lewis reported. Is this march "tainted by anti-Israel, pro-PLO and Soviet propaganda overtones"? If other Jewish organizations have pulled out of the march, then why haven't we? What is our reason for aligning ourselves with such a march?

I urge that you return an immediate reply to these questions, since this congregant intends to urge our congregation's immediate resignation from the UAHC at our Board of Trustees' meeting on July 21st.

Shalom,
Steven A. Moss
Rabbi Steven A. Moss

c.c. Rabbi David Saperstein

Jewish groups facing dilemma on D.C. march

By WALTER K. LEWIS

Major Jewish organizations which supported the civil rights movement in the 1960s are faced with the problem of how to abstain discreetly from a 20th anniversary observance of the 1963 march on Washington that is tainted by anti-Israel, pro-PLO and Soviet propaganda overtones.

The event, the Jobs, Peace and Freedom March, is scheduled for the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 27.

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council — which represents 11 national organizations and 111 community councils — rejected a proposal that it formally decline the invitation, leaving Jewish groups to decide on their own.

Most of the largest Jewish groups backed the advisory council's leadership in an appeal to bow out but local councils opposed such a group action at a meeting last Monday.

The Jewish War Veterans, which had endorsed the event, has withdrawn its support. National commander Stanley N. Zwaik said that the event's declaration deals with issues unrelated to civil rights and distorts the original purposes of the commemoration. He added: "JWV does not and will not participate with people or organizations who are anti-Semitic."

It was learned that Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who is an endorser and whose organization is a sponsor, will not withdraw, nor will UAHC.

The New Jewish Agenda also plans to remain an endorser.

The agenda is a left-oriented group which has sided with the Palestinians on statehood, assailed the war in Lebanon and endorsed the Soviet position in the nuclear disarmament debate.

Consultations between Jewish and non-Jewish human rights groups and several sponsoring groups have been going on for some time. Jewish groups have expressed concern over the deviation from the theme of civil and economic rights of the 1963 march and a shift to foreign policy issues closely paralleling the anti-Israel stance of many Third World countries. The injection of anti-nuclear slogans and anti-American posturing is cited as another factor.

Close to King

Most major Jewish organizations had close ties to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose widow, Coretta, is listed as a co-chairperson of the 1983 event. However, another co-chairperson is Dr. Joseph Lowery, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who spoke in La Grange, Illinois in 1981 at a pro-PLO conference.

One of the sponsors of that meeting addressed by Lowery was Pax Christi, which generates pro-PLO sentiment in the American Christian community. The organization is listed as a sponsor of the August mobilization.

Bayard Rustin, who coordinated the original march in 1963, is not listed as a convener nor as an endorser. Nor is the Civil Rights Leadership Conference.

Leading the list of conveners is former U.S. Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, who was a leader of anti-Israel ac-

tivity in the Senate and more recently at public meetings and rallies. He has participated in the mobilization's organizational meetings.

On June 6, the American-Arab Discrimination Committee, Mobilization for Survival, the U.S. Peace Council and Women for Racial and Economic Equality were among those who endorsed a demonstration at the Israel Consulate General in New York to mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Lebanon. They are among the endorsers and leaders of the Aug. 27 event. And, like the call for the march, they urged in their June 6 rally that there be "no U.S. military aid to the Middle East."

Several sponsors were in Prague last month at the Soviet-backed World Assembly on Peace, at which PLO chief Yassir Arafat received a standing ovation and delivered a strong anti-Israel speech.

Pro-Arabist is chief

Rep. Walter Fauntroy of the District of Columbia is not only a convener but is also the major domo of the 1983 event. He was the sponsor, early last summer after the Lebanon invasion, of a congressional seminar for leading Arab propagandists.

