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MS-630: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Digital Collection, 1953-1996.
Series A: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1961-1996.

Box
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Folder
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North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, 1980-1989.

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American Jewish Archives website.

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021 • (DIAL CODE 212) 249-0100
CABLE ADDRESS: UNIONUAHC

M E S S A G E

file
R E P L Y

TO

[*also, Al*]

DATE

from Steve - re Abie Nathan

DATE

Abie's committee includes

Rekanoti - Bank Discount

Israel Govt is behind Abie.

call Avi Primor - head of African Desk

Home 02-631145

office 02-535551

B

Israel Foreign Ministry

Steve

BY

SIGNED

Form N473 © The Drawing Board, Inc., Box 305, Dallas, Texas

INSTRUCTIONS TO SENDER:

1. KEEP YELLOW COPY. 2. SEND WHITE AND PINK COPIES WITH CARBON INTACT.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RECEIVER:

1. WRITE REPLY. 2. DETACH STUB, KEEP PINK COPY, RETURN WHITE COPY TO SENDER.

MEMORANDUM

From Edith J. Miller
To Fred Cohen
Copies Glenn Stein; Ruth Harrison
Subject ETHIOPIAN RELIEF

Date May 21, 1985

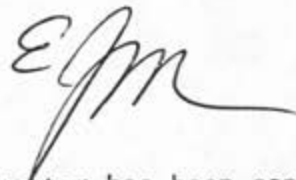
We have to get some funds over to Abie Nathan. I have been asked to arrange to have \$19,000 sent, via telex, to the following:

*Wired
5/22/85*
A/c 241768 (This is a \$1. account)
The Shalom Peace Foundation, Inc.
Discount Bank —
Yehuda Ha-Maccabi Street Branch
Tel-Aviv

Last week Glenn sent Ruth a check for \$18,000. plus some smaller checks which came to some \$1100. plus.....she just received them today -- I got the memo copy last week! At any rate those funds are to be used. Also, as Al told you, if you need plus funds they can be take from REAP inasmuch as this new tent city will include Jews.

Glenn tells me Abie Nathan is standing ready with 90 tons of supplies etc. a cre of 15 and planes....they have been refused rights to fly over Egypt-- which they were able to do previously -- but via our State Department and the Israel Embassy this is being worked out.....

Some of the tents will bear the words "From Austin, Texas with Love."



Fred, Please let me know when this matter has been concluded...and the same for the last memo I sent requesting funds be sent to Israel....I would like my file to be complete....



MEMORANDUM

From Edith J. Miller
To Fred Cohen
Copies Albert Vorspan
Subject ETHIOPIAN RELIEF

Date May 1, 1985

*Make transfer
May 1/85*

Al has told Abie Nathan to be in contact with me when he requires funds inasmuch as Al is on Sabbatical and Schindler is on the road a great deal.

I spoke to Abie a few minutes ago and it is necessary to make payment on some items which have been ordered.....this will be a partial payment per Abie N.

*Wired
5/2/85
E*
\$68,000 (U.S.\$) are to be transferred to the Tel-Aviv Main Branch of Bank Leumi L'Israel, for F. H. Holding, account #653046/99.

This is for Galvanized Iron and Fiberglass Hospital Units, Feeding Carts, Sanitary Facilities (16 toilets) Store Room and Kitchen plus some shaded areas so people can get out of the wicked sun.

On some items yet to be ordered Abie will arrange 30 day Letter of Credit...

He noted there will be more bills for next week but he'll give me details... hopefully the money from Texas will be in by then... Al, what's the story?

E. Miller



Edith J. Miller

May 21, 1985

Fred Cohen

Glenn Stein; Ruth Harrison

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PEOPLE FEEDING PEOPLE

A Hunger Organization

"raising money creatively, and getting the most for the money we raise"

EDIE -

THIS IS A COPY OF THE FUNDS WE
RECEIVED FROM THE TEXAS PEOPLE.

MAY 13, 1985

I SENT THE ORIGINALS TO RUTH.

Dear Mr. Stein,

Edie

Here is a check for \$18,000 towards the
\$25,000 that we promised to you. We will
be sending the remaining \$7,000 by the end
of this month.

Sincerely,

Gail Cantor

PEOPLE FEEDING PEOPLE, INC.

1410 WEST 6TH ST. 499-8850

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78703

1049

MAY 13 1985

88-18
1149

PAY TO THE ORDER OF UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS 18,000.⁰⁰/_{xx}

Eighteen thousand and ⁰⁰/_{xx} DOLLARS

BY ENDORSEMENT THIS CHECK WHEN PAID IS ACCEPTED IN FULL PAYMENT OF THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT

CONTRIBUTION TO				
ABIE NATHAN through				
UAHC				

Gail E. Cantor

⑈001049⑈ - ⑈114900180⑈ ⑈1000⑈ 268⑈ ⑈1⑈

MBank Austin
A Momentum Bank
P.O. Box 2266
Austin, Texas 78760-0001

85-

10240

697.50

1113.45

1410 West Sixth Street, Austin, Texas 78703 512-499-8850, 512-499-8860



א'חוד
ל'יהודות
מתקדמות
באמריקה

Memo

FROM _____

90 Tons

crew - planes
15

Refused route
to fly over Egypt - Denied this
time.

Via. USSR / Sh. M. will
get approval.

J. M. Cress
Will I
Done Tull



א'חוד
ל'יהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Memo

FROM _____

Med. check
a/c

REAP

Abie

\$ 19,000.

a/c 1 ad

#241768 -

The Shalom Peace
Foundation Inc.

Discount Bank
Yehud - HaMaccabi
Mr. A
Tel A

Tel A



ERA® FIRST AMERICAN PROPERTIES

For
Return My

May 3, 1985

Mr. Jim Melton
ERA, First American Properties
13694 Research Blvd
Austin, Texas 78750

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

Dear Rabbi Shindler:

I have known Joe Topa for several years, both as a friend and as a colleague in the real estate industry in Austin.

Joe has been fundraising on behalf of hungry people in his spare time since I have known him. I can assure you that his efforts are honest and sincere, and that he can be trusted to use his relationship with your organization responsibly and in a way which benefits the people in Africa who he is working to help through People Feeding People.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (512) 258-2700.

Sincerely ,

Jim Melton
Broker, ERA
First American Properties

JM/js

MEMORANDUM

From Glenn S. Stein
To Fred Cohen
Copies Edie Miller
Subject Abie Nathan

Date 5/8/85

This is just a reminder that we need copies of the bank receipts for the funds we have sent to Abie. The State Department has required that we show proof of the expenditure of these funds before they allocate their funds as well.

Your help in gathering this information together is appreciated.



Religious Action Center

2027 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036, 202/387-2800

EDIE,

CVI,

Sh

April 29, 1985

Daniel Matthews
People Feeding People
P.O. Box 50278
Austin, Texas 78763

Glen Stein
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
207 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Stein,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the balance of the funds for the relief camp Mr. Nathan is currently preparing to construct in Ethiopia. We know that this money is needed immediately to allow the construction of the camp to move forward.

The individuals and projects we have been supporting over the last month have generated more than \$25,000. However, at this moment some of that money is tied up in a donated Corvette, some has been raised but not yet received, and only several thousand dollars is currently in our bank account. Money will come in over the next several weeks from completed projects and from projects still in progress. More projects are just now getting off the ground.

In order to allow our fundraising efforts to have an impact now, when the need is the greatest:

1) We request that UAHC, on behalf of People Feeding People, immediately contribute \$25,000 to Mr. Nathan to fund the balance of the relief camp he is currently preparing to build.

2) We promise to send a total of \$25,000 to UAHC no later than May 31st, 1985, as repayment of this \$25,000 contributed on our behalf. UAHC will receive incremental payments during May, 1985, toward the payback of this \$25,000.

3) We request that some of the tents in the camp Mr. Nathan is about to construct be stenciled with the phrase "From Austin, Texas -- With Love," that photographs be taken of the stenciling of the tents, the construction of the camp, etc., and that these photographs be sent to People Feeding People on an ASAP basis. Photographs representing this accomplishment could be a major contribution to our fundraising efforts.

UAHC could support our fundraising work in another way, as well: by establishing a formal fundraising relationship with us. We have already approached Rabbi Shindler and Al Vorspan with the proposal that UAHC allow us raise funds, earmarked for Mr. Nathan's work, on your behalf. (See enclosed letter.) We would receive a ten percent fundraising fee for such contributions. This arrangement would allow us to reach certain major and corporate contributors not currently willing to contribute to us because we have not yet received our IRS tax-exemption letter.

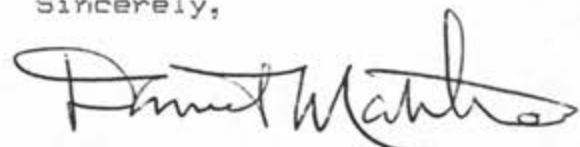
Al Vorspan indicated an openness on the part of UAHC to enter into such an arrangement with us, but requested letters testifying to our character and integrity, especially from leaders in the religious community. We have not worked with the religious community to any significant degree. However, UAHC should have received or will shortly receive letters from the following business and community leaders:

- 1) Dr. Matthew Vail -- Austin M.D. and owner of the MediCenters, a series of minor emergency and family care clinics located in Austin, Texas
- 2) Will Barber -- Senior Partner in the legal firm of Brown, Maroney, Rose, Barber and Dye, one of the largest and most prestigious legal firms in the state of Texas
- 3) Richard Goodman -- Three-term member of the Austin City Council, and co-owner of a television station in Waco/Temple, Texas
- 4) Ben Cartwright -- President of River City Machinery Co., a well established multi-million dollar enterprise specializing in sale and leasing of heavy equipment
- 5) Jim Melton -- Prominent Real Estate Broker and Builder in Austin and Cedar Park, Texas
- 6) Dean Kilgore -- Partner in the legal firm of McGinnis, Lockridge and Kilgore, another of Austin's largest and most highly regarded legal firms

If you can expedite the establishment of this arrangement between UAHC and People Feeding People, we would very much appreciate it, and we promise you that this arrangement will have an immediate positive impact on our results.

Thank you for your partnership, and for the work that you do.

Sincerely,



Daniel Matthews

March 14th, 1985

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
838 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

As you know, we're raising money in Texas for Abie Nathan's camps. Abie called me early Saturday morning, March 9th, to find out how we're doing and to ask if we need anything. As I told him then, we have a significant problem which UAHC can help us solve. Abie said that my proposed solution is a good idea, and that he would talk to you about it; I am following up with this written request.

People Feeding People was incorporated as a Texas non-profit corporation in February of this year. Joe Topa, Gail Cantor and I formed it to provide a legal structure for our own personal commitment to raise emergency famine relief money on a near fulltime basis throughout 1985. We have applied for IRS tax-exempt status, and have no doubt that we will be granted tax-exemption. However, we are told that the decision making process at IRS takes 6 to 8 months.

Not already having tax-exempt status has been a strong impediment to our ability to raise money for Abie's camps, especially from corporations and major contributors. We are anxious to move ahead in raising money for Mr. Nathan.

In order to do this more effectively, we request to set up a fundraising relationship with UAHC until we receive our tax-exemption letter from IRS. We would have large contributors make their checks payable to UAHC.

UAHC would return a small percentage of the money to us as a fundraising or consulting fee. Right now, we propose a fee of 10 percent of the money we raise to cover our expenses and promotional costs. We intend to reduce that percentage as the year goes on and our initial start-up and promotional costs get covered. We would like to receive fee payments on some regular, agreed upon basis, for example, for each \$25,000 raised and deposited with UAHC.

Given the urgency of the situation in Ethiopia, I would appreciate your prompt attention to our request. Once we establish an agreement with UAHC along these lines, the single biggest obstacle to our fundraising efforts will be gone. I trust that out of our mutual commitment to this work, we can figure out a creative solution to this breakdown. Thank you very much for your time and effort in this matter.

Please contact me at (512) 499-8850 or write me at People Feeding People, 1410 West 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Daniel Matthews

Edith J. Miller

May 1, 1985

Fred Cohen

Albert Vorspan

ETHIOPIAN RELIEF

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

June 27, 1989
24 Sivan 5749

Mr. Jonathan Giesberg
North American Conference
on Ethiopian Jewry
165 East 56th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Giesberg:

Your letter of June 22nd reached our office during Rabbi Schindler's absence. He is attending meetings in Israel and London and is not due back at his desk until mid-July.

As you know, Rabbi Schindler and the UAHC are deeply concerned for the welfare of Ethiopian Jews, most especially those who remain in Ethiopia. Indeed, a great deal of activity in their behalf stems from our Commission on Social Action and Religious Action Center in Washington. While Rabbi Schindler does serve on your Advisory Board, I trust you do know that his time is exceedingly limited. In lending his name to such a worthy cause he has indicated that unless there is a serious situation or very special emergency, matters to be discussed in this realm of concern should be directed to the Religious Action Center, particularly Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Center. Thus, I urge you to undertake a discussion with David Saperstein and members of his staff.

This is a Biennial year of the UAHC, our major convention will convene in New Orleans at the end of October. I know I need not tell you the kind of pressure this places on Rabbi Schindler. His time is truly limited. Thus, I trust you understand this situation. Needless to note, should you ever require and direct assistance from Rabbi Schindler he will be prepared to respond to your call.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

al - would it be wrong for me to tell them ams is pleased
to have them use name but his time is limited.....so no
need for conversation...certainly in event pf special
emergency can be contacted but for normal, routine matters
our rac people are contacts?

E

OK



NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY (NACOEJ)

165 East 56th Street • New York, New York 10022 • (212)752-6340

A NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION

June 22, 1989

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Karen Ezra-Landy
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Eleanor Selling
Monica Siegel
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Beth Wohlgelemer
Rabbi Alfred Wolf
Murray Wood

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

UAHC

838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As a member of the NACOEJ Advisory Board, you are aware of our seven-year history of unparalleled activity on behalf of the welfare of Ethiopian Jews in Ethiopia, their desire for aliyah to Israel, and their absorption into Israeli society when they arrive. This commitment remains unabated.

Today, during a period of crisis in Ethiopia, and greatly intensified activity and growth in the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, the NACOEJ Board of Directors is undertaking a new assessment of several crucial areas of activity in our organization. Among these are our political posture and effectiveness; our long and short term goals in Israel; and our ability to create and maintain effective regional activities in the United States.

In conjunction with these examinations of our organizational processes and goals, we would like to take a fresh look at our Advisory Board, and to discuss the role each member plays and might like to play in the future.

Some Advisory Board members have been very active in NACOEJ. For example, some give a day a week of invaluable service in the NACOEJ headquarters in New York; some undertake major volunteer projects such as controlling the inventory of medical and other supplies that accompany our missions and the artifacts that return with them; some organize fund-raisers and appearances at fairs, parades and other events. Still others lead missions to Ethiopia, undertake speaking engagements, spearhead political efforts and bring in sponsors for our Adopt-A-Student program. Still other Advisory Board members offer particular expertise when called upon for

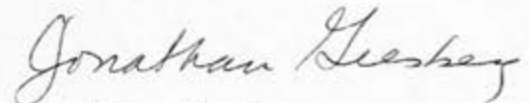
political, financial, legal or other advice. Over the years, many members of the Advisory Board have taken increased responsibility as members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

I have asked Barbara Ribakove Gordon, Executive Director; Rusty Solomon Moslow, Special Projects Director; and Middie Giesberg, Board member, to join me in talking personally with you about your own role in NACOEJ. If you feel we have not called upon you for enough participation in the remarkable achievements and growth of our organization, let's discuss ways in which we can remedy that to the benefit of Ethiopian Jews. If you feel that you are already participating to the fullest extent in our work, we'll have the opportunity to express our appreciation and renew personal contact.

The work we are doing is of major importance in assisting Ethiopian Jews in a period of both unprecedented turmoil and opportunity. We need the help of every one of the knowledgeable, creative and skilled people on our Advisory Board. Please return the enclosed card promptly, so that we can get together soon, in person or by telephone, to discuss your role in this lifesaving work of our time.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Giesberg

JG:smm

**North American Conference
On Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ)
165 East 56th Street • New York, NY 10022**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

New York, NY
Permit No. 6377

Jonathan Giesberg
NACOEJ
165 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Jonathan,

I am interested in discussing my further participation in the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) Advisory Board.

Please call me at:

() _____ (day)
() _____ (evening)

so that we can talk.

(signed)

RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER
OF REFORM JUDAISM

June 6, 1989

From: Glenn S. Stein

To: Rabbi David Saperstein

Copies: Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Al Vorspan, Rabbi Lynne Landsberg

Re: Ongoing problems between Project REAP and the JDC

*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

Harris Gilbert, Chairman
Commission on Social Action
of Reform Judaism

Albert Vorspan
Co-Director

Rabbi David Saperstein
Co-Director and Counsel

*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 Federation of
Temple Brotherhoods,
National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods,
North American Federation
of Temple Youth.*

On May 12th, Dr. Jeff Goldhagen, Dr. Burton Bronsther and Ellen Bronsther brought Dr. Zein Achmed of the Gondar School of Medical Science to meet with Michael Schneider at the JDC office in New York. The purpose of the meeting was a courtesy call. This was Dr. Achmed's first visit to the United States and since he had worked with the JDC doctor at the Teda clinic in Gondar, we thought it would be nice for the JDC leadership to have an opportunity to meet with him. We also thought it would be an opportunity to brief the JDC on our upcoming plans and to explore new possibilities for working together. From our perspective it was another attempt on our part to be helpful and cooperative.

The following account of the meeting was described to me by Ellen Bronsther and confirmed by Dr. Jeff Goldhagen.

Michael Schneider opened the meeting by saying that if they had come to ask for money the answer was no. It went downhill from there.

Michael invited Woody Slater and other JDC staff people into the meeting. According to Jeff he felt as if our project was on trial and the JDC was the jury. From the beginning Jeff said that Michael was "uncooperative, negative, irresponsible, possessive and territorial."

Michael did not mention or show the copy of the news release they had sent out three days earlier announcing a massive meningitis immunization campaign on Gondar, even though Jeff went into great detail to describe the immunization program we were setting up.

(We should point out that the news release, ambiguously worded, allows for the inference that the JDC is working in cooperation with Dr. Zein's school. This is not so and this may, or may not, account for

their failure to show them the release.)

Michael said that he felt "obligated to report this conversation to the Ethiopian RRC and the Regional Ministry of Health." It was not clear to Jeff why Michael said that, but the inference that was given was that Michael did not like the work we were doing and was going to complain to the authorities. Thus far, we have no indication that such a report was filed.

Jeff said that although he had never felt concerned for his physical well-being when in Ethiopia, the tone of the meeting was so hostile that he momentarily feared that some action against him could be prompted by a JDC complaint.

When Jeff was in Ethiopia he could find no evidence that there was an immunization program of any kind in Gondar. The JDC had been successful in bringing a significant quantity of supplies into the country although they had not reached Gondar. This was very interesting to me considering the JDC press release states that "They have become part of a region-wide effort with the Ministry of Health and the Gondar Medical College to administer the preventive vaccine to as many children in Gondar as possible." The fact is that there is no region-wide effort in Gondar right now. It is true that the JDC has allocated some vaccine to the Gondar School of Medical Science but the school has no plan in place to deliver the vaccine to the people in the villages. That is what they have asked us to do.

The question that arises is: how is the JDC planning to deliver the vaccine? They could not be seriously considering using their staff of one doctor and two nurses to attempt to administer 200,000 doses. They have not made any arrangements with the Gondar school. I have no idea what their implementation plan could be. The only way to do this is how we are going to. We have made arrangements with the school in Gondar to use their medical, nursing and sanitarian students (an available pool of 400 people) to divide into teams in order to administer the vaccine. Our doctors will go in order to oversee the entire project.

In addition, our immunization program will not only immunize the children against meningitis but against other deadly childhood diseases such as polio, measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria and tetanus.

This is one more example of the types of problems we have had from the beginning with the JDC. Some of the JDC people have been particularly nice (Aryeh Cooperstock) and others have bordered on overt hostility (Ralph Goldman). Institutionally, however, they have been totally unresponsive. As indicated by the enclosed memos, they never had the decency to respond to our formal request for funding although they promised they would. They certainly never gave us any funding although our program was a perfect complement to their own with almost no overlap and was exactly the kind of program for which they raised all that money. We offered to cooperate with them in whatever way they wanted; indeed, we made a standing offer for them to simply take over the program whenever they wanted to broaden their own involvement

and allow them to get out of the clinic and into the villages. At no time were they willing to enter into any serious discussions with us as to such cooperation.

A related point. When Zein was here in DC, I had the opportunity to spend some private time with him. During that time he asked me what I thought of the JDC. I said we thought they were doing very good work. He said "well they don't like you." He went on to say that last year he was visited by a Ethiopian military official who was asking questions about the SACOW doctors because the JDC had complained about our presence in the area. Dr. Zein told them that the SACOW doctors were working fine and that they were in Gondar legally through the visiting scholar program of the College. The military said they were going to keep their eyes on our doctors and no other incidents occurred. See the copy of my memo to Al dated 6/23/88 which quotes a letter I received from Carol Dororshow regarding this complaint. At that time Al called Aryeh Cooperstock who after checking it out said that there was absolutely no truth to the report.

Finally, regarding the question of covert activity, as you can see from the enclosed documents, at each step of our program we had written agreements with the Gondar College of Medical Science. Nothing was done secretly or covertly in Ethiopia. As to the involvement of the UAHC, while we were certainly one, if not the major support for SACOW's activities in Ethiopia, in the begining we were concerned that knowledge of the UAHC's involvement might raise inappropriate concerns in Ethiopia. However, certainly by this point, the medical college authorities are aware of, and comfortable with, our involvement. Indeed, Dr. Zein spent a great deal of time at the Religious Action Center meeting with our own people in addition to meetings with U.S. government officials which we facilitated. In addition, you should be aware that SACOW has been involved in developing this program far beyond with what we had originally anticipated in accordance with their normal legitimate medical activities.

Ideally, if we could have at this point anything we wanted from the JDC, it would be: 1) to provide funding for our program; 2) to respond affirmatively, and to request NJCRAAC to do likewise, to any inquiries from local federations and CRC's about our program. This is particularly important now since the Tzedek Society mailing (which will drop over the next few weeks) and the bulletin articles (which will appear in July) will likely evoke such questions; 3) since, sadly, it is too late for us to work together in the immunization program, to assure us that they will do nothing to undermine our project in Ethiopia; and, 4) to change their general mindset so they view us as a partner with whom to cooperate and assist rather than a threat or competitor.



News

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.



Sylvia Hassinfield
President
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Executive Vice-President
Public Information Program
Irving Bernstein
Chair
Amir Shavit
Director

For Immediate Release

May 9, 1989

Contact: Amir Shavit

Sheryl Wurmbrand

JDC ESTABLISHES RELIEF PROGRAM TO COMBAT MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN ETHIOPIA

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is providing assistance to the people of Ethiopia in response to the deadly strain of bacterial meningitis which, having swept sub-Saharan Africa, including the southern regions of Ethiopia, during the past few months, has begun to appear in the northern Ethiopian regions of Gondar and Wollo.

During recent months, Ethiopia has witnessed thousands of meningitis-related deaths. So far, 1,800 cases of meningitis, and 59 meningitis-related deaths, have been reported in the Gondar Region. The incidence of unreported cases in the rural hinterlands may be much greater.

711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 USA
Tel: (212) 687-6200 Cable: JOINTDISCO NEW YORK Telex: 62873 Telefax: (212) 370-5467

The Joint Distribution Committee is the major American agency serving Jewish communities abroad.
The JDC receives its funds mainly from the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal.

JDC, which conducts relief and recovery projects in Ethiopia's Gondar Region, has purchased an emergency consignment of medicines and supplies to help contain the spread of this virulent disease. In the past several weeks, JDC has air-shipped 200,000 doses of vaccine, 180,000 syringes with needles, over 200,000 doses of antibiotics, as well as oral rehydration salts, I.V. solution, and equipment for administration of the medicines.

Michael Schneider, Executive Vice President of JDC, described JDC's operation: "We have an American physician and two American nurses who are part of JDC's staff in Ethiopia and who work and reside in the Gondar region. They have become part of a region-wide effort with the Ministry of Health and the Gondar Medical College to administer the preventive vaccine to as many children in Gondar as possible, as they are at greatest risk. There is no way to predict what course the disease will take in the coming weeks and it is imperative that we vaccinate the children before this lethal strain reaches epidemic proportions in the region."

In addition to its' medical programs, JDC, for several years, has operated other programs in Ethiopia in response to the critical drought and famine that

beset the region earlier this decade.

As the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, JDC is dedicated to assisting those in need. In addition to Ethiopia, JDC has, through non-sectarian, humanitarian efforts, provided relief to El Salvador, Mexico, Cambodia, Italy, Lebanon, Bangladesh, Jamaica, and most recently, Armenia.

JDC's services are supported by contributions to UJA-Federation campaigns throughout the United States.

#A-063



religious action center

Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

Co-Director: ALBERT VORSPAN
Co-Director & Counsel:
RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN

May 13, 1986

Mr. Sol Cohen
J.D.C.
711 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Sol,

It was real pleasure having the opportunity to talk through our program with you last month. I wanted to follow up with a letter formalizing our request.

We would like to suggest two alternative plans regarding REAP (The Reform Movements's Ethiopian Jewry Assistance Project).

Our preference would be to have the JDC simply take over our position in the project. This would involve the JDC operating through SACOW quietly like we are doing. As you know SACOW (Surgical Aid for Children Of the World) is the bona fide group under whose name this project is being run in Ethiopia. They are a responsible group with whom we have had no trouble working.

If you took it over in the same relation to SACOW that we have, you would select and brief the doctors, pay for the program, and make the decisions on the actual implementation of the project in Ethiopia (in consultation with SACOW). In other words you would be the behind the scenes agent for SACOW to continue the management of the program.

You had said in our meeting that if you took the program over you would want to operate it in the name of the JDC. I just do not believe this is feasible as the Ethiopians we are working with are already concerned with SACOW's unofficial interest in the Jews. If they have been reluctant to let JDC American doctors staff the Tedda clinic, I am not optimistic they will agree to JDC doctors replacing the SACOW doctors. Finally, I would be very cautious about even mentioning this idea to the Ethiopians for fear that they would suspect a prior tie between the JDC and SACOW which might hurt the JDC's operational ability in Gondar.

If the JDC does not want to take over the program, then we would want to make a formal request for JDC funding of the UAHC for this. If we do not secure funding for this project in the very near future we will either have to abandon it or launch a much more public fundraising campaign.

I hope you will consider our request seriously. Outside of your own program we are the only Jewish program on the ground in Gondor. With our current permission to move into the villages and perhaps to help staff the clinics, the continuation of the project is very important. I would certainly hope that this falls within the guidelines of the type of program which the JDC would fund.



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(212) 687-6200
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June 9, 1986

Rabbi David Saperstein
Religious Action Center
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Rabbi Saperstein:

Your letter of May 13, 1986, addressed to Dr. Saul Cohen was referred to me for reply. In view of a number of recent developments which may make it feasible for JDC to establish its own medical teams in Gondar Province we must put off consideration of your request.

We are now entering the stages of exploration and negotiation with the authorities. Once this is complete and we have a clear picture of what options we have we shall consider your request and get back to you.

Thank you for your interest. With kindest regards,

Sincerely,


Sherwood B. Slater
Director, Planning & Budget

SBS:ho

cc: Ralph I. Goldman
Amos Avgar

October 9, 1986

Mr. Ralph Goldman
Joint Distribution Committee
711 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ralph,

Happy new year. As you know, last year we requested funding from the J.D.C. for our medical project in Gondar, Ethiopia--Project REAP. At that time we were told that you were attempting to establish your own medical personnel in Gondar, and that the outcome of that effort would affect our request. It was projected that a decision would be reached by September 1, 1986.

Due to lack of funding we have not made arrangements for any medical personnel to replace our Dr. Goldhagen when he completes his service next March. Therefore, we are very anxious to hear if our request will be granted. If you would inform me of any developments which have occurred, I would be most appreciative. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Rabbi David Saperstein

cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Mace Levin
Burton and Ellen Bronsther

January 6, 1987

Mr. Ralph Goldman
J.D.C.
711 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ralph,

On January 12, 1987 at 2:00 pm a meeting will be held at the U.A.H.C. office in New York (838 5th Ave.). The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the future of our medical project in Ethiopia, Project REAP.

