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

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Box  
19

Folder  
7c

Miscellaneous organizations [correspondence], 1984-1992.

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

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*Miss Ory*

July 3, 1986  
26 Sivan 5746

Mr. Benjamin Hirsch, Executive Director  
David Ben-Gurion Centennial Committee  
823 United Nations Plaza - Suite 318  
New York, New York 10017-3510

Dear Dr. Hirsch:

Rabbi Schindler has not yet returned to his desk following his recent illness. However, I do talk with him daily and I have discussed your letter of June 26 in regard to a very special mission to Israel to be sponsored by the Centennial Committee.

While the UAHC has some conflicting meetings during the time of the planned mission, there is no reason to seek a change in date. Enough organizations are involved to assure a good participation in this mission.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President



**David Ben-Gurion Centennial Committee**  
OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

823 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 318, NEW YORK, NY 10017-3510 (212) 883-9500



1886 - 1986

June 26, 1986

Dear Friends:

We are considering a mission to Israel, "In the Footsteps of Ben-Gurion," which will coincide with the opening of the Centennial Celebration on October 20 through October 30, 1986.

Two major events will highlight this trip:

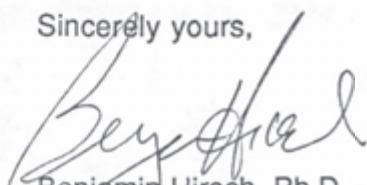
The worldwide Centennial Celebration will be launched by the President and Prime Minister of Israel at the Jerusalem Theater. We will conclude our trip by participating in an international symposium at Sde Boker entitled "The Suez Crisis: A Retrospective (1956-1986)."

Both of these events, as you can imagine, will be exciting and intellectually stimulating. In addition, we will visit the areas in Israel that were so important in Ben-Gurion's life. Our mission will have a tour guide specifically expert in the life and work of David Ben-Gurion.

Would you be kind enough to call us or drop us a line before July 10th so that we may move ahead on planning the trip?

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

  
Benjamin Hirsch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

BH/dh

*Handwritten note:*  
All - welcome Com. on  
Jew Ed only + Reg  
Convention but no  
reason to say n/a  
Shall I call or  
say OK by us?

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*Miss [Signature]*

June 18, 1986  
11 Sivan 5746

Mr. Mark Rosenblum  
Peace Now  
27 W. 20th Street  
9th Floor  
New York, N.Y. 10011

Dear Mr. Rosenblum:

Your letter of June 11 reached our office during the absence of Rabbi Schindler. You may have heard that he suffered a heart attack while visiting Israel with a UAHC Board Mission. After a few weeks of hospitalization in Israel, Rabbi Schindler was discharged and, happily, returned to his home this past Monday. He is doing very well but he will be taking some time during the coming weeks to recuperate and fully regain his health and strength.

Rabbi Schindler is loath to lend his name to a specific cause, no matter how worthy, when he is unable to give any time and/or effort to the work of the organization. While I know he is aware of the fine work being undertaken by Peace Now, I cannot provide permission to include his name on your Advisory Board. That is a decision which must await his return to his desk. At the moment, I am unable to tell you just when that will be. But, I will certainly bring your request to his attention at that time.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President



# שלום עכשיו

## PEACE NOW

ISRAEL  
P.O. Box 108, Jerusalem

NORTH AMERICAN  
REPRESENTATIVE  
Mark Rosenblum

11 June 1986

27 W. 20th Street, 9th Floor  
New York, New York 10011  
(212) 645-6262

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

North American Friends of Peace Now is attempting to form an Advisory Board at this difficult but important juncture. As you know, the peace process on both the Egyptian and Palestinian fronts has stalled. Cynics abound, asserting that the latest breakdown in negotiations demonstrates that peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors is an illusion.

Extremist nationalist and messianic forces within both the Arab world and Israel welcome these voices of cynicism in their own struggle to undermine any peace process. Caught in the crossfire between cynics and rejectionists, Peace Now is trying to (1) encourage and support Prime Minister Peres' peace initiative and (2) educate Israelis, particularly youth, about the devastating internal costs of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the erosion of the peace treaty with Egypt.

In particular, Peace Now has become a central educating and organizing force defending Israeli democracy. On February 12, Peace Now led thousands of Israelis in support of democracy in response to Kahane's first party convention. On February 19, at the request of the Ministry of Education, Peace Now organized a special educational program on "Democracy and Personal Commitment" for junior and senior high school students in Jerusalem. Peace Now has also been commissioned by the Tel Aviv and Beer Sheva school districts to develop ten learning modules on the themes of pluralism, democracy, Jewish-Arab relations, etc. 4,000 students are currently participating in these modules and 70 instructors have been trained and placed in the schools.