Although the Communist Party U.S.A. is not listed officially as an endorser, its fronts, the U.S. Peace Council and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, are. The latter is headed by the Communist official, Angela Davis. The former, at its Philadelphia founding convention in 1979, called for U.S. recognition of the PLO, return of Israel to its pre-1967 borders and an end to U.S. arms for Israel.

The Daily World, official organ of the Communist Party, has been prominently displaying articles on: "How to mobilize for Aug. 27 march on D.C." It is also planning to distribute 100,000 copies at the demonstration.

Jewish leaders are concerned over how a refusal to endorse will be perceived in the black community. Some non-Jewish organizations are also reassessing their roles. Some of them have already decided to let their initial contributions stand only as symbols of support. Trade unions, which comprised the bulk of the marching participants in 1963, are having economic hardships that may limit their presence.

Event on Sabbath

The problem for Jewish organizations is complicated by the fact that Aug. 27 falls on the Sabbath.

Spokesmen for Jewish groups point out their concern that, while the call for participation cites human rights violations in South Africa, no mention is made of the Soviet Jewry plight, the Soviet war in Afghanistan or Cuban incursions in Central America. And while there is an expression of support for free trade unionism "everywhere," Poland's suppression of Solidarity is not mentioned.

The call for the march, while silent on Soviet arming of Syria or rebels in the Central America states: "We oppose the militarization of internal conflicts, often abetted and even encouraged by massive U.S. arms exports, in areas of the world such as the Middle East and Central America, while their basic human problems are neglected."

Edith J. Miller

July 14, 1983

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Rabbis David Saperstein and Leonard A. Schoolman; Albert Vorspan; Theodore K. Broido

It occurs to me that you will be hearing from our constituency in regard to the UAHC participation in the Jobs, Peace and Freedom march in Washington. We have already received a great deal of correspondence as a result of a very one-sided and selective report by a Walter K. Lewis which appeared in The Jewish Week. The issue is a very complicated one which, as you may know was discussed by the Officers and the Board of the UAHC. The decision to remain as sponsors of the march is one which was taken by our leadership.

Al Vorspan has written a very fine article on the march and I am enclosing a copy herewith so you will have the required information to respond to queries.

I sent a copy to Nor
E

THE MARCH AND THE COMMISSION:
TWO BLACK-JEWISH BATTLES

by Albert Vorspan

Blacks and Jews were once vital partners in America's liberal coalition. Their collaboration made the civil rights revolution possible. But in recent years liberalism has fallen on lean times and black-Jewish relations have been severely strained under the impact of controversies over affirmative action, Israel and the PLO, busing and a host of other divisive issues. The black-Jewish coalition, apparently unravelling at the seams, appears to have held together in a number of local battles. There would not be black mayors in Chicago, Los Angeles and possibly even Philadelphia without Jewish voters who, in significant proportions, defied the law of political gravity which shaped the white ethnic vote backslashing in those cities.

So is the black-Jewish coalition a fading relic? Or, having survived the worst, is it now rebounding under the impetus of common concerns about the rise of hate groups and the dangers of social cutbacks and massive economic distress?

The answer may come in two current issues which have converged in a new black-Jewish crunch. The first is the question of Jewish participation in the upcoming March on Washington, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the celebrated Martin Luther King march of 1963. The second is the bitter conflict over President Reagan's dismissal of three members of the United States Civil Rights Commission and his effort to purge them with three of his own nominees.

The March on Washington has already produced angry controversy within the Jewish community -- controversy which was reflected in a one-sided and selective report in *The Jewish Week* of July 1. The report asserted that the March is in the control of "left-wing" elements and that all Jewish groups, except the UAHC, have repudiated it.

The actual story is much more complex than that report suggests. Among the main supporters of the March are the AFL-CIO, the Urban League, the National Education Association, the United Auto Workers, the United Church of Christ and others, hardly the "leftist phalanx" that Walter Lewis worries about. While it is true that some groups - like the Southern Christian Leadership Conference - have been critical of Israel, the dilemma facing Jewish organizations was whether to stay in and to try to maintain the liberal coalition or to withdraw and risk a rupture in already strained black-Jewish relations.