We would like to invite you to attend this meeting. As the J.D.C. has a great interest in projects held in Ethiopia, and as there is the possibility of our expanding our work in the Gondar region, we feel it important that our organizations continue to communicate with each other.

We would also like an update as to our request for funding of our project. After our last inquiry this past July we were told that you were working to further establish your own medical team in Gondar, but would have a response for us some time in September. We have not yet received an answer from your organization.

Included in this packet is the contract that SACOW has recently signed with the Addis Ababa University, and two letters which were written by our doctor who is presently in Ethiopia. We would appreciate any advice that you might have regarding our endeavors, and look hope that you will be able to attend the meeting.

Sincerely,

Rabbi David Saperstein

cc. Al Vorspan

June 23, 1988

FROM: Glenn S. Stein
TO: Al Vorspan
RE: JDC and Project REAP

I received a disappointing letter from Carol Doroshow (our doctor in Ethiopia) the other day. The disappointing part was in reference to the JDC. The portion of her letter which applies reads as follows:

"Both John (her husband) and I have discussed letting you know about a conversation we had with Zein (the dean of the Gondar School of Medial Science and their Ethiopian supervisor) last week. We still do not have our identification cards which you must have in Ethiopia. Zein told us that the Americans at the Teda clinic complained to officials that they were concerned that we would infringe on their work or try to involve ourselves in their work at their clinic. Zein felt this was holding up the cards and our official sanction in being here. The head dean of Addis University has written to security asking for help in getting us our cards. I tell you this not because I feel our cards will not eventually come but to hopefully allow you to speak with the New York representatives of JDC to reassure them that this is NOT out intention. I know both John and I will avoid any bad feelings or intermixing of work. I would hate to think JDC would actively work at making our stay here less pleasant.. I hope all this will work out soon."

Al, in addition -- for your information only -- you should know that the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jews believes that the reason their last delegation to Ethiopia had trouble getting to the Jewish villages is because of things the JDC has said about them in Ethiopia. I did not give this much credibility before -- but now I must wonder.

Please call Aryeh Cooperstock -- this nonsense must stop.

SURGICAL AID TO CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

195 NORTH VILLAGE AVENUE
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570

(516) 678-4900

The agreement between SACOW and Addis Ababa University was accomplished after multiple meetings and conferences with the below named individuals. The following individuals participated in framing the final agreement.

- 1.) Dr. Malede Maru, Dean, Gondar College of Medical Sciences.
- 2.) Dr. Gebresalassie, Head, Community Health Department, Gondar College of Medical Sciences.
- 3.) Dr. Jeff Goldhagen
- 4.) Professor Demissie Habte, Dean, Faculty of Medicine
- 5.) Professor Taye Mekuria, Head, Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa.
- 6.) Professor Orvar Johnson, Associate Director of Surgery, Black Lian Hospital.
- 7.) Professor Nebiat Tafari, Head, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa.
- 8.) Dr. Haile Gabriel Dagne, Vice President for Business and Development, Addis Ababa University.
- 9.) Dr. Aragay
- 10.) Dr. Gizan Tsehai, Minister of Health
- 11.) Mrs. Sophia Desalegn, Research and Publications Office, Addis Ababa University.



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The Provisional Government of Socialist Ethiopia

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

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No _____
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Date _____



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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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T.L. } 11-03-11

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Cable Address } AAUHSV
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TX } 21205

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P. O. Box }

Agreement Between Addis Ababa University (AAU)
and Surgical Aid for Children of the World (SACOW)

The Addis Ababa University (hereinafter called the University) and Surgical Aid to children of the World (hereinafter called SACOW) have had an ongoing relationship in a medical programme jointly established in March 1986. Subsequent to an onsite visit and review of the progress of the programme by Dr. Burton Bronsther and Mayor Ellyn Bronsther, President and Vice President of SACOW respectively, it was mutually agreed that this programme had a great deal to offer to the people of Ethiopia and also to the participating SACOW scholars.

Upon the request of the University SACOW has hereby agreed to extend and expand its assistance to cover two programmes which are hereafter called:

1. GCMS (Gondar College of Medical Sciences) - SACOW Programme.
2. FMA (Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa) - SACOW Programme.

Both programmes are guided by the expressed aim of self-sufficiency through building technical capability in the areas of medical activity included in the respective programme. They will extend for a period of 2 years contingent upon a review and re-evaluation of the programmes by the University and SACOW. This will be accomplished within 8-12 months from the date of this agreement.

Nature of the Programmes

1. The GCMS-SACOW Programme

1.1 Objectives:

- 1.1.1 Involvement in the training of paraprofessional health workers in a multidisciplinary health unit.

- 1.1.2 Involvement in training of senior medical students in a model health unit.
- 1.1.3 Involvement in the training of nursing and sanitarian students.
- 1.1.4 To create appropriate forum for development of research, intervention, and disease control programmes.
- 1.4.5 Development of information, monitoring, and referral systems.
- 1.4.6 Delivery of primary health care including a full public health programme centered in the Kolla Diba Health Center. These provisions are to include:
 - a. Primary health care (Medical care including nursing service).
 - b. Maternal/child health services and family planning.
 - c. Expanded programme on immunization (EPI).
 - d. Environmental health services.

1.2 Undertakings

- 1.2.1 Undertakings of Addis Ababa University
 - a. Provide sufficient incentive to recruit and employe Ethiopian academic staff.
 - b. Provide physical facilities for training of students (dormitories, dinning hall etc.) in rural areas and improve physical facilities to fulfill departmental needs.
 - c. Provide funds for fuel and other transport needs.
 - d. Supply equipment and drugs for health institutions used for training.
 - e. Maintain public relations aspects of the programme (contact with government and community organizations).
 - f. Provide support for research by students and staff in the field training areas.

1.2.3 Undertakings of SACOW

- a. Provide community health experts, which will include faculty, residents, externs and nurses until such time sufficient local trained manpower is available.
- b. Support local efforts to improve physical facilities for field training and department.
- c. Provide training opportunities for local staff including exchange of experts between universities.
- d. Support attempts to improve transportation, equipment and drug supply for training health institutions.
- e. Provide additional support to research programmes.

Full details of the programme will be worked out in due course and become part of this agreement upon acceptance by the Ministry of Health, GCNC and SACOW.

1.3 Expected Effects of the Joint Action

- 1.3.1 Different approaches for health service management will be tested and those proved effective will be recommended for country wide application.
- 1.3.2 Students will be given training in real life situation which prepares them for leadership in community medicine.
- 1.3.3 This pilot programme will be extended to three more districts, namely Tseda, Addis Zemen and Gorgora covering an estimated population of 200,000. The extension will begin within three to six months.
- 1.3.4 Communities will receive expanded services (see Addendum 1)

1).

2. FMA-SACOW Programme

This programme aims at establishing self-sufficiency in pediatric surgery at the FMA (Faculty of Medicine). There will be monthly visits of high level SACOW scholars in pediatric surgery, pediatric urology, pediatric orthopedics, pediatric anesthesia, pediatric ENT, oncology, neonatology and gastroenterology and other specialities as would be requested by FMA. Further, SACOW undertakes to help in the establishment of a Burn Unit within the Faculty of Medicine.

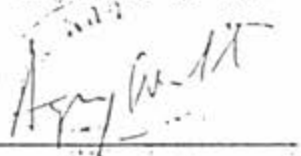
The University will appoint a staff to coordinate the unit and provide space for same. SACOW Burn Coordinator will work out the details of this Burn Unit with the Ethiopian Coordinator.

Full details of the remainder of the programme will be worked out in detail with a SACOW scholar who will visit the Faculty in February 1987.

SACOW shall obtain a car but the University will provide an appropriate license, fuel and maintenance for the car. International travels and maintenance costs for the duration of stay of the scholars will be covered by SACOW. SACOW shall also contribute 1,000 Birr per month to help the University administer the programme.


It is understood that the University shall provide accommodation to SACOW scholars and expedite immigration formalities, travelling papers and residence permits.

Dr. Aregay Waktola
on behalf of AAU



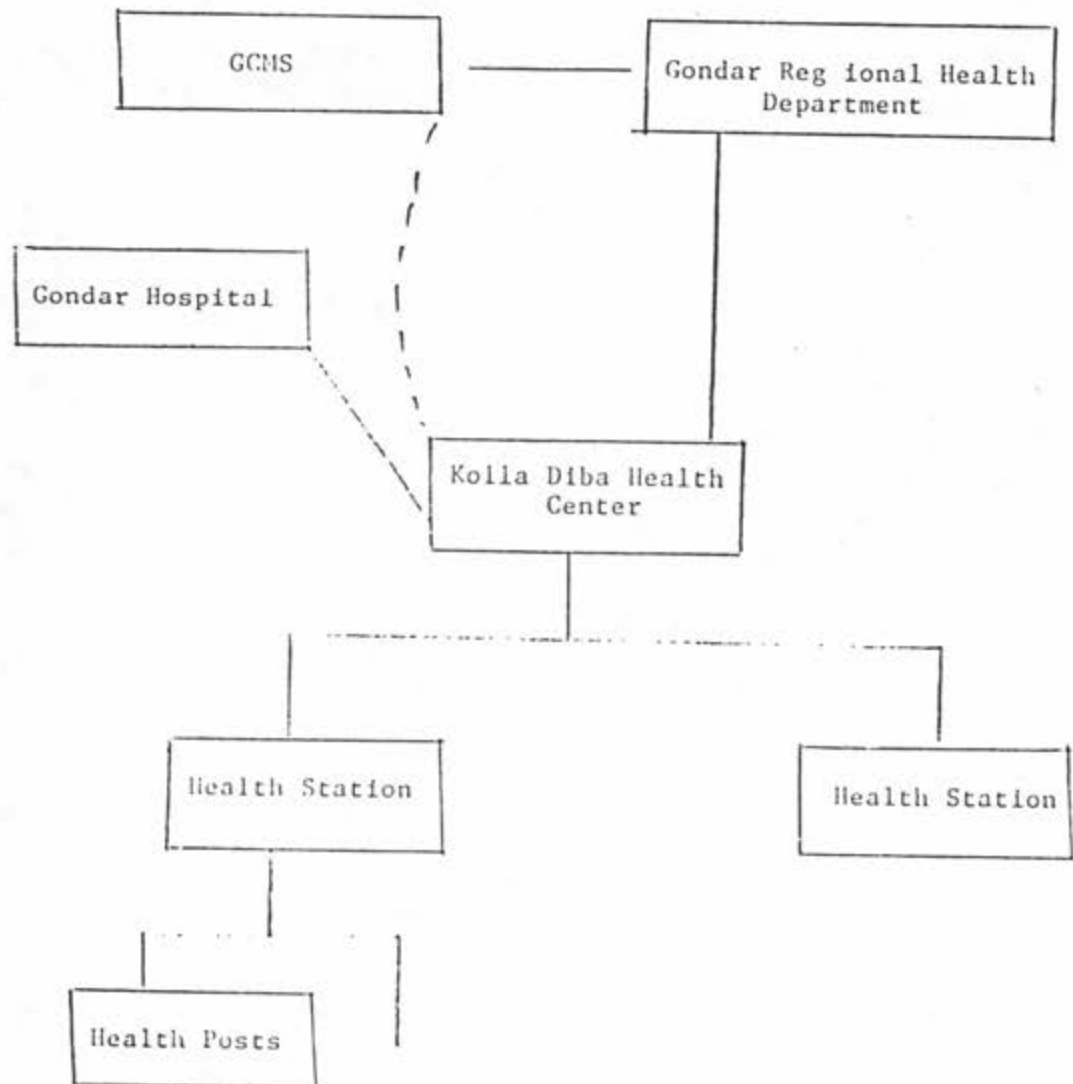
Public

Dr. Burton Bronsther
on behalf of SACOW



DATE: November 21, 1986

Structure of Health Delivery System





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Gondar College of Medical Sciences



ቁጥር Do/1978/9/88
Ref No

September 6, 1988

Burton Bronsther, M.D.
Surgical Aid to Children of the World
195 North Village Avenue
Rockville Center, New York 11570
USA

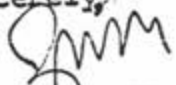
Dear Dr. Bronsther,

This document will serve as a formal request that the Board of Directors of SACOW implement a program of Pediatric Surgical Assistance in this country at the earliest possible date.

We will endeavor to cooperate and assist your staff in any supportive format that is mutually beneficial.

We look forward to an early response.

Sincerely,


Zein Ahmed Zein, M.D.
Dean





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

May 4, 1989
29 Nisan 5749

Mr. Yosef I. Abramowitz
Chairperson
and
Mr. Daniel Yossef
Executive Director
Reunify Ethiopian Jewry
c/o World Union of Jewish Students
P.O. Box 7914
Jerusalem 91077 Israel

Dear Messrs. Abramowitz and Yossef:

I have your various materials regarding the plight of Ethio-
pian Jewry and I write to advise that I have signed an in-
ternational petition which I return to you herewith. There
are a number of staff members here at the Union who have al-
ready signed this or similar petitions. It is a cause which
is very near and dear to our hearts. We are pleased to par-
ticipate.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

enc.

Dear

*Alf just write
say yes, great,
sign me up*

OK Please do



ח' אדר ב'
15.3.89

To Al

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

Sponsored by
The Committee
for Family
Reunification of
Ethiopian Jewry
Ethiopian Jewish
Students
Association
National Council
for Ethiopian
Jews in Israel
Beta Israel
Association
Association of
Ethiopian
Immigrants
World Union
of Jewish
Students

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Re: The Plight of Ethiopian Jewry

On behalf of the World Union of Jewish Students, we are pleased to enclose the Activist Campaign Kit for the Reunification of Ethiopian Jewry.

As you are no doubt aware from the recent reports, both media and official, the tragedy affecting this community is now reaching the desperate stage.

Together with the Ethiopian leadership in Israel, WUJS has launched a public campaign to prioritize and highlight this plight. Indeed, we believe that this should be the major concern of the Jewish world in general and of the Zionist community in particular.

As you can see from our enclosures, care has been taken to portray the Ethiopian community in a realistic rather than pathetic light. The campaign is a positive campaign and the title slogan "We are Family" indicates to the community and from the community the unity and joint purpose that should inspire us all.



NATIONAL UNION
OF ISRAEL
STUDENTS



EUROPEAN UNION
OF
JEWISH STUDENTS



USLA
FEDERACION
UNIVERSITARIA
JOWETA
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OF JEWISH STUDENTS



NORTH AMERICAN
JEWISH STUDENTS
NETWORK



SAJUS
SOUTH AFRICAN
UNION OF
JEWISH STUDENTS



WORLD
UNION
OF JEWISH
STUDENTS

Reunify Ethiopian Jewry c/o W.U.J.S. P.O. Box 7914 - Jerusalem - 91077 - ISRAEL
Telephone 02-637482 / 02-639314

In sharing this information (which is currently being promoted in 15 countries around the world) with you, we would like to bring your attention to the petition and the bracelet project in particular.

The Petition: Conceived by Hanan Aynor, Israel's last ambassador to Ethiopia and approved jointly by the WUJS Executive and the leadership of the Ethiopian community, the petition has been endorsed by a majority in Israel's Government and Knesset (see reverse side of kit folder). This legitimacy should pave the way for a united effort for a public campaign.

The Adoption Bracelet Project: Enclosed in the kit is a complementary bracelet. The bracelets are made from sterling silver with real leather straps. They come with the name and address of an Ethiopian youth/student whose family remains left behind in Ethiopia. It is interesting to note that the Ethiopians themselves make these bracelets.

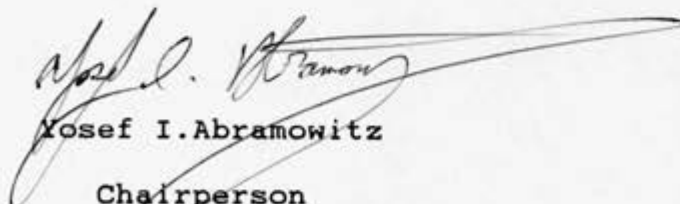
By adopting Ethiopian youth, the public campaign develops a personal dimension allowing for many positive dynamics including the fact that via correspondence the Ethiopian youth do not feel so isolated, their pain is tangibly shared and the diaspora communities who are removed from the miracle of this Aliyah can themselves be inspired.

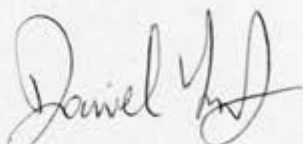
We are turning to you, as a member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization, with a view to cooperating and advancing the goals of this campaign. We welcome your feedback on the enclosed material and would be happy to supply further information (such as bracelet costs including group rates) on request.

In addition, we would like to add your name as a signatory to the International petition and have enclosed a petition sheet (for this purpose) for you to sign and return to us. Your name will then be published along with the other Jewish leaders in the future.

We look forward to your response.

בברכה


Josef I. Abramowitz
Chairperson


Daniel Yossef
Executive Director

We are family!

Sponsored by
Committee for Family Reunification
Beta Israel
Association of Ethiopian Immigrants
Association of Ethiopian Students
National Council for Ethiopian Jews
World Union of Jewish Students

"If on the campuses throughout the world, the World Union of Jewish Students undertakes to carry out an activist policy for Ethiopian Jewry, as it has done with relation to Soviet Jewry, the movement for the reunification in Israel of Ethiopian Jewish families, will, I am certain, be very considerably strengthened."

Speech by **President Chaim Herzog** to the International Jewish Students Conference on Ethiopian Jewry.

Activist Campaign Kit



*Together we can bring
our family home!*

We the undersigned Members of Knesset and Chief Rabbis of Israel appeal to the government of Ethiopia to express our shock and deep concern about the plight of Ethiopian Jews who are denied the right to join their children, fathers and mothers living in other countries.

Ethiopia, as co-signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, is obliged to abide by its clause permitting and assisting the unification of families separated by migration. This principle is accepted and respected by all civilized governments and members of the international community of nations.

We implore the government of Ethiopia to heed the Biblical supplication:

"Let my People Go"

Yitzhak Navon - Deputy Prime Minister	Geula Cohen (Tehiya)	
Haim Bar-Lev - Minister of Police	Haim Corfu (Likud)	Avraham Poraz (Shinui)
Arye Der'i - Minister of Interior	Eli Dayan (Ma'arach)	Menahem, Porush (Agudat Israel)
Rafael Edri - Minister without Portfolio	Shlomo Dayan (Shas)	Haim Ramon (Ma'arach)
Mordechai Gur - Minister without Portfolio	Sara Doron (Likud)	Reuven Rivlin (Likud)
Ronnie Milo - Minister of Environment	Arye Eliav (Ma'arach)	Amnon Rubinstein (Shinui)
Dan Meridor - Minister of Justice	Gedaliah Gal (Ma'arach)	Yehoshua Saguy (Likud)
Yitzhak Haim Peretz - Minister of Absorption	Pessah Grupper (Likud)	Yossi Sarid (Citizen's Rights Mvmt)
Yitzhak Rabin - Minister of Defense	Shmuel Halpert (Agudat Yisrael)	Shimon Shetreet (Ma'arach)
Avner Hai Shaki - Minister without Portfolio	Micha Harish (Ma'arach)	Dov Shilansky (Likud) - Speaker of Knesset
Moshe Shahal - Minister of Energy	Yigael Hurvitz (Likud)	Dan Tichon (Likud)
Yaakov Tsur - Minister of Health	Yisrael Kessar (Ma'arach)	Yair Tsaban (Mapam)
Ezer Weizman - Minister of Science	Yair Levy (Shas)	Yoash Tsiddon (Tsomet)
Gad Yaakobi - Minister of Communications	Yitzhak Levy (Nat. Religious Party)	Avraham Verdiger (Agudat Yisrael)
Aharon Abuhatzera (Likud)	David Libai (Ma'arach)	Eliezer Waldman (Tehiya)
Shulamit Aloni (Citizen's Rights Mvmt.)	Uriel Linn (Likud)	Shevah Weiss (Ma'arach)
Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino (Ma'arach)	Ora Namir (Ma'arach)	Emanuel Zisman (Ma'arach)
Yosef Azran (Shas)	Yuval Ne'eman (Tehiya)	Dedi Tzucker (C.R.M.)
Uzi Baram (Ma'arach)	Binyamin Netanyahu (Likud)	HaRav A. Shapira Ashkenazi Ch. Rabbi
Binyamin Ben Elizer (Ma'arach)	Yehuda Perah (Likud)	R. Mordechai Eliyahu Sephardi Ch. Rabbi
Yigal Bibi (Nat. Religious Party)	Amir Peretz (Ma'arach)	Rabbi Ovadia Yosef - Rishon le Tzion
Avraham Burg (Ma'arach)	Hanan Porat (N.R.P.)	



THE SILENCE IS CRIMINAL



Jerusalem Post, Tuesday October 17, 1988

Daily, we receive letters which cry out with pain and sorrow. The letters speak of death and famine. Our relatives plead with us to bring them to Jerusalem.

Yet you remain silent.

The letters speak of women who are alone, children who are starving, and villages which are vanishing.

Yet for over four years our families have been abandoned by silence, and condemned to slowly disappear through death and deprivation. Once again, the crime of silence which was perpetrated during the Holocaust is being repeated. The Jewish community which has been inflicted with this silence is Ethiopian Jewry.

In our efforts to reunite our families we approached the leadership of American Jewry. Our plea was to take a more public stance on behalf of our families. During the September meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), in New York, the issue of Ethiopian Jewry was discussed. However, a session chaired by a member of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) chose to quash any attempts to create any public activity on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry.

We ask why?

Ironically, this silence is justified by the desire not to repeat the same mistake that halted Operation Moses. Therefore Jewish leadership has determined to maintain complete confidentiality in all aspects regarding Ethiopian Jewry. The problem with this logic is that it is backwards. Operation Moses was halted solely because irresponsible leaders leaked details of a secret rescue operation.

This outdated logic is condemning Ethiopian Jewry for a second time. It is irrational to equate the publicizing of a secret rescue operation with the creation of a public campaign promoting the humanitarian right of family reunification.

As leaders of the Ethiopian community in Israel, we implore American Jewry to create a public campaign. This campaign will only stress the humanitarian right of family reunification for Ethiopian Jewry. It is not designed to criticize Israel. And, the campaign is also not intended to release any sensitive information. Unfortunately our appeal has fallen on deaf ears.

This situation can be rectified. We believe the leaders of the Jewish Agency, its board of governors, can change the current policy impasse. Let us do away with the closed-door, confidential briefings. Let us not rely solely on quiet diplomacy or on the Joint Distribution Committee's non-sectarian aid in Ethiopia. The new leaders of the Jewish Agency, led by Simcha Diniz and Mendel Kaplan, have shown a readiness to change in many fields. We urge you to take upon yourselves the responsibility for creating a public campaign for the reunification of Ethiopian Jewry.

Positive lessons must be learned from the campaign for Soviet Jewry. The unique intertwining of quiet diplomacy and public advocacy has proven very effective. The government of Ethiopia must be made publicly aware of Ethiopian Jewry's humanitarian right to family reunification. Diplomatic efforts will only be enhanced if the Ethiopian government realizes that the state of Israel and Diaspora Jewry fully support a public campaign on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry.

Ask yourselves a simple question.

Do you know where your children or spouses are at this very moment? Are they safe? Are you sure? If for just one moment you twinged and thought about calling them, think about us. For over four years we have anguished over the guilt of leaving family behind in Ethiopia. If your family member was in danger, you would do everything possible to rescue them.

Our appeal now is not for money, but for partnership in completing the reunification of our families. The leaders of American Jewry constantly state their support for the reunification of Ethiopian Jewry. However, lip service is no longer acceptable.

A confidential memo, distributed in the Washington D.C. area to rabbis and community leaders by the United Jewish Appeal/Federation and the Jewish Community Council, clearly stated that "discussion and advocacy (for Ethiopian Jewry) must have a low to zero profile." This statement illustrates the national policy of the CJF and NJCRAC.

Is this not irresponsible leadership? This analysis of the current situation regarding Ethiopian Jewry is based on the situation that existed in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and not with the reality of 1988. A public

campaign is still equated with "Israel bashing." The reality is exactly the opposite. We are creating a public campaign that is focused solely on the humanitarian right of the reunification of our families.

During the recent CJF meetings, the issue debated was not the merits of a full-scale public campaign. No demonstrations were debated. No vigils or lecture tours were discussed. Not even the issue of protesting outside the Ethiopian Embassy. No, these were not the controversial items debated. The debate centred on whether to support an international petition on behalf of family reunification. The petition reads as follows:

"We the undersigned... from all walks of life appeal to the government of Ethiopia to express our shock and deep concern about Ethiopian Jews who are denied their rights to join their children, fathers and mothers living in other countries.

"Ethiopia, as a co-signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, is obliged to abide by its clause permitting and assisting the unification of families separated by migration - a principal accepted and respected by all civilized governments and members of the international community of nations.

"We implore the government of Ethiopia to heed the biblical supplication:

"Let My People Go."

This petition was drafted with the assistance of ambassador Hanan Aynor, who served for many years as a diplomat in Africa and was Israel's last envoy to Ethiopia. This petition was rejected by American Jewish organizations, because they felt "it would arouse a negative response in the Ethiopian leadership." (*The Jerusalem Post*, "U.S. Jewish groups oppose Ethiopian Jews campaign," September 16, 1988).

Did Diaspora Jewry ask the Soviet Union every time it organized a march or a petition campaign on behalf of Natan Sharansky or Ida Nudel? Were they concerned with Soviet sensitivities? The answers are obviously no. The most basic act of heightening awareness, signing a petition, was rejected. Have these Jewish leaders no moral conscience?

In the early 1960's the Jewish establishment tried to prevent a public campaign to promote the aliya of Soviet Jewry. Is history repeating itself?

A basic humanitarian right is being denied Ethiopian Jewry. Our families are divided! This act of forced separation must be rectified immediately. More than 15,000 Jews remain in Ethiopia. How long can you remain silent?

Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur has told us many times that Ethiopian Jewry has a legitimate right and obligation to demonstrate and speak out on behalf of our families. Do Israelis and Diaspora Jewry have any less right or obligation?

The board of governors of the Jewish Agency can make a major difference. A clear policy mandate must be given to support an international public campaign on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry. However, as a first step, approving the petition and mandating Uri Gordon, head of the Aliyah Department, to actively distribute it, will be a very positive change. This will send a clear message to Diaspora Jewish organizations and volunteer groups in Israel that the time has come to speak out on the humanitarian right of family reunification for Ethiopian Jewry.

This is the type of creativity and boldness which is needed in 1988 in order to save Ethiopian Jewry. The current thought process which exists within Diaspora Jewish leadership will doom our families to exile and death. As a community, we are united on this stand. Now let us work together as partners. Let us be proud of our efforts, public and quiet, which will enable Ethiopian Jewry to achieve its long lost dream of returning to Zion.

Shlomo Mula, Chairman
Ethiopian Jewish Students Association
Rachamim Elazar, Chairman
National Council for Ethiopian Jews in Israel
Uri Tekele, Chairman
Beta Israel Association
Yisrael Yitzhak, Chairman
Association of Ethiopian Immigrants





מצע אשקלון למען יהודי אתיופיה

מצע אשקלון הנו הצהרה של הוועידה הבינלאומית הראשונה של הסטודנטים היהודים בנושא יהודי אתיופיה, שנערכה באשקלון בין ה-3-5 בינואר 1988, י"ג ט"ו בטבת תשמ"ח.

אי אפשר!

■ הוועידה.

