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MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1953-1996.
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Clinton, Bill, 1993-1995.

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 28, 1994

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021-7064

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Thank you so much for your message. I've been touched by the many expressions of support and encouragement I've received from people who care deeply about the future of our country and the world.

I am working hard to live up to your expectations and to meet the many challenges facing our nation.

Sincerely,

Boin Clinton



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

November 15, 1994
12 Kislev 5755

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

I know that the results of the recent elections could scarcely have gladdened you. What a devastation that whirlwind wrought! Our nation deserved better. And you deserved better. I will never understand why many more people don't recognize your attainments and your readiness to face the manifold vital and complex issues which confront us. That takes great courage.

I hope that you will not allow these events to dishearten you or to swerve you from your purposes. Your instincts are sound. Don't let them be thwarted. The word 'despair' must never be part of the Clinton lexicon.

Faithfully yours,

Alexander M. Schindler

BCC: SARAH EHRMAN



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

January 3, 1994
20 Tevet 5754

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

During this past month the Jewish people celebrated the festival of lights, Chanukah, which represents the continuity and lasting power of religious faith. Christmas was celebrated by many others in a similarly joyous and spiritual mood. As Americans celebrate these religious holidays and the coming of a promising new secular year however, the specter of uncertainty hangs over the heads of our Jewish brothers and sisters in the former Soviet Union.

The recent elections of the newly created Federal Assembly were not the vote of confidence for which the world was waiting. Given current instability and tensions within the former Soviet Union, these elections and the national mood they reflect could imperil Soviet Jewry.

That is why I am writing you, on behalf of the 850 congregations and 1.5 million Reform Jews of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to urge you to speak on behalf of the Jews of the former Soviet Union at your summit meeting with President Yeltsin in January. Certainly the Reform Jewish Community recognizes that Mr. Yeltsin's country has done much to secure gains on behalf of its Jewish citizens. We feel it is crucial, though, that steps be taken to further improve the security and well being of Jewish People in the former Soviet Union.

President William Clinton

-2-

January 3, 1994

There are three issues that are of particular concern. First, we urge that the review process in the former Soviet Union for outstanding "refusenik" cases be expedited and that the commission now assigned only to secrecy cases be allowed to review "Poor Relative" cases until there is an adequate judicial system in place. It would be a tragedy for bureaucratic obstacles to stand in the way of human freedom.

Second, we encourage President Yeltsin to act as a unifying force in his country by publicly and forcefully denouncing acts of senseless anti-Semitism, which are once again on the rise in the former Soviet Union. Publication of virulently anti-Semitic articles in the media, desecration of Jewish holy sites and the appearance of hateful slogans and placards during the October coup attempt would be considered frightening under any circumstances. Given the nationalistic undertones of the recent elections, acts such as these take on added significance and appear all the more harrowing and potentially disastrous.

Finally, it is important that the spirit of democratic cooperation that served as the backdrop for the election of President Yeltsin be manifest in laws designed to protect minority populations. Mr. Yeltsin must create an atmosphere that allows decisions taken on international and national levels to be successfully implemented on a local level. Similarly, it is important that he lend his influence to the elimination of bureaucratic obstacles impeding agreed upon changes such as the return of property to local Jewish communities and equitable applications of justice by the police and courts.

Thank you for your time, Mr. President, and thank you for your work on behalf of freedom and democracy in the former Soviet Union. We hope you convey to Mr. Yeltsin our concern for the Jewish people in his country. We

President William Clinton

-3-

January 3, 1994

hope, too, that our own country may be a stronghold of peace, and extend its assistance to Russia, both politically and financially, as long as human rights and rule of law continue to progress, and democratic possibilities continue to be realized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alexander M. Schindler', with a stylized, flowing script.

Alexander M. Schindler

RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER OF REFORM JUDAISM

TO: Attn: Edie Miller

FROM: Joshua Rose, @ R.A.C

DATE: 1/3/94

PHONE NUMBER: 202 387 2800

The Religious Action Center
pursues social justice and
religious liberty by
mobilizing the American
Jewish community and
serving as its advocate
in the nation's capital

2027 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 387-2800
Fax (202) 667-9070

Rabbi David Saperstein
Director and Counsel

Rabbi Lynne Landsberg
Associate Director

Evelyn Lazar Shinsky,
Chairperson
Commission on Social Action
of Reform Judaism

Rabbi Eric Yoffie
Director
Commission on Social Action
of Reform Judaism

The Religious Action Center
is under the auspices of
the Commission on Social
Action of Reform Judaism,
a joint instrumentality of
the Central Conference of
American Rabbis and
the Union of American
Hebrew Congregations
with its affiliates:
American Conference
of Cantors,
Association of Reform
Zionists of America,
National Association of
Temple Administrators,
National Association of
Temple Educators,
National Federation of
Temple Brotherhoods,
National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods,
North American Federation
of Temple Youth

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET):

Ms. Miller -

This NCSJ letter came to me, and
I drafted the following letter to
President Clinton, as NCSJ had
requested. 3 questions

1) Has Rabbi Schindler already written
a similar letter?