On April 14, Peace Now organized a conference in Hebron which brought together over 400 Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews to explore the possibilities for reconciliation and peace. Participation in this historic conference included eight Knesset members from six parties and scores of the most prominent political and intellectual figures. They condemned all violence and called for a peace settlement that would recognize the national rights of both peoples. This was the first public meeting ever held between Jews and Arabs in the West Bank.

/...



Many of Israel's leading military and diplomatic figures are leading activists in the Peace Now movement. They include historian Saul Friedlander, novelist Amos Oz, Weizman Institute President Arie Dvoretzki, and Professor Yehoshafat Harkabi. Abba Eban and Teddy Koller have supported the work of Peace Now and both have written supporting letters nominating Peace Now for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The formation of a Friends of Peace Now Advisory Board will lend credibility and authority to our efforts at raising consciousness and funds. We would be honored if you would join us in spreading Peace Now's message of hope without delusion and providing support for Israel's quest for peace and democracy by becoming a member of the Advisory Board.

I have enclosed a copy of our Statement of Purpose and look forward to hearing your response. If you have any questions, I can be reached at the Peace Now office in New York (212/645-6262) or at my home (914/834-7928).

Sincerely,

*Mark Rosenblum*

Mark Rosenblum

encl.



Friends of Peace Now  
Statement of Purpose

North American Friends of PEACE NOW (SHALOM ACHSHAV) was formed to support the policies and activities of the SHALOM ACHSHAV peace movement in Israel. SHALOM ACHSHAV believes that Israel's pursuit of peace must advance by means of diplomacy and negotiation and that reliance on military force only guarantees years of endless strife.

Since its founding in 1978 by 350 reserve soldiers and officers of the Israel Defense Forces, SHALOM ACHSHAV has grown into a nonpartisan grass-roots movement that draws its support from across Israel's political, religious, and social spectrum. SHALOM ACHSHAV has become Israel's largest and most influential force for a negotiated settlement between Israelis and Palestinians.

SHALOM ACHSHAV and its North American supporters believe that such a settlement can be reached based upon the following principles: 1) Both sides must accept territorial compromise as the only long-term guarantee of peace. 2) All peoples, including the Palestinians, must recognize Israel's right to a sovereign existence within secure and mutually acceptable borders. 3) Israel must recognize the right of the Palestinian people to a national existence to be realized in a manner agreeable to all concerned parties. 4) A peace agreement must assure Israel's security. 5) Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, must remain united, and Moslem and Christian religious interests must continue to be respected.

SHALOM ACHSHAV's demonstrations have drawn hundreds of thousands of Israelis in support of its quest for peace. It has led opposition to West Bank expropriations and settlements, and it was the most visible and effective protest movement against the Lebanese war. Through its Education for Peace Program, SHALOM ACHSHAV conducts forums on tolerance, democracy, and security. In high schools and community centers, SHALOM ACHSHAV has brought together thousands of Jewish and Arab youth, while also providing private and public settings for dialogue between prominent Israelis and Palestinians. The hundreds of thousands of Israelis who participate in SHALOM ACHSHAV activities serve as a democratic bulwark against the forces of racism and extremism. Thirty-eight Knesset members have signed SHALOM ACHSHAV petitions, and the movement counts among its supporters such prominent Israelis as Abba Eban, novelist Amos Oz, and historian Saul Friedlander.

North American Friends of PEACE NOW, functioning through more than seventeen local chapters, has three interrelated tasks. The first is to inform the American Jewish community about the issues and concerns facing the peace movement in Israel. The second task is to argue forcefully in local Jewish communities in support of the policies and programs of SHALOM ACHSHAV in Israel. Third, Friends of PEACE NOW raises funds to further the PEACE NOW educational activities in Israel, the United States, and Canada. Friends of PEACE NOW has conducted speaking tours by prominent Arab and Jewish Israelis and sympathetic Palestinians. It initiates public discussions and presents its views to numerous groups within the organized Jewish community while developing educational materials on issues of peace, democracy, and security in Israel. By supporting those in Israel who share our own democratic and Jewish values, Friends of PEACE NOW works to strengthen the commitment of North American Jews to Israel while helping to build the humanistic Jewish state that was the dream of the Zionist pioneers.



*Muse*

March 14, 1986  
3 Adar 41 5746

Mr. Gerald Strober  
25 East End Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your gracious invitation to serve on the Advisory Board of Youth Towns of Israel. This is a very worthy organization and I know of its program.

I really do not like to say yes to invitations such as yours when I know it will not be possible for me to attend meetings or be of assistance. I am reluctant to do so and I hope you understand. However, if you merely want to have my name on the letterhead - if that will help - knowing that my hectic schedule will preclude my participation on the Board, you may certainly feel free to add my name to the roster.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



25 East End Avenue  
New York, New York 10028  
212-570-2910

Deborah Hart  
Gerald Strober

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

Dear Alex,

I am writing to you on behalf of Youth Towns of Israel, an organization that for more than three decades has provided educational opportunities and vocational training for Israel's disadvantaged youngsters, many of them orphans who came on Aliyah from backward nations and societies where their families faced severe persecution.