- (1) קוראת למדינת ישראל וליהדות העולם להעמיד את מצוקת יהודי אתיופיה בראש סולם העדיפויות.
- (2) קוראת לסטודנטים היהודיים ולמנהיגים בעולם כולו להעלות את הבעיה האתיופית לפני ממשלותיהם.
- (3) קוראת לארגונים ולמנהיגים היהודיים לפעול בדרך של מדיניות שקטה והן בפעילות צבורית.
- (4) מדגישה את ההכרה הבינלאומית בזכות ההומניטרית של אחרד משפחות כאלמנט מרכזי במסע ההסברה הצבורי בנושא יהודי אתיופיה.
- (5) קוראת לממשלת אתיופיה לכבד את הזכות הבסיסית של כל אדם להגר מכל מדינה, כולל מדינתם.
- (6) קוראת ליהדות העולם להכיר באסירים היהודים האתיופים כאסירי ציון ולקרא לשחרורם המדי.
- (7) קוראת לכל הארגונים והגופים המטפלים בבעיית יהודי אתיופיה, כולל ממשלת ישראל והתאחדות העולמית של הסטודנטים היהודים, להתאחד למען הקמת ארגון נג לפעול בבעיה זו.
- (8) קוראת לממשלת ישראל, לסוכנות היהודית, להסתדרות הציונית העולמית ולשאר הארגונים היהודיים בעולם לממן תוכניות חינוכיות אשר יבהירו את מחויבותם של יהודי אתיופיה ליהדות, לציונות ולעם היהודי.
- (9) מכירה בייחודו של המסורת והתרבות של יהודי אתיופיה וקוראת לפעול לשמירתו.
- (10) קוראת למיזוג וקליטה של יהודי אתיופיה בארץ.
- (11) קוראת להתאחדות העולמית של הסטודנטים היהודים ליום מסע הסברה סטודנטיאלי עולמי למען יהודי אתיופיה.
- (12) אנו, המשתתפים בוועידה הבינלאומית הראשונה של הסטודנטים היהודיים בנושא יהודי אתיופיה, מצהירים על התחייבותנו לפעול במטרה לקדם את מצע אשקלון.





We are family!



There are at least 15,000 Jews currently trapped in Ethiopia and more than 1,000 Ethiopian children living in Israel without their parents. At the time of their Aliya the Ethiopian youth hoped to be shortly reunited with their parents and relatives. Today, this hope has turned to despair.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Contact the number listed below and get involved!

- * Purchase a bracelet and adopt an Ethiopian student.
- * Sign the international petition.
- * Pressure your government to lobby for family reunification.

Together we can bring our family home!



WHY A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN?

Having dealt with Ethiopian-African affairs for the last 30 years at the Foreign Ministry and now at the Truman Institute of the Hebrew University, and having served as Israel's last Ambassador to Addis Ababa, I shall try and summarize my opinion on the matter of the rescue of the remaining Beta Israel (Falasha's) in Ethiopia.

1. Nothing should be done at this juncture without the open or tacit consent of the Ethiopian authorities.
2. Considering that Ethiopia is governed by a military Junta with strong ideological and military ties to the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc of nations, and that ...
3. Ethiopia is again exposed to a grave famine situation in the North-West - in the Wollo, Tigray and Erytrea provinces. Like in former years, Ethiopia expects to receive Western help and food shipments of about 350 million US\$ for its starving population. Part of these shipments have been diverted, in the past, to feed the Army and also have been sold on the black market. The Ethiopian government used these shipments as a tool to control an unruly rural population.
4. During the last five months Ethiopia's military situation has gravely deteriorated. At the end of April, an Army group of about two divisions reinforced by support units has been defeated by Erytrea forces near the region of NAFKA. Rumours claim losses of about ten thousand killed and important quantities of tanks, artillery and arms lost; the commanding

general arrested and possibly executed. A national emergency was declared and students and highschool pupils were mobilized into the armed services. About two months ago, Tigrinean Rebel Forces conquered the famous town of AXUM in central Ethiopia. On the Southern border with Somalia in the OGADEN, as among the Muslim affair in the Galla populations exists much unrest but not yet open rebellion.

5. Being afraid that permitting the unification of Jewish families could affect their relations with their pro-communist Muslim-Arab allies (South Yemen - Lybia) the Ethiopian government has been intransigent to our pleas and requests.
6. Prestroika. The New Soviet policy as elaborated and implemented by Gorbachev, added another new and vital complication to Ethiopian difficulties. The Soviets are cutting their foreign political and military obligations to a minimum in Asia and Africa. They are leaving Afghanistan and are disengaging from Cambodia. Their Cuban allies retreat from Angola, and Mozambique signed agreements with South Africa. The Head of the Ethiopian ruling Junta, Mengistu Haile Mariam secretly visited Moscow last month. It seems that the Soviet Block will not put an immediate stop to its Ethiopian involvement, but will gradually reduce its expenditure. Informed circles believe that this year the Soviet Block will cut by 20% its military assistance of about 800 million U.S. Dollars by reducing

personnel and arms deliveries.

7. The Ethiopian government reacted to its changed internal and external situation by sending informal, non-publicised missions to Western States explaining their readiness to cooperate economically and politically by opening Ethiopia to Western investments, etc. Actually Ethiopian authorities are looking desperately for a Western replacement of the reduced Soviet presence.
8. This is the historic moment to mobilise Western public opinion through a well-organized and advertised petition addressed to the Ethiopian government - directed to arouse widespread interest in the plight of Ethiopian Jewry.
9. It is proposed that large Jewish service organizations spearhead the petition on a local and national level. The petition should then be presented to the Ethiopian Embassy and to the National foreign ministries for action.
10. We consider a well-organized international petition campaign capable of sensitizing Western public opinion and creating its own political momentum and will finally oblige Ethiopian authorities to consider conciliatory attitudes towards our request for family unification.

Hanan S. Aynor



Hanan S. Aynor Photography by Ann Gassenheimer





Co-Director: ALBERT VORSPAN
Co-Director & Counsel:
RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN

From: Rabbi David Saperstein
To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Re: Your upcoming meeting with Shimon Peres and Ethiopian Jewry concerns

Please share the following information with Prime Minister Peres:

RESETTLEMENT

Art Fost, one of our REAP doctors who recently returned from Ethiopia, told us about witnessing peasants being loaded onto transport helicopters at the Gondar airport. He felt certain that these people were being forcibly relocated as part of the Ethiopian "resettlement" program. This was one of the first concrete indications of the resettlement program affecting people in the Gondor region. (See enclosed article for background on the general resettlement program).

His report, now substantiated by reliable U.S. government information that as many as 50,000 people have already been deported from the Gondar region, is cause for serious concern. Most alarmingly, resettlement has reached Adis Zemen which is less than 20 miles from the Jewish villages.

Although we do not have any information that suggests that any Ethiopian Jews have been resettled as of this time, we are very concerned over the increase of this activity near the area where Ethiopian Jews live.

Our concern is two-fold. First, as the enclosed article indicates, as many as 100,000 Ethiopians have died in the resettlement process. That is tragic enough. We don't want the Jews caught up in it. Secondly, given the lightening speed with which the resettlement program is implemented, thousands of Jews could suddenly be dispersed to remote regions, making rescue much more difficult and subjecting the Jews to an uncertain fate.

It is not clear whether the Israelis are fully aware of this development.

(SEE NEW DEVELOPMENT ON BOTTOM OF NEXT PAGE)

CANADIAN REUNIFICATION INITIATIVE

The Israelis have been using the Swedish government to serve as their negotiator with the Ethiopian government on allowing the remaining Ethiopian Jews to be reunited with their families in Israel, as guaranteed by international law. So far the Swedes, like other governments before them, have been unsuccessful.

Currently, experts are suggesting that the Canadians can be effective in such efforts since they have a particularly good relationship with the Ethiopians. Canada is the one country that has supplied Ethiopia with large amounts of aid without criticizing their "resettlement" activity.

The Canadians seem to be waiting, however, for a clearer sign from the Israeli government that they would like the Canadians to serve as a negotiator in the family reunification process. (See the enclosed letter from Prime Minister Mulroney).

It may be that the Israelis feel that the Ethiopians will not be receptive no matter who asks them. That may be true, but at a time of such urgency there does not seem much downside risk from trying.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

A TRAVELER JUST RETURNED FROM GONDAR. WHILE HE WAS THERE HE WENT TO THE JEWISH VILLAGE OF ATEGE. HE WAS TOLD BY MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE THAT 80 JEWS FROM ATTEGE HAD BEEN FORCIBLY RESETTLED BY THE GOVERNMENT. WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS WHEN ONE OF OUR DOCTORS RETURN NEXT WEEK.

Shmuel Stein



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE
Ottawa, K1A 0A2
January 9, 1986

Dear Lloyd,

I would like to thank you very much for your letter of August 15 regarding Canadian assistance in the reunification of families of Ethiopian Jews.

Canadians were touched by the plight of the Ethiopian Jews who had sought refuge in Sudan last year. At that time, our country received approximately fifty Jewish refugees who had opted for reunification with families in Canada. With respect to the Jews still in Ethiopia (according to our information, the number is closer to 5,000), we have made arrangements with the Jewish Immigration Aid Society (JIAS) in order to facilitate the immigration to Canada of those who wish to do so.

It is our understanding, however, that most have expressed the wish to resettle in Israel. While we are prepared to approach the Ethiopian government on those cases which affect Canada, we do not think that either party, in this case the Ethiopian and Israeli governments, would welcome Canadian intervention. This, in fact, has already been indicated to us by those concerned.

I would like to thank you for making me aware of your concerns. Let me assure you that we will continue to monitor the situation very closely and do what we can, as appropriate, to assist in re-unification.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Lloyd Crouse, P.C., M.P.,
Room 558-D,
Centre Block,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0A6

Ethiopians Risk Lives Fleeing Resettlement

Escapees to Sudan Tell of Deaths, Degradation in Two Countries

By Blaine Harden
Washington Post Foreign Service

ED DAMAZIN, Sudan—The dismal odyssey of the young Ethiopian mother began last spring with a false promise of free food.

That promise lured Letehawaria Gebre Yessus into a trip that took her from the highlands of northern Ethiopia to a swampy resettlement camp in its southwestern corner. Late in February, after an escape journey of three months, she found her way here to a refugee camp in the thorn-tree badlands of eastern Sudan.

En route, she said, she was forced by Ethiopian soldiers to abandon her two children, and she watched her husband die of disease in a crowded transit camp. After fleeing Ethiopia, she said, she was robbed, beaten, raped and held as a slave by Sudanese rebels.

The woman's story, which she quietly told in the shade of a refugee tent, echoes those of many of the nearly 1,000 Ethiopian refugees here who have fled the resettlement program that the Ethiopian government insists is the only possible long-term solution to chronic famine in the country.

Nearly 600,000 northern Ethiopians have been moved south by the program since November 1984. When it began, Tamrat Kebede, the Ethiopian official responsible for designing the program, said in an interview in Addis Ababa that the resettlement would be voluntary, that families would not be split and that each family would be given about five acres of land to farm privately.

Tamrat said then that these conditions would guarantee the human rights and self-respect of resettled famine victims, and would ensure needed grass-roots support.

But interviews here with escapees from resettlement camps, along with the reports of researchers and relief workers who have conducted random surveys among refugees, indicate that the Ethiopian government has widely violated and ignored its preset conditions.

As Ethiopia's famine abates, the resettlement program continues, with a goal of moving 1.5 million people by the end of this year. The program has become by far the most contentious issue between Marxist Ethiopia and the western governments and private relief organizations that supply most of its famine assistance.

The Ethiopian government temporarily suspended the resettlement program at the end of last month in response to criticism from western aid donors. The suspension, to last an indefinite period, was ordered "for a period of consolidation and to digest what they have already done," a senior western aid official in Addis Ababa told United Press International last weekend.

According to western aid officials in the Ethiopian capital, the final 1,000 resettlers arrived in Asosa from Welo Province in the last week of February. Ethiopian government officials, while not officially announcing the suspension, said last week that internal and external criticism has forced a government review of resettlement. But western aid officials say that it was primarily outside donor criticism that forced the suspension.

While Italy and Canada have given money specifically to support resettlement, most other donors have expressed reservations. The United States, by far the largest food donor, has condemned the program as a diversion of resources better spent in the famine-affected north. A French-based relief agency, Doctors Without Borders, was expelled from Ethiopia last fall for charging that up to 100,000 persons had died as a result of resettlement.

Most critics of resettlement contend that it has a political, not a humanitarian, aim: to depopulate the rebel-dominated north, where the government has been unable for nearly a quarter century to impose military control.

The Ethiopian government has admitted to some abuses in the program by "overzealous local officials." But it maintains that the idea of moving famine victims from the drought-razed northern highlands to the fertile southwestern lowlands is sound. The Soviet-supported rulers have dismissed most criticism of resettlement as motivated by western, anti-Marxist ideology disguised as humanitarian concern. At the same time, the Ethiopian government strictly restricts outside access to resettlement areas.

The stories told here in this two-month-old refugee camp come not from outsiders but from peasant farmers from the Welo and Tigray regions of northern Ethiopia. In 13 separate interviews here, they told a consistent story, details of which are supported by earlier interviews in Ethiopia with relief officials.

Most of the refugees said they were "tricked" into gathering in northern villages by government-circulated promises that the "Red Cross" would be distributing free food. Many left their children behind, thinking that they would soon be coming back home. However, they were surrounded by Ethiopian soldiers and loaded onto buses or helicopters bound for transit camps. Several refugees said they saw soldiers shoot and kill farmers who tried to run away.

The settlers described several weeks in transit camps, with shortages of food, water and medical

(more)

Resettlement (continued)



BY BRAD WYLLIE—THE WASHINGTON POST

care, as well as many deaths from illness. They then were packed into Soviet Antonov transport planes or buses for the 600- to 700-mile journey south to resettlement sites near Asosa and Gambela. Several said that people who became critically ill during the bus ride south were hauled out of the buses and abandoned at roadsides.

In Gambela and Asosa, lowland areas where more than 145,000 people have been resettled in scores of new villages in the past 16 months, the refugees said there were chronic shortages of food, clothes and shelter. Many said they became ill with malaria, a disease they had no experience with in the northern highlands.

Party cadre and soldiers, the refugees said, forced the settlers to clear land and build houses, enforcing discipline by beating and imprisoning those who refused to work. In Asosa and Gambela, refugees said they were forced to work on cooperative farms and were allowed little time to tend their small gardens.

Gebre Selassie, 24, a political refugee here who said he worked in Asosa for the Ethiopian government as a medical assistant, supported the accounts of many refugees by saying that the major health problem in the camps was malnutrition.

"Most of the people in the camps were sick because of hunger. They were not given enough food," said Gebre Selassie. He said most settlers were given about a pound of corn a day at Asosa, an amount nutritionists say is insufficient to maintain body weight while doing heavy work.

Refugees here said they were warned frequently by party cadre against trying to escape from the camps. In weekly "political education" meetings, the cadre warned settlers of Ethiopian soldiers who would shoot them, of wild animals in nearby jungles and of allegedly cannibalistic tribesmen across the nearby Sudanese border.

Yet, between last November and the first of this year, the refugees estimate that about 3,000 Ethiop-

ians tried to escape from Gambela and Asosa. They said many were captured inside the border and that some drowned trying to cross rivers into Sudan.

Letehawaria, the 27-year-old mother of two whose husband died in transit before reaching Gambela, was one of several hundred women captured by Sudanese rebel soldiers, believed by relief officials here to belong to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which controls nearby areas of southern Sudan.

According to several of these women who arrived here last month, the Sudanese rebel soldiers raped them and forced them to live for a month as slaves in Sudanese villages. Relief officials believe these men were members of the Dinka tribe, which dominates that region of Sudan.

The SPLA, which receives arms and funding from the Ethiopian government, also extorted money from many of the fleeing Ethiopians, stole their clothes and forced some of them back to resettlement camps, the refugees said.

Those who eluded or later escaped the rebel soldiers have been brought here to Ed Damazin by the Sudanese military. They are temporarily under the care of the Fellowship for African Relief, a small Canadian relief agency. The U.N. refugee commission in Khartoum says many of them soon will be transported north and allowed to return across the border into rebel-held areas of Ethiopia.

Like many of his fellow resettlement escapees, Yibrán Alemayeh, 54, said he wants to find his wife and six children. He said soldiers rounded him up a year ago in the Tigrayan city of Adua. If he cannot find his family, Yibrán says he will join the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which has been fighting the Ethiopian government for more than a decade.

AUS
(from
Mace
Lover)

file -
Ethiopian papers



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The Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia

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ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
AND SACOW(SURGICAL AID FOR CHILDREN OF THE WORLD)

March 7, 1986

Agreement Between Addis Ababa University
and SACOW (Surgical Aid for Children of the World)

According to mutual previous contacts and discussions, the Gondar College of Medical Sciences agrees to a formal relationship with SACOW, a non-denominational medical aid organization with programs in many Third World countries. This relationship will extend for a period of two years subject to evaluation within the first year. During this time, there will be one SACOW physician in residence, on a rotating basis, at the Gondar College of Medical Sciences. In addition, 12 medical specialists will be supplied by SACOW and they will work in Addis or Gondar as decided by the University.

They will participate in research projects in conjunction with their Ethiopian counterparts, as conceived by the College and/or guest scholars. Moreover, the scholars will involve in developing and supporting the following areas:

1. Strengthening research capability and infrastructure
2. Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition
3. Paramedic Training
4. Out-patient department organization and physical plant renovation
5. SACOW shall provide advice to the College pharmacy in producing formulary medications particularly intravenous fluids
6. Community health outreach involving medical student training at peripheral health care facilities
7. Possibility exists that one or two senior physicians selected by the University and SACOW jointly can be invited back to the United States as medical observers for various periods of time.

The activities are seen as complementary to the program and support currently provided by the University. In addition, the SACOW scholars may also be utilized as guest lecturers when requested by the medical faculty.

Moreover, AAU will purchase a four-wheel vehicle (Toyota Land Cruiser) for use by the SACOW personnel during their stay in Gondar with funds donated by SACOW. This vehicle will be donated to Gondar College of Medical Sciences with the understanding that the use of this vehicle shall be only for the use of SACOW personnel as long as this agreement lasts.

On their part, the Gondar College of Medical Sciences agrees to provide suitable housing for the visiting SACOW health workers, including cooking and washing support.

In addition the Addis Ababa University will expedite residence permits, travelling papers, and other immigration formalities, as well as transport within the country.

There will be a mutual re-evaluation of the program at some time during the first year.

It is anticipated that this relationship will be mutually rewarding and enjoyable.

Dr. Aregay Waktola
on behalf of AAU

Aregay Waktola



Zein Ahmed
Associate Dean on behalf of
Gondar College of Medical Sciences

Zein Ahmed

Dr. Burton Bronsther
on behalf of SACOW

Burton Bronsther MD

ETHIOPIAN JEWRY UPDATE

Report prepared by
Mace Levin

March 9th, 1986

CONFIDENTIAL -- DO NOT DISTRIBUTE
This report contains extremely sensitive information

March 7, 1986

TO: Gondar College of Medical Sciences
FROM: SACOW

Recognizing that our faculty are donating their services free of charge and staying away from their friends and families for a five week period, we ask for the commitment on the part of the Medical School to provide:

1. An adequate apartment located nearby the Hospital. The one presently furnished is totally adequate.
2. Furnish and install necessary equipment to make stove now in apartment suitable for use.
3. Supply and install necessary equipment to:
 - a. Provide an adequate supply of hot water for shower and sink.
 - b. Increase water pressure if possible.
 - c. Screen all windows.
 - d. Provide electrical outlet on wall of living room.
 - e. Provide reading lamps for living room and bedrooms.
 - f. New and adequate toilet bowl.
 - g. Provide a curtain for the shower.
 - h. Provide mirrors for the bathroom and both bedrooms.
 - i. Have two twin beds in each bedroom with mattresses, etc.
 - j. Provide adequate cushion plus more comfortable and better looking chairs.
4. Provide adequate sheets, mattress covers, blankets, pillows and pillow cases, and towels and washcloths to make bed spare sets.
5. The School will locate and pay a woman to provide the following services:
 - a. Cleaning
 - b. Shopping for food
 - c. Cooking
 - d. Laundry and ironing
6. Provide a bookshelf to hold radio, tapes, books and magazines.
7. SACOW should provide music and video tape facilities plus library

1. Mission was very successful and by the end of the trip, everything seemed to fall into place. To our surprise, we even began to be treated like VIP's.

2. New Contract

A. REASONS THINGS WENT WELL:

- 1) Relatively good past relations with previous medical personnel.
- 2) Ed Billowitz, and the type of person that he is, built their confidence in us and our program.
- 3) The high caliber of our two present personnel and their caring way of performing their job. They know no time clock; they never lose their cheerfulness; although they have been there less than one week, they are totally at home with everyone including knowing all their patients and their illnesses.
- 4) The basic concept of SACOW as so ably represented and explained by Dr. Burt Brousther, and by his wife, Ellen, excited the top personnel at both medical schools in Gondar and in Addis.
- 5) The University began to realize what a really great deal we were offering them.
- 6) Our programs were tailor-made to meet their specific needs.
- 7) Many of their people were educated in the States and all respected American medicine and truly liked American people.
- 8) The knowledge of how helpful the U.S. and the American people were, and continue to be, during the famine.

B. REASONS THINGS ALMOST WENT BADLY:

- 1) The political reality of life with Ethiopia as part of the Russian orbit and their viewing the United States as the enemy.
- 2) The feeling that all Americans are CIA.
- 3) The very deep personal concern for their own safety by all Ethiopian people, particularly top university personnel. They are very fearful that a failure in this program could cost them their jobs and much more-- i.e. their personal safety.
- 4) By the nature of their bureaucracy, they want to procrastinate on any decision and would normally have taken many more months to complete this contact.

5) The poverty of the country makes it very difficult for them to fund even small parts of the program that would be needed to become

WHAT ARE THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE CONTRACT?

1. We will furnish MD's qualified in clinical medicine on a 12 month basis (each for one to three months) to work in the outlying areas of Gondar. These doctors will also be involved with the hospital and the medical school in occasional roles of teaching, research and patient rounds.

2. We will furnish Medical Specialists as requested by the University to work within their areas of expertise at whichever medical center specified. These will be typical SACOW high-level MD specialist and also highly qualified people in other specialties such as nursing, lab technicians, therapy, pharmacology, etc. This will also cover a 12 month span, but will be delayed due to the need of recruiting the right people. Ethiopia is to furnish Dr. Brousther a list of the type of people wanted and when wanted. If personnel are requested to aid in the Medical School ACCREDITATION programs, we must be given notice in advance and these people will be counted against the 12 specialist.

WHAT TYPE OF PEOPLE SHOULD BE SENT TO GONDAR:

1. They must be well-qualified medically and Board-Certified or eligible. (We should have a doctor on selection panel.)
2. They must have a background in clinical medicine or emergency room, should be GP's, Internal Medicine or Pediatricians, for the most part.
3. They must be highly-disciplined and able to control their impulses and their emotions. They must be mature and know how to use good judgment and discretion.
4. They must have outstanding bedside manners, be truly caring, not easily upset if things go wrong and able to work under very difficult conditions.
5. They (and their wives, if along) can not be luxury-oriented. We should encourage wives, but not children. The wife must be part of the selection process and briefing.
6. They must be well-organized.
7. They should be the type of person who can put up with the many inconveniences of the country and of our program.
8. They must stay for at least one month plus travel time. We should plan on a two day orientation time in Addis at the beginning and a one day shopping day in Addis at the end.
9. They must be able to understand we are working under the rules of a different country, a different form of government and a different hospital than we are accustomed to having. Under absolutely no circumstance, shall we send anyone who can be a problem as that will very, very quickly endanger the program, the relationship between our two countries and our mission. We must double our search criteria and must include not only a medical background but also a suitable personality and other qualifications. I would recommend that either a suitable person or myself be used in addition, of course, to Glenn. At a later date, Glenn would select alternatives for the above.

WHERE CLINICS WILL BE HELD AND OTHER DETAILS:

1. Present plans call for clinics at Kalo Dibo, Teda on a regular basis, more distant locations on an occasional basis.
2. Clinics will be visited together with a medical student and/or a hospital doctor.
3. Driver will normally be furnished by the hospital.
4. At all times, we have to be careful of our relations with all hospital, medical school and university personnel and also the German doctors. Also let others initiate any relationship--professionally and personally.

SECURITY:

1. Our people will find it very difficult to work and live under a situation of the potential of constantly being observed and monitored. They must learn to be security-conscious, should talk out of doors, or if inside with music on loudly and then in a soft voice in a guarded way. There is no doubt that our actions, our conversations, our written words and our telephone calls are all being monitored.
2. This trip should have put to rest the masquerade of pretending to be Christian if our volunteer is Jewish. Dr. Brousther and I made it clear many times in many ways to many people, that SACOW is not a Jewish organization. We also stressed the combined projects and support from Christian organizations. Once we had said that often enough, we pointed out that many American doctors are Jewish, that Jews do care about their fellow human beings, and by the law of averages, we will have a considerable number of Jews among our volunteers. The inability of pretending otherwise became obvious when we realized the number of key Ethiopian personnel who had training in the States and particularly in NYC. I do not suggest that any Jewish person flaunt their religion with "Chais" or "Star of Davids." Visits to Falashan villages are OK as long as we have permission of Dr. Zein, do not hand out money (OK to buy lots of gift with no bargaining) and be very discrete in our conversations with Falashas.
3. Particularly bad security situations:
 - a) NTO personnel including drivers
(Party leaders who operate both within and outside of normal (law) (eth))
For example, the Dean of the medical school of Gondar, Dr. [redacted] now serves as the Communist Party Leader for the province. [redacted]
 - c) Major and even smaller hotels
 - d) Taxi drivers
 - e) Telephones

4. We should immediately move the Washington SACOW office. A telephone answering service plus P.O. Box might do.

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH RICH HOGES:

a) Not everyone should be given his name. On those occasions where his name is given, Rich should be notified in advance, only by diplomatic pouch and always in a plain envelope with no writing or printing on the outside except his name.

b) Rich has his own agenda and should be left alone for the most part. I respect and admire what he is doing.

c) He should be covered with copies of pertinent correspondence (always as noted through the unmarked envelope and the diplomatic pouch). He has a right and need to know what we are doing and he does want to know.

VEHICLE

1. A lot of frustrating time was spent trying to arrange for the purchase and delivery of the Toyota. We needed a party to whom it could be delivered that could legally avoid the tax, as well as one who would help us on the filing of papers, etc. The university fit all the requirements and finally consented through Dr. Areguy to handle it for us. It will be purchased either from Toyota Merrill in Djabioudi or Toyota Moen in Addis. The price will be in the neighborhood of \$17,000 to \$18 M and we are to telex the money when requested. Our contract protects our rights of usage. We are ordering the correct vehicle as agreed upon by the Gondar school, others and myself. We are also to order some spare parts.

VISAS

All new visas should be issued for either business or visiting scholars. Also we should be dealing with the university and not with NTO (trouble, trouble, trouble). The Ethiopian Embassy has been notified to proceed as fast as we procure personnel by the Minister of Foreign Affairs who phoned Washington while we were in his office

LETTERHEADS AND CALLING CARDS AND SACOW FOLDERS

1. New letterheads with new addresses should be ordered if we change.

2. Calling or business cards should be ordered with no imprinted name but with a space to write in names and should be furnished to overseas personnel. There would also like a few.

3. SACOW PR Folder is in need of update. (I believe Dr. Brousther is taking care of this.)

SOCIAL LIFE

1. Social life will be very limited and personnel should be aware of this in advance.
2. A good quality ~~relatively~~ safe for eating and modestly priced in Addis is the Castelli. Another excellent Italian restaurant is La Mamas, but it has no sign and is hard to find.
3. Dr. Zein has insisted that, at least at the beginning personnel in Gondar observe the following rules:
 - a) No evening socializing, particularly in our apartment with students
 - b) Get his approval for any visits to villages or outside Gondar (approval will be readily forthcoming).
 - c) Do not invite a lot of people in to see video movies (if any doubt, please discuss with Dr. Zein).
 - d) Relaxing of above rules will gradually occur as program matures.
 - e) Knowing the need of a social life, a cassette radio/combination and a VCR and TV monitor and some movies will be furnished by SACOW. It is further suggested that each new visitor take over a small supply of books, magazines, etc. (The latest Sunday NY Times, Newsweek or Time will also be appreciated.) that they should plan to leave for others. Also, they might bring a few of their favorite cassettes and plan to take them home when they leave.
 - f) Since most personnel will want to visit Falasha villages, I recommend that each person bring one or more collapsible bags to carry over empty and able to carry his or her purchases on the way home. They also should bring a very plentiful supply of bubble plastic wrap, some scotch tape and a small amount of light weight twine. Afterall, in addition to being medical personnel, we are tourists and should come prepared.
 - g) A worthwhile visit is to both the Main Market and the Spice Market in Addis. Have your cab driver accompany you to carry your packages and to shoo off the many "hanger ons." Also avoid people who take you over and want to take you to a favorite vendor. You must bargain. Be heartless and walk away after you make a ridiculously low offer which they will refuse. They will follow after you and will usually ultimately accept your offer. Try to get a receipt. The markets are worth seeing even if you buy nothing. There is also one store that has some potential named . The Handicraft Center is not worthwhile.
 - h) We should continue to warn people of the potential of diarrhea, particularly from water, ice cubes, vegetables and unpeeled fruit. The bottled water, the Coca Cola, when purchased and the local (from Addis) pretty good) are better. Be sure everyone has a supply of Tetracycline tablets. We had no use for the antibiotics, but the doctor says they are no good if all the people start to get diarrhea. (The doctor) with a returning doctor.