2) If not, would he like to sign this
one? OK

3) If not, would he like David to
sign it?

I'm trying to get this out A.S.A.P.
Thanks for your time,
- Joshua



National Conference on Soviet Jewry

ACTION ALERT

To: Constituent Organizations, CRC's, Federations, and Other Interested Parties

From: Richard L. Wexler, Chairman
Mark B. Levin, Executive Director

Date: December 10, 1993

Re: The January 1994 Summit Meeting between Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin

BACKGROUND

As we begin the celebration of Hanukkah and mark the observance of International Human Rights Day, we are reminded that one month from today, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin will be holding their second summit meeting, in Moscow.

The instability and tensions within the former Soviet Union may imperil Soviet Jewry. Therefore it is essential that you, as representatives of the organized American Jewish community, take an active role to ensure that the security of Jews in Russia be an important Summit agenda item. We urge you to ask President Clinton to include the issue of Soviet Jewry at the upcoming meeting.

It is vital President Clinton receive assurances from President Yeltsin on this issue because of the uncertainty of the outcome of Sunday's election to approve a new Constitution and elect a new parliament, the Federal Assembly. Although it is predicted that the Constitution, granting a broad spectrum of human rights, will be accepted, it is unclear who will be elected to form this new government responsible for interpreting the Constitution and writing the legislation necessary to carry it out. Will the democratic reformers hold a majority, will it be equally represented by both reformers and old-line conservatives, and will the anti-Yeltsin forces gain enough seats to further question the future of democracy in Russia?

Under these uncertain circumstances, the Jewish communities continue to live in a state of ambivalence. It is crucial that President Yeltsin understand that the United States will extend its assistance to Russia, both politically and financially, as long as democratic reform, rule of law and human rights continue to progress.

This summit meeting is a unique opportunity for President Clinton to acknowledge the gains achieved by Russia on behalf of its Jewish citizens,

A coalition of forty eight national organizations and over three hundred local community councils and federations

New York Office: 10 East 40th Street, Suite 1701, New York, N.Y. 10018 (212) 679-6122 • Fax (212) 686-1193 • Telex: 237311 NCSJ
Washington Office: 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W. Suite 301, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 371-6 • (202) 598-2500 • Fax (202) 598-0822

and to express his desire that further improvements be carried out to assure their security and well being, especially as it relates to emigration and anti-Semitism.

ISSUES

1. **Emigration:** The Russian government has created a commission to review outstanding refusenik cases, and is trying to resolve this issue. We urge the commission to expedite this review, which is taking a much longer time than necessary, and positively resolve all secrecy cases. In addition, because there is still no adequate judicial system in place to review Poor Relative cases, we urge this government to give that responsibility to the commission now assigned only with secrecy cases. Finally, all bureaucratic obstacles which are delaying departure must be eradicated.
2. **Anti-Semitism:** There continues to be an increase in popular anti-Semitism, including the continuing publication by certain segments of the media of virulently anti-Semitic articles, the desecration of Moscow's Choral Synagogue and of Jewish burial sites, and the very disquieting presence of anti-Semitic placards and slogans during the October coup attempt against the Yeltsin government. We would encourage President Yeltsin to publicly and forcefully denounce this type of behavior and all forms of anti-Semitism and intolerance.
3. **Broad promulgation of laws protecting minorities:** It is critical that President Yeltsin create an atmosphere that allows decisions taken on an international and national level to be successfully implemented on a local level. It is similarly important that he lend his influence to eliminate bureaucratic obstacles impeding agreed upon changes such as the return of property to local Jewish communities as well as equitable applications of justice by the police and courts.

ACTION REQUIRED

We strongly urge you to write President Clinton, as he and Administration officials prepare their summit agenda, to reiterate the organized American Jewish community's concerns and to urge that the President raise these issues with President Yeltsin in what we hope will be a fruitful summit, as the two leaders work together toward mutual understanding.

Letters should be sent to: President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Also, send copies of your letter to your senators and House members.

If you have any questions and/or need assistance, please call our Washington office at (202)898-2500. In addition, please send a copy of your letter to us.