I am not asking for funds at this time. I am asking that you join a new Advisory Board we are forming to give Youth Towns for the first time in the United States, a major leadership connection. What I would ask is that as a member of the Advisory Board you agree within the next six months to visit one of the Youth Towns facilities in Israel.

Youth Towns conducts programs in aeronautical technology, agriculture and nursing and its graduates enjoy careers in the aircraft industry, the health care field, on kibbutzim and moshavim and in all areas of Israel's economic and social infrastructure. One of Youth Towns graduates, Moshe Katsav who came from Iran at age five, is today, as you know, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare.

Currently there are about eight hundred youngsters on the Youth Towns waiting list and the organization is attempting to add new dormitory and classroom space. While Youth Towns enjoys an excellent reputation in Israel for its delivery of services and operational expertise, the organization has never been able to enlist major support in the United States, either in terms of people who identify with Youth Towns important tasks or on the fund raising level.

You can play a role in helping Youth Towns develop its potential in the United States. I hope the advisory board would meet at least once a year to discuss ways in which the organization can intensify its informational and fund raising efforts.

*little time  
reluctant to join Board  
when I don't attend.  
If he is willing to have  
some on letterhead  
period OK*

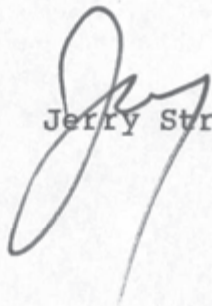
Page 2

Youth Towns was founded by leaders of the revisionist movement, including Menachem Begin. While many of the leaders of the organization are associated with the movement, Youth Towns facilities have always been open to all deserving youngsters and its programs have no political or ideological content. Youth Towns simply has the mission of bringing children from disadvantaged circumstances into the mainstream of Israeli society.

I hope you will join the Advisory Board and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

Jerry Strober





*Doc*  
*Only*

February 24, 1986  
15 Adar 1 5746

Mr. Yitzchak Korn, President  
Mt. Stephen Grayek, Chairman  
World Council for Yiddish  
and Jewish Culture  
9 Mendele Street  
Tel-Aviv 63 431 Israel

Dear Friends:

In response to your recent letter I hasten to advise that I am agreeable to be of assistance in any way I can. However, I do hope you understand that my travel and meeting schedule is quite frenetic and I am not always available. Given the constraints on my time, I will, of course, try my utmost to be of help.

With warm regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



This is from  
YITZCHAK KORN  
PRESIDENT  
STUBBEN GRAYEK  
CHAIRMAN  
We for Y & Jc.

They want ~



Tell them I'm  
agreeable to help  
anyway I can.  
I place limitations  
on my time - but  
within those constraints  
I'll try to be of  
help.

אדר א' תשמ"ו  
תל-אביב, פברואר 1986

צו  
די פעדעראציעס פון פוילישע יידן  
און די אקטיוויסטן פון די לאנדסמאנשאפטן  
א י ד י ל ע נ ד ע ר

לכבוד  
הרב אלכסנדר מ. שינדלער  
נ י ו - י א ר ק

זייער חשובער פריינד הרב אלכסנדר שינדלער,

דערמיט ווילן מיר אייך מיטטיילן, אז אויף דער ביורא-זיצונג פון וועלטראט  
פאר יידיש און יידישער קולטור, דעם 23סטן סעפטעמבער ה.י. איז באטלאסן געווארן צו  
פארשטארקן די פארבינדונגען פון די קרייזן פון פוילישן יידנטום אין די פארשידענע  
לענדער מיט די יידיש-קאמיטעטן אויף די ערטער, כדי בעמיינזאם אויסצוברייטערן די  
טעטיקייט און פארפעסטיקן די יסודות פון יידיש און יידישער קולטור.

ס'איז איבעריק צו דערמאנען, אז די יידיש קולטור האט איצט א גרויסע  
אויפגאבע: ממשיך צו זיין און פארפעסטיקן די יידישע קולטור טראדיציעס.

ס'איז אייך אלעמען באקאנט די גרויסע ראל פונעם אמאליקן יידישן ישוב אין  
פוילן, וואס האט דערהויבן די גייסטיקע געטאלטונג פון יידישן פאלק. אויך היינט  
נויטיקן מיר זיך אינעם קולטור בייטראג פון די פוילישע יידן אומעטום, ווו זיי  
געפינען זיך.

בעטן מיר אייך אונדז מיטצוטיילן אייער הסכמה וועגן אייער גרייטקייט  
מיטצוארבעטן מיט די יידיש-קאמיטעטן.

מיר פון אונדזער זייט וועלן אינסטרוירן און צוגרייטן די יידיש-קאמיטעטן  
פאר דער געהעריקער קאאפעראציע מיט אייך.