CAMERAS

Bring your favorite camera with a plentiful supply of film (at least 5 or 6 rolls of 36 exposures). If you plan to give talks, slides might be preferable. Foil protection bags to prevent X-Ray machine damage can be obtained at a camera store. Film is really scarce in Ethiopia.

There are areas where picture taking is forbidden and they mean it. My wife and I were detained for a few minutes by security personnel for taking pictures at the Spice Market. Airports and military installations are also non-subjects for picture taking.

Unless some one is addicted to a Polaroid, I do not recommend it. If you take a child's picture and give it to him, you will be eternally surrounded by hundreds of clamouring, screaming children.

The use of a portable video recorder is possible. Be certain you have sufficient tape and the adapters and plugs required for recharging.

TOWNS AND SIGHTSEEING

NTO is expensive unless they have sufficient tourist on any one trip. Try to get University or Hospital drivers and personnel to translate and explain. It will be a dollar saver plus it should prove more pleasant.

NTO cab drivers are all involved as security personnel plus are expensive. Be careful what you say, be certain of costs in advance and avoid these use when you can.

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

CO-CHAIRMAN,
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE
TASK FORCE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

401 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5341

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE:

SUITE 302
11141 GEORGIA AVENUE
WHEATON, MD 20902
(301) 946-8801
TTY (301) 946-0108

MICHAEL D. BARNES

8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
January 9, 1986

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

MEMBER, DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

MEMBER, INCOME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA

CHAIRMAN,
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

MEMBER, JUDICIARY AND
EDUCATION

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN,
WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

MEMBER, ARMS CONTROL, INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AND SCIENCE

MEMBER, ASIAN AND
PACIFIC AFFAIRS

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Thank you for your very kind letter regarding my work on
funding for refugee resettlement in Israel.

This work is so important, and particularly at this time
when Israel is absorbing the many Ethiopian Jews whose rescue
began just over a year ago. It is an extraordinary faith and
perseverance that brought them home to Israel. I hope that our
small contribution can help ease their way into a new life.

Sincerely,


Michael D. Barnes

MDB/lo



November 12, 1985

Mr. Barry M. Lutz
Director of Education
Temple Ahavat Shalom
18200 Rinaldi Place
Northridge, CA 91326

Dear Mr. Lutz:

I've just returned from the Biennial of the UAHC in Los Angeles. It was a very exciting time for all who attended and according to all reports, one of the finest conventions in history of the UAHC.

Your letter of October 29th and the contribution of \$180.00 from your religious school students awaited me on my return. I was deeply gratified by this wonderful gift from your students. Please express to one and all of them the heartfelt gratitude of all of us of the UAHC for their support of our Ethiopian Relief Project. Their contribution will be exceedingly helpful in this critical area of outreach to those who suffer from great hunger and deprivation.

With repeated thanks and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

A CONTEMPORARY REFORM CONGREGATION SERVING THE NORTH VALLEY



SOLOMON F. KLEINMAN, Rabbi
RAY ROBERTS, Cantor • GARY BACHLUND, Interim Cantor
BARRY LUTZ, Education Director
BUNNY LEVINE, Director, Early Childhood Education Center

October 29, 1985

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UAHC Ethiopia Relief
838 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

The crisis in Ethiopia is a continuing concern of our students. I hope this check for \$180.00 can be put to good use in helping solve this horrible problem. Our students have recognized their responsibility to all people in need of help. This money, raised by them, represents their hope of reaching out and helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Thank you for your important efforts in this cause.

b'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Barry M. Lutz', is written over the typed name.

Barry M. Lutz
Director of Education

BML/er

Encl. (check \$180.00)

gave check to AL.V

18200 RINALDI PLACE NORTHRIDGE CALIFORNIA 91326 • TEMPLE OFFICE 818 360-2258 • SCHOOL OFFICE 818 360-6349

PRESIDENT: DR. RICHARD SELIGMAN, VICE PRESIDENTS: PHYLLIS BASS, MARK FREEDMAN, ART HEISMAN, MARIAN MILMAN, SECRETARY: ABBEY SIKES, TREASURER: FRED KIMMEL, BOARD OF TRUSTEES: LEE ALPERT, BARBARA BERRY, STEVE BORDOFKY, SHARON BROOKS, CANEL GORDON, ROBERT GREENE, PAUL RATOFF, FRED ROTHENBERG, ESTHER SARITZKY, LAURA SOLOFF, MIKE WEINER, BROTHERHOOD: IRV LUCKS, SISTERHOOD: REGINA GOOZE, RUTH LUPUL, COUPLES CLUB: ELINOR & BUDDY BREGMAN, PAST PRESIDENTS: SAMUEL ALSTER, MAXWELL GOTTESMAN, GARY HIMLER, ALVAN JOFFE, HENRY KLINE, LEONARD WEBER, FRANCES KRIMSTON

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

August 14, 1985

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens
Administrative Secretary
CCAR
21 East 40th Street
New York, New York 10016

Dear Elliot:

Thank you for sending us two resolutions, the first on Ethiopian Jewry & World Hunger, the second on World Hunger which were passed at the Minneapolis Convention of the CCAR. You elicit our response, I don't know exactly what that means. Needless to say, they are in harmony with the positions taken by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at its conventions and as you know, we have acted on them in a not insignificant manner.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-0501 • (212) 684-4990

August 8, 1985

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
838 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex:

I enclose the text of resolutions adopted at the annual national convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, held this year in June in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I believe the subject will be of interest to you, and welcome your response. We intend to share responses to our resolutions with our membership.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens
Administrative Secretary

ELS:aio

Enc.

OFFICERS:

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Scarsdale, NY
Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman, *Vice President*
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Newton, MA

Rabbi Elliot L. Stevens, *Administrative Secretary*
New York, NY
Rabbi Sidney L. Regner, *Executive Vice President Emeritus*
New York, NY
Rabbi Jacob R. Marcus, *Honorary President*
Cincinnati, OH

ETHIOPIAN JEWRY & WORLD HUNGER

(Adopted at the 96th Annual Convention of the Central Conference
of American Rabbis, June 24-27, 1985, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

WHEREAS "Operation Moses" has served to heighten our awareness of the dire situation of our Ethiopian co-religionists remaining in Ethiopia and in refugee areas, and

WHEREAS even before the establishment of the State of Israel, the Jewish people's priority has been to return Diaspora Jews in peril to the Jewish homeland,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CCAR urges its members, UAHC constituent congregations, and all other Jewish organizations to continue to support all rescue efforts aimed at saving these Jews from starvation and persecution by bringing them to Israel. These efforts include the Joint Distribution Committee's food station at Gondar Province and the mitzvah projects of the UAHC and the congregational or family reunification program of the AAEJ. We further urge all congregations and Jewish organizations to give priority to this effort in the coming months.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we look to Israel to continue to facilitate its urgent and noble rescue of all Ethiopian Jews. We commend Israel, Prime Minister Peres, and former Prime Minister Begin for their efforts to fulfill the mitzvah of "redeeming captives," a matter of tzedakah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge support of the long and difficult task of resettlement and acculturation of this "saving remnant."

WORLD HUNGER

(Adopted at the 96th Annual Convention of the Central Conference
of American Rabbis, June 24-27, 1985, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

WHEREAS The stark tragedy of starvation and death that has plagued our world, and especially, in recent months, the victims of drought in North African nations, has appalled and grieved us, and

WHEREAS we are cognizant of this desperate situation,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we commend the outstanding work of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Social Action Commission of the UAHF and the CCAR, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the State of Israel in seeking to ameliorate the suffering of all Ethiopians, and particularly that of Ethiopian Jews.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CCAR pledge its continued support of those agencies and institutions that seek to eliminate hunger and want throughout the world. We further pledge to encourage the use of the resources of our congregations for preservation of life, and the distribution of stored grain and other foodstuffs available in our country and in other more affluent nations to the impoverished peoples of North Africa.

Elchop

August 12, 1985

Mr. Harry H. Hirschl
Post Office Box 2452
W. Lafayette, IN 47906

Dear Mr. Hirschl:

I agree with you fully and I have voiced a protest very much like yours and on the highest level of the Israeli Government. I'm glad you chose to do the very same thing.

The Israeli rabbinate has already modified its views slightly. Hopefully, they will go even further.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

for Joyce
Harry H. Hirschl
P. O. Box 2452, 106 Black Hawk Lane
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906

5 August 1985

To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President, UAH

Today's Wall Street Journal carried
this sentence on page one: "Ethiopian
Jews battled Israeli police over
demands that the Falashas officially
convert to Judaism under the Israeli
rabbinate policy, authorities said."

I find this conflict totally unjust.
Our Ethiopian brothers should not
be persecuted in Israel, after
their persecution in Ethiopia! What
a disgrace for Jewry everywhere.
I have written to the Israel consulate
in Chicago protesting this behavior.
I hope you can exert your influence
to stop it also.

H H Hirschl
Temple Israel
West Lafayette, Ind

Alexander M. Schindler

August 12, 1985

Mrs. Eve Marcus
35 Parkwood Drive
Kingston, RI 02881

Dear Mrs. Marcus:

Your letter of August 3 was received by the office of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhods and they were kind enough to share it with me. I write to express my appreciation to you for taking the time to write and commend my comments in regard to what is transpiring with Ethiopian Jews in Israel. I am grateful for your having done so.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

From

NFTB

Saturday, August 3

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to state my agreement with Rabbi Schindler, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who spoke out against requiring the Ethiopian Jews to undergo a religious conversion rite before they marry. It might well be the rite of complete male circumcision. After witnessing a circumcision performed well, by a competent surgeon, I felt that it was time to look into the function of the foreskin. I realize that its removal is

healthful and symbolic.
However, we are in a new,
important medical era.
also, these Jewish Ethio-
pians probably have a
lot to teach us about
their life and ways.
As a first generation
american, whose parents
escaped from Nazi Germany,
I feel compelled to voice
my concern.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Eve Marcus
35 Parkwood Drive
Kingston, R.I.

02881

Elkoff

July 5, 1985

David Schwartz, Chairperson
Confirmation Class Tzedakah
510 East Olmos Drive
San Antonio, TX 78212

Dear David:

Rabbi Feinstein was kind enough to forward the wonderful contribution to the UAHC Project REAP from the Beth-El Confirmation Class. We are very grateful to you and your classmates for this act of loving kindness and we are also pleased to know that this year's Tzedakah collection has been shared equally by Project REAP and Operation Moses.

All of us of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations express deepest appreciation to the entire Confirmation Class of 1985 for sharing their tangible gift of funds, which also represents their concern and love, with those less fortunate souls who will be sustained by REAP as well as Operation Moses.

With gratitude and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Morley T. Feinstein



TEMPLE BETH-EL

211 BELKNAP PLACE • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78212 • (512) 733-9135

MORLEY T. FEINSTEIN, M.A.H.L., M.A.H.E.
Associate Rabbi

July 1, 1985

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

On behalf of the Confirmation Class of Temple Beth-El, we are enclosing \$177.50 for the UAHC Project REAP.

This year we studied a great deal about gemilut hasadim and tzedakah, and the amount raised represents half of our total collection. The other half went directly for Operation Moses.

Thank you for all you are doing in the name of the Reform movement to help the suffering masses in Ethiopia.

נ/ב'ב'נ

Shalom,

Morley
Morley T. Feinstein
Rabbi

cc: Mr. Alan Bayer, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of San Antonio

David Schwartz, Confirmation Class
Tzedakah Chairperson
510 East Olmos Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Rabbi Stanley Miles
458-4739



4220 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, Ky. 40220

June 17, 1985

*Left
Gordon - 7/1/85*

Ms Edith J. Miller,
Assistant to the President
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Ms Miller:

Thank you so much for the return of the check from our Religious School meant for "Operation Moses". Appreciate your sending the information on this and your kind letter. Sorry to have made extra work for you.

We do not have a paid secretary at our Temple, also, the Religious School does not have a bank account. Therefore, various matters for the Congregation are taken care of by members. The Zedakah Funds are deposited in the Gift Shop Account and when the distribution is made, the Principal sends me the list of those to whom the students wish contributions made. I am very much UAHC oriented, and knowing it has a fund for Ethiopian Relief, without thinking, send the check for "Operation Moses" on to New York.

A nice portion of the Zedakah was sent to the Reform Jewish Appeal. A check was also sent for the Leo Baeck School.

With best wishes, and again many thanks

Sincerely,

Agnes Rose Fleischaker
Mrs. Gordon Fleischaker



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Church World Service

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, NY 10115 • IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE PROGRAM • Dale S. de Haan, Director

*I need an Answer by Tues.
I recommend we both
sign on as requested*

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
122 C St., N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 783-7501

Washington, DC
June 12, 1985

OK CALL
✓

Rabbi David Saperstein
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
2027 Mass. Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Dear David:

Following from our phone conversation of a few moments ago, I enclose a religious leaders statement on immigration reform. Rev. Dr. Arie Brouwer, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, and Bishop Philip Cousin, our President, will be on it. Also, the Migration and Refugee Services office of the U.S. Catholic Conference has approved it and they are in the process of getting the agreement of Msgr. Hoye and Bishop Malone.

I am also running it by the National Association of Evangelicals, just in case they could join.

We are trying to get this out as early as possible next week.

I'll let you know as soon as I get the approval from the USCC leadership. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you could take a look at it with a view to having you and/or others of your leadership join it (is Rabbi Schindler the person?).

Thanks.

Regards,

Michael

J. Michael Myers
Washington Representative

STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Congress and the nation have re-initiated consideration of legislative changes to our immigration laws and policies. This is an important task, and should be addressed thoughtfully and with a keen sense of justice and fairness. The manner in which the coming debate is approached can be seen as a test of the ideals and traditions which are our country's proud foundation. Our attitudes toward all marginalized persons within our communities can be considered on trial.

The historic volatility of this issue has been exacerbated in the recent past by those who would seek to create divisions within our society between races, classes, and cultures. The utmost caution and discretion must be exercised by those organizations and individuals involved in the debate to guard against this possibility and to minimize the potential for backlash against the foreign-born.

An essential component of immigration reform is the regularization of the status of those without valid immigration documents who have been productive residents of this country. It should be emphasized that the fates of some three to six million people are at issue many of whom have already been well integrated into our society. Massive deportation is not an option, either practically or morally. Nor is an option the perpetuation of an undocumented subclass subject to exploitation. The degree of exploitation of undocumented workers which we have witnessed and the effects that the continued presence of a large number of undocumented persons have on U.S. society have led us to conclude that a legalization program--and a comprehensive one--is the avenue upon which we should be travelling.

It should be recognized that such a proposition is not only humanitarian, but is also a matter of proper self-interest. This population should be removed from the shadows of undocumented status and placed under the protection and rule of law. Such a step should and must take place without precondition and in a manner which encourages the fullest possible participation on the part of qualified individuals.

Proposals to better manage immigration flows must be part of any reform effort. In considering such proposals, attention should be focussed not only upon enforcement, but also on the effects which they may have upon the rights of the citizenry and others resident in the U.S. If the Congress should enact penalties against employers who hire undocumented workers, it is our firm belief that there exists a concurrent responsibility to enact mechanisms for redress of discrimination which may flow from the proposal. If the Congress should provide additional

immigration enforcement authority and resources to the federal government, it should also delineate clearly the purposes and limits of such authority to guard against abuse.

Family reunion has appropriately been the cornerstone of our immigration laws and policies since their beginning, and family unity remains an important religious principle and American tradition. This should continue to be reflected in our immigration laws, and the current reform effort should maintain this family emphasis.

In considering proposals to bring in additional temporary laborers into the United States, the Congress should also carefully consider the potential for abuse of such labor, and the possible effects such a program may have on working conditions, the domestic labor market, and other such factors.

While refugee admission and asylum are issues appropriately independent of the reform debate, the Congress should give high priority to measures currently pending before it which appropriately address the presence in the U.S. of certain nationals of Haiti, Cuba, and El Salvador.*

Finally, there is a special role within the context of the immigration debate for the religious community to promote tolerance among all peoples. We encourage religious bodies throughout the country to commit with us to endeavor to be people of vision where insight is needed, to heal where there is division and hurt, and ever to be faithful stewards of our religious traditions and beliefs.

*See H.R. 23 (Cuban-Haitian Adjustment Act) and S.377 and H.R.822 on Salvadorans.

June 17, 1985

The Religious Schools Students
c/o Mrs. Ellen Tutsch, Principal
Nassau Community Temple Beth El
Religious School
240 Hempstead Avenue
West Hempstead, New York 11552

Dear Students:

It was very meaningful to receive your beautiful contribution to Project REAP. We are grateful to you for sharing a portion of your Karen Ami Funds with the Ethiopian Jewish community who have been suffering from hunger and deprivation. Many, many thanks to all of you for your thoughtful and generous gift.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

*Check + Letter
to RH*

May 30, 1985

Ms. Agnes Rose Fleischaker
Temple Shalom Religious School
4220 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, KY 40220

Dear Ms. Fleischaker:

It was wonderful to learn that the students of the Temple Shalom Religious School voted to make a charitable contribution to the cause of Ethiopian Jewry. However, "Operation Moses" is not one of the UAHC's Ethiopian projects, it is the undertaking of the United Jewish Appeal for the resettlement of Ethiopian Jews. The UAHC has an Ethiopian Jewish Project REAP and also a special fund for all victims of the famine, Jew and non-Jew alike.

Be that as it may, since your check is made out to Operation Moses I am returning it to you so that it can be directed to the UJA in Louisville so that your community receives credit.

All of the noted causes are most worthy and it is good to know that your students have undertaken the mitzvah of Tzedakah.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

Encl.

Rabbi Stanley Miles
458-4739



4220 Taylorsville Road
Louisville, Ky. 40220

May 24, 1985

TO:

Operation Moses
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue - New York, New York 10021

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$18.00 the 1985 contribution from the Temple Shalom Religious School. At the final assembly for 1984-85 the students indicated that you were one of those with whom they wished their Zedakah(Charity), brought during the year, to be shared.

Sincerely,

Agnes Rose Fleischaker
Mrs. Gordon Fleischaker

for

TEMPLE SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

May 28, 1985

Rabbi Bernard P. King
Shir Ha-Ma'alot
Harbor Reform Temple
2100 A Mar Vista
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Dear Bernie:

Thank you so much for your generous check to the Ethiopian Relief Project. I'm exceedingly grateful for this evidence of your care and I hope that you will relay my admiration to the members of your confirmation class. They ought to know that these tent cities have been the most successful relief effort in all of Ethiopia and the government there - even though it is at odds with Israel - has been urging Abie Nathan to build more such camps. He is presently working on the third camp. Your young people, therefore, have the assurance that this is a project which is exceedingly effective and that their tzedakah monies are well spent.

The fund raising project and play is altogether admirable. Thank you for informing me concerning that too.

Warm good wishes.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Ruth Harrison

Ruth, Rabbi King sent a chekc for \$4,000.-



Shir Ha-Ma'alot
Harbor Reform Temple

2100-A Mar Vista

Newport Beach, California 92660

Bernard P. King, Rabbi

714-644-7203

May 24, 1985

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

Dear Alex,

Each year our confirmation class undertakes a tzedakah project. This year's class raised \$4,000.00 for Abie Nathan's tent city in Ethiopia. It is a joy to forward this check to you.

The primary vehicle for raising the funds was a concert by a unique group of musically talented mentally retarded adults called "The Hi Hopes." I have enclosed a few copies of the program of that event for your consideration. "The Hi Hopes" are a very powerful experience, and I would recommend them for some future U.A.H.C. event. Let me know if you need further information regarding them.

5/13/85
B. King

Rabbi Bernard P. King

BPK/rw
Encs.

From our

June bulletin

LIBRARY LINES

Thank you to Linda Davis who has helped us by typing book cards for the Library.

NEW BOOKS:

Heller, Joseph. God Knows The "autobiography" of King David. In this novel, he talks of his many wives, his troubled relationships with his sons, his difficulties with his in-laws (especially Saul), his battlefield triumphs, and the reasons he's waiting for an apology from God.

Libo, Kenneth and Irving Howe. We Lived There Too. Using excerpts from unpublished diaries, memoirs and letters, plus selections from contemporary newspaper articles and illustrations, the editors present a portrait of life for those Jews who were a part of the American migrations west for 1630 to 1930.

Birmingham, Stephen. The Rest of Us: The Rise of America's Eastern European Jews In this companion volume to Our Crowd and The Grantees, Birmingham writes about the East Side to the manicured lawns of Scarsdale and Beverly Hills.

Marianne Yesk
Librarian

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR KIDS

JEFF DORMAN - Elected President of Senior Class
Newport Harbor High School

JEFF GLUECK - Elected President of Junior Class
Newport Harbor High School

ANDY & MOLLY MOUND - On there participation in the AFS Program
this Summer

BRYAN COOPER & DEANNE JACOBS - Appeared on the Ahmanson Stage

The MAY BAT MITZVAH

of

RACHEL ESPANA was observed on the 4th when Rachel spoke about "The Right Mitzvah." She followed through on this theme by raising money for Ethiopian famine relief and contributed all funds to our Confirmation Class project for the same mitzvah.

CONGRATULATIONS! CONFIRMATION CLASS OF '85

The HI HOPES concert of May 5, 1985 produced by the confirmation class, under the tutelage of Myra Sosin and Rabbi King, was a smash: both as an experience and as a fund-raiser to support the building of tent cities in Ethiopia by Abie Nathan of Israel.

The HI HOPES is a group of gifted mentally retarded people, who, with their music and liveliness, can change a sober gathering into a joyous, thumping SIMCHA. HOW DO THEY DO IT? What love and depth does it take to perceive that these people can do so much with their strength and drives?

Many here know this group. Again we were moved by the songs of Gloria Lenhoff who is perhaps better known to us at Shir Ha-Ma'alot than the other members. Others in the audience saw and heard the group that night for the first time.

Unforgettable, too, was the singing of Paul Kuehn. Blind, retarded, physically limited, the power of his music breaks through to everyone. Had we closed our eyes, we would not have seen his need to be led around and helped to grasp the microphone, to hold the drumsticks, to find the seat next to the drums. It would have made no difference to his impact on us. And he was helped by fellow band members also struggling to assert THEIR strengths despite some weaknesses. Paul sang "The Impossible Dream" and attained emotional heights beautifully promised in earlier songs. But with the climactic notes of "The Impossible Dream" he blew us away.

After the concert, the audience broke up and went for punch and cookies, milling around. Paul, the impossible dreamer sat on a chair alone with his thoughts. He must have heard the hubbub, but could not see any of us looking at him as he swayed back and forth. What was going on inside? I could not help thinking, "As one at fervent prayer." Whatever he was feeling, it was clearly very strong, and I was grateful to him for having sent us his strength through music.

Celia Sifry, incoming Board Member, who has volunteered to chair a committee to publish the MA'ALOT Bulletin, asked me to write a report of the concert. How is it possible to convey the feelings? I don't know, but Paul Kuehn's courage and drive to grasp the "Impossible Dream" fired me with enough CHUTSPAH to attempt this impossible assignment.

Well, anyhow, those who were there know what I'm trying to say.

Lou Fridhandler.

AS OF THIS WRITING, OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS RAISED A TOTAL OF

* * * \$4,133.50 * * *

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!



Shir Ha-Ma'alot
Harbor Reform Temple

CONFIRMATION CLASS

1985 - 5745

presents

"FROM JERUSALEM WITH LOVE"

featuring in concert

**Hi
HOPES**

All funds to be donated to support the humanitarian efforts of Abie Nathan of Israel who is building tent cities in Ethiopia for the homeless and the hungry.

May 5, 1985



HI HOPES (l. to r.)

Taken at Tailmantz Aviation, Inc., John Wayne Airport,
Santa Ana, California
(Seated) Richard Groves, Mikki Davis,
Gloria Lenhoff, Gary Ahearn, Bill Ouderkerken, Doris E. Walker
(Director), Jim Fitzjarrald, Paul Kuehn, Leroy Gould, Lori Reyes.

HI HOPES

"Music With A Message"

Hi Hopes is a most unique musical group that has been heard by millions of people from every state, and many foreign countries, has appeared on TV and made records. After their first songs, few people ever think about this famous group as mentally retarded. They share their amazing and very individual talents unstintingly and a joyful, enthusiastic happening results as the audience becomes part of the show.

To listen to the Hi Hopes is to enter a very special world of enchantment and joy, a world of love and beauty, and perhaps a tear or two as you realize the tremendous odds these people have battled to become the personalities they are. Diagnosed as trainable mentally retarded, three of the nine members have been together for the eleven years the group has performed. A single-spaced typewritten list of their performances stretches over 40 feet. Hi Hopes started in Hope School (Anaheim Unified High School District's school for trainable mentally retarded). As students grew older, a non-profit corporation, Hi Hopes - Identity Discovery Foundation, was formed and Hope University named as an umbrella organization to continue the work and expand to help other handicapped discover their talents and profit from "whole person" development. Colleges will be formed under the University for this purpose in different locations, and UNICO NATIONAL COLLEGE for the gifted mentally retarded is the first one.

DONORS

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Dr. Edward Cole
The Dorn Family
Eric & Darylle Gilbert
Dick & Betty Gorelick
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S. & S. Kaplan
David King
Dr. Martin & Florence Klein
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Jack & Gloria Sklansky
Jillian Beth Spear
Jenni & Nicki Steinberg
Janet, Michael, Keri & Gary Sussman

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Fred & Sheila Baron
Leon & Claire Bush
Dr. Neal & Susan Freeman
Mortimer & Muriel Greenberg
Warren & Sherry Halperin
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We acknowledge with gratitude our

BENEFACTORS

Fern, Mike, Alex, Jeff & Gabe Dorman
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The Michael Meyer Family
David, Geri, Andrew & Tim Sandor
"Believers in Tzedakah" (anonymous)

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Seymour & Neddie Vigman
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Winthrop
Hilda & Henry Wyle
Anonymous

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1985-5745

MARCI BAME
BRYAN COOPER
ALEXANDER DORMAN
STEVEN FRANK
BRADLEY HARRIS
DAVID KING
RISA LECHTHAN
AMY LESHNER
MOLLY MOUND
TANYA SALZ
STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
SUSAN SILBER
JOSEPH WEXLER

Instructors: Rabbi Bernard P. King
Mrs. Myra Sosin

(The Confirmation Class wishes to thank
Mr. Mike Dorman of Cal-Mart Travel Service
for the use of his office for their
"Phonathon.")

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Hee
May 28, 1985

Fred Cohen

This is for general Ethiopian Relief. Please dispense in the customary manner. Thanks.

\$4,000
Gave to Fred

May 1, 1985

Mr. Mark R. Jacobson
Executive Director
The Temple
1589 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30367

Dear Mark:

We were very pleased to receive the gift of \$1,226.00 from The Temple for the UAHC Project REAP. This gracious gift from the families of The Temple will help us with our ongoing work to aid the Jews of Ethiopia. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and ask that you convey our appreciation to all who have contributed to this worthy cause.

We are delighted to know that you are continuing to solicit funds for this special project. Many thanks.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.

bc: Ruth Harrison

May 16, 1985

Mr. Irving Kessler
United Israel Appeal
515 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Irv:

Thank you so much for the information in regard to Ethiopian Jews and the Leo Baeck School. I am so grateful for your vigilance - all of us of the Reform Movement are. You are so right, we must be on our toes at all times.

With gratitude and fondest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

MEMORANDUM

May 14, 1985

TO: Rabbi Charles Kroloff, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler ✓
FROM: Irving Kessler *IK*
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN JEWS

You will be interested to know that our Jerusalem office just completed an exchange of views regarding Ethiopian youth and the Leo Baeck School in Israel.

UIA had received information that Ethiopian youngsters were not to receive support if they elected to attend the Baeck School. I urged that strong protests be lodged with the Aliyah Department, citing the UIA resolution a few years ago regarding Religious Pluralism.

I have made it clear previously and reiterated that UIA would not permit discrimination between the various branches of Judaism, as Jewish Agency Departments had the occasion to choose between them.