Whitman

~~December 28, 1993~~
Jan 3, 1994

President William J. Clinton

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

During this past month the Jewish people celebrated the festival of lights, Chanukah, which represents the continuity and lasting power of religious faith. Christmas was celebrated by many others in a similarly joyous and spiritual mood. As Americans celebrate these religious holidays and the coming of a promising new secular year however, the specter of uncertainty hangs over the heads of our Jewish brothers and sisters in the former Soviet Union.

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That is why I am writing you, on behalf of the 850 congregations and 1.5 million Reform Jews of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to urge you to speak on behalf of the Jews of the former Soviet Union at your summit meeting with President Yeltsin in January. Certainly the Reform Jewish Community recognizes that Mr. Yeltsin's country has done much to secure gains on behalf of its Jewish citizens. We feel it is crucial, though, that steps be taken to further improve the security and well being of Jewish people in the former Soviet Union.

There are three issues that are of particular concern. First, we urge that the review process in the former Soviet Union for outstanding "refusenik" cases be expedited and that the commission now assigned only to secrecy cases be allowed to review "Poor Relative" cases until there is an adequate judicial system in place. It would be a tragedy for bureaucratic obstacles to stand in the way of human freedom.

Second, we encourage President Yeltsin to act as a unifying force in his country by publicly and forcefully denouncing acts of senseless anti-semitism, which are once again on the rise in the former Soviet Union. Publication of virulently anti-semitic articles in the media, desecration of Jewish holy sites and the appearance of hateful slogans and placards during the October coup attempt would be considered frightening under any circumstances. Given the

nationalistic undertones of the recent elections, acts such as these take on added significance and appear all the more harrowing and potentially disastrous.

Finally, it is important that the spirit of democratic cooperation that served as the backdrop for the election of President Yeltsin be manifest in laws designed to protect minority populations. Mr. Yeltsin must create an atmosphere that allows decisions taken on international and national levels to be successfully implemented on a local level. Similarly, it is important that he lend his influence to the elimination of bureaucratic obstacles impeding agreed upon changes such as the return of property to local Jewish communities and equitable applications of justice by the police and courts.

Thank you for your time, Mr. President, and thank you for your work on behalf of freedom and democracy in the former Soviet Union. We hope you convey to Mr. Yeltsin our concern for the Jewish people in his country. We hope, too, that our own country may be a stronghold of peace, and extend its assistance to Russia, both politically and financially, as long as human rights and rule of law continue to progress, and democratic possibilities continue to be realized.

Sincerely,

(WEO?)

פארווערטס

FORWARD

FOUNDED APRIL 27, 1897

*Chaitin
White House*

Room 1049, National Press Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20045

(202) 879-6740 ■ Fax (202) 879-6741

MCI Mail 415-7384

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: Feb 5

TO: A. Schindler

FROM: DAVID TWERSKY, THE FORWARD WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this one):

2

OUR FAX NUMBER IS: (202) 879-6741

OUR PHONE NUMBER IS: (202) 879-6740.

Welcome to Washington: A Friend, Indeed

4/15/93

By DAVID TWERSKY

President-elect Clinton would do himself a favor, once he settles in the White House, to get to know Rabbi Alexander Schindler. He could ask the rabbi about all this talk that Jews are uncomfortable with the preponderance of onetime Carter administration officials staffing Mr. Clinton's foreign policy team. He could ask whether it's true — as he is hearing — that this is a concern only of pro-Likud hawks as eager to see the peace talks fail as not.

Rabbi Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, can offer perspective because he was chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations during the worst confrontations with the Carter White House. Though some thought him too eager to help the newly elected Prime Minister Begin dispel his extremist image, by no stretch can Rabbi Schindler be mistaken for a supporter of the Likud. Yet to this day he thinks he was right for souring on Mr. Carter.

The latest echo of this tendency to force Mr. Clinton to choose between Mr. Carter and the Likud, with no middle ground, came in a column in the New York Times last week by Leslie Gelb, who is not only a former aide to Mr. Carter but is a friend of Anthony Lake, the incoming national security adviser. Following a report that Jewish leaders were upset at the first wave of appointments, including not only Mr. Lake but Secretary of State-designate Christopher, Mr. Gelb penned a broadside against "conservative Democrats and pro-Israeli Jews," asserting that many of them "can't work with anyone who disagrees with them."

