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

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World Federation of Polish Jews, 1976-1988.

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

March 7, 1988
18 Adar 5748

Mr. Jechil M Dobekirer
Federation of Polish Jews
~~Of The United States, Inc.~~
136 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Jechil:

I'm sorry that you have troubles because of me. Enclosed are my responses to David Sitzler and Larry Wenig.

As indicated in this letter, I certainly don't want to hurt the Federation of Polish Jews. If it will make life easier for you if you remove me from the Honorary Presidency, I will not take it amiss.

I enclose herewith, my answer to Chaim Herzog, not made public in our recent exchange, which spells out those reasons which prompted me to speak as I did. Please feel free to relay my offer as well as the content of my reasons for speaking to the members of your executive committee.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

encl.

March 7, 1988
18 Adar 5748

Mr. David Sitzer
c/o Federation of Polish Jews
of The United States, INC.
136 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Mr. Sitzer:

Jechil Dobekirer sent me a copy of your letter in which you state that you will not support the Federation of Polish Jews in the United States because I am listed as one of their Honorary Presidents.

Without going into the substantive issues of whether one does or does not have the right to express ones views concerning the fundamental issues which divide the Israeli leadership, I do want you to know that the Federation of Polish Jews is not responsible for my views. I did not ask them to endorse these views and they should not be held responsible for my views.

If you are angry, be angry at me not at the Federation.
If you want to punish someone, punish me not the Federation.

As a matter of fact, if this is going to be the consequence, I have written to Mr. Dobekirer offering to resign my honorary presidency for I certainly don't want to hurt the association.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially,

Alexander M. Schindler

March 7, 1988
18 Adar 5748

Mr. Larry Wenig
Wenig and Wenig
401 Broadway
Suite 400
New York, NY 10013-3005

Dear Mr. Wenig:

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With every good wibh, I am

Cordially,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Jechil M. Dobekirer

FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS

OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

אמריקאנער פֿעדעראציע פֿון פּוילישע יידן
הפדרציה האמריקאית של יהודי פולין

136 East 39th Street (Corner Lexington Ave.)

New York, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 689-4930

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RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER

President

KALMAN SULTANIK

Vice Presidents

JECHIL M. DOBEKIRER
LEON ILUTOVICH
ELI ZBOROWSKI

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DR. SHLOMO NOBEL
DR. NATHAN REICH
S. L. SCHNEIDERMAN

Treasurer

IZAAK RYBAL

Secretary

JECHIL M. DOBEKIRER

Executive Committee

HIRSCH ALTUSKY
SHELOMO BEN-ISRAEL
MAX BERMAN
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WALTER J. COVADLO
MAX DACHINGER
BEN GEIZHALS
SAM GRUBER
FELIX LASKY
BENJAMIN MEED
PAUL SAFRO
JULIUS SHATZ
SAMUEL SKURA
JACK SLOWIK
MAX STEIN
SAMUEL TUSZER
SARA WERBIN
HARRY ZIELONKA
HERMAN ZUCKER
SOLOMON ZYNSTEIN

March 1, 1988

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

We hope that you will be interested in these two letters From Mr. David Sitzler and Mr. Larry Wenig, who are both members of the Federation of Polish Jews.

In case you write to these gentlemen, we would appreciate a copy so that we can try to reinstate them as members of our organization.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,


JECHIL M. DOBEKIRER

Enc./sgh

LAW OFFICES OF
WENIG AND WENIG
401 BROADWAY
SUITE 400
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10013-3005

LARRY WENIG
ALAN WENIG

AREA CODE 212
TEL. NO. 925-3550

February 2, 1988

Federation of Polish Jews
of The United States, Inc.
136 East 39th Street
New York, New York 10016

ATT: MR. JECHIL M. DOBEKIRER
Re: 1988 Membership Dues

Dear Mr. Dobekirer:

Regretfully, I must return the request for the renewal of dues for the year of 1988 in your organization.

I cannot and will not be a member of an organization that has Alexander Schindler as an honorary president and other individuals such as Julius Shatz who I recall is an active member of the American Jewish Congress.

It seems to me that Alexander Schndler and the members of the American Jewish Congress blatantly participate in the active destruction of the state of Israel. Israel is slowly being choked by its enemies who are given support by gullible and naive people such as Alexander Schindler and the American Jewish Congress. We Jews should unite, iressepctive of our political ideology to serve as a shield and protector of Israel against all those who are bent on her destruction.