ענטפערט אויפן אדרעס:

WORLD COUNCIL FOR YIDDISH  
AND JEWISH CULTURE  
9, Mendele Street  
TEL - AVIV 63 431  
I S R A E L

אין דערווארטונג אויף אייער הסכמה

בלייבן מיר מיט אכטונג און פריינדשאפט

וועלט-פעדעראציע פון  
פוילישן יידנטום

סטעפאן גראיעק  
פארזיצער

וועלטראט פאר יידיש און  
יידישער קולטור

יצחק קארן  
פארזיצער

George Klein

*Ms. Dny*

*no further*

December 24, 1985

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

Dear Alex:

Thank you for your promptness in taking care of the matter we discussed. I've asked our Executive Director to forward the information to the Leo Baeck Institute and we will follow through.

Again, my thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*

CC: Dr. David Blumenfeld



to chat  
re  
Meyer wants  
with you  
suggestions

called  
12/19

977.9700



MOBY

WGLJO

December 23, 1985

Mr. George Klein  
499 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear George:

I have just received the copy of Haskell Lookstein's "Were We Our Brother's Keepers?" which you and Robert Morgenthau were kind enough to send in behalf of the New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission. I write to express heartfelt thanks for your thoughtfulness. I look forward to reading this book, which I understand has been highly praised.

I finally heard from the Leo Baeck Institute people (my contact, Gerald Meyer, was out of the country for sometime. He is a prominent international lawyer).

Be that as it may, the information I relayed to them was not entirely new since they had a call from the YIVO people, who wanted to know what the Leo Baeck Institute had in mind.

In a manner so typical of the Germanic breed (I say that with love since I am at least in part of that breed), they would like a letter spelling out the details of the project which you described to me. The letter is to be directed to Dr. Fred Grubel, Secretary, Leo Baeck Institute, 129 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021, with a copy to Gerald Meyer, Esq. Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin, Krim & Ballon, 40 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Again, my thanks and my warm regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler





איחוד  
ליהדות  
מתקרמת  
באמריקה

Memo

From the desk of  
RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER

Myers will  
call to give  
you a name &  
telephone #  
When he does let  
me know so that  
I can relay info  
to George Klein.

---

# PHONE MEMO

TO *Ealeo* DATE *12:00* AM  
 FROM *M. Mr. Meyer Sect.* AREA CODE *212* NUMBER *9777*  
 OF EXTENSION *9700*

MESSAGE

*10/17 - 4 Dec 1st left message*

SIGNED

PHONED ☐ CALL BACK ☐ RETURNED CALL ☒ WANTS TO SEE YOU ☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ WAS IN ☐ URGENT ☐





אחדות  
ליהדות  
מתקדמת  
באמריקה

# Memo

From the desk of  
EDITH J. MILLER

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

GERALD MEYER...

GEORGE KLEIN INVOLVED IN CREATION OF HOLOCAUST  
MUSEUM/MEMORIAL NYC - BATTERY PARK -- MAJOR EFFORT--

HAS IDEA WHICH MIGHT MAKE FOR SPACE AND ENDOWMENT  
(NO RENTAL) FOR LEO BAECK INSTITUTE----- ALEX WANTS TO  
HAVE THIS BROUGHT TO LB BOARD BUT MUST BE BY SOMEONE  
WHO UNDERSTANDS AND CAN PROJECT THE MEANING....GERRY  
OR CAN HE RECOMMEND AND WILL PUT GEO KLEIN IN TOUCH...

*Call of the Bema*

*Please say you might try  
Mor Gruenwald*

*B  
nov. Elizabeth  
Tushnet*



# LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

129 EAST 73rd STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021 • RHineland 4-6400

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(516) 751-7010 h.

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(Mrs. Stanley Rosenbaum )  
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h. Tel: (201) 567-3319

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(516) HU2-5002

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Hebrew Union College Jewish  
Institute of Religion  
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Prof. George L. Mosse  
Department of History  
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425 North Part Street  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisc. 53706  
h. 36 Glenway  
Madison, Wisc. 53705  
(608) 263-1826 of.  
(608) 233-0915

Mr. Alfred S. Oppenheimer  
3219 Timberfield Lane  
Pikesville, Maryland  
Tel: (301) 486-5610  
Write to:  
P.O. Box 193  
Brooklandville, MD 21022  
LBI Baltimore

Dr. Joachim Prinz  
P.O.B. 466  
Woodland Ave.  
Brookside, NJ 07926  
(201) 543-4177

Mrs. Dora Schocken  
117 Old Army Road  
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583  
(914) SC3-7839

Prof. Ismar Schorsch (EC)  
President  
The Jewish Theological Seminary  
3080 Broadway  
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678-8065  
h. 5430 Netherland Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10471  
549-3426

Prof. Kurt Schwerin  
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Chicago, IL 60660  
(312) 275-6776

Dr. Curt C. Silberman  
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25 Hanover Road  
Floral Park, N.J. 07932  
h. 11 Aspen Road  
West Orange, N.J. 07052  
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Dr. Hans Steinitz  
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New York, N.Y. 10034  
567-9033

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Southfield, Mich. 46076  
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787-8846 h.  
790-1466 of.