You will be happy to learn that a telex arrived today which reads as follows:

"ARON INFORMED ME THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL GO TO SCHOOL AT LEO BAECK SCHOOL. REGARDS. KATZ."

It points to the fact that we must be ever vigilant. I would like to suggest that whatever contacts you have in Israel join with the office of the UIA in close scrutiny of the Ethiopian absorption, as well as other JAFI programs.

Regards.

cc: Rabbi E. Yoffie

*See -
Thank you for
his sig. done*

✓
May 6, 1985

Mr. Roger Tilles
7600 Jericho Turnpike
Woodbury, NY 11797

Dear Roger:

Thank you for the additional checks of \$35.00 from members of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck. It is gratifying to receive this wonderful continuing response from your members.

Thank you, too, for letting me know that another mailing is going out in May in regard to our Ethiopian Relief Project. We are all deeply grateful.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Jerome K. Davidson

bc: Ruth Harrison

THE TILLES INVESTMENT COMPANY

7600 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury, NY 11797 • 516-364-1200

May 3, 1985

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union American Hebrew Congregations
838 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Enclosed please find additional checks from members of our congregation, Temple Beth-El of Great Neck in the amount of \$35.00. In addition to the previous checks that I have sent to you and the \$250.00 donated by our religious school, our Temple has now sent a total of \$3,182.00. As we receive additional monies, we will forward them to you.

With warmest personal regards,



Roger Tilles

RT:gg
Encs.

cc: Rabbi Jerome Davidson
Temple Beth-El of Great Neck

We are sending out a full
Temple mailing in May on this and
should have considerably more in June.



Elberg

April 1, 1985

Rabbi David M. Horowitz
Temple Israel
133 Merriman Road
Akron, Ohio 44303

Dear David:

Just a note of appreciation to the families of Temple Israel. The gracious contributions which have been forwarded to our Ethiopian Relief Projects mean much to us all. These gifts bespeak the care and concern of your congregants for the downtrodden, the hungry, the homeless. For all of us of the Union I express heartfelt appreciation for your gift to this sacred humanitarian cause.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

April 1, 1985

Rabbi Jonathan A. Stein
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation
6501 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

Dear Jon:

Just a note of appreciation to the families of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. The gracious contributions which have been forwarded to our Ethiopian Relief Projects means much to us all. These gifts bespeak the care and concern of your congregants for the downtrodden, the hungry, the homeless. For all of us of the Union I express heartfelt appreciation for your gift to this sacred humanitarian cause.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



NORTHEAST LAKES COUNCIL / UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

March 21, 1985

Dear Alex:

The last few days I have been with my CCAR colleagues at our Regional meeting in Pittsburgh. While there I was approached by Jon Stein of Indianapolis and David Horowitz of Akron.

Both asked that you or Al send them a personalized letter in response to the funds which they sent in for our Ethiopian projects. They both said that they would publish the letter in their temple bulletin, and they thought that it was important both for good relations with the Union, and to create a positive climate for future emergency efforts.

Both had received the small cards of acknowledgement, but felt they were inadequate for their purposes. Jon mentioned that his congregation had sent in \$6,000.

Alex, these two groups are strong supporters of the Union, and I think their good counsel should be heeded.

Be well, my friend.

As ever,

David S. Hachen
Regional Rabbi

Regional Rabbi:

Dr. David S. Hachen
25550 Chagrin Blvd., Suite #108
Cleveland, Ohio 44122
(216) 831-6722

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3340 Mt. Laurence Dr.
San Diego, Ca. 92117

3/18/85

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Pres. UANHC

Re: your Card. gift to
Ethiopian Relief Fund.

Rabbi Harold Superstein taught me well,
"I am my brothers keeper"

Sy Kainen

I assume
wee acknowledged
SJK

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

March 18, 1985

Fred Cohen

Ruth Harrison

Enclosed herewith is a check for \$5.00 from Mark and Teri Albert of Coos Bay, Oregon. This is for our Ethiopian Relief Fund. It is from a group of children who brought Purim gifts to make this contribution.

March 18, 1985

Ms. Teri Albert
1140 Lillian Creek Lane
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Dear Ms. Albert:

I was deeply moved by the gift from the children of Coos Bay to our Ethiopian Relief Fund. Please express to them all my gratitude for their thoughtfulness. Sharing with those who are in need at the time of a festival such as Purim is very, very beautiful and all of us of the Union are grateful to the children.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

RH

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

March 4, 1985

~~Fred Cohen~~

Ruth Harrison

Enclosed herewith is a check for \$500.00 from Dr. Robert Schwartz, 3677
Central Avenue, Suite D, Fort Myers, Florida 33901. This is for our
Project REAP to assist Ethiopian Jewry. Please credit accordingly.

March 4, 1985

Dr. Robert Schwartz
3677 Central Avenue
Suite D
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Dear Dr. Schwartz:

Rabbi Agin has most graciously forwarded to us your generous contribution of \$500.00 for Project REAP, the special fund we have created to assist Ethiopian Jewry. I write to express my heartfelt appreciation for this gift which is tangible evidence of the care and concern you feel in regard to the plight of these people. Many, many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Rabbi Solomon Agin

TEMPLE BETH-EL

Affiliated with The Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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February 28, 1985

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

Dear Alex:

Enclosed, please find a check in the amount of \$500.00 for the Union's Ethiopian Fund. It is the desire of Dr. Schwartz that his check be used toward the plight of the Ethiopian Jews. Dr. Schwartz feels that sending his donation to the Union, the total amount will be used for the Ethiopians.

With good wishes for a Joyous Purim, I am

Sincerely yours,


Solomon Agin, Rabbi

SA:je

HERSCH WARTIK inc

141 EAST 33RD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016 • 212-685-4250

cc Richard
Cohen

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

February 28, 1985

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

The enclosed invoice is merely a formality for our own records. We were pleased to be able to offer our services in the worthy cause of Ethiopian Relief. I thank you for the letter of appreciation you sent us earlier.

Sincerely,

Hersch Wartik

Hersch Wartik

HERSCH WARTIK inc

141 EAST 33RD STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016 • 212-685-4250

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

INVOICE

Job #2750

February 28, 1985

Prepare "Light One Candle" ad for Ethiopian relief \$482.00

No charge for our services

MARK Q. HATFIELD, OREG., CHAIRMAN

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.
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PAUL LAXALT, NEV.
JAKE GARN, UTAH
THAD COCHRAN, MISS.
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J. KEITH KENNEDY, STAFF DIRECTOR
FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

cc: Howard S

February 26, 1985

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

We appreciate very much the fine work you are doing in your organization as well as the work of David Saperstein, whose sound advice and counsel we were fortunate to have before our departure to Ethiopia earlier this month and whose company we enjoyed during our travels in that country. I am particularly impressed with his commitment to improving the quality of life for Ethiopia's Jews while they remain in that country and his work to promote their immigration to Israel.

I look forward to seeing you in the future.

Sincerely,

Dennis De Concini
DENNIS DeCONCINI
United States Senator

DDC/Y

*Good. -
I met with him -
for a brief drink at
the King David.
He seemed pleased.
Dear*

Ethiopia

February 11, 1985

Mr. Edward Finkelstein
R.H. Macy & Co., Inc.
151 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001

Dear Ed:

I thanked G.G. when she wrote to tell me that a check would be forth-
coming from Macys for the Union's Ethiopian Relief Appeal. The check
has been received today and I write to express to you and all of your
colleagues deepfelt appreciation for your generosity. The cause is
a great one and thanks to caring and concerned people such as you and
your colleagues at Macys, as well as the thousands who have responded
to our appeal, perhaps we can help to save some lives.

With gratitude and fondest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

E. H. Shapiro

The Executive Board of the UAHC salutes the State of Israel and all those involved with Operation Moses -- with the rescue of thousands of our Brothers and Sisters from Ethiopia and from the refugee camps. Only Israel would place the rescue of Jews as a first priority when Israel itself continues to face the demands of defense crises, the demands of a very troubled economy, and a host of internal pressures for inaction.

But Israel did act and continues to act thereby fulfilling the highest ethical commands of the Jewish tradition, and by their action refuting the great lie which would taint Zionism with the accusation of Racism.

2000

The executive board of the U A H C
salutes the state of Israel and all
those involved with operation Moses --
with the rescue of ~~over~~ thousands
of our Brothers & Sisters from Ethiopia
& from the refugee camps ~~of in the Sudan~~

Only Israel would place the
rescue of Jews as a first

Resolutions
on tape
follow with
this

Passed 2/4/85
Exec Com
JAH

priority when Israel itself continues
to face the demands of ~~defense crises~~ ^{defense crises},
~~defense policy~~, ~~the demands of~~ ^{the acquisition of}
~~the demands of a~~
very troubled economy, and a host
of internal pressures for inaction.

~~But~~ ^{But} Israel did act and continues
to act thereby fulfilling the highest
ethical commands of Jewish Tradition,

(3)

and ^{by their action} ~~thereby~~ refuting the great lie which
would taint zionism with the
accusation of Racism.

February 7, 1985

Mr. Ivan Loder
The Spiritual Assembly of
the Bahá'is
Post Office Box #846
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

Dear Mr. Loder:

Rabbi Schindler was good enough to show me your kind letter, and I want to add a personal word in his behalf and mine to tell you that a contribution from the Bahá'ís is particularly valued by us.

We feel a deep sense of solidarity with you and it is most appropriate that we are able to feel empathy for the pain of others as well.

Thank you very much for your letter and your generous contribution.

Cordially,

Albert Vorspan

AV:rh

bcc; Rabbi A. Schindler
Aron Hirt-Manheimer

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of
Wilmington, Delaware
Post Office Box 846
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

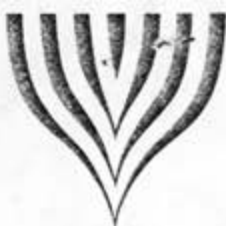
We were given your name and address by
a local synagogue here in Wilmington. Individual
in our community as well as the Spiritual Assembly
itself have made contributions totaling the \$70 of
the enclosed check.

Our Bahá'í Community is neither large
nor wealthy but we know that the mighty ocean
of compassion and assistance needed so desperately
by the people of Ethiopia is made up of countless
drops. We welcome the opportunity to of help. ✓

Many thanks for directing our contribution
to the correct channels.

\$70

Sincerely,
Luan Looker
Treasurer



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: Regional Directors
Commission on Social Action

From: Albert Vorspan

Date: February 5, 1985

Subject: ETHIOPIAN PROJECTS

We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary help that our regional offices have given in our push for Ethiopian relief. You will be pleased to know that the UAHC has raised nearly \$200,000 for general Ethiopian famine relief plus several thousand for our own PROJECT REAP (Jewish doctors from the United States working in Jewish villages in Gondor).

The first Abie Nathan village has been so successful that he is now proceeding to establish five more to house a total of 60,000 people in distress. The tents are inscribed "FROM JERUSALEM WITH LOVE" and the villages are well lighted, include clinics and have evoked the admiration of all concerned, including the Ethiopian government.

Attached is the text of an article that will appear in the next issue of *Reform Judaism*.

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

R E S C U E I N E T H I O P I A

While the drama of Israel's historic rescue of the Jewish community of Ethiopia was playing out in secret -- and then on the front pages of the world's newspapers -- another Jewish action was taking place on behalf of victims of famine and disease on the parched plains of Ethiopia.

Here, too, a group of Israelis was involved, led by a maverick humanitarian named Abie Nathan. Nathan, who was born in Iraq and raised in India, served as an Israeli fighter pilot during the War of Independence. Once dubbed "the world's smallest peace organization," for his numerous single-handed attempts to bring peace to the Middle East, he made a daring flight to Egypt during the tense period preceding the 1967 war, carrying a peace proclamation signed by 60,000 Israelis. Unfortunately, at that time, President Nasser refused to see him. But since then his private humanitarian campaigns have been more successful.

In the early 1970s he raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in Israel to provide relief for starving Nigerians in Biafra and for the victims of war and hunger in Cambodia. For many years he has operated a "Peace Ship" staffed by an international crew of volunteers that broadcasts music and peace messages in Hebrew, Arabic and English from international waters off the Mediterranean coast.

When, in late 1984, Nathan first learned of the starvation in Ethiopia, he broadcast an appeal from his Peace Ship and within days raised \$100,000 from Israeli citizens. He then flew to London - Ethiopia does not recognize Israel - and persuaded Ethiopian consular authorities to grant him a visa. When he landed in the Ethiopian capital he said simply, "I want to help." Local officials flew him to a drought-stricken area where he inspected existing camps and assessed their needs.

When he returned to Israel and then Europe to gather the supplies he needed to launch his non-sectarian relief operation, Nathan called Rabbi Stephen Schafer, director of the youth division of the UAHC and a long-time friend and supporter. Would the UAHC help, he asked. On December 2, the UAHC Board of Trustees passed a resolution, declaring that the UAHC "expresses its profound gratitude for the moral audacity of Abie Nathan, Israeli humanitarian, in seeking to establish a visible Jewish presence in Ethiopia by creating a tent village in which Ethiopians of all backgrounds will be sheltered and nurtured by doctors and medical personnel who volunteer within Israel and the American Jewish community; and pledges its active support for this imperative initiative by undertaking to raise at least \$100,000 from concerned individuals within our community and the Jewish public at large. These funds will be added to those already raised by the Israeli public."

On Sunday, December 16 -- exactly two weeks after the resolution was adopted -- a UAHC advertisement in *The New York Times* headlined, "Light one candle, save one life. A Jewish response to the famine in Ethiopia," detailed Nathan's efforts and called upon Jews to support him.

The response of the Reform Jewish community was immediate and contagious. HUC-JIR students in New York raised \$2500. Rabbis preached sermons and wrote letters to congregants; religious school children gave money to Keren Ami projects for Ethiopian relief; doctors volunteered to serve; and a television station offered to produce a public service advertisement at no charge. Within one month, more than \$100,000 had been contributed by individuals and Reform synagogues across the country.

Nathan's first visit to the famine region of Ethiopia had convinced him that what was needed most was shelter and trained personnel to feed the starving and nurse the sick. Emergency food supplies and medicines were reaching the refugees, but adequate shelter was in short supply, especially tents - hospital tents, kitchen tents, family tents - and mattresses. With the first \$25,000 received from the UAHC, Nathan chartered a plane and (during Chanukah) flew to Ethiopia with a crew of Israeli experts and enough supplies to build and house a tent city for ten thousand refugees.

After the 43 tons of supplies were unloaded, the trucks set out for Harbu, 400 kilometers north of Addis Ababa. There Nathan and his crew, supplemented by local laborers, built their tent city and moved 8,000 people into the 800 white tents stencilled in red with a star of David and the words, "From Jerusalem with Love." Water was connected, electric power was generated and the filthy, disease-ridden slum nearby was levelled. When Ethiopian authorities saw what Nathan and his Israeli team had built, they asked him to build five more tent cities.

That request reached Nathan during a visit to the United States early in January, during his meetings with UAHC officials. At that time, he received a \$50,000 check from Rabbi Schindler, representing the more than 1,000 individual contributors who had responded to *The New York Times* advertisement. As Rabbi Schindler remarked at that time, "Abie Nathan is proof of our belief that one person can make a difference."

Contributions should be sent to UAHC Ethiopian Relief, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021.

Ellis

February 4, 1985

Rabbi Solomon Agin
Temple Beth-El
Post Office Box 972
Cape Coral, FL 33910

Dear Sol:

Thank you for forwarding the \$100.00 gift from members of Temple Beth-El for our effort in behalf of Ethiopian Jews. ~~This~~ gift is deeply appreciated and we express heartfelt thanks to you and to your membership for all of their efforts in regard to Ethiopian Jewry.

I was pleased to learn that you intend to begin an Outreach program in Cape Coral just before Passover. Good luck, I know that members of our Outreach Commission will want to be of assistance and they will want to be kept apprised of your efforts.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

TEMPLE BETH-EL

Affiliated with The Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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January 30, 1985

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

Dear Alex:

Enclosed, please find two (2) checks each in the amount of \$50.00 towards the plight of the Ethiopian Jews. It appears that some of the membership donated to the Sisterhood Project and others to the Operation Moses of the United Jewish Appeal. My concern is that they give and with a full heart.

There is no doubt in my mind that it was your leadership that inspired others to get involved. This, it was the Reform Movement that once again came to the forefront.

On another subject, I wish to inform you that Outreach will be introduced to the community prior to Passover. The Board of Directors endorsed the program that I presented as a result of the regional convention last November.

With best wishes as the Movement continues to grow and thrive in this most crucial period.

Sincerely yours,



Solomon Agin, Rabbi

SA:je
Enclosures

February 1, 1985

Edith J. Miller

Ruth Harrison

In a covering letter Rabbi Solomon Agin indicated these two checks for \$50.00 each are for the plight of Ethiopian Jews and, therefore, should be credited to Project REAP. We will say thank you from this office inasmuch as there were other items to be acknowledged in his covering letter.

Edith J. Miller

✓
January 25, 1985

Fred Cohen

Enclosed herewith is a check payable to the UAHC. It was received from Rabbi Ira Youdovin and he indicates it is for our Ethiopian Relief Project. The signator is Judy Byrd and the address is noted on the check. Diversified Health Services, The Florida Agency, 5960 Central Avenue, Suite B, St. Petersburg, Florida 33707.

GGM

January 25, 1985

Ms. G.G. Michelson
Senior Vice President
R.H. Macy & Co., Inc.
151 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001

Dear G.G.:

How lovely to hear from you and to learn that Macy's will contribute \$1,000 to the UAHC Ethiopian Relief Appeal. I am deeply grateful to all of you for helping us in our effort to feed and care for the starving community in Ethiopia.

Lisa is delighted to be back at Macy's. She feels that she is among friends.

With fondest regards from all of us, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

R. H. Macy & Co., Inc.

G. G. MICHELSON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

151 WEST 34TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001

January 18, 1985

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew
Congregations
838 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex:

Ed sent me your note and the ad on the Ethiopian Relief Appeal. Macy's will donate \$1,000 and the check will be sent to you shortly.

It's nice to see Lisa around here again! My best to the family.

Sincerely,



GGM:vr

ET

January 16, 1985

Dr. Solomon S. Bernards, Director
Friends of Cong. Mevakshei Derech of Jerusalem
225 Park Avenue, South - 17th Floor
New York, New York 10003

Dear Sol:

Thank you for your letter of January 13 in regard to Abie Nathan's work. It is a remarkable undertaking. We of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations are proud to be a part of it.

You may have missed an advertisement which was placed in the New York Times by the UAHC, some weeks ago. It appeared on the back page of the Sunday Week in Review, I enclose herewith a copy. The funds which we are receiving here at the UAHC are for famine relief and are being used to underwrite the work that is being done by Abie Nathan.

Again, my thanks to you for writing. Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

FRIENDS OF CONG. MEVAKSHEI DERECH OF JERUSALEM

225 Park Ave., South, 17th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10003 (212) 674-7400, Ext. 1317

DR. SOLOMON S. BERNARDS, Director

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Utica, NY

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Montreal, Quebec

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Long Island City, NY

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DR. DANIEL THURSZ
Washington, DC

RABBI ARYEH WINEMAN
Derby, CT

RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN
Los Angeles, CA

RABBI GERALD L. ZELIZER
Metuchen, NJ

Jon 13, 1985
Dear Alex
I was very much
impressed with Abie Nathan's
work as it was articulated at
the press conference at your
HQ, and reported in the
Jewish Week -

To what instrumentality
does one make out one's
gift to Nathan's noble work
in Ethiopia - I assume
it's some American vehicle -

All the best - you're
doing a bangup job!

Wm

Sol

Allesop

January 15, 1985

Mr. David A. Levine
2001 Wellington Court
Westbury, NY 11590

Dear Mr. Levine:

Thank you for taking the time to write after you heard me on the Barry Gray show. I am grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Thank you, too, for offering your services in the vast task to be done in regard to Ethiopia. We will keep your name and offer on file in the event we are able to send volunteers but at the moment, the government of Ethiopia is not permitting such volunteer programs of on-site assistance.

With appreciation and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

E.J. Miller

1/15/85

Ruth Harrison

FOR LIST OF PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP IN RE ETHIOPIA...

David A. Levine
2001 Wellington Court
Westbury, NY 11590

516-333-4494

retired person in good health - member of a temple in westbury which is
not reform ---in good health -- was supply sgt. ww2.....

Am told you are keeping list...

FROM THE DESK OF



Acknowledge
At present Ethiopian govt
does not allow volunteers
in.
If there should be any looking
we'll be in touch.
(Give name to
Ruth who
keeps list)

2001 Wellington Court
Westbury, N. Y. 11590
January 9, 1985

Rabbi Schindler
Union of American Hebrew Cong.
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Rabbi:

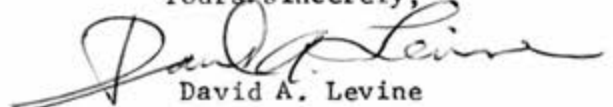
I heard you this afternoon on Barry Gray's show on WMCA Radio.
You and Abbe Nathan were wonderful - as usual.

I am a member of Temple Sholom here in Westbury and I wish to
offer my help in the Ethiopian task ahead. I am a retired person
and served in the US Army for over 5 years during WW2 as a supply Sgt.

Please call me if you feel I can help you. I am imperfect ~~xxxx~~
health and my Rabbi Moishe Aranov will vouch for me.

Good luck and keep up your good work for all Judiasm.

Yours sincerely,



David A. Levine

516 333 - 4494

I just returned from 2 weeks in Israel with my wife.

Edith J. Miller

1/14/85

Fred Cohen

Enclosed is a check for \$10. for UAHC Ethiopian Relief from Linda Van Raalte
149 6th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11271. This is an additional gift from the students
at HUC-JIR.

Jan 7, 1984

Dear Edie,

Enclosed is another check for the Ethiopian relief fund, from one of our students at the college.

So far as the "missing \$200" is concerned; I should know what happened by the end of this week. As soon as I know, I'll let you know. None the less I'm very pleased with the response, as we all should be.

Thanks for letting me know of the correction on the amount.

I'll stay in touch, as always

Love
Barney

MEMORANDUM

From Edith J. Miller
To Fred Cohen
Copies Barney Brickner
Subject ETHIOPIAN RELIEF FUND/UAHC

Date 12/21/84

The enclosed envelope marked \$1700. from the HUC-JIR Community of New York represents gifts to the Ethiopian Relief Fund from the students. No matter which way I count the funds in this envelope I come out with \$1500. --\$1469. in checks and \$31. in cash. By means of a copy of this memo I am advising Barney of the \$200. difference.

Be that as it may, please give me an extra xerox copy of all of the checks enclosed plus a note of \$31. cash so I can send it on to Barney for checking. There's no reason to hold up a deposit of the funds received....we'll have check copies and the cash is one \$1. bill, one \$10. bill and one \$20.

Thanks.

E



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

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CASH

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1,500.00 *



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Richard Cohen
(212) 758-6969

RABBI SCHINDLER ASSAILS ORTHODOX RABBIS' DEMAND THAT ETHIOPIAN JEWS UNDERGO CONVERSION IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 -- Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said today he was "outraged" by "the demands of some Orthodox groups in Israel that recently-arrived Ethiopian Jews undergo rituals of conversion."

In a statement commenting on news reports from Israel that new immigrants from Ethiopia are being required to undergo ritual immersion and, for males, a new ritual circumcision, Rabbi Schindler declared:

"Such demands are both offensive and humiliating to a Jewish community that has guarded its Jewish identity for some 2,000 years in the face of persecution, poverty and isolation from the rest of the Jewish world.

"The historic Operation Moses that has brought thousands of Beta Israel to the Promised Land is based on the fact that these people are Jews, recognized as such by the rabbinate and the government of Israel. Their immigration to Israel has been made possible by the Law of Return, for which they qualify as Jews entitled to citizenship in Israel.

"Why, then, must the Ethiopian Jews be subjected to the insulting demand that they prove their Jewishness again by undergoing conversion? I see no reason for it and I join the Beta Israel in rejecting this procedure.

"For 2,000 years the Jews of Ethiopia maintained their religious heritage, read the Torah, kept the Sabbath, and observed the various Biblical feasts and fasts and ritual purification. It is a bitter irony that on their arrival in the land they have dreamed of and prayed for over the generations, they must face a challenge to their Jewishness that is demeaning and degrading."



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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STROBER / RICHARD Advertising

30 East 60th Street New York, NY 10022 (212) 758-6996

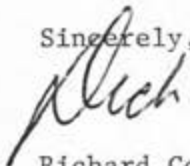
January 9, 1985

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex:

Here is the bill from The New York Times for the Ethiopian Relief ad. It comes to \$18,633.88, which takes into account the 20 percent reduction given to charities. There was no commission on this ad. Please instruct the accounting department to do a check in that amount to Strober/Richard Advertising, and I will pay the bill.

Sincerely,



Richard Cohen

RC:cl

OK
Giver
that's for ad
give check to her ~ Ed
to send to Dick.

Ed Schindler

✓

January 7, 1985

Cantor Jill Spasser
106 Barchester Way
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Jill:

I can understand your plaint concerning our recent communication asking for support for the starving Ethiopians but you see, our communication was sent to those and only to those who were addressed in the superscription. In other words, we sent our letter to rabbis, and to chairpersons of Social Action Committees and to the others who were listed. What probably happened is that someone replicated our letter and sent it to otherw in your congregations as well. Under those circumstances, I believe, our memorandum was appropriately addressed.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Jill Spasser Jan. 1, 1985
106 Barchester Way
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Mr. Rothchild & Rabbi Schindler,

I have received your communication dated December 10, 1984 asking for support for the starving Ethiopians. A check from our family is enclosed.

I am writing to you specifically to point attention to those addressed in your letter i.e. Rabbis, Social Action Chairs etc. Do you not think it would be more polite to address the letter to "Clergy" or Rabbis, Cantors etc. It seems to me that our branch of Jewish Clergy is constantly overlooked. Although this might have been an oversight at this difficult time I want you to be aware of my feelings & those of most Cantors.

Very Respectfully,
Jill Spasser
she is a cantor \$50

אגוד הרבנים המתקדמים

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

21 EAST 40th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 684-4990

January 1985

Dear Colleague:

On January 7, national Jewish organizations involved in assisting Ethiopian Jews met in New York to discuss a common policy in regard to the cessation of rescue efforts. Representatives of the Israeli government, NJCRAC, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, the UJA, the UIA, and the Reform Movement were among those in attendance.

A consensus was reached on the following points:

1. Publicity on rescue efforts of Ethiopian Jews should be minimized. At most, public statements should indicate that we shall not rest until all Ethiopian Jews are accounted for.
2. In general, we should refrain from comment when asked by the press about the breakdown of the rescue operation. "Since there are lives at stake, we have no comment" was seen to be an appropriate response for most situations.
3. There should be no public discussion now attempting to assign blame for what has happened. These matters are better left until later when all Ethiopian Jews have been brought to Israel.
4. Fund-raising efforts should stress the cost of absorbing the Ethiopian Jews in Israel, rather than the cost of bringing them out of Ethiopia. Dramatic statements about "ransoming Ethiopian Jews" should be especially avoided.
5. There should ^{be}/no call now for pressure by the American government on the Sudan or Egypt. We should not request assistance from our senators or public officials, and we should not engage in public demonstrations.

Obviously, the above policy was not an attempt to maintain secrecy. The problems with the rescue operation have been public knowledge for some time. However, there was agreement that if the issue is downplayed, the press will lose interest and move on to other matters. This in turn may make possible the resumption of the evacuation. On the other hand, continued discussions -- and in particular, public disagreements -- in the Jewish community are likely to have a ripple effect, and will be picked up by the general press.

Of course, public calls for support of general famine relief in Ethiopia and Africa continue to be in order, and in fact are now more important than ever.

Your cooperation on the above points would be greatly appreciated. For further information, feel free to contact the UAHC, ARZA, or CCAR offices.


Joseph B. Glaser


Albert Vorspan


Eric H. Yoffie

OFFICERS:

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New York, NY
Jacob R. Marcus, Honorary President
Cincinnati, OH

December 31, 1984

Mr. Edward Finkelstein
R.H. Macy Company, Inc.]
Herald Square
New York, NY 10001

Dear Ed:

Enclosed is a copy of the ad on Ethiopian Relief I told you about.

If Macy's could make a donation I would be grateful.