I am an influential attorney and have many colleagues, clients and friends that I will advise to withdraw from your organization for the above reasons.

I am enclosing a copy of this letter that I would appreciate your forwarding to Shelomo Ben Israel.

Respectfully, etc.,

LARRY WENIG

LW:sr
CC: Shelomo Ben Israel
Zionist Organization Of America

Feb. 17, 1988

Dear Mr. Dobekier

I have been a member of your Organization since I visited Poland in 1979.

When I attended Sabbath services at the Nozik Shul in Warsaw, Rabbi Shapiro of Warsaw addressed our group of 22 young people.

In Yiddish Rabbi Shapiro told us that he was part of a passing generation and that our group was part of the coming generation and that we should never forget our experience in Poland.

Rabbi Shapiro also spoke to us of UNITY. He said many more Jews could have been saved if there was more $\$13/k$ amongst the various Jewish groups in Poland during the war.

As I was going to send in my checks for dues for 1988 I noticed that Rabbi A. Schindler is your Honorary President.

After reading of Rabbi Schindler's criticism of Israel, just a few weeks ago I cannot send you my check for dues. However I do realize you are in need of funds. Please remove my name from your ~~dues~~ membership list; enclosed is my contribution of $\$15$.

Sincerely
D. Fitzer

Feb 2, 1988

LAW OFFICES OF
WENIG AND WENIG
401 BROADWAY
SUITE 400
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10013-3005

LARRY WENIG
ALAN WENIG

AREA CODE 212
TEL. NO. 925-3550

February 2, 1988

630 17/5
World Fed of Polish
Jews, 1976-88

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New York, New York 10016

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CC: Shelomo Ben Israel
Zionist Organization Of America

March 1, 1988

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OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

אמריקאנער פֿעדעראציע פֿון פּוילישע יידן
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Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10021

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Sincerely yours,

Jechil M. Dobekirer
JECHIL M. DOBEKIRER

Enc./sgh

630 17/5
World Fed of Polish
Jews, 1976-88

March 1, 1988

March 7, 1988

March 7, 1988
18 Adar 5748

Mr. Larry Wenig
Wenig and Wenig
401 Broadway
Suite 400
New York, NY 10013-3005

630 1715
World Fed of Polish
Jews, 1976-88

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With every good wish, I am

Cordially,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Jechil M. Dobekirer

March 15, 1977

Dr. Anzelm Reiss
World Federation of
Polish Jews
158 Dizengoff Street
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Dr. Reiss:

Your gracious cable on my re-election as chairman of the Presidents' Conference arrived some time ago. Unfortunately, the signator was garbled by International Telex and I had to institute a search to determine from whom the wire had come. Today I learned that the cable was from Polgress.

I hasten to express my deep appreciation to you and my many friends of the Federation for your warm good wishes. It was thoughtful of you to cable and I want to convey my gratitude to one and all.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

WF of Polish Jews

158 Dizengoff St
Tel-Aviv

POLGRESS

will call back

called 2/9 (approx)

called for 2nd time
on 2/18.

Said it would take
at least another
week.

Ms. Schwartz is
taking care of it.

NNNN

ZCZC NYB275 T64745

CONFERENCE OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVE

NEW YORK NY 10022

FONE FIRST BET 9AM AND 6PM MON THRU FRI TO
MR YEHUDA HELLMAN AND DELIVER 2127521616
IF NOT IN LEAVE NAME AND NUMBER FOR CALLBACK

called 3/8
have sent Israel
4 requests but
have not
replied.

JNY651 1011

UWNY HL ILTY 020

TELAVIVYAFO 20 01 0900

DUPLICATE OF TELEPHONED MESSAGE

363-6436
MS — 6490
Schwartz

1977 FEB - 1 AM 10:29

LT

COJOGRA PRESIDENT SHINDLER

NEWYORKNY-USA

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO YOUR RELECTION FOR
PRESIDENCY STOP MUCH SUCCESS HAZAK VE'AMATZ POGRESS

COL LT

1977 JAN 32 AM 7:11

Pres.

January 25, 1977

Mr. Jechil M. Dobekirer
Federation of Polish Jews
342 Madison Avenue #1426
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Dobekirer:

The enclosed letter from Representative Dan Rostenkowski was forwarded to me from your office for response. I would be most grateful if you would undertake to reply to the Congressman and provide the information he has requested.

With appreciation and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS

IN THE UNITED STATES, INC.