Prof. Herbert A. Strauss  
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New York, N.Y. 10027  
Institut fuer  
Antisemitismusforschung  
Technische Universitaet  
D-1000 Berlin 10  
Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7



Albert U. Tietz  
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Forest Mills, N.Y. 11375  
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(914) 251-5400 of.  
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New York, & Foreign Securities  
Corporation.  
805 3rd Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
751-5577  
300 East 56th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022  
759-3549

John Weitz  
600 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022  
752-8860

Dr. Franz Winkler (EC)  
Vice President  
1070 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10028  
876-6823

Prof. Yosef H. Yerushalmi  
Center for Israel & Jewish  
Studies  
511 Fayerweather Hall  
Columbia University  
New York, N.Y. 10027  
280-2581  
450 Riverside Drive  
New York, N.Y. 10027

Mr. Henry J. Zacharias  
128 Central Park South  
New York, N.Y. 10019  
757-7774

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES



December 23, 1985

The Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau, Chairman  
New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission  
11 West 40th Street  
New York, New York 10018

Dear Mr. Morgenthau:

I had occasion to be in touch with George Klein on another matter and expressed my gratitude to him for the copy of 'Were We Our Brothers' Kappars?' It was thoughtful of the two of you to share this book with members of the Holocaust Memorial Commission and I write to extend my gratitude to you.

I have heard that this is a very fine volume and I look forward to some quiet time to peruse its pages.

With thanks and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler





NEW YORK CITY HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMMISSION

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Hon. Robert M. Morgenthau

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. David L. Blumenfeld

December 16, 1985

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

The enclosed book, "Were We Our Brothers' Keepers?" by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, has just been published, and has received high critical acclaim. It is a perceptive analysis of the American Jewish community's response to the Holocaust.

As a member of the Holocaust Memorial Commission, we thought you might find it interesting and enlightening.

With our very best wishes,

Sincerely,

George Klein

Robert M. Morgenthau

*Mr. Bronfman*

December 23, 1985

Mr. Charles Bronfman  
1430 Peel Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1S9  
Canada

Dear Charles:

The Golde Meir Foundation of Israel has undertaken a major program for Israeli high school youth on Democracy in Israel. I saw a film-strip describing the program and have heard reports concerning it from Israel. The program is quite effective and very much needed at the present stage of Israel's development.

The Reform Movement has determined to cooperate with the Israel Labor Party in this venture for its own sake and also because the idea of religious pluralism can well be inserted into this program and made a part of it.

Obviously, support is needed for this venture and I suggested to the Labor Party leadership that just conceivably you might be inclined to lend a hand. If you can, I will be grateful.

Uzi Baram, Secretary-General of the Labor Party, will be in Canada soon and he would like to see you to seek your help on this and a related venture. A David Freilich will call you in the next few weeks to make an appointment. Hopefully, you will make the time to give Mr. Baram at least a hearing.

With warm regards and all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



December 23, 1985

Mr. Paul Zuckerman  
Velvet O'Donnell Corp.  
P.O.B. 2368  
Livonia, MI 48151

Dear Paul:

The Golda Meir Foundation of Israel has undertaken a major program for Israeli high school youth on Democracy in Israel. I saw a film-strip describing the program and have heard reports concerning it from Israel. The program is quite effective and very much needed at the present stage of Israel's development.

The Reform Movement has determined to cooperate with the Israel Labor Party in the venture for its own sake and also because the idea of religious pluralism can well be inserted into this program and made a part of it.

Obviously, support is needed for this venture and someone suggested that Sam Frankel of your community could conceivably be persuaded to support this venture. Here then is the reason for my letter; would you be willing to introduce the Labor Party leadership to Sam Frankel?

Uzi Baram, Secretary-General of the Labor Party, will be in American soon and would like to see Mr. Frankel to seek his help on this and a related venture. A David Freilich will call you in the next few weeks to see if an appointment can be made with Mr. Frankel. Hopefully, you will be willing to discuss this with him and prevail upon him to give Mr. Baram at least a hearing.

Hope you're feeling well again. Rhea joins me in sending warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



December 23, 1985

Mr. Jack D. Weiler  
1114 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Dear Jack:

The Golda Meir Foundation of Israel has undertaken a major program for Israeli high school youth on Democracy in Israel. I saw a film-strip describing the program and have heard reports concerning it from Israel. The program is quite effective and very much needed at the present stage of Israel's development.

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With warmest regards, in which Rhea joins, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

December 23, 1985

Mr. Morris L. Levinson  
625 Madison Avenue  
12th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Morrie:

The Golda Meir Foundation of Israel has undertaken a major program for Israeli high school youth on Democracy in Israel. I saw a film-strip describing the program and have heard reports concerning it from Israel. The program is quite effective and very much needed at the present stage of Israel's development.