It was lovely being with you. Have a happy journey and year. Love
to Myra and the kids.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

December 31, 1984

Dear Harriette:

It was good having you share in the festivities of our annual Hanukah party and, of course, the special tribute to Mary Jordan this year. You are looking well and I do hope your foot problem will soon be completely healed and a thing of the past.

Your gift to the UAHC Ethiopian Relief Fund is truly appreciated, it bespeaks your care and concern for humanity and those less fortunate than yourself. Many thanks.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Ms. Harriette Handler
391 Moshulu Parkway
Bronx, NY 10467

ET/nap

December 31, 1984

Mr. Peter Jackson
555 W. Beech Street
Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92104

Dear Peter:

Forgive me for not responding sooner to your letter of December 5 but I've been on the merry-go-round' since then, travelling to and fro all over the land.

I appreciate your explanatory letter and I'm sorry that a misunderstanding arose between us. But, all is well that ends well, is it not?

Regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

bc: Mrs. Alexander M. Schindler

On file
555 W. Beech Street, Suite 210
San Diego, California 92101

December 5, 1984

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex,

*Did you
answer*
Phew

Thank you for your letter which I received this morning. I very much regret that we appear to have antagonized one another during our telephone conversation. I have heard so much about you from Michael and Anita that I very much want to make amends, put the record straight and hope that our future communications can be more cordial.

Firstly, let me say that I was concerned that you should be involved in this discussion so late at night. However, the call was not mine, like yourself, I was drawn into the conversation between our good wives; I believe Mrs. Shindler made the call.

At the time of the call, I only knew of you in connection with Ram Carmi. I did not to begin with know that you are the President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. I am well aware of the long term interest of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and I do believe that during our conversation I did compliment you on the excellent work that had been undertaken by your colleagues and in particular, Mr. Glen Stein.

Whilst I am a Board member of the American Association For Ethiopian Jews and both approve and admire the work carried out by this organization, my interest in Ethiopia is through my membership of the Falasha Welfare Association of Great Britain. Our Board includes our Chief Rabbi, David Kessler, the proprietor of the Jewish Chronicle and Ansel Harris, Director of Oxfam. Similarly to the A.A.E.J., our efforts on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry have stretched over a period of some seven years. During this time of heavy, daily commitment, it has often appeared to us that no other Jewish organizations would interest themselves in our desperate cause. During that period, I have made several visits to Africa and through lack of sufficient resources witnessed many newly made African friends perish. Forgive me if my observation on the lack of support that could have saved these people seemed to you to be self righteous. However, I do believe that a detailed study into the recent history of this situation would show that very little assistance has ever been given to Ethiopian Jews in Ethiopia. Similarly, until November 1983 I am not aware of any assistance given to Falashas living in Sudan other than by the A.A.E.J.

However, all this is now history. We are all proud to witness the heroic rescue of Falashas from Sudan by Israel. Many organizations are now raising funds for the Falashas and I am sure that much needed help will reach them shortly.

When I next visit New York I shall endeavor to make an appointment in order that we might meet and discuss this matter more fully. In the meantime, should your travels take you to San Diego or to London you and Mrs. Schindler would be a very welcome guest at our home and both Elizabeth and myself look forward to the pleasure of meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

PETER JACKSON

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Peter Jackson', written in a cursive style.

gy

Edie Miller

12/30/84

Fred Cohen

UAHC ETHIOPIAN RELIEF

Enclosed herewith is a check for \$150. from Miss Frayda Ingber, 170 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10023. This represents a gift to the famine fund in honor of her colleagues on the staff of HUC-JIR.

non-Jew works for Jewish organization --- ad is her vision of Jewish community concern for others --- check sent in memory of her late husband on anniversary of his 39th birthday....

December 27, 1984

Ms. Toni Lobue Cabat
134 Pleasantville Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Dear Ms. Cabat:

Many thanks for your gracious gift to the UAHC Ethiopian Relief Appeal. We are receiving an overwhelming response from the American community to this humanitarian plea.

I am grateful for your words of commendation, even as I thank you for honoring the memory of your late husband in so very meaningful a manner.

With heartfelt gratitude and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



December 27, 1984

Religious School Students
Temple Beth Or
5315 Creedmor Road
Raleigh, NC 27612

Bbalom:

It was wonderful to learn of your loving gift of your October, November and December Tzedakah collection for the UAHC Ethiopian Relief effort. For all of us of the Union we write to express heartfelt appreciation for your care and concern.

Your gift will help us to help provide food and shelter for the homeless, hungry people of Ethiopia. We are truly grateful.

With all good wishes and kindest greetings to one and all, we are

Sincerely,

Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

Alexander M. Schindler, Rabbi
President

TEMPLE BETH OR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

5315 CREEDMOOR RD.
RALEIGH, NC 27612

2225

Dec. 21 1984 66-30
531

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

UAHC - Ethiopia

\$ 226.00

Two hundred and twenty-six dollars and 7/100 DOLLARS

FIRST CITIZENS BANK

First Citizens Bank & Trust Company
Raleigh, N.C. 27602

FOR

Rebecca S. Hoffman

⑈00002225⑈ - ⑆053100300⑆0861302692⑈

Dear Mr. Rothschild and Rabbi Schindler:
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021

Yes, I want to help.

- 1/ Here is our check for \$ 226.00 to fight famine in Ethiopia and to establish a tent village to shelter the people of Ethiopia who are in need.
- 2/ Here is our check for \$ _____ to assist PROJECT REAP, which is the UAHC program of medical aid specifically for Ethiopian Jews.
(Make check out to UAHC PROJECT REAP)
- 3/ Please call me about volunteering my own services or suggesting some other persons with medical background or access to medical equipment.

* Name Temple Beth OR Religious School Congregation Temple Beth OR
Address 5315 Creedmoor City/Town RAleigh, NC 27612
City, State, Zip RAleigh, N.C. 27612 Personal telephone _____

* The children wanted to give October's, November's and December's tzedakah money to Ethiopia (\$15.00)

Elmer R. Schindler

December 26, 1984

Mr. Hirsch Wartik
141 East 33rd Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Hirsch:

Dick Cohen gave me your address so that I could thank you for the magnificent layout of the Ethiopian Hunger Ad which you created for the UAHC. All of us are deeply grateful to you. The deeply moving drawing which was used to illustrate the ad is magnificent in its simplicity. All of us of the Union thank you for sharing of your creativity in so generous a manner.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

FROM: Richard Cohen

Dec. 20, 1984

TO: 1. Alex
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Remarks:

(and send me a copy)

Please write a warm letter of thanks to Mr. Hirsch Wartik

141 East 33rd St.,
New York, NY 10016

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

for his beautiful layout of the Ethiopian
hunger ad, his deeply moving drawing that we used as an illustration
and his generosity in doing it pro bono.



2131 ELMWOOD AVENUE

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14618

244-7060

THE RABBI'S STUDY

December 20, 1984

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Alex:

I saw this very moving advertisement in the New York Times. But I also saw articles about "Operation Moses", a UJA project to bring "Falasha", Ethiopian Jews out of camps in the Sudan. Which project is the one we should support? My congregants are confused. So am I.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Judea B. Miller

JBM:nk
cc: David Saperstein

Ethiopian Relief

December 26, 1984

Rabbi Judea B. Miller
Temple B'rith Kodesh
2131 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Dear Judea:

Thank you for your kind words of appreciation for the advertisement which we placed in the New York Times for Ethiopian Relief. We are getting a superb response to this humanitarian effort.

I understand there has been some confusion in regard to the various efforts which revolve about the situation in Ethiopia. Let me try to clarify:

1/ UAHC Ethiopian Relief is a request for funds which will be used for the tens of thousands of Ethiopian families who are searching for sustenance. They have left their homes because of the famine and are in desperate straits.

2/ UAHC Project REAP is our program seeking assistance for Ethiopian Jews. They require medical help and other assistance.

The enclosed Social Action mailing on FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA will give you additional information on the programs.

3/ OPERATION MOSES is a UJA project seeking to raise funds to bring the Jews out of Ethiopia and resettle them in Israel.

One would have to be a Solomon to determine "which project is the one we should support." All are worthy. All are important. Funds should be given to all of these efforts and we should all give to the very best of our ability.

I hope this has clarified the issue.

With warm regards and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

cc David S

Light one candle, save one life. A Jewish response to the famine in Ethiopia.



In flight from famine, tens of thousands of Ethiopian families have left their homes in a desperate search for sustenance. By day they sit in the blazing African sun. At night they huddle together for warmth under the open sky.

Millions of men and women around the world have been moved to help.

Now there is a visible Jewish presence in confronting the catastrophic starvation in Ethiopia. It is based on the Talmud: To save one life is to save the world.

It began in Jerusalem, where a private citizen, Abie Nathan, raised \$100,000 in a single night to buy tents and medicine for Ethiopian famine victims. It continues in America, where the movement of Reform Judaism has pledged to support this initiative and help build a complete tent city: 600 tents plus tons of medical supplies and equipment for 6,000 homeless in Ethiopia.

'From Jerusalem With Love'

The first tents and medical supplies are being flown into Ethiopia this month, during the Chanukah holiday. Each tent is imprinted with the legend, "From Jerusalem With Love." Each bears the Star of David, symbol of the Jewish people. A team of volunteer Israeli physicians is providing medical care.

Food has been contributed by many governments, religious groups and voluntary agencies, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which is providing emergency clothing supplies and meeting urgent medical needs.

Saving lives is the ultimate *mitzvah* in the Jewish tradition. Our answer to the horror of massive famine in Ethiopia cannot be to turn aside or look away. In this season of Chanukah, when Jews traditionally exchange gifts with their loved ones, let us light an extra candle and give an extra gift.

This will be the most precious gift of all—the gift of life.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
UAHC Ethiopian Relief
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021

I want to help the victims of starvation in Ethiopia by contributing this check for:

\$360 \$180 \$90 \$72 \$36 \$18 Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

(Please make checks payable to UAHC Ethiopian Relief. Your gift is tax deductible.)

This appeal has been initiated by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, composed of 770 Reform synagogues in the United States and Canada. It is addressed to every member of the Jewish community—Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, unaffiliated. We invite as well all other persons who wish to share in this effort to provide emergency shelter and medical care for the victims of famine in Ethiopia.

N.Y. Times
Dec. 16
1984

N.Y. Times

Efforts underway to rescue, help resettle Ethiopian Jews

By MICHAEL BERENBAUM

WASHINGTON—The rescue of a substantial number of Ethiopian Jews is under way, it appears from interviews with government officials, Jewish professionals and activists on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry.

Sources in United Jewish Appeal who refused to be identified by name suggest that the United Jewish Appeal has made a decision to launch a special fundraising campaign for the rescue and resettlement of Ethiopian Jewry. The figure mentioned is \$60 million.

Travelers just returning from Israel estimate the average age of the rescued Jews as 14. Many of them are small children, and they arrive in rags, without baggage. "They are frail, very thin, but their stomachs are not distended," one traveler said. "Their arms and legs are like sticks. But they are a regal people. Many of them never walked down steps. They have to be taught how to negotiate them."

U.S. government officials indicate that this country will pay a significant share of the transportation and medical expenses involved in the resettlement efforts.

The UJA cabinet has been meeting to determine the size of the campaign and its relationship to other fundraising drives on behalf of Israel. Current plans project that the cost of the rescue and resettlement project will exceed \$100 million.

Economic Austerity in Israel

The resettlement project has begun at a time of economic austerity in Israel. Wage and price controls have been imposed, the government has cut its budget by \$1.5 billion, subsidies have been drastically reduced, and, for the first time in recent years, there is a specter of large-scale unemployment. The responsibility of American Jewry looms large in this rescue effort.

Israeli officials have expressed concern with the magnitude

Michael Berenbaum is opinion page editor of the Washington Jewish Week, where this article is appearing simultaneously.

of the problem of resettling educationally deprived and unskilled immigrants. One Israeli suggested that the country may have to return to the *moshavot* of the 1950s, which will nevertheless appear as palaces to Ethiopian villagers. Nevertheless, Israelis are certain that Ethiopian resettlement will be "a proud chapter in the history of our people."

Citing "the extreme sensitivity of officialdom in the area," officials stressed the need for secrecy until the operation is completed. They specifically asked that the names of the countries involved and the numbers of Jews now reaching Israel not be published.

In the past, the Israeli government has been accused of dragging its feet. Activists on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry now express satisfaction with the scale of the rescue effort.

Catastrophe of Biblical Proportions

What seemed to have brought about this sudden immigration is the drought which has devastated Ethiopia.

According to Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-Queens), who returned from Ethiopia this past weekend, more than 300,000 Ethiopians have starved to death and the number may reach millions. "It's a catastrophe of monumental, biblical proportions," he said. "It seems like the forces of nature have conspired to wreak havoc on the lives of the people."

Efforts to alleviate mass starvation are now under way. Last week, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee had received permission to operate feeding stations in the Gonder, the home of most of the surviving Ethiopian Jews. One official said that Joint may feed as many as 400,000 people.

Previously, the Joint, which is the American Jewish community's counterpart to Protestant and Catholic relief agencies, was denied permission to work in the region.

Israel has launched a national drive to help the victims of the Ethiopian drought.

Protest Community Insensitivity

During the past month, protests on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry disrupted the opening meeting of the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Toronto. American



More Hailsham youngsters will be joining this Ethiopian youth in Israel if the current rescue effort is successful.

Association for Ethiopian Jewry leaders had charged that the "established community was insensitive to the problem." Shoshana Cardin, the incoming president of CJF, responded, "We are doing everything we can without jeopardizing anyone." Ethiopian Jewry has been a subject of great controversy within recent years, with disputes between the established Jewish community and the AAJE activists erupting over the scope of the Ethiopian Jewry problem and the seriousness of the Israeli rescue efforts.

Recent reports had indicated that more than 12,000 Jews had left their home and were being ill housed and ill fed in unsanitary refugee camps. According to one AAJE official more than 2,000 Jews have died. This figure was denied by an American official, who claimed that the number was "a couple of hundred" who were victims of primitive conditions.

UJA's special fundraising campaign of Ethiopian Jewry will be the second special effort—in addition to the regular campaign—in the past three years. In the aftermath of the Lebanon war, UJA launched a special fundraising campaign which fell significantly short of its projected target.

UJA officials look forward to the Ethiopian campaign. "It's very seldom that you have a chance to be a modern-day Moses and save a people," one of them said. □

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Our new Information Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Phone 205-721-2300.

Take I-95 or Florida Turnpike and exit at Commercial Blvd. Go West to University Drive, then north 1 1/2 miles to Woodmont: 7801 N.W. 78th St., Tamarac, Florida 33321.

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MONEY MARKET

Average Rates for Tues., Dec. 4, 1984

Interest Rates	%
180-day Eurodollar C.D. (Jumbo):	10.00
180-day New York C.D. (Jumbo):	10.00
Prime Rate:	11.50
Money Market Acct. (Eff. yield):	9.38
Super N.O.W. Account:	6.50

Foreign Exchange for U.S. \$1

Israel Sheqel:	590.50
Deutsche Mark:	3.0915
Swiss Franc:	2.5485
Canadian Dollar:	1.3228
Japanese Yen:	246.95
British Pound (£1):	\$1.2015
Gold: \$332.00/oz. (second London fixing)	
Silver: \$7.11/oz.	

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE RATES CALL: (212) 541-3070

\$100,000 C.D. — CALL US LAST!

MEMBER FDIC **UMB BANK** and Trust Company
Subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank Ltd.
Closed on all Jewish Holidays
Rates are for informational purposes only. Not responsible for typographical errors.

December 21, 1984

Mrs. Herta Paulsen
49 Maplewood Drive
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Mrs. Paulsen:

Thank you for your gracious contribution to our Ethiopian Relief
Campaign.

I tend to doubt that we are related. There are two Schindler
branches - one from East Prussia to Hamburg and Berlin, the
other from Galicia to Vienna and Bavaria. You appear to stem
from the former while I am from the latter. But then, all Jews
are related, are they not?

I hope we will have a chance to meet one of these days. Again,
my thanks for your kind contribution.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Her maiden
name is
Schindler

MRS. HERTA PAULSEN
49 MAPLEWOOD DRIVE
AMHERST, MASS. 01002

Dec 17, 1984

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I have always wondered
whether we were related in some
way since there are not that
many Jewish Schindlers. I

grew up in Hamburg; my grandfather
moved from Berlin
early in the century but had
brothers & sisters in Austria.

With best wishes

Edith

She paid
\$50
for Edith.

Herta Paulsen

Turn

Tend to double it.

There were 2 Shindler
brandies - - one from Rost Prussia
to Hamburg & Berlin the other from
Galicia to Vienna & Bavaria. You
appear to hold from the former whilst
I am from the latter. But then,
all four are related, are they not.

Hope we'll have a chance
to meet one of these days.
Thanks for check etc



December 19, 1984

Mr. and Mrs. Alan I. Karten
9620 S. W. 60th Court
Miami, FL 33156

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Karten:

This is to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation
your generous gift of \$400. to the UAHC Ethiopian Relief Fund. We
are grateful for your help in seeking to alleviate the great suffer-
ing being endured by the people of Ethiopia.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Edith J. Miller

December 7, 1984

Al Vorspan/Ruth Harrison

UAHC ETHIOPIAN RELIEF

Enclosed is my check for \$400. payable to UAHC Ethiopian Relief. It is a contribution from Bernard and Deborah Cohen (Mr. and Mrs.) of 9530 W. W. 95th Court, Miami, Florida 33176 and represents a Hanukah gift in honor of Alan and Donna (Mr. and Mrs.) Alan Karten of 9620 S. W. 60th Court, Miami, Florida 33156.

Please see that the Cohens receive an acknowledgement and that the Kartens are advised of this gift in their honor. Many thanks.

December 12, 1984

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Karten
9620 S. W. 60th Court
Miami, Florida 33156

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Karten:

You will be happy and touched to know that a contribution was made in your honor - as a Chanukah gift - to UARC Ethiopian Relief by Bernard and Deborah Cohen.

We want to express our profound appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Cohen (in this letter) for their efforts to alleviate suffering in Ethiopia. And I am sure you will agree that there can be no finer gift for Chanukah.

I am attaching the latest about the Abie Nathan tent village, which these funds will help to create and sustain.

Sincerely,

Albert Vorspan

AV:rh
encl.
cc: Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Cohen
bcc: Edith Miller

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

December 18, 1984

Albert Vorspan

cc: Charles J. Rothschild, Jr.

Just a note to let you know that Abdd~~u~~ Mohamed of the Ethiopian Mission called me up to thank us in behalf of the Government for our aid and the help in which we are extending to the Ethiopian people.

Edith J. Miller

✓
December 17, 1984

Ruth Harrison

Enclosed herewith for Ethiopian Emergency Food Drive a check for \$125.- from Temple Beth-El, Cape Coral, Florida and \$750.- from The Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Inasmuch as they came with special letters to Rabbi Schindler, we will thank them from this office.

Edith J. Miller

✓
December 13, 1984

Al Vorspan

ETHIOPIAN RELIEF

Enclosed is a check payable to the UAHC in the sum of \$1,000. from Louis E. Wolfson, P.O. Box 4, Jacksonville, FL 32201. He notes in his letter to Alex that he learned the UAHC is raising funds for the tragic situation in Ethiopia and his gift is to be used for the purpose.

Alex will be writing to say thank you but I presume there is also a thanl you from the Fund.

Ethiop

December 12, 1984

Ms. Marjerie Grossbarth
President
Temple Sh'arey Shalom
78 So. Springfield Avenue
Springfield, NJ 07081

Dear Ms. Grossbarth:

The enclosed copy of a memo which is being mailed to the personnel noted, is self-explanatory. In addition, copies of the UNION Resolution on Ethiopian Relief are being sent to temple presidents in the regular packets which go forth from the UAHC House of Living Judaism.

We have been involved in working in behalf of the Jews of Ethiopia for quite a long time. Some of our efforts have been in concert with other organizations so our role is not always highlighted, but we have kept the leaders of our movement and our congregations informed of all activities.

I trust you saw the story which was carried in the New York Times yesterday. God willing, within a very brief time frame all of the remaining Jews of Ethiopia will reach Israel.

With appreciation for your concern and assurance that your Union is doing everything possible in regard to the Jews as well as those Ethiopians who are suffering from the dreadful famine, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



78 So. Springfield Avenue

Springfield, New Jersey 07081

(201) 379-5387

Rabbi
JOSHUA GOLDSTEIN

Cantor
IRVING KRAMERMAN

Educational Director
ELAINE SNEPAR

Music Director
RON BROWN

December 5, 1984

Rabbi Alexander Shindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Shindler,

We, the Board of Trustees and members of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, New Jersey, are most concerned about the plight of the Ethiopian Jews.

please utilize the resources of your good office to assist these beleaguered people to attain their goal of immigration to the State of Israel. We hope that you will do all in your power for humanitarian reasons.

Thank you for your assistance in this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

Marjorie Grossbarth
President

MG:rh

FROM:

Mrs. Virginia S. Brill
2900 Wakefield Way
Columbus, Georgia 31906

December 12, 1984

DATE:

ATTENTION:

TO:

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

SUBJECT:

MESSAGE

Please advise me when the drive for the Ethiopians will begin. It would

be a relevant project for our Religious School. As we begin to collect funds we need to know the title of the project so that we can send the Tzedakah to the correct fund. Also it would be helpful to have some written information so that the children will feel a part of this undertaking. Thank you for your help. The tent city idea is very exciting.

Administrator, Temple Israel Religious School

SIGNED:

Virginia S. Brill

REPLY

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the memo going forward this week to those designated, your rabbi may have received it by now. In any event, funds for the victims of the famine in Ethiopia can be sent here with a notation for UAHC ETHIOPIAN RELIEF and FUNDS FOR THE Jews of Ethiopia can be designated for UAHC PROJECT REAP. Many thanks for your inquiry and your concern.

DATE:

12/14/84

SIGNED: Assistant to the President

East Miller



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

To: Rabbis, Social Action Chairs, Commission on Social Action, OCAR Committee on Justice and Peace, CRCs

From: Charles J. Rothschild, Jr., Chairman of the UAHC Board of Trustees
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President of the UAHC

Date: December 10, 1984

Subject: FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA

An extraordinary Jewish response to the calamitous famine in Ethiopia is now unfolding....a tent village is being planned which will be erected near a feeding station in drought-stricken Ethiopia with funds raised from the Jewish public in Israel and the United States. Conceived and inspired by Abie Nathan, famed Israeli humanitarian, the village will be served by doctors and medical personnel who have already volunteered in Israel. They will be augmented by doctors, nurses and others who will be asked to serve from the United States. The tents will be flown in from Israel and will be marked "FROM JERUSALEM WITH LOVE" and will be stamped with a Shield of David.

The UAHC, through its Board of Trustees, has resolved to participate in this uniquely Jewish undertaking (resolution attached). We have pledged to raise a minimum of \$100,000 toward the goal of \$300,000 needed to establish a model village of 600 tents to shelter 6,000 people. Since these funds may not be drawn from the UAHC budget, we turn to individuals within and outside our movement, for whom the saving of human life is the ultimate *MITZVAH*.

We urge you to:

- 1) Publish this letter in your temple bulletin or reproduce it and send it to your congregants;
- 2) It would be most helpful and effective if the rabbi would preach on this project, preferably on *Shabbat Chanukah*;
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ETHIOPIA RELIEF

Saving human lives is the ultimate mitzvah in the Jewish tradition. Therefore, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has followed with a deepening sense of horror and alarm the reports of massive famine in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, meeting in Bal Harbour, Florida, on December 2, 1984:

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Dear Mr. Rothschild and Rabbi Schindler:
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021

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- 2/ Here is our check for \$ _____ to assist PROJECT REAP, which is the UAHC program of medical aid specifically for Ethiopian Jews.
(Make check out to UAHC PROJECT REAP)
- 3/ Please call me about volunteering my own services or suggesting some other persons with medical background or access to medical equipment.

Name _____ Congregation _____
Address _____ City/Town _____
City, State, Zip _____ Personal telephone _____

Light one candle, save one life. A Jewish response to the famine in Ethiopia.



In flight from famine, tens of thousands of Ethiopian families have left their homes in a desperate search for sustenance. By day they sit in the blazing African sun. At night they huddle together for warmth under the open sky.

Millions of men and women around the world have been moved to help.

Now there is a visible Jewish presence in confronting the catastrophic starvation in Ethiopia. It is based on the Talmud: To save one life is to save the world.

It began in Jerusalem, where a private citizen, Abie Nathan, raised \$100,000 in a single night to buy tents and medicine for Ethiopian famine victims. It continues in America, where the movement of Reform Judaism has pledged to support this initiative and help build a complete tent city: 600 tents plus tons of medical supplies and equipment for 6,000 homeless in Ethiopia.

'From Jerusalem With Love'

The first tents and medical supplies are being flown into Ethiopia this month, during the Chanukah holiday. Each tent is imprinted with the legend, "From Jerusalem With Love." Each bears the Star of David, symbol of the Jewish people. A team of volunteer Israeli physicians is providing medical care.

Food has been contributed by many governments, religious groups and voluntary agencies, including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which is providing emergency clothing supplies and meeting urgent medical needs.

Saving lives is the ultimate *mitzvah* in the Jewish tradition. Our answer to the horror of massive famine in Ethiopia cannot be to turn aside or look away. In this season of Chanukah, when Jews traditionally exchange gifts with their loved ones, let us light an extra candle and give an extra gift.

This will be the most precious gift of all—the *gift of life*.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
UAHC Ethiopian Relief
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021

I want to help the victims of starvation in Ethiopia by contributing this check for:

\$360 \$180 \$90 \$72 \$36 \$18 Other _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

(Please make checks payable to UAHC Ethiopian Relief. Your gift is tax deductible.)

This appeal has been initiated by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, composed of 770 Reform synagogues in the United States and Canada. It is addressed to every member of the Jewish community—Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, unaffiliated. We invite as well all other persons who wish to share in this effort to provide emergency shelter and medical care for the victims of famine in Ethiopia.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Albert Vorspan

Ethiopian

May 9, 1984

Enclosed is the letter on Ethiopian Jewry which you were to transmit to
Abe Bayer. Thanks for taking care of this matter.

May 9, 1984

Professor Elliott Levine
Winnipeg Committee for
Ethiopian Jews
803 Kingston Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2M 0T7 Canada

Dear Elliott:

Thank you for your recent letter in regard to Ethiopian Jewry. Be assured I am looking into this matter and I seek to obtain a response to the issue you raised. I'll keep you posted.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Winnipeg Committee for Ethiopian Jews

~~245 Stafford St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2K4~~ 393 Kingston Cres.
Telephone: (204) ~~489-2382~~, 233-6516, or 786-7811 (ext. 248) WAG. C.M.A.
R2M 0T7

April 27th 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I write with some urgency.

Last month I recall indicating in conversation that 7,000 "falashas" had reportedly left Gondar region with 2,800 confirmed in Sudan.

Chairman

Prof. Elliott Levine

Members

Donald Aronovitch
Marcia Cogan
Martin Levin
David Matas
Rabbi Neal Rose
Harry Schachter
Philip Schachter
Joseph Selter

Dozens of letters and two telex's indicate that a least 3,500 (with possibly 6-7000) have got thru. These are largely family groups that took longer in transit than usual. Baruch Tegegne's sister & two children arrived in Montreal on JIAS sponsorship from Addis last week, she continues to report that no more than 3,000 remain virtually all of these the old & the young the able bodied have left.

While full confirmation remains, the residual secondary route run by Israel (204 rescued this past month) is clearly inadequate to the task—a 2-3yr transit time will see too many perish. The present gov't appears to desire no "complications" prior elections, the prospects of a labor win are-given their history/constituency on this issue-chilling.

(It is but 4 mo. since 25,000 officially remained in Gondar, 2 mo. since the revision down to 17,000, clearly a qualitative shift demanding new initiative is occurring. Of course Israel should be given every credit for a credible job last Oct-Feb given the numbers available to be rescued and actually rescued at the time. This exemplary effort (that eventually cost one, and possibly two, agents) now no longer in place, & the best ever, would not be adequate to the current need!)

It thus appears that Israeli assurances re:appropriate prompt action to clear the Sudan must now be vigorously "called in". While ambassadors are not always briefed, Mossad intelligence is at least as current as mine (often sources are identical). Given the magnitude of the problem it now seems time that the political will be mustered to act...a 24 hr military operation to clear the Sudan is logistically possible. With the Gondar Exodus completed this option should, I believe, be urged. I pray that you will join in counselling effective action at this time to the highest authorities.