"Many of these same people," Mr. Gelb reported, "screamed a year ago that President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker were anti-Semites and enemies of Israel. The truth was that both men wanted to change certain hard-line Israeli policies, not hurt Israel." Mr. Gelb thinks that Mr. Carter deserves to be remembered for Camp David and that "singling out" the former president is "particularly monstrous because he undoubtedly did more to insure Israel's security than any president before or since." Mr. Gelb cautioned Mr. Clinton against nominating Jews "whose main aim will be to support Israel right or wrong, or conservatives whose principal efforts will be to savage former Carter administration officials whenever their individual records."

Yet there was and still is a real case against Mr. Carter, notwithstanding Camp David, just as there is

a real case to be made against Mr. Bush, notwithstanding the peace talks. Mr. Clinton sure thought so. Though he praised for the peace process during the campaign, he also repeatedly laced into Mr. Bush for being unfair to Israel.

Mr. Clinton's criticisms of Mr. Bush sounds much like, well, Rabbi Schindler's of Mr. Carter. The Bush and Carter presidencies both lasted only one term; they shared a preoccupation with Arab-Israeli peace. Mr. Carter brokered the Camp David accords; Mr. Bush launched the Madrid talks. Both faced obstacles laid down by traditional Arab hostility to Israel and by Likud hardliners. Despite their important achievements, both presidents ended up in

Even anti-Likud Jews don't want Carter II.

big trouble with American Jews.

Rabbi Schindler says that both Messrs. Bush and Carter deserve credit for peace-making, but he faults both for failing to win the trust of Israel and the Jewish community. The rabbi is no enemy of Messrs. Christopher and Lake; he opposes as premature, or just unfair, attempts to identify the two Clintonites with the Carter administration's shortcomings. He calls Mr. Christopher an "enigma" and says he just doesn't know what the secretary-designate's views are on the Mideast, or on anything else, such as Bosnia.

Although Rabbi Schindler had supported Mr. Carter's first presidential bid, he was so alienated by Mr. Carter that by 1977 he was backing Sen. Edward Kennedy's insurgency. The senator criticized Mr. Carter from the left — for having "managed to jeopardize the security of Israel" — and won the New York primary. In November, many Jews opted for the independent, John Anderson, who had the endorsement of New York's Liberal Party.

"It was the tone, not the music," Rabbi Schindler recalls. The rabbi says Mr. Carter had more sympathy for the Arab position and had lost the ability to be an honest broker. A problem he identified largely with White House operatives like Hamilton Jordan and Jody Powell. "They had a derogatory attitude about the Jewish state," the Rabbi recalls, asserting that this view was also held by the head of Mr. Carter's NSC, Professor Brzezinski. By June 1977, Rabbi

Schindler was not only speaking of "growing apprehension in the American Jewish community" about Carter's Mideast policy but was worrying "about the expectations Carter is raising in the Arab world."

Mr. Carter's statements that Israel should withdraw from virtually all of the territories occupied since 1967 with only some "minor adjustments" and his endorsement of the need for a Palestinian "homeland" raised concern. Foreign Minister Allon, a kibbutz member who authored the Labor Party's stand on "territorial compromise," declared that "no Israeli Government could survive" a decision to pull back to the 1967 borders. Concern was also raised by the call the Carter administration and the Kremlin issued in the autumn 1977 to work together for a Mideast settlement. In March 1980, the Security Council condemned Israel for establishing settlements in the administered territories, including Jerusalem.

According to Reuters on May 23, 1977, Carter policies even soured relations with the Labor government headed by Prime Minister Rabin. When America endorsed a Geneva conference, Mr. Rabin dispatched Mr. Allon to London to meet Secretary Vance. Mr. Allon failed to secure a pledge that America "not come out with a plan of its own."

Soon White House officials were orchestrating a campaign against Rabbi Schindler. The Carter strategists realized they had a political problem. Vice President Mondale, Messrs. Vance and Brzezinski had to defend administration policies at a meeting in White House with 52 American Jewish leaders. Mr. Carter tapped, among others, a young aide, Mark Siegel, to coordinate a campaign to assuage Jewish fears. In March 1978, unable to reconcile the gaps between administration policies and Jewish concerns, Mr. Siegel resigned.

So it is not surprising that those who follow these matters seriously and who wish the best for Mr. Clinton — and for the peace process — had an allergic reaction to Mr. Clinton's first national security appointments. It may be uncomfortable to the president-elect and unfair to some of his aides, especially Mr. Lake and his deputy-designate, Samuel Berger. But they are fooling themselves if they believe the concerns being voiced stem from an antipathy to the peace process, from a preference for the Likud or from a desire to advocate "Israel right or wrong." The man who will shortly be president deserves to hear — from someone — better advice than that.



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

March 26, 1992
21 Adar II 5752

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing 1.3 million Reform Jews in 850 synagogues across the country, is deeply concerned over news reports that the Administration is actively discouraging member states of the European community from making loan guarantees to Israel.