The Reform Movement has determined to cooperate with the Israel Labor Party in this venture for its own sake and also because the idea of religious pluralism can well be inserted into this program and made a part of it.

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With warmest regards, in which Rhea joins, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



December 23, 1985

Mr. Jacob Hiatt  
20 Woodhaven Road  
Worcester, MA 01609

Dear Jack:

The Golda Meir Foundation of Israel has undertaken a major program for Israeli high school youth on Democracy in Israel. I saw a film-strip describing the program and have heard reports concerning it from Israel. The program is quite effective and very much needed at the present stage of Israel's development.

The Reform Movement has determined to cooperate with the Israel Labor Party in this venture, ~~for~~ its own sake and also because the ideal of religious pluralism can well be inserted into this program and made a part of it.

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Uzi Baram, Secretary-General of the Labor Party, will be in America soon and would like to see you to seek your help on this and a related venture. A David Freilich will call you in the next few weeks to make an appointment. Hopefully, you will make the time to give Mr. Baram at least a hearing.

With warmest regards, In which Rhea joins, I am

±

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



MISC.

December 4, 1985

Mr. Morris Dweck,  
National Director  
Public Relations  
State of Israel Bonds  
730 Broadway  
New York, NY 10003

Dear Mr. Dweck:

Thank you for your letter of November 29 advising me that the 35th Anniversary of Israel Bonds and David Ben-Gurion's Centennial will be celebrated at a gala international dinner on June 1, 1986.

Let me assure you that we will not plan any special events on that date. In fact, we are in the midst of preparation for a Board Mission to Israel and our group will not return from this journey until May 31, 1986. As you can appreciate, this certainly precludes a major UAHC function on June 1, 1986.

With every good wish and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



## STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ISRAEL  
730 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10003 • (212) 677-9650

MORRIS DWECK  
National Director  
Public Relations

November 29, 1985

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

We are writing to advise you that on Sunday evening, June 1, 1986, State of Israel Bonds will commemorate David Ben-Gurion's Centennial and the 35th Anniversary of Israel Bonds at a gala international dinner.

On that occasion, we will be honoring a number of outstanding Jewish leaders from around the world. We will be inviting the nation's most prominent national and local Jewish leaders to the dinner which will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria.

Because it will be an event with great significance for Israel, we are requesting that you do everything possible not to schedule any major event on that date.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Morris Dweck*  
Morris Dweck



*MS*

August 12, 1985

Mr. Daniel L. Ritchie  
EOD Dinner Chairman  
Group W  
888 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10106

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Your letter of July 29 awaited me on my return from travels out of the country. I hope you will understand and forgive the delayed response.

While I would be pleased to serve on the Dinner Committee for the 29th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner of the National Urban League, I am unable to attend the September 10 meeting due to a prior commitment out of town. Indeed, I am not even certain that it will be possible for me to be at the November 21 dinner because of a conflict in schedule. Given these problems, I will certainly understand if you deem it proper not to list me as a member of the Dinner Committee. However, if you feel that my name will be helpful in any way in regard to the EOD Dinner, please do list me as a member of the committee.

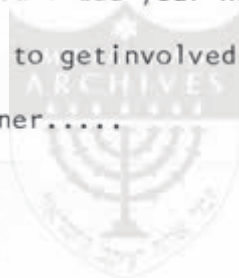
With kindest greetings and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



al thought you should add your name but we have  
to be careful not to get involved in buying a  
table for the dinner.....



20

Red  
H  
~~W~~  
W.

DANIEL L. RITCHIE  
Chairman



WESTINGHOUSE BROADCASTING AND CABLE, INC.  
888 SEVENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10106 (212) 307-3100

July 29, 1985

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I have agreed to serve as Chairman of the National Urban League's 29th Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner to be held on Thursday, November 21, 1985 at 6:00 p.m., in the Grand Ballroom of The New York Hilton Hotel. I would like to invite you to serve with me as a member of the Dinner Committee.

The National Urban League annually presents its Equal Opportunity Award to leading citizens. This year's honorees will be Mr. James E. Burke, Chairman, Johnson & Johnson and Dr. Jerome H. Holland, who will be honored posthumously.

The Dinner Committee will hold only one meeting prior to the EOD Dinner. We will meet on Tuesday, September 10, 1985 at 4:30 p.m. at The Four Seasons, (private dining room 2 and 3), at which time Mr. John E. Jacob, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, will join us.

I do hope that you will serve with me on the 1985 Equal Opportunity Day Dinner Committee. The enclosed response card is included for your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel L. Ritchie  
EOD Dinner Chairman

Encls.



[ ] I will serve on the 1985 EOD Dinner Committee.

[ ] Regret I cannot serve.