With warm regards,

Elliott Levine

P.S. over

"As you save a single soul, you redeem the world." — Hillel

Investigation of current Bma. Bism
campaign (re: "situation in hand" - no anti
Semitism, no problems etc.) regretably shows
it to be pre-election Herut hype.
E.L.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

To: Rabbis, Social Action Chairs, Commission on Social Action, CCAR Committee on Justice and Peace, CRCs

From: Charles J. Rothschild, Jr., Chairman of the UAHC Board of Trustees
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, President of the UAHC

Date: December 10, 1984

Subject: FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA

An extraordinary Jewish response to the calamitous famine in Ethiopia is now unfolding....a tent village is being planned which will be erected near a feeding station in drought-stricken Ethiopia with funds raised from the Jewish public in Israel and the United States. Conceived and inspired by Abie Nathan, famed Israeli humanitarian, the village will be served by doctors and medical personnel who have already volunteered in Israel. They will be augmented by doctors, nurses and others who will be asked to serve from the United States. The tents will be flown in from Israel and will be marked "FROM JERUSALEM WITH LOVE" and will be stamped with a Shield of David.

The UAHC, through its Board of Trustees, has resolved to participate in this uniquely Jewish undertaking (resolution attached). We have pledged to raise a minimum of \$100,000 toward the goal of \$300,000 needed to establish a model village of 600 tents to shelter 6,000 people. Since these funds may not be drawn from the UAHC budget, we turn to individuals within and outside our movement, for whom the saving of human life is the ultimate *MITZVAH*.

We urge you to:

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Name _____ Congregation _____
Address _____ City/Town _____
City, State, Zip _____ Personal telephone _____

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National Jewish Community Relations
Advisory Council

443 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016

(212) 684-6950

May 28, 1984

Mr. Albert Vorspan, Vice President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Al:

As per your request of May 11, here are my reactions to the urgent communication of Prof. Elliot Levine of Canada to Alex Schindler. Indeed, as Levine suggests, a qualitative and quantitative series of shifts have taken place in the situation of Ethiopian Jews in the last six months, but not in the sequence indicated nor with regard to the numbers of arrivals quoted. Here is the situation as we see it:

1. At the beginning of the year, the refugee camps were almost totally cleared of Ethiopian Jews who were brought to Israel by the Israeli unit responsible for rescue.
 2. Soon afterwards, the ongoing hostilities of various nationalist and irredentist revolutionary groups intensified so that the central-government control almost collapsed, especially in the areas of the large Jewish villages in the Gondar. Jews and others began to flow across the borders again in large numbers, and by April, the Jewish population in the camps had doubled. It has now almost tripled (about 6,000 may be there).
 3. Israeli units responded concurrently, bringing large groups to Israel for several weeks. NJCRAC has been monitoring this situation closely and is continually updating Jewish leadership (see attached NJCRAC mailing).
- Prof. Levine's numbers are inaccurate. The amount he quotes for April isn't even half the actual number brought to Israel. The numbers he gives for those left in Ethiopia are also incorrect; there are much fewer than he indicates. The kind of operation Levine asks for was probably in place a long time ago. They have been doing everything possible for some years now.
4. Today, all the political parties know clearly of the strong desire of both Israel and world Jewry that rescue continue and increase as rapidly as possible. The Israeli "elections", as Prof. Levine puts it, are not restraining factors, and to suggest politics is to say that Israel acts only under pressure and must continue to be pressured--a line which we reject.
 5. The moral and political "will to act" doesn't need to be mustered. The will to rescue all Ethiopian Jews has been proven by the

NJCRC CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL AGENCIES

American Jewish Committee	National Council of Jewish Women
American Jewish Congress	Union of American Hebrew Congregations
B'nai B'rith—Anti-Defamation League	Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
Hadassah	United Synagogue of America—National Women's
Jewish Labor Committee	League for Conservative Judaism
Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.	Women's American ORT

Local, State and County Agencies* and their Locations

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ARIZONA GREATER PHOENIX Jewish Federation TUCSON Anti-Defamation-CRC of the JCC	NEBRASKA OMAHA JCRC Committee of Jewish Federation
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ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN CHICAGO Public Affairs Committee of Jewish United Fund PEORIA Jewish Federation SPRINGFIELD Jewish Federation	PENNSYLVANIA ALLENTOWN CRC of Jewish Federation ERIE JCC GREATER PHILADELPHIA JCRC PITTSBURGH CRC of United Jewish Federation SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA Jewish Council GREATER WILKES-BARRE Jewish Federation
INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS JCRC SOUTH BEND Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley JCRC of Indiana	RHODE ISLAND PROVIDENCE CRC of Rhode Island Jewish Federation
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KANSAS KANSAS CITY, See Missouri	TENNESSEE MEMPHIS JCRC NASHVILLE AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE Jewish Federation
KENTUCKY LOUISVILLE Jewish Community Federation	TEXAS AUSTIN JCC GREATER DALLAS JCRC of Jewish Federation EL PASO JCRC Committee GREATER HOUSTON Jewish Federation FORT WORTH Jewish Federation SAN ANTONIO JCRC of Jewish Federation
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MAINE PORTLAND Southern Maine Jewish Federation-Community Council	WASHINGTON GREATER SEATTLE Jewish Federation
MARYLAND BALTIMORE JCRC (Montgomery County, see D.C.)	WISCONSIN MADISON JCC MILWAUKEE Jewish Council
MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN BOSTON JCC MARBLEHEAD North Shore Jewish Federation GREATER NEW BEDFORD Jewish Federation SPRINGFIELD Jewish Federation WORCESTER Jewish Federation	
MICHIGAN METROPOLITAN DETROIT JCC FLINT Jewish Federation	
MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Minnesota and Dakotas JCRC—Anti-Defamation League	

*Community Relations Committee (CRC); Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC); Jewish Community Council (JCC)

numbers arriving each year since 1979 when they were first found in the refugee camps. 6,500 souls now in Israel is the best evidence.

6. We believe that the "Gondar Exodus" is not over yet. Dedicated and skilled Israelis are working 24 hours a day to keep movement going. However, such a rescue effort, conducted in hostile territory, is not a fine-tuned emigration operation with established quotas, moving in an orderly and legal fashion.
7. Prof. Levine's sources of information are not quite identical to Israel's. Even those coming from the refugee camps, whom Levine is in contact with through the AAJE, do not have the total picture. The Israelis have the "geshtalt"--view--the access of a sovereign nation, which is not available to private groups; but 6,500 olim are openly visible.
8. No doubt conditions in the refugee camps are very difficult. How could it be otherwise when the numbers have tripled in such a short period of time? You can imagine what it must mean to collect, sustain, protect, hide and then move such large numbers of people, in the midst of 600,000 non-Jewish refugees who watch as Falashas mysteriously receive better treatment . . . then disappear; so the hostility and erratic movement is understandable.

In the last two weeks, I have met with on-site workers and the new chairperson of the Israel Public Council on Ethiopia. Their reports, in addition to ones received from U.S. Government sources, give one hope for the total redemption of Beta Yisroel in the foreseeable future. With 6,500 already in Israel and 6,000 in the refugee camps, more than half the number of Ethiopian Jews are already out of Ethiopia, of which amount more than 50 percent are actually free in Israel-- an incredible record for the Israelis.

Warmest personal regards,



Abraham J. Bayer
Director, International Commission

AJB:tn
enclosure

P.S.
If you would like us
to meet with Levine, I'll
be pleased to arrange it.

May 10, 1984

Mr. Abraham Bayer
N. J. C. R. A. C.
443 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Dear Abe:

Please give me your comments on the
attached, so Alex can respond positively.

Alex was favorably Impressed by this
guy and doesn't want to just finesse the
response.

Thanks for your help.

Cordially,

Albert Vorspan

AV:rh
encl.

MEMORANDUM

From Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Date May 9, 1984

To Albert Vorspan

Enclosed is the letter on Ethiopian Jewry which you are to transmit to Abe Bayer. Thanks for taking care of this matter.



wrote to Rose



Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

Winnipeg Committee for Ethiopian Jews

~~245 Stafford St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2K4~~ 393 Kingston Cres.
Telephone: (204) 489-2352, 233-6516, or 786-7811 (ext. 248) WAG. CHUR.
R2M OT7

April 27th 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I write with some urgency.

Last month I recall indicating in conversation that 7,000 "falashas" had reportedly left Gondar region with 2,800 confirmed in Sudan.

Chairman

Prof. Elliott Levine

Members

Donald Aronovitch
Marcia Cogan
Martin Levin
David Matas
Rabbi Neal Rose
Harry Schachter
Philip Schachter
Joseph Selter

Dozens of letters and two telex's indicate that a least 3,500 (with possibly 6-7000) have got thru. These are largely family groups that took longer in transit than usual. Baruch Tegegne's sister & two children arrived in Montreal on JIAS sponsorship from Addis last week, she continues to report that no more than 3,000 remain virtually all of these the old & the young the able bodied have left.

While full confirmation remains, the residual secondary route run by Israel (204 rescued this past month) is clearly inadequate to the task - a 2-3yr transit time will see too many perish. The present gov't appears to desire no "complications" prior elections, the prospects of a labor win are given their history/constituency on this issue-chilling.

(It is but 4 mo. since 25,000 officially remained in Gondar, 2 mo. since the revision down to 17,000, clearly a qualitative shift demanding new initiative is occurring. Of course Israel should be given every credit for a credible job last Oct-Feb given the numbers available to be rescued and actually rescued at the time. This exemplary effort (that eventually cost one, and possibly two, agents) now no longer in place, & the best ever, would not be adequate to the current need!)

It thus appears that Israeli assurances re: appropriate prompt action to clear the Sudan must now be vigorously "called in". While ambassadors are not always briefed, Mossad intelligence is at least as current as mine (often sources are identical). Given the magnitude of the problem it now seems time that the political will be mustered to act... a 24 hr military operation to clear the Sudan is logistically possible. With the Gondar Exodus completed this option should, I believe, be urged. I pray that you will join in counselling effective action at this time to the highest authorities.

With warm regards,

Elliott Levine

P.S. over

"As you save a single soul, you redeem the world." — Hillel

May 24, 1984

Professor Elliott Levine
Winnipeg Committee for
Ethiopian Jews
215 Stafford Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2K1
Canada

Dear Elliott:

I was unable to get back to you by telephone and I thank you for your letter of May 15.

You should know that we have received some very encouraging reports from Israel. Apparently some good things are going on. I'm dashing off for a UAHC program and thus am merely writing to let you know that things are looking better.

I was delighted to learn about your new rabbi and I do hope that it will be a good shidach.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

CC AV.

Winnipeg Committee for Ethiopian Jews

215 Stafford St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2K1

Telephone: (204) 489-2352, 233-6516, or 786-7811 (ext. 248)

May 15th. 1984

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
U.A.H.C.
838 Fifth Ave
New York N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi,

Chairman

Prof. Elliott Levine

Members

Donald Aronovitch
Marcia Cogan
Martin Levin
David Matas
Rabbi Neal Rose
Harry Schachter
Phillip Schachter
Joseph Selter

Thank you for your reply of May 9th. If you have not yet been informed I pass on the following. Subsequent to the interdiction of both supply routes for several weeks (coincident with the claim-repeated by B'nai B'rith that only a handful were left) during which time thousands made their exodus, there was reinstitution of the "minor" route. Then 384 children were landed in a single operation (thereby reinstituting the major route) the next week a further 330 were landed, I have not checked this past weeks activities as yet. It seems fair to note that Shamir has given a green light for the ongoing Sudan clearance. At this rate there will need to be a continuous flow for the next 4-5 months...with no reduction due to difficulties raised by: Khaddaffi, rainy season, Israeli elections etc.

The other problems relate to the marginal mobility of those remaining. Funds and etc. are being moved by some to help in the Gondar, medical aid is also in process. I do not believe adequate provision has yet been made for the few thousand- perhaps as few as 3,000 remaining. Mobility for those near Addis is more logistical than "physical condition" related. Both AAEJ and CAEJ have recently been able to obtain exit paper on more reasonable terms. I'd guess we are still looking at dozens and not 100's per month this way. We in Wpg. have recently funded one of these "packages". Full costs may now prove to run closer to \$1,000.

Some here are nervous re labour's commitment....I expect there will be politicking in Israel the next month or so re this.

Tracy Klirs will be our new rabbi and there is full hearted support in the congregation for this venture. I hope she will be able to thrive on the challenge, Neal Rose (a ctte. member, chief of Rabbinic council, and former head of our school, is most enthusiastic and supportive...Tracy has requested him as "mentor" etc. Neal is a mensch so hopefully Tracy will productively settle in.)

Sincerely,



"As you save a single soul, you redeem the world." — Hillel

Salute

April 11, 1984

Professor Elliott Levine
Winnipeg Committee for
Ethiopian Jews
215 Stafford Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0S1
Canada

Dear Professor Levine:

I, too, am delighted that we had an opportunity to meet. And I thank you for taking the time to write and to share with me the information in regard to my inquiry on the guide fee. This is very helpful and I thank you.

With every good wish for a sweet and beautiful Passover, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

*Ray Craig
Ex-officio*

Winnipeg Committee for Ethiopian Jews

215 Stafford St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 2K1

Telephone: (204) ~~489-2352~~, 233-6516, or 786-7811 (ext. 248)

March 28th, 1984.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
838-5th Ave.
NYC-NY 10021

Dear Rabbi,

It was a distinct pleasure meeting with you yesterday.

I have made inquiry re: the matter of \$75 guide fee you asked about and can report positively in the matter.

It seems that a variety of options face those embarking on the route, (these include-1-going it alone-2-being guided by a fellow "falasha"-3-accompanying a trader-4-engaging a paid guide..obviously nice if you can afford the equivalent fee of a years wages/income per head!).

The problem as I observed is to identify beforehand a reliable contact/conduit for transfer of funds. If your inquiry concerned Mr. Glen Stein of New Jersey I am informed that he had such reliable contact. If Mr. Stein was not the party referred to, you may wish to contact him..the AAEJ's Chicago office can direct you to him.

My information is that in general some are still being intercepted, thus a guide is a desireable insurance. The Gondar "contact" used by Mr. Stein has proven to be reliable in the past (ie. funds paid him on behalf of specific individuals have subsequently seen those individuals landed safely in Israel), the funds recently moved by Stein have not yet resulted in the confirmed landing in Israel. I note that no one was moved from Sudan to Israel between the group of 410 Feb.6th and the group of 80 reported out last week. With thousands now in the camps final confirmation may reasonably take further time.

I would like to use this opportunity to make two further observations. Over time there is agreement between my data sources and official Israeli counts. Usually there has

/2

"As you save a single soul, you redeem the world." — Hillel

Chairman

Prof. Elliott Levine

Members

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Martin Levin
David Matas
Rabbi Neal Rose
Harry Schachter
Philip Schachter
Joseph Selter

2.

been some delay in the matter of Israeli confirmation of Sudan camp occupants and earlier "falasha" accounts. Non jewish sources in Ethiopia provide confirmation and information etc. by 'phone, these have yet to indicate that the dramatic move cited in a letter from Ethiopia re:same by Pesach has transpired. While Israeli sources indicated perhaps 200 in camps early Feb., it is clear that at least 12 times this number are there now, (with a single Israeli falasha-as yet unconfirmed-source reporting 7,000). Besides the AAEJ my contacts are in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and of course Israel. My information from Ethiopia is thru these other sources.

Implicit in your request for information is indication that contact with, and reliable information about, the beta yisrael is somewhat difficult. While this is true to some degree, it is undoubtedly not as difficult as some Israeli sources indicate. (I note that some Israeli officials have been encouraging me..others are under instruction to block my efforts. Recently I was requested to stop all activities re rescue, especially re the Sudan camp etc. now that Israel had cleared/virtually cleared the camp etc. That is, after Feb.6th the Israelis were ^{once more} requesting abandonment of such efforts as you describe. I attribute no motives to anyone, but note that the flow from Gondar via the only general conduit for 90% of those now in Israel has never been enhanced by an Israeli mission in this regard.) Persistently it has been claimed that individuals could not ID "falashas" etc. This is gross overstatement. The most disquieting story I have heard is perhaps instructive, immediately prior to the Canadian film team arriving at Ghaddarif(Sudan camp), and after over 6 months of total inaction and the deaths of several hundreds, the Mossad informed their local operatives and the falasha community that the film crew were not really Canadian but PLO! Little wonder that Israelis were telling us that it was difficult for north americans to ID falashas! (Of course such subterfuge might be justified..if..there had been a rescue in place. It was solely the 20 corpses of the previous week that led to the desperate gamble to take a chance on the camera crew. Undoubtedly Israel in general is virtuous. But as Emil Fackenheim has pointed out, "it is up to us, to this generation, not to wreck it" not to wreck this chance to heal the world, to redeem our people and the land. This was his motive for his recent aliya.

I apologize for my lack of brevity-an occupational hazard for academic philosophers. Again it was a pleasure meeting with you..if I am a zealot so be it, my reading of redemption, is that this miracle, like miracles in general has little to do with the supranatural and everything to do with free people who will to accomplish the good, however improbable. Success is never guaranteed, however the miracle of success does occur..sometimes. And as Buber has said of dialogue..it is certain not to come to those who do not risk it. We jews who would hear our god dare never forget how to plead, to listen, and to act.

SHALOM

Elliott Levine

Ethiopian Jews

*Anything to
Share with
Score?*

*Call him today
I want to relay rally*

May 9, 1984

His Excellency, The Israeli Ambassador
Meir Rosenne
Embassy of Israel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Meir:

We have been telling people who make inquiry regarding Ethiopian Jews that Israel has been doing everything possible for them and with some reasonable effectiveness. Now, I have received the enclosed letter which raises new problems and with some urgency. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you were to tell me how to respond and just what is happening. If you think it necessary, you might transmit this information to your home office, et al.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

*See
June -
Rosenne +
change day
w/ DC
6/12 no
Magan*

*6/90 - Called to see 6/26 - George
In Israel*



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
ONE KALISA WAY, SUITE 108, PARAMUS, NJ 07652 (201) 599-0080

NEW JERSEY-WEST HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL

Rabbi Daniel H. Freeland
Regional Director

March 20, 1984

Alexander Schindler

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
UAHC
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I could tell from your facial expressions that you had some concerns with my Ethiopian Jewry presentation at the executive committee meeting of the Commission on Social Action yesterday. I sincerely would appreciate your advice and input on this matter. It would mean a great deal to me if I could meet with you for 20 minutes to discuss the situation in greater depth. I would be pleased to come into New York at your convenience.

Thanks very much!

B'shalom,

Glenn S. Stein

Glenn S. Stein

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CNYFTY Youth Director
Sharon Halper

Salomon



North American Conference On Ethiopian Jewry

200 Amsterdam Avenue • New York, New York 10023 • (212) 595-1759

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Honorary Chairman

January 1, 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

We are most pleased to add your name to the Advisory Board of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry. We hope to complete the task of putting the Advisory Board together by the end of this month.

We will certainly keep you advised as to the progress of this project and look forward to working with you on all issues pertaining to Ethiopian Jewry in the future.

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Ribakove

Barbara Ribakove
President

Jonathan B. Giesberg
Jonathan B. Giesberg
Senior Vice President



North American Conference On Ethiopian Jewry

Ash Al

200 Amsterdam Avenue • New York, New York 10023 • (212) 595-1759

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Honorary Chairman

7/2/83

*OK to join;
I am too*

November 4, 1983

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As you may know, the Ethiopian Jewish community faces an ongoing dangerous struggle to preserve their faith and secure their right to emigrate. Although the situation remains tense, in recent months signs of improvement have begun to appear due to the efforts of religious leaders like yourself and informed active groups like ours.

The North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry was founded nearly two years ago with the express purpose of saving the oppressed Jews of Ethiopia. We have worked consistently with the political and Jewish establishments in the United States and Israel. Our work has included education, famine relief, aid to refugees, cultural preservation and absorption.

We would be honored if you would join such eminent persons as Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Congressman William Green, Abraham Karlikow, Fred Ehrman and others as a member of our Advisory Board, so that we may call upon you from time to time for advice and counsel. We look forward to your acceptance, and have provided the enclosed response card for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Ribakove

Barbara Ribakove
President

Jonathan B. Giesberg

Jonathan B. Giesberg
Executive Vice President



THESE JEWISH CHILDREN WANT TO LIVE!

**And they want to live
in Israel**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Get involved. Urge American Jewish organizations and the State of Israel to make the rescue and aliyah of Ethiopian Jewry a matter of the highest priority. Write letters and demand prompt action. And join NACOEJ

Please fill out the coupon and mail it to NACOEJ. Membership dues for one year are \$18.00. Additional contributions (all are tax-deductible) will be gratefully accepted, and like the dues, will be spent on efforts to relieve the suffering of the Jews of Ethiopia, aid in their rescue, and assist the successful absorption of those Jews who—after surviving tremendous odds—have reached Israel.

Please contact us at the address or phone number below for information about meetings, joining one of the committees working on specific projects, forming a NACOEJ chapter in your neighborhood, or obtaining a speaker.



North American Conference On Ethiopian Jewry
c/o Lincoln Square Synagogue
200 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10023
(212) 595-1759

A CALL TO ACTION

It is not too late to save the Jews of Ethiopia. But we must act at once!

The North American Conference On Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ) is a grassroots, activist, nonprofit organization founded in the summer of 1982 to initiate and foster immediate action and ongoing projects on behalf of the relief and rescue of Ethiopian Jewry. It is the intention of this organization to work both independently and, wherever possible, in concert with other concerned agencies, to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of Ethiopian Jewry.

GOALS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

1. To bring closer the day when all Ethiopian Jews may live in freedom in Israel.
2. To assist Jews still in Ethiopia by improving their political and economic condition, providing medical aid and educational assistance, sustaining them in their efforts to remain Jewish, and protecting their basic human rights.
3. To assist those Ethiopian Jews who have escaped from Ethiopia to survive the refugee camps—and reach safe haven in Israel.
4. To assist those Ethiopian Jews who have managed to get to Israel in their *klitah* (absorption) into a new and modern society.
5. To preserve the unique heritage of Beta Yisrael: their history, religious practices, liturgy, literature, music, art, handicrafts, social structure, health-care system, etc.
6. To inform and galvanize the American Jewish community—through educational programs, political action, lobbying, and a Speakers Bureau, into acting now to save the remnant of Ethiopian Jews.

I want to help in this important work. Please enroll me as a member of NACOEJ.
I enclose a check for dues (\$18) ☐ and a contribution of \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 and more ☐.

Name _____ Telephone (home) _____

Address _____

What Jewish or communal organizations do you belong to? _____

I want to work in the following areas:

☐ Political Action ☐ Publicity ☐ Special Events ☐ Educational Programming ☐ Speakers Bureau ☐ Fund Raising ☐ Projects in Israel

Do you have any special skills that NACOEJ may put to use? (i.e., bookkeeping, clerical, legal, writing, media contacts, computers, etc.) _____

Please make checks payable to LINCOLNSQUARESYNAGOGUE CHESED FUND (and mark "FALASHA") All contributions are tax-deductible.
Thank you—with hopes for the speedy redemption of Ethiopian Jewry and all of Am Yisrael.

North American Conference On Ethiopian Jewry
c/o Lincoln Square Synagogue, 200 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10023. Telephone: (212) 595-1759

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Honorary Chairman

"Do not separate me, O L-rd, from the chosen,
From the joy, from the light, from the splendor.
Let me see, O L-rd, the light of Israel . . .
Abandon me not!"

—a Falasha prayer

The Jews of Ethiopia—Beta Yisrael, the House of Israel—want to live as Jews, in freedom, in the Jewish homeland.

This is their right—as promised by the State of Israel's Law of Return. This is their right—as guaranteed by the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This is their dream—as proud, deeply religious, observant Jews who long to make aliyah to the Land of Israel, to live freely as Jews, transmitting the Torah and the wealth of Jewish teachings and culture to their children.

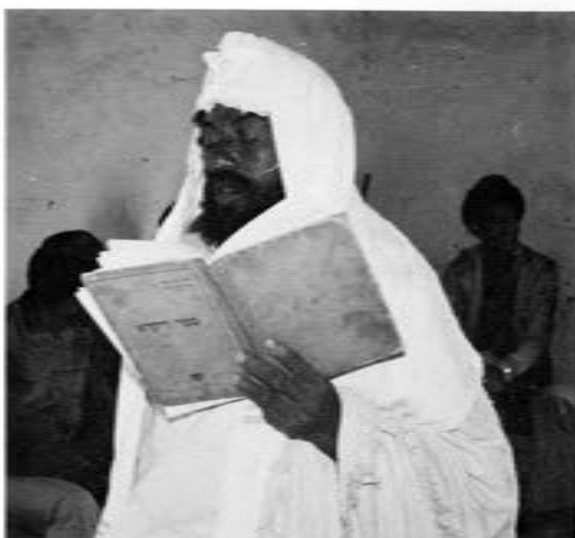
But the Marxist government of Ethiopia refuses to allow Ethiopian Jews to emigrate—even to be reunited with close relatives—spouses, parents, children, siblings—who may be in Israel.

WHO ARE THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS?

This Jewish community is an ancient one, dating back at least 2,000 years. Israel's former Chief Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef believes the Beta Yisrael to be descendants of the tribe of Dan, and with Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, confirmed their identity as true Jews in the 1970s. The Jews of Ethiopia believe that their community dates from the time of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Other theories suggest that their ancestors were separated from the rest of Bnei Yisrael during the Exodus from Egypt at the

parting of the Red Sea; or were exiles who fled Eretz Yisrael after the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem; or were Jewish merchants from Elephantine who traveled south. Whatever their origins, the Jews of Ethiopia have staunchly maintained and handed down Jewish tradition through centuries of persecution.

It is thought that, at their height in the 12th century, there were half a million Jews in Ethiopia. A century ago, there were at least 100,000 Ethiopian Jews. The onslaughts of pogroms, rape, pillage, enslavement, war, famine, disease, forced conversion, and assimilation have reduced the remnant of Ethiopian Jewry to an estimated 25,000 survivors.



WHAT IS JEWISH LIFE IN ETHIOPIA?

It is not easy to be a Jew in Ethiopia.

Today, a severe drought and widespread famine threaten all Ethiopians. In Jewish and non-Jewish villages, tourists report that children with bloated bellies, deficiency diseases, and parasites are hungry and malnourished. In remote areas, there are no doctors, clinics, or medicines available.

Beta Yisrael live and die in impoverished villages—where the average life expectancy is 35 years. They are the iron workers, the potters and weavers skilled in crafts—and treated as pariahs by a hostile society that calls them "Buda" (evil eye) and "Falasha" (Stranger).

In Gondar province, where most of the Jews live, Jewish parents are forbidden to teach their children about Judaism. Religious teachings and the Hebrew language are proscribed. The Jewish schools have been closed and the teachers dismissed. Those children who go to school at all are taught by Marxists—and receive no Jewish education.

In Gondar, the authorities have closed some synagogues and have forbidden Jews to pray, study, or gather freely in others that remain, defaming Jewish tradition and observance, and attempting to force the Jews to violate the Sabbath by ordering them to attend official meetings on shabbat.

In Ethiopia, there is a curfew, and travel is restricted. Jews require permits to travel between villages. If a Jew manages to escape the country, the immediate family members may be imprisoned and tortured. If caught, a Jew can expect imprisonment for many months. Men, women, teenagers, and the elderly have been imprisoned.

Outside of Ethiopia, in the Horn of Africa, thousands of Ethiopian Jews have been trapped for years in desperate and horrific conditions in refugee camps. They do not have adequate food, water, medication, shelter, or sanitation. Some, especially children, die of malnutrition, typhus, dysentery, and other diseases. Some have died at the hands of other refugees and local anti-Semitic authorities.

Time is running out for Ethiopian Jewry.



SAVE ETHIOPIAN JEWRY!



MEMORANDUM

CONFIDENTIALDate February 22, 1983From Albert VorspanTo Alex Ross; Harris Gilbert; Rabbis Glaser, Schindler and Saperstein

Copy for information of _____

Subject FALASHAS

I went to a special briefing at B'nai B'rith with a handful of professionals in the Jewish community who are uneasy about the answers we get both from the Israelis and from the American Association for Ethiopian Jews. The gist of new information is: There is a fundamental shift going on inside Ethiopia, with a swing away from the Soviet Union and Cuba and a potentially significant (but secret) improvement in Israel-Ethiopia relations. So far not much improvement in United States-Ethiopian relations.