אמריקאנער פֿעדעראציע פֿון פּוילישע יידן

342 MADISON AVENUE, Suite 1426 (Corner 43rd Street)
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017 - (212) 687-5651

Honorary President

YECHIEL HOCHERMAN

President

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

Vice Chairmen

SHELOMO BEN-ISRAEL
ELI ZBOROWSKI

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DR. SHLOMO NOBEL
DR. NATHAN REICH
M. L. SCHNEIDERMAN
DR. ISAIA TRUNK
RABBI SAMUEL WALKIN

Treasurer

IZAAK RYBAL

Secretary

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MAX DACHINGER
JACK ELBIRT
JAY FRIEDLER
RAYMOND GEBINER
BEN GEIZHALS
DAVID HANDELSMAN
FELIX LASKY
HARRY LERER
JOSEF MARAN
BENJAMIN MEED
HARRY MELTZER
ABE MINTZ
MAURICE PETRUSHKA
CHAIM ROTNER
ICEK SHMULEWITZ
SARA WERBIN
SABINA WISLICKI
RAYA ZAK
SHAYA ZAKS
MYRON ZIFZIDER
DAVID ZUCKERMAN
RABBI USHER ZYBES
SOLOMON ZYNSTEIN

January 20, 1977

Dear Miss Miller:

I am mailing to Rabbi Schindler this letter, which we received this morning.

Since it was addressed to the Federation, I opened the envelope.

Please forgive me.

Yours,



Sara Werbin
Secretary to
J.M. Dobekirer

August 12, 1976

Mr. Leon Jolson
Testimonial Chairman
State of Israel Bonds
215 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10003

Dear Mr. Jolson:

It was a source of delight to learn that Mr. Benjamin Meed, president of WAGRO, will be honored by the State of Israel Bonds. This is a richly-merited tribute to a distinguished and devoted Jewish communal leader.

It is my great pleasure to accept your invitation to serve as a member of the Sponsoring Committee for the October 31st dinner. Regretfully, it will not be possible for me to attend the testimonial as I will be out of the city attending a UAHC Regional Convention, but I certainly do want to add my name to the roster of sponsors.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

State of Israel Bonds

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ISRAEL

215 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10003 OREGON 7-9650



August 10, 1976

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Mr. Benjamin Meed, president of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO), will be honored at a testimonial dinner tendered by State of Israel Bonds on Sunday, October 31st, 1976 - 6:00 PM at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City.

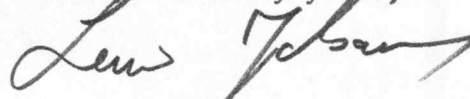
WAGRO, under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Meed, has performed outstanding service over the past ten years in organizing the annual commemoration in Temple Emanu-El, New York City, attracting tens of thousands, which by now has become a national event in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

Because of your deep interest in Jewish affairs and the State of Israel, I am extending a cordial invitation to you to serve on the Sponsoring Committee for the testimonial dinner honoring Mr. Meed on October 31st.

The dinner in behalf of Israel Bonds will be a timely opportunity for friends of Israel to salute Benjamin Meed and, at the same time, to help assure the survival and economic security of the people and the State of Israel.

I would appreciate your permission to include your name among the sponsors of this event. Since time is of the essence and the invitation must go to print by the last week in August, we will be most grateful for your early and affirmative reply for which I thank you in advance.

Very cordially yours,



Leon Jolson
Testimonial Chairman

March 2, 1976

Mr. Jechil M. Dobekirer
American Federation of Polish Jews
322 Madison Avenue - Suite 1426
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Dobekirer:

The enclosed item was just called to my attention and I would be interested in learning what was accomplished. It would be helpful for me to know for it would be foolish were we to work at cross purposes.

With kindest greetings.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

News of the Week

Polish Jews Are Seeking Survivors' Restitution

NEW YORK (JTA)—The American Federation of Polish Jews reported that it has submitted a series of claims to the Polish government including full payment of all pensions and other insurance claims to Polish-Jewish survivors of the Holocaust now living outside Poland and indemnification for Jewish property in Poland expropriated by the authorities there.

A memorandum containing these and other demands was presented to the Polish Ambassador in Washington, Witold Tromecki, by a delegation that included Shlomo Ben Israel, vice-chairman of the federation and a writer on the staff of the Jewish Daily Forward; Benjamin Gray, an attorney and Los Angeles Jewish community leader; and Felix Lasky, secretary of the Association of Nazi victims.