I will [ ] will not [ ] be able to attend the Committee meeting on September 10th, 4:30 p.m., The Four Seasons, 99 East 52nd Street, Dining Rooms 2 & 3.

[ ] You can count on our participation for \_\_\_\_\_ table(s) or \_\_\_\_\_ places. Tables seating ten \$2,500, tickets \$250 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_



Mr. Daniel L. Ritchie  
EOD Dinner Chairman  
National Urban League, Inc.  
500 East 62nd Street  
New York, New York 10021

14th Floor



אחד  
ליהדות  
מתקדמת  
באמריקה

# Memo

FROM \_\_\_\_\_

*Muse*

David said this one is tricky and we should ignore it. Should they telephone to find out if you are willing to sign, we will tell them that it was something about which we did not have sufficient information and that we were going to be in touch with the LCCR to determine from them, ~~for we knew nothing about this and we'll be able to get out of it.~~

*So ignore*



# NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

126 West 119th Street • Suite 101 • New York, N.Y. • 10026 • 212/866-8600



Rabbi Alex Schindler  
Union of American  
Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10012

August 16, 1985

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## GENERAL COUNSEL

ADJOA AIYETORO

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FRANK CHAPMAN

organizations for identification only

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

We are writing to urge you to join us in signing the enclosed open letter to Attorney General Edwin Meese III calling for an end to the Justice Department's attack on Black elected officials and voting rights activists in Alabama. (See enclosed material for more details.)

Since the Democratic Primaries last year, the FBI has conducted a massive investigation in Alabama's five Black majority counties based on allegations that altered absentee ballots had been cast. Eight people have been indicted so far. The first three, Perry County activists Albert and Evelyn Turner and Spencer Hogue, were acquitted of all charges on July 5.

The Perry County trial demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that the government had no case, that in fact these are racially and politically motivated prosecutions designed to intimidate Black voters and put a chilling effect on the Voting Rights Act.

Yet the Justice Department continues its attack on Spencer Hogue, charging him with attempting to influence a witness. Five Greene County activists begin facing trial on voting fraud charges August 26: Union, Alabama Mayor James Colvin, Bessie Jones Underwood, Frederick Douglass Daniels, Bobby Nell Simpson, and local SCLC leader Spiver Gordon.

Time is short. We plan to release the open letter to the media on August 26 from the steps of the Justice Department. Please sign the enclosed authorization form and return it to the NAARPR office today.

Sincerely,

*Eugene "Gus" Newport*  
Hon. Eugene "Gus" Newport  
Mayor, Berkeley, CA  
NAARPR Executive Board

*Henry J. Kirksey*  
Hon. Henry J. Kirksey  
Mississippi Senate  
NAARPR Board

Unity + Struggle + Organization = VICTORIES!

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Elected May 15th, 1983—Chicago, Illinois**

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Mayor, Berkeley, CA

**JOSEPHINE WYATT**  
Chicago, IL Branch

Open Letter to Attorney General Edwin Meese III:

Stop Justice Department Attacks on Voting Rights Activists

Dear Attorney General Meese:

We the undersigned to this open letter have followed the cases of Black civil rights leaders and Black elected officials in Perry and Greene Counties in Alabama with great interest and concern. These are the so-called voter fraud cases involving the alleged altering of absentee ballots during the September 4, 1984 Democratic Primary election in Alabama.

To date three people have been indicted in Perry County -- Spencer Hogue, Albert Turner and Evelyn Turner; and five people from Greene County -- Union, Alabama Mayor James Colvin, Bessie Jones Underwood, Frederick Douglass Daniels, Bobby Nell Simpson, and Spiver Gordon.

On July 5 Spencer Hogue, Albert Turner and Evelyn Turner were acquitted by a multiracial jury. The government failed to prove fraud. However, defense counsel did prove from our point of view that the Justice Department is more concerned with making presumptuous charges of voter fraud than with enforcing the Voting Rights Act.

We vigorously protest the unscrupulous and vindictive way in which the Criminal Division of the Justice Department is currently being used to unjustly prosecute Black elected officials and civil rights leaders in Alabama.

We are concerned about your role in Alabama because it is reflective of a basic policy shift to non-enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and Justice Department inspired and conspired legal lynching of Black elected officials and human rights activists. Throughout the South in Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, etc., the Justice Department is attacking Black political leaders on phony voter fraud charges.

The Justice Department has even continued its attack on Spencer Hogue by bringing new charges of attempting to influence a witness.

We demand that all pending charges against the above named defendants be dropped and the FBI cease and desist from its dragnet of spurious allegations of voter fraud.

We demand that the Justice Department return to the role designated by the Congress as chief enforcer of the Voting Rights Act not chief attacker.



18,500 people were registered to vote.

In fact, in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, the state's only district with a majority black population, one-half of its twenty counties have more registered voters on the rolls than people of voting age.