This change has already had some results. Delegations of Jewish leaders from the World Jewish Congress and the State of Israel have visited the Falashas in recent weeks. They report marked and positive internal changes -- reopening of some synagogues, reinstitution of some Jewish educational facilities, but it is still a generation of ignorance. None of this appears to have reduced the eagerness of the Ethiopian Jews to make aliyah and as soon as possible. Tourism to Ethiopia is now being encouraged.

Meanwhile, there also seems to be an improvement in the integration of Falashas into Israeli life. There are now more than 2,000. More came in under the Begin government than under all previous administrations. Fair is fair. Reports are that, under Labor, the Falashas were dismissed as "not Zionist material."

Sudan is a big problem. Libya is leaning on a weak regime there. Sudanese military sweeps and the shortage of gas are making rescue efforts very tough. The central problem from the Israeli standpoint is the danger of singling out the Jews in the camps, giving them special preference, etc., because it arouses violence and trouble. The assistance must not exceed the level of all others. Israelis deny that the Falashas in the camps are starving. Israel will not reply to public criticism, which they regard as most dangerous to their rescue efforts and even worse, from their standpoint, is the intervention of private and ill-conceived rescue efforts by the American Association or anyone else.

In December, 25 Falashas came out, and in January 120 came out in two separate groups.

Dear Rabbi Shindler 6-21
Please try to help the group
in Ghana "Urgent"

For reference, contact
Mr David Horowitz
Room 373 Press Section
United Nations
and

Mr Barnard Sharov
55 Granby Lane
Killingboro, NJ
08046

609-871-9411.

Jewish choice group
at Mt Zion Temple
making good
progress.

(2).

I support 100% your call
for "Outreach" It comes
at a time when Judaism
must expand its
out reach every where
God Bless you for
your insight,
courage & outreach

Shalom

Shalom

Archie Vinitzky
(member Mt Zion
Synagogue)

215 So Dunlap
#18

St Paul. Minn 55105

Will ignore

HOUSE OF ISRAEL - ZION

Edie
Spare me

OFFICERS:

Founder & Spiritual Head
Aaron Ahomtre-Toakyirifah
Richard Asare (President)
P. O. Box 4402 KUMASI



P. O. Box 189,
Sefwi Wiawso
Western Region
Ghana

Our Ref _____

Your Ref _____

9th June 1982. *M*

My dear brother in Israel - Shalom, Shalom!

May the Lord of Israel Bless you and keep you! May His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you and May His Countenance be lifted upon you and give you peace!"

A reply to your letter of 5th April 1982 was posted on the 17th of May 1982 and as a bad luck would have it, it was posted back to me at Sefwi Wiawso on the 3rd of June 1982.

As a result, I am writing this second one in Accra where I am applying for an international passport in place of the West African one I am using at moment. But the road in obtaining the international passport here in Ghana is not easy. One has to spend about two thousand cedis about seven hundred dollars before he or her can receive an international passport, as the new Government do not want Ghanaians to leave the country.

The situation here in Ghana is now from bad to worst as there are no soap, food, meat and other essential commodities in the markets. The few ones we come by are sold at cut throat prices and only the rich can buy them. Ordinary Ghanaians have to be in queue for about three hours before he gets a cake of soap and at times after three hours in queue, you are told the items are finished. Gh! what a pity.

P. T. O

Salome

Day in and day out Traders and Drivers develop new tricks to defeat the Government Plans to make life bearable for the ordinary Ghanaian. So the poor are suffering more.

With my father's case still pending at Sekondi High Court and Opening of the children's school at Sefwi Wiawso and Kerekum I am busy as a bee. I am finding it difficult in solving my father's case as I do not have money. But in Ghana money talks true.

Barnard G. Sharrow has written to me and plans to visit us here in September this year. The entire House of Israel - Zion here have received the news with much heartening and are preparing for him.

Though we would face many problems in obtaining transport facilities for his trucks to the other branches during the two to three weeks stay with us in Ghana. There are hotels and restaurants at Sefwi Wiawso but Nana Owusu Acheampong has promise him a free room at his rest house at Sefwi Wiawso. A hiring car for ~~the~~ three weeks would cost us about two thousand dollars and a ~~Hotel~~ Hotel expenses in excluding food would also cost us one thousand dollars for three weeks.

Have received the Kiddush Cup sent by Meyer and Gladys Zisson and a note of thanks which have since been sent to them.

I last said, the wages for the four hired teachers is five hundred and twenty dollars a month (\$520 a month).

Many thanks for the advice about Dr. F.O. Walter. I have not seen or heard from him since December 1987 year. Many thanks to all friends.

Sincerely yours,
Aaron Ahomaa - ~~AKA 9/1/1988~~

Do not
write
in either
margin

SEFWI WIAWSO SECONDARY SCHOOL
SEFWI WIAWSO

1

Name Aduhene Moses Boachie

Form Form 4¹³ 4^B

Subject Bible Knowledge Date 22/3/82



Aduhene Moses Boachie,
House of Israel (Zion)
Post office Box 189,
Sefwi Wiawso.
Western Region Ghana.
10th May 1982.

Dear elder A.R. Vinnitsky,

Here comes a sorrowful song from a converted black Jew, who has the above mentioned name. I termed it as a song but at the same time it can also be considered as a cry for help. At the same time it has been written in the book of the prophet Jeremiah that every Jew must all the time feel happy.

First of all I would like you to know that, as your good name has been advertised from the letters and books you sent to Ahomeats all the time. As a result of this, I would ^{like} you also to know the background of my conversion of becoming a reformed Jew. "Here it states," I am a boy of 17 years of age. I belong to the Sefwi tribe in Asona clan. I come from the small village called Sefwi Adiembra just three miles from Wiawso our Sefwi capital. In fact my family is as poor as the word itself of course but all the same I always feel happy as I stated earlier on. But then before I converted to become a Jew, I came to realise that the teaching and preaching of Ason Ahomeats Toatigata who according to his long-drawn accounts saw a vision which was very terrible indeed

P. T. O.

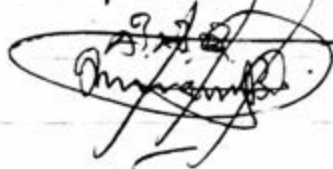
indicating that, he must follow the footsteps of the old Israelites in from the Call of Abraham to the Early settlement in the land of Canaan. In fact I did not see Sam but according to his good teaching about his vision, I believed in him that he was rather on the main path leading to a true religion. So my faith was firm, fair and I had a good courage too. I could be detected from the early days of my conversion that I was by then living an exemplary life. But one thing that caused me a great harm was that, I am a student so I am under restriction to my parents who were unbelievers to this act of religion so I was even deprived from taking their meals but all of a sudden my brothers in the Union took a strong hold of me, and took every thing upon themselves and be in charge of my schooling. Meanwhile, following this tragicomic point of view it was said from an old saying that, 'when the Idant is in the house, the she-goat is not allowed to suffer the pains of perdition on its theater'. I became very serious with my books and I hope I am now among the best scholars in my class and I am holding the post of foot-ball Captain or Sports Captain in my school at the same time a great lover of virtue. These are my the subjects I am offering ① HISTORY, ② BIBLE KNOWLEDGE, ③ FRENCH, ④ ENGLISH LITERATURE, ⑤ ECONOMICS, ⑥ MATHS, ⑦ ENGLISH LAVERNANTS and BIOLOGY. In fact of all the under mentioned subjects, I am very much particular about History, B.K. and English Language. So since I am very serious about preaching to them the traditional Religion of Israel, I have been given the name of Modes of Israel but I like the name very much. So finally I don't want to say much but the only thing is that I need your help please I need your help try to bring me some books as well as some Jewish uniform to go to service on Sabbath days to gether with a Jewish traditional book so as to teach the little children in the Jewish school as started by Shantre already. Thank you.

Please I hope for successful grant
and by dint of hard working and persi-
everance, Everything will be in good order
so nature must obey necessity.

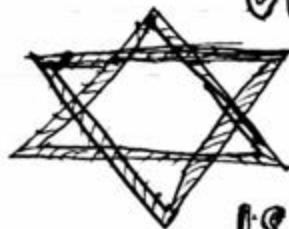
ending with my greetings to you all

Yours Sincerely

Adhune Moses Boadine
of Israel.



UNITED



ISRAEL

SHALOM

SHALOM

ZION

May the time not be distance & but when
thy name shall be worshiped in all the earth
when unbelief shall disappear and error be
no more. We fervently pray that the day may
come when corruption shall have way to purity
and goodness. When superstition shall have
place and the mind be advanced by knowledge.

Falashas

October 9, 1981

Rabbi Judea B. Miller
Temple B'rith Kodesh
2131 Elmwood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Dear Rabbi Miller:

As Rabbi Schindler is out-of-the-country I am taking the liberty of replying to your letter in regard to the Falashas.

All matters dealing with the Falashas fall within the purview of our Social Action department. Thus, I am sharing your letter with Al Vorspan and asking him to contact you directly.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

cc: Mr. Albert Vorspan

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

July 20, 1981

Donald S. Day, Esq.

Rabbi Stephen Schafer

FALASHAS

I discussed the Falasha problem with several high ranking officials both in the Prime Minister's office and in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

As I indicated to you in an earlier memo, Steve, I am absolutely convinced that Begin is convinced that everything possible is being done for them. It may be true, of course, that the program is not as effective as it might be due to some recalcitrance by personnel at a lower level but I do not think that Begin's determination can be questioned.

In any event, in both places I was assured that there will be absolutely no difficulty in integrating these Falashas youngsters in Israel and in gaining their admission to Israel once they are in the U.S.

For your further information and this I did not know before and it can be important for you to know, there are three groups of Falashas in Ethiopia"

The Gondar
The Tigre
The Wolkit

These groups do not get along with each other at all, there is bad blood between them which at times leads to violence. You ought to keep this information in the back of your mind.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

July 2, 1981

Rabbi Stephen Schafer

While in Jerusalem I cleared all matters pertaining to the Falasha Project. I am convinced that at least Begin is convinced that everything possible is being done. In any event, there will be no difficulty with Klitah.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

May 28, 1981

His Excellency, The Israeli Ambassador
Ephraim Evron
Embassy of Israel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Eppie:

As I told you over the telephone, we have an opportunity, so we are advised, to bring over some young Falashas for our summer camp program. Apparently the Ethiopian Government will accede to requests for temporary visas to the United States for young people and even for some adults if they are involved on a counselor-teacher level. Our summer camp program offers a unique opportunity to exploit this opportunity.

I do have one question, however, which is urgent if we are to proceed with this offer full scale. Should some of these young people decide to emigrate to Israel will they be granted admission and is there a procedure for their integration?

I would appreciate it, Eppie, if you were to relay this question on a confidential basis to the Home Office. You suggested Hanan Baron, he would be an excellent choice because of his personal concern.

Time is of the essence inasmuch as these arrangements must be made rather quickly.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

6/18
Any response?
No -
Double check



איחוד
ליהדות
מתקדמת
באמריקה

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES: UNIONUAHC

YOUTH DIVISION
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

M E M O

June 24, 1981

FROM: Rabbi Stephen A. Schafer
TO: Mr. Donald Day
cc: Rabbi Alexander Schindler ✓

Pursuant to our telephone conversation concerning the Falashas, I am sending you this memorandum of the basic points so that you can share the ideas we discussed with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' officers. I wish to receive your approval and cooperation with this project.

Enclosed is a Ma'ariv article about the plight of the Falashas. The situation is desperate. There appears to be a possibility of bringing teenage Falashas to the United States under the auspices of the Eisendrath International Exchange Program, in the manner which we discussed on the telephone. A student would be sponsored by an individual family and housed in one of our camps. At the proper time, the student would make aliyah to Israel.

There are two organizations in North America, namely The Canadian Association for Falasha Jews and the American Association for Falasha Jews, which will bear all costs to carry out this program. There is reason to believe that between 250 and 300 young people could be rescued through our program.

Next week I will join a group which will meet with several Senators in order to enlist their aid on behalf of the Falashas.

Alex joins me in the belief that we must do whatever we can in order to save our Jewish brethren in Ethiopia.

Falashas

June 16, 1980

Warren Freedman, Esq.
81 Stratford Road
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804

Dear Mr. Freedman:

I am writing to acknowledge your letter of June 13 which reached our office during the absence of Rabbi Schindler. He is currently out-of-the-country and not due back at his desk until late-June. Be assured your letter will be brought to his attention when he returns.

Since our Vice President and Director of Social Action, Albert Vorspan, is involved in our efforts in behalf of the Falashian Jews I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with him.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

cc:aw
WARREN FREEDMAN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

81 STRATFORD ROAD, NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK 10804

NEW ROCHELLE 3-6431

June 13, 1980

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

Dear Rabbi,

It is unfortunate that there is so much needless public furor in the American Jewish Community about the welfare of the 25,000 Falashim still in Ethiopia. Their welfare is indeed important, vital and urgent, they have been for too long the victims of poverty, persecution and general neglect by the Jewish community, BUT the spotlight of publicity engendered by many committed Jews, simply ties the hands of the Israeli Government in its day-to-day efforts to rescue these victims of poverty and civil war. The Falashim, like other Ethiopians, are today suffering from the violence which has permeated their country.

I believe that the Government of Israel is urgently aware of the problem, and has and will continue to save countless Falashim without the fanfare of publicity. Israel would be embarrassed to disclose publicly the larger number of Falashim in Israel today. The Falasha black skin is simply NOT a factor, and there has been no neglect of their plight, as argued by those impatient but sincere Jews. The diplomatic approach involving secret movement of Falashim by the Israel Government is preferable to pressure from well-intentioned Jewish leaders and organizations.

Above all, no one will forget nor forgive anything less than the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry. We must continue to espouse their cause. But we must temper enthusiasm with wisdom by permitting the Israeli Government to work quietly and undisturbedly through diplomatic and other channels to rescue these unfortunate brethren. In the words of the

AAEJ -- now is the time "to get on as one people to fight
the major forces from the outside that threaten world Jewry
and the State of Israel."

Sincerely yours,

Warren Freedman

Warren Freedman

WF:bs

American Association for Ethiopian Jews

[A merger of the American Pro-Falasha Committee and the Friends of Beta-Israel (Falasha) Community in Ethiopia]

Eastern Regional Office
340 Cortes Avenue
Pelham, New York 10803
(914) 738-0956

National Materials Center
6505 Wilshire Blvd., Room 802
Los Angeles, California 90048
(213) 852-1234 Ext. 276

Western Regional Office
304 Robin Hood Lane
Costa Mesa, California 92627
(714) 642-8613

October 10, 1980

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

RE: Ethiopian Jews

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Two years ago I mailed letters to your organization as well as to the presidents of the other major Jewish organizations regarding the holocaust facing our brethren in Ethiopia. I enclosed excerpts from their letters forwarning us of the impending dangers facing our people there. Few of you responded. Finally, on January 1, 1979, the Falashas, in desperation, demonstrated against the State of Israel and world Jewish leadership for their inaction regarding the Falashas.

Today, 32 years after the founding of the State of Israel, less than 1,000 of the 28,000 remnant Falashas are in Israel. Our organization continues to receive reports of: (1) Falashas imprisoned and tortured; (2) young people killed or raped by Ethiopian missionaries; (3) thousands dispossessed from their homes with their villages pillaged by either remaining feudal landowners or by roving bandit gangs; (4) thousands of others living in the starvation belt of Africa; (5) people still being sold as slaves, some being traded many times over; and now (6) over a thousand living under the most horrible conditions in a hostile country outside of Ethiopia while awaiting Jewish help.

In short, what we would like to know is: "What does your organization plan to do about this impoverished and endangered Jewish community which appears to be on the verge of extinction?"

A copy of the last annual report may be obtained from the New York State Board of Social Welfare,
Office Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12242, or from the Association

Contributions are tax deductible

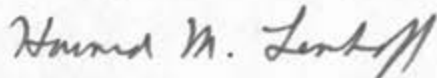
*Best
Don't
answer.
Too
intelligent
and arrogant
to hope*

I would appreciate a response before October 19 when our Board of Directors meets to discuss our future actions. If we do not see major Jewish organizations taking on the responsibility and mitzvot of pikuach nefesh and pidyon shvuim, we may reluctantly decide to undertake a massive newspaper and publicity campaign to carry out these responsibilities ourselves.

If you would like more information and specific suggestions as to how your organization can help, please contact me by either letter or telephone.

May the coming year bring peace to Israel, redemption to the Falashas, and success to your organization.

Sincerely and shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard M. Lenhoff".

Howard M. Lenhoff, President, AAEPJ
and Professor, University of California

Q.: What did Ministry of Interior Head (and also NRP boss) Dr. Yosef Burg say regarding charges he was opposed to Falasha immigration?

A.: Burg denied that he led the forces opposed to Beta Israel aliyah. "It was never brought up in the cabinet," he said in an interview. Burg made no attempt to hide his contempt for the Beta Israel. "You could just as well write about the Martians," he said. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: What do you think about Israelis protesting for the rescue of the Falashas?

A.: The cause to rescue the Falashas is uniting Israelis from all political factions. This is purely a Zionist and humanitarian issue. It gets at the heart of what Israel stands for. It knows no politics. (Israel Today)

Q.: Could we have saved the Falashas in recent times?

A.: (We) missed a golden opportunity to save the Ethiopian Jews in the months after the fall of Haile Selassie, a key figure in Israel's Africa policy. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: Is it worthwhile for the government to make a major effort to bring the Falashas to Israel?

A.: From an official poll: 33 per cent, Certainly worthwhile to make a major effort; 35 per cent, Yes, it is worthwhile; 14 per cent, It is not so worthwhile; 10 per cent, No opinion; 8 per cent, Against such an effort.

Q.: Are you ready to absorb Falashas

.....?

A.: From the official poll: 1. At place of work, 91 per cent yes; 2. In same neighborhood, 85 per cent yes; 3. In schools and children's places of study and play, 85 per cent yes; 4. In same apartment building, 75 per cent yes.

Q.: What must we do now?*

A.: What is needed is a concerted rescue effort embracing the government and the major world

Jewish organizations for history will neither forget nor forgive anything less. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: What do you want the government of Israel to do?

A.: We call on the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency to increase their activities and to do everything in their power to save Ethiopian Jewry and to help them finally to reach Eretz Yisrael. (Maariv)

The government of Israel (must) deliver the Jews of Ethiopia of the land of Cush. We brought the Jews of Yemen out on a Magic Carpet. Let's find another for the Jews of Ethiopia. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: Is it the responsibility of Israel and world Jewry to rescue the Falashas?

A.: (The) latest news on the difficult situation of the Falasha Jews in Ethiopia obligates Israel and the entire Jewish people to take urgent steps to save them. We must not accept their bitter fate with the claim that it is not our responsibility but that of political and state bodies, as we did in the past.

Despite their long struggle, the Falashas were prevented from immigrating to Israel by unjustified delays and procrastination.

...There is no doubt that we must accept responsibility for our Falasha brothers. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: But why should Israel with all her trouble be concerned about the Falashas?

A.: Because "they are Jews." They are suffering because they are Jews and we, the free Jews of the world, must save them. (Israel Today)

"The Zionist movement... create(d) the government of Israel... to save the lives of Jews. If it doesn't do that, then why does it exist?" (L.A. Times)

Israeli Falasha to Speak In Winnipeg February 21

"I will walk to the port of Massawa. It is dangerous because of the Shifto bandits and Eritrean rebels, but I will move at night. It will take many months, but I will arrive somehow. Then I will find work on a boat which sails up the Red Sea. The vessel will take me to Eilat and from there I will swim ashore. When I touch the land, I will kiss it and then I will ask Moshe Dayan to take me into his army so that I can defend the Jewish homeland. Afterward, I will send for my family."

When Rachamim Alazar, an Ethiopian Jew, spoke these words to an Israeli visitor in 1970, he was 16 years old. Nearly three years later, his dream fulfilled, Rachamim arrived in Israel. He did not have to undergo the ordeal he had foreseen — his Israeli friend bought him a ticket on El Al — but he did have to walk barefoot across Ethiopia at night to Addis Ababa.

Mr. Alazar will be in Winnipeg on Thursday, February 21, as part of a North American speaking tour. He will address an open community meeting at the Rosh Pina Synagogue at 8 p.m. He will describe the ever-deteriorating state of the Beta Israel — as the Falashas refer to themselves — and suggest ways in which Canadian Jews can help prevent their disappearance.

Rachamim Alazar, born in the village of Sakalt in Ethiopia's northwestern province of Gondar, is one of nine children in a traditional Falasha family.

He attended area schools from the age of 10, followed by a government high school at 15.

Following his emigration to Israel, Mr. Alazar attended high school and will graduate from Tel Aviv University in 1980 with a

Bachelors Degree in Middle Eastern History and African Affairs. He has also served in the Israel Defence Forces.

Fluent in Hebrew, Swahili, Amharic, English, Gez, Tigrinit, and Literary Arabic, Mr. Alazar has been a member of Israel's Association of Ethiopian Jews since 1973 and treasurer since April, 1979.

Married in September 1979, Mr. Alazar has been interviewed in the past for several publications, including Maariv, The Jerusalem Post, and Israeli radio and television. As spokesman for the Ethiopian Jewish community, he has been active in pressing the case of his brethren with top



RACHAMIM ALAZAR

Israeli officials such as Prime Minister Begin, President Navon, and Chief Rabbis Yosef and Goren, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, etc.

Whereas a scant 60 years ago, there were more than 50,000 Ethiopian Jews, today there are no more than 28,000, and that remnant is in imminent peril of extinction. In the last few years,

never-ending war, rebellion, starvation, missionary efforts, and Jewish indifference have combined to cause a steady decrease

in their numbers. In the last few years, probably at least 2000 have died; more than 7000 have been dispossessed of their homes and farms, left to roam the countryside hungry and penniless; hundreds at least are reported rotting in refugee camps outside Ethiopia.

If the Falashas are to be saved, if this unique community is not to become another tragic episode in the long history of Jewish martyrdom, Jews all over the world must marshal their resources. The Beta Israel (and there is no longer any disagreement about this view) see their only hope of salvation as lying in aliyah to Israel, and only the combined efforts of Israel, the large Jewish organizations, and the Jewish people themselves can effect it.

For a first-hand account of the plight of the Falashas, as well as for a chance to ask questions and to find out how it can help, the entire community is more than invited, it is urged, to attend this vital meeting.

Rachamim Alazar's Winnipeg visit is co-sponsored by the Jewish Students' Network, which is responsible for Canadian arrangements, and the Canadian Friends of Ethiopian Jews. This North American tour was sponsored by American Association for Ethiopian Jews, with the arrangements made by the American Sephardi Federation.

For more information, call Canadian Friends of Ethiopian Jews, 582-4355, 582-9241, and 233-6516, or the Jewish Students' Association 474-9325.

A View from Israeli Journals

Do Israelis Want the Falashas?

By PROFESSOR
HOWARD M. LENHOFF
University of California
(first of two parts)

"All this fuss about the Falashas is being made to satisfy a bunch of sick Americans who would never invite a black to their homes." Thus spoke a high official in the Jewish Agency (salary paid for with UJA contributions) when asked at a recent meeting in Jerusalem about Israel's newly announced "public campaign" on behalf of the Jews from Ethiopia.

Does he have a point, however? Is it only North American Jews who want to rescue the Falashas or does the Israeli man in the street also want the Falashas to immigrate to Israel? How do Israeli newspapers and journalists react to their own government's policies that have led to only approximately 150 Falashas immigrating into Israel over the past five years while nearly 400 Vietnamese boat people were brought to Israel in 1979 alone?

To provide an answer, I am posing a list of such questions, and will give responses consisting of verbatim quotations from Israeli citizens and newspapers.

Q.: Why do you think the Falashas are bitter and have resorted to public demonstrations?

A.: The Falashas' bitterness is certainly understandable. Israel and the world Jewish community have devoted massive energy and resources on behalf of Soviet Jewry; the government has mounted rescue operations on behalf of the Vietnamese boat people and

Cambodian refugees. But the Falashas, who, unlike the Asian refugees, are Jews, and unlike the 70 to 80 per cent of drop-out Soviet Jews, want to come to Israel, have been neglected. And that neglect must be considered a mortal blow, for the Falashas, who today number only about 20,000, face total physical extinction. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: What do you think about the tone of the response given by Jewish Agency officials to the Falasha demonstration?

A.: The sensitive and extreme reaction given by the top echelon of the Department of Immigration creates an impression of a conscience that is not entirely clean....How can it be explained that, despite the massive Israeli presence in Ethiopia for ten years, Israel could not succeed in bringing in those thousands of Falashas that were indeed ready to immigrate? (Davar)

Q.: What is your response to the remarks of Yehuda Dominitz (head of the Department of Immigration and Absorption in the Jewish Agency) who said, "there is no Israeli diplomatic presence in Ethiopia and it is (therefore) difficult to work for the aliyah of the Falashas, scattered in 490 villages?"

A.: We must say that this is irresponsible drivel. Until 1973 Israel did have a presence in Ethiopia under very good conditions, but the Department of Aliyah and Absorption did nothing for the rescue of the Jews of Ethiopia. Israel then had free access to each of the 490 villages where the scattered Jews of

Ethiopia lived, but nothing was done to become involved with them.

...Everyone knows that Israel has no official representation in the Soviet Union; yet, she turned the world upside down, successfully, so that Soviet Jews might leave for the Western World. Israel has no representation in any East European land, except Rumania; yet, remarkably, what exertions Israel is making to save the Jews of Eastern Europe. (Bamaaracha)

Q.: What, then, is Mr. Dominitz's attitude toward the Falashas?

A.: Yehuda Dominitz of the Jewish Agency had this to say shortly before the 1975 decision recognizing the Beta Israel as Jews: "Take a Falasha out of his village, it's like taking a fish out of water...we are told that the aliyah potential is minute. Most of the ones who came to Israel felt lost and went home. I'm not in favor of bringing them." Dominitz says he later changed his mind. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: Is there any written evidence that the Jewish Agency was discouraging Falasha immigration to Israel?

A.: A document prepared six years ago by an Absorption Ministry researcher recommended to the Government and the Jewish Agency not to encourage Falasha aliyah to Israel. (JTA)

Q.: What do you think of the role of Israel's Foreign Ministry in regard to the Falashas?

A.: The Foreign Ministry's interference with the struggle to save the Falashas is based on judgements that have nothing to

do with the issue. (Maariv)

Q.: What is your opinion about the claim that past and present Ethiopian governments would never allow Falashas to leave the country?

A.: It is difficult to believe that the Emperor or the new regime held on with their fingernails to the few thousands of Falasha Jews that were there. (Davar)

Q.: Does the fault lie with the Begin or Labor government?

A.: The tale of neglect is long. It certainly cannot be placed solely at the hands of Mr. Begin's government. But it is nevertheless true that this government is continuing this neglect, despite the dangers facing the Falashas. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: Aren't you pleased that the government has appointed committees to look into the matter of Falasha immigration?

A.: The shocking point in all that affair is that less than 300 Falashas succeeded in coming to Israel, and all that after indecisions, meetings, discussions, and conferences for close to 10 years...from all this intellectual effort, nothing was accomplished. (Davar)

Q.: After all these years of various committees working on Falasha issues, why didn't the Falashas come to Israel?

A.: The Falashas did not come because they were not wanted. This is the naked truth and it must be said. (Davar)

Q.: What are the reasons that the government of Israel is not doing enough for the Falashas?

A.: The first is prejudice — the color of their skin. The government does not want them here. And also the government doesn't want to endanger diplomatic contacts with African states (L.A. Times)

Q.: Do you think it really has something to do with color?

A.: One of the responsible shlichim of the Agency who is not concerned with this matter reported on the weekly review on Israeli radio that a highly responsible person in the State, a person with a great religious responsibility, said to him: "Mi Tzarich et hashechorim ha-eleh?" (Who needs those Blacks?) (Bamaaracha)

Q.: What is the source of the neglect of the Falashas by Israel?

A.: The source of that neglect derives historically from the narrow dogmatism and bigotry expressed on this issue by key functionaries located primarily in the National Religious Party. (Jerusalem Post)

Q.: Who do you hold responsible for this inaction?

A.: The Minister of the Interior and a few servile bureaucrats who did what their master wanted them to do, they are the ones responsible for this inaction. (Davar)

**SEND YOUR TAX
DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS TO:
American Association
for Ethiopian Jews
6505 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 802
Los Angeles, Calif. 90048**