Regarding pension and insurance claims, the memorandum noted that the claimants were elderly persons, most of whom were former workers or employees in Poland who had paid national insurance dues thereby acquiring

pension and social security rights.

The memorandum also noted that the Polish authorities have expropriated land, buildings, museums, synagogues, old-aged homes, schools and sports clubs that had been the property of the former Jewish community in Poland, endowed by Jewish charities in Poland and by public and private benefactors abroad. "The assets or their value should be handed over to the Federation of Polish Jews," the memorandum said.

The memorandum further called on the Polish authorities "to take all necessary steps to preserve and restore Jewish cemeteries and to combat desecration of hallowed places; to permit us to collect religious and secular Jewish relics and to allow us to take them out of Poland for preservation as Jewish memorabilia" and to permit "free access to all historical records and archives concerning the involvement of Polish Jews in the life of Poland in the spheres of economics, politics, art, literature as well as in the struggles for Poland's independence in past centuries."

*Write Wake/Kien
this was called to
my attention -
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was accomplished
It would be
frustrating if we
were to work
at cross purposes.*

February 2, 1976

Mr. Jechil M. Dobekirer
American Federation of Polish Jews
342 Madison Avenue - Suite 1426
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Dobekirer:

The Executive Committee of the UAHC will be meeting in New York on February 9th and thus I have had to schedule some late appointments following the close of our meeting in the late afternoon. I doubt that I will be able to get to your meeting but I assure you if at all possible I will do my best to stop by for at least a brief time.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS

וועלט־פארבאנד פון פוילישע יידן

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BENJAMIN MEAD
ABE MINTZ
JOL TEKULSKY
SABINA WISLICKI
MYRON ZIFZIDER
SOLOMON ZYNSTEIN

חשובער פריינט:

ווי איר וויסט שוין פון די פריערדיקע קאמוניקאציעס, פלאנירן מיר צו האבן א קאנפערענץ פון פוילישע יידן דעם 21טן מערץ, 1976. בכדי צו צוגרייטן ווי געהעריק די דאזיקע וויכטיקע קאנפערענץ, וועמעס אויפגאבן עס זיינען די פאדערונגען פון פוילן און דייטשלאנד פאר ווידערגוטמאכונג און די שאפונג פון בית יהדות פוילן, פאררופן מיר א פאר-קאנפערענץ פון א גרופע טעטיקע און וויכטיקע פארשטייער, אויף

מאנטיק, דעם 9טן פעברואר, 1976

5:30 נאכמיטאג

אין פארק שעראטאן האטעל, 7 טע עוו. און 56 טע גאס
(ליבערטי רום)

מן הסתם וויסט איר שוין אויך, אז דר. אלעקסאנדער שינדלער, דער ניי-דערווילטער פרעזידענט פון די גרעסטע יידישע ארגא-ניזאציעס אין אמעריקע, האט איינגעשטימט צו זיין דער פרעזידענט פון פארבאנד פון די פוילישע יידן. עס איז אויך מעגלעך, אז ער וועט קענען זיין מיט אונז בי דעם דאזיקן מיטינג.

וויכטיקע אינפארמאציע וועגן אונזער באזוך פון דער דעלעגאציע פון די פוילישע יידן אין וואשינגטאן ביים פוילישן אמבאסאדאר, וועט איבערגעגעבן ווערן.

מיר בעטן אייך גלייך אויספילן דאס בייגעלייגטע קארטל און עס אונז איבערשיקן.

מיר זיינען זיכער, אז איר וועט מאכן יעדע אנשטרענגונג און זיך באטייליקן אין דער זייער וויכטיקער פאר-קאנפערענץ.

מיט פריינטלעכע גרוסן,

Yechiel Hocherman

יחיאל מ. דאבעקירער
סעקרעטאר

*1/9 we
let PM
to come
for a while*

1/29/76

Assoc. of Polish Jews

2/9 and 3/21

n/c for you
Exec Comm.

We'll call Fri
for alternate
dates when
You
can attend

January 13, 1976

Mr. Shelomo Ben-Israel
American Federation of Polish Jews
342 Madison Avenue - Suite 1426
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Ben-Israel:

Many thanks for your gracious letter. I am pleased to serve as the President of the American Federation of Polish Jews and look forward to providing any assistance I can to this fine organization.