According to the March 25, 1992 issue of the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, the United States has been working to dissuade these countries from granting credit guarantees to Israel. The March 26 issue of Newsday reports that Germany has changed its position on offering loan guarantees to Israel and opposes aid because - - as the newspaper put it - - such aid "would run counter to U.S. policy."

If these disturbing reports are true - - if the United States is indeed pressuring European states to withhold loan guarantee assistance to Israel - - such a deplorable and reprehensible policy could only be regarded as a hostile and malicious act against a friend, ally and fellow-democracy.

If the reports are not true - - if the United States is not calling on the members of the European community to bar or withdraw promised economic assistance to Israel - - these reports should be promptly and publicly disavowed at the highest level of our government.

Your Administration's refusal to support loan guarantees for Israel caused deep anguish and outrage in the American Jewish community. We are astonished and distressed at reports that this country might be engaged in an aggressive and apparently successful campaign to deter other countries from granting Israel loan guarantees for humanitarian programs of refugee absorption. Ultimately such a policy would severely damage Israel's ability to receive and integrate Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants, and could cripple the Middle East peace negotiations.

We look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

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RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

March 26, 1992
21 Adar II 5752

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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Respectfully,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

7 VOR 5721
March 26, 1992

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The White House
Washington, DC 20500

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disavowed
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We look forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

these reports

03/26/92

14:00

☎ 212 570 0895

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ACTIVITY REPORT

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| START TIME | 03/26 13:59 |
| USAGE TIME | 01'06 |
| PAGES | 2 |



RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

FAX 2 PAGES

March 26, 1992

TO: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Attached was drafter at RAC and edited by Dick
Cohen...Please advise if OK to send.

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ACTIVITY REPORT

TRANSMISSION OK

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2 Page Fax

February 10, 1993

Edie to B.J.

Here's the letter to Graham. So you'll know, we did send Sara Ehrman a copy but didn't "go public."

Regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edie".

Clinton
White House

January 27, 1993
5 Shevat 5753

Sara Ehrman
c/o National Jewish Democratic Committee
711 Second Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Sara:

These are exciting and exhilarating times...and exhausting to be sure! I hope you've had a chance to get some rest before you dive back into your official responsibilities. You have been terrific and I know you will continue to do a great job! Mazal tov and enjoy, enjoy!

I wanted to be sure you were apprised of the enclosed letter. It was sent only to Dr. Graham with a copy to President Clinton, as noted. We don't intend to go public but felt something had to be said.

With fondest regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

January 27, 1993
5 Shevat 5753

The Reverend Dr. Billy Graham
Montreat, NC 28757

Dear Reverend Graham:

In good conscience I cannot permit your inaugural invocation and benediction to remain on the record without sharing with you my great distress at your non-inclusionary words of prayer. On many such occasions in the past you have spoken for the broad and divergent communities which make up America, people who practice many faiths, or none. Thus, your Christological references on the occasion of President Clinton's inauguration left many fine Americans with a sense of having been excluded.

The President, after all, represents ALL Americans, believer or non-believer, men and women of divergent faiths and even conflicting theologies. His sacred task is to unify our society and his installation was meant to be a harbinger of that leadership. Alas, your words were divisive. They offended many in our community -- they wrote me, they called me to express their dismay. I feel honor bound to convey their hurt, as well as my own.

Cordial greetings,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: President Bill Clinton

Founded in 1889

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

192 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016-6801

(212) 684-4990 FAX (212) 689-1649

Office of the Executive Vice President

January 22, 1993

The Reverend Dr. Billy Graham
Montreat, NC 28757

Dear Rev. Graham:

I cannot help but express my deep disappointment in your divisive prayer at President Clinton's inauguration. You momentarily disenfranchised many millions of Americans and sullied the entire experience for us.

When I was asked earlier, "Why Billy Graham for both prayers?" I replied, "He is the national minister. He's earned it. He would never dream of doing anything to offend his fellow Americans, or embarrass the new President."

My confidence in you was obviously misplaced. You have forfeited your heretofore unique position of esteem in my view.

Further, you hampered the efforts of an enthusiastic young President whose primary purpose right now is to heal divisions and unify the American people. He, and events such as his inaugurations, should be symbolic of that unity. At the very moment of the birth of his Presidency, you detracted measurably from that goal.

What is most distressing is that I know that you know better. It had to be deliberate.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser
Executive Vice President

cc: President Bill Clinton

OFFICERS:

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New York, NY

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, Administrative Secretary
New York, NY

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