And there is a further dilemma. Can one exert more influence in defense of Israel and Jewish concerns from within or by abandoning the field to those who wish to exploit civil rights for Third World gains? Most national Jewish organizations chose to withdraw. The Jewish War Veterans, which had earlier endorsed the March, repudiated its stand.

The UAHC endorsed the March and has conducted tough and frank conversations with the March leadership, using its influence to assure that the mideast is excluded from the agenda of the March, that the speakers be picked with sensitivity to Jewish concerns and that the leadership of the March repudiate publicly any effort by any groups to exploit the March for anti-Israel or anti-Jewish purposes. The leadership of the UAHC made clear that it seeks to strengthen Jewish-black cooperation, but that it would disengage from the March if it became clear that responsible and moderate groups could not control the dissident elements.

Which policy advances Jewish interests more? Public Jewish attacks on the March, risking a black-Jewish confrontation as a media event? Or serious efforts to protect Jewish interests, while persevering in a good faith effort to maintain decent relations with racial minority groups in America? Moreover, will Jewish groups ever again be able to be part of broad-based coalitions if we require a one hundred percent certified kosher rating for every organization in the coalition? Are we painting ourselves into a corner of irrelevance in American life? And what interest does our splendid isolation serve?

The other current civil rights flap also reveals the growing split between Jews and the civil rights groups -- and within the Jewish community as well. President Reagan has sought to purge the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights and to replace three members with his nominees -- one of whom is Morris Abram, distinguished Jewish leader. The response of the civil rights, women and Hispanic organizations has been powerful. To them, the Reagan purge was a clear attack on the integrity and independence of the Commission. Moreover, no president of the United States had ever before sought to pack or control the Commission, thus politicizing a body which is designed to serve as an independent watchdog and conscience for the American people. It is quite clear, from the public reports of the Commission, that it believes this administration has tried to dismantle the entire civil rights legal structure, undermine enforcement, provide tax benefits to racist schools and -- in general -- reverse the civil rights gains of the past twenty-five years. The UAHC joined the overwhelming majority of organizations of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

in protesting this unprecedented assault on the Commission.

Shockingly, several major Jewish national bodies broke with their traditional allies in the Leadership Conference and supported President Reagan's maneuver. The impact of this defection threatened the very survival of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and posed the real danger of a black-Jewish rupture. In addition, it is folly for Jews to write off blacks, Hispanic, women, religious and other groups. The Black Caucus in Congress voted more unitedly against AWACs to Saudi Arabia than did Jewish legislators -- and infinitely better than the new right, pro-Falwell senators the Jewish community has wooed so sycophantly.

So why did Jews support a president whom blacks and women regard as insensitive, if not hostile, to their deepest aspirations? Could it be that the "bait" of Morris Abram, an attractive choice, led Jewish agencies into the administration's trap? But one of the commissioners being purged is also Jewish -- Rabbi Murray Saltzman of Baltimore. No, the national Jewish groups have justified their stand on nobler grounds -- not mere support of one of our old boys, but because of President Reagan's opposition to "reverse discrimination." How noble! It recalls the glory days when a national Jewish agency certified that Sen. Joseph McCarthy was not anti-Semitic. That he was cancerous to American liberty & the Bill of Rights was, to them, beside the point. Now we have the bizarre scene of Jewish community relations agencies - who think of themselves as pro-civil rights - lining up in support of an unprecedented and morally repellent device by a president whose policies and rhetoric have profoundly alienated the civil rights community. To have a friend, one must be a friend. An American Jewish community which expects allies to defend and support Israel and Soviet Jewry, must learn - once again - to understand and empathize with their concerns as well. Coalitions, like friendships, are two-way things, and the future of the American Jewish community may be adversely affected by judgments being made in the summer of 1983.