It is kind of you to consider the many demands upon my time and I appreciate your understanding. I would be eager to meet with you in the near future and if you will call Miss Miller in my office perhaps we can set a mutually convenient time to meet.

With appreciation and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

December 15th, 1975

Dr. Alexander Shindler
838 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021
W.S.A.

Dear Alex,

I arrived home from my trip, not in the best of health, and that is the reason why I am only writing to you today. I beg your pardon for this delay. That is also the reason why I did not come to Jerusalem during the emergency Conference.

I hope that you have no objections about my addressing myself to you on such familiar terms. That is the expression of my attitude towards you.

First of all I want to thank you sincerely that you consented to my request, to take upon yourself the post of President of our affiliate in the United States. It is a great honor for us, and will certainly enable the leadership there to broaden its activities.

I do not wish at this point to discuss our actual activities. Everything we are doing, or intend to do, has a single purpose: to perpetuate the spiritual heritage, of the martyred Polish Jewry.

We are now preparing, towards the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the publication of a monumental photo-album, of various events in the life of Polish Jewry, up to the outbreak of the Second World War. We must collect some 4,000 photographs - we have already gathered several hundred - in order that a committee of historians, engravers and authors stemming from Poland, should pick out the appropriate 450-500 photographs for the above-mentioned album, in order that it should fulfill the object for which it is intended.

We are continuing to photograph cemeteries in Poland, tombstones of public figures buried there, who were leaders of the Polish Jewish community, in order to preserve this for the history of Polish Jewry - which we are obligated to publish.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of our last letter to Dr. Sherman, which gives you information regarding our publication plans, and our demands to the "Foundation".

You have, undoubtedly been informed by the leadership of our branch in the United States about the campaign in connection with our demands to Polish Government. I do not know whether it will have any practical results, but it is a moral and national obligation, which we must fulfil and express by making these demands - As otherwise, we will have sinned against the history of Polish Jewry, and against the Jewish nation in general.

And now, for an important request from you: For several years now, we have been making demands upon the German Government regarding the restitutions for property which the Nazis robbed from organizations of Polish Jews which existed in Germany for many decades, in almost every city. They fulfilled an important public, cultural, social and economic function for the "Oestjuden" We are doing this as successors of those organizations.

In fact, the German Restitutions authorities have already recognized our rights to this, and three years ago we received approximately 700,000 German Marks. There are 2-3 other demands for damages which amount to some 2-3 million German marks.

Our representatives have been dealing with this matter for over two years, but there has been no conclusion in this matter. They are demanding a great number of documents, many of which we have already supplied - despite the fact that it is not simple to find them after so many years and after the war - but there seems to be no end to it. There is no decision in this matter.

Our legal adviser thinks that if a high ranking delegation to the Chancellor or to the Finance Minister, may be able to achieve that this matter should be positively and speedily concluded.

My - our appeal to you is that you should agree to participate in this delegation. According to our plan, there should be in this delegation, except yourself, , Lord Fisher from London, the Chief Rabbi - Deputy of France, Rabbi Nathan Staskola and I. Of course, this delegation has an aim, and should one of the above mentioned functionaries agree, to receive them, this delegation should be prepared to meet with them.

I hope that this suggestion is not too much of trouble for you. We are anxious that this meeting should take place at the time of the meeting of the Governing Body of the World Congress in London or at the Conference in Brussels. At the same time, I am also appealing to Lord Fisher and to Rabbi Tchakola.

Please forgive me for the length of this letter. I will not do it again - So I hope, if I should have to write to you again.

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We shall be very grateful if you agree to our request, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We shall be very pleased to hear from you - and await your reply.

With very sincere greetings and good wishes,

Sincerely yours,


A. Reiss

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS

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January 2, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 - 5th Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021

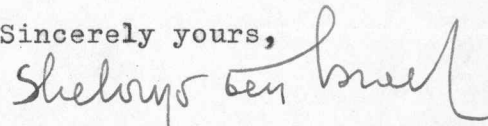
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

The Executive Committee of the American Federation of Polish Jews at a meeting held on December 16, 1975, heard a report from Anzelm Reiss and Jechiel Dobekirer of your consent to preside over our organization, which was enthusiastically received by all present.

We are all honored to have you as President of our organization in these troubled times. We take into consideration that fact, that you are very busy and that you will be busier still during the next two years. Therefore, the demand on your time will be nominal.

With many thanks and looking forward to our mutual cooperation, we remain

Sincerely yours,



Shalom Ben-Israel