Mississippi is not the exception. In Wilcox County, Alabama, eighty-five percent of the total population was registered to vote in 1980, according to the reports of the county's board of registrars; however, only sixty-two percent of the county was old enough to vote that year. In predominantly black Lowndes County, where whites also control the registration board, eighty-two percent of the total population of the county was registered to vote in 1980, although only sixty percent of the population was of voting age.

In other Southern counties where registration rolls are better kept, some local officials know more than they are telling. In Alabama, the Secretary of State's office says that most counties do not keep voter registration data by race. Yet, in Sumter County, local white registrars — appointed by the governor of Alabama — have the information. They just don't distribute it. Less than two years ago, an SRC representative discovered on his third visit to that registrar's office that registration data was being kept for each precinct, by race on computer. White officials simply did not wish to distribute the information and had denied its existence until it was inadvertently seen.

These inaccuracies and duplicities retard local efforts to increase real voter registration and turn-out; they hide local officials' caprice and hostility to black voters; and, too often, they permit former residents of a county and current

residents of the local cemetery to vote.

Proposals for reform offered by registration boards and their political allies would often have the same effect as the problems they are supposed to correct. In southwest Alabama, for example, recent proposals of reform would have wiped away all names from the voting rolls and required all citizens to re-register to vote within a few months. Opportunities for registration in most of these counties are restricted to less than ten days a month and usually only from nine to five (and closed at lunch time). Most registration can only occur at the local courthouse.

While farmers doing seasonal work might once have been able to re-register under these conditions, the fact is that most blacks in these rural areas now work regular shifts and must get the permission of white employers and miss a day's work to register. And for a large part of the elderly blacks who have no transportation, this type of re-registration would mean no registration.

In effect, these reforms would eliminate in two months a level of black registration that has required twenty years to build. Thus, blacks in these counties have been offered a political Hobson's choice: useless registration data or crippled black registration. Most blacks have chosen to block the devastating reforms and live without hard, accurate registration data which could often help them target registration drives.

Thirty-five years ago, V. O. Key stated in his authoritative study, *Southern Politics*, that "every local registration officer is a law unto himself . . ." In different circumstances today, the same conclusion applies to much of the South's Black Belt. Southern local and state governments must begin to collect accurate information on registration by race and to implement procedures that help — not hinder — people to register. Until we know how many blacks and whites are registered to vote in the South's precincts, we should assume that officials continue to hide mischievous practices which prompted the passage of the Voting Rights Act twenty years ago. ■

## SOUTHERN CHANGES

MAY-JUNE  
1985

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL • ATLANTA

Editor: Allen Tullos. Contributing Editors: Paul Gaston, Sue Thrasher, Randall Williams, Alex Willingham. Circulation: David Dreger. Assisting with this issue: M. Noe, Elizabeth Sicheloff, Julie Wheeler.

Publisher: Steve Suitts. *Southern Changes* is published six times a year by the Southern Regional Council, Inc., a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization which has been working in the South since 1944 through research, education and action for equality and civil rights. Copyright © 1984 by the Southern Regional Council, Inc., Peachtree West Building, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. All rights reserved. Reproduction without written permission is prohibited. Third class postage paid in Montgomery, Alabama.

Editorial Policy: The material in *Southern Changes* does not necessarily represent the views of the Council, but is instead a forum of ideas and opinions on the issues and events of the South. *Southern Changes* welcomes writers' queries and manuscripts, and readers' letters. *Southern Changes* is available in microfilm from University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Dept. P.R. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

## Crackdown in the Black Belt Not-So-Simple Justice

By ALLEN TULLOS

In a trial that should reveal the distance the Reagan Justice Department will travel to cooperate with local white officials in suppressing the voting rights of black citizens, the case of *United States of America v. Albert Turner, Spencer Hogue, Jr., and Evelyn Turner* moved into a federal courtroom in Selma, Alabama, on June 19.

Meanwhile, US attorneys continue to supervise investigations and bring similar indictments against grassroots civil rights leaders for alleged violations of absentee voting laws in five west Alabama Black Belt counties. Indicted in Birmingham on June 11 were five Greene Countians, including longtime activist and Eutaw city council member Spiver Gordon, the black mayor of the town of Union, James Colvin, and three voting rights workers.





(l to r) Bobby Joe Johnson, Wilcox County Commissioner; Ralph Erving, tax assessor; Charles Prejean, Black Belt Defense Committee; Wendell Paris, Sumter County Schoolboard Chairman; in front of the Wilcox County Courthouse, Camden, Alabama. "Twenty years ago we wouldn't have even been allowed to sit here."

Other targets of the investigations include sheriff John Hulett of Lowndes County, and — from Wilcox County — Rev. Thomas Threadgill (often regarded as the spiritual leader of the Black Belt) and county commissioner Bobby Joe Johnson.

Arguing that the Justice Department's investigations of absentee voting practices in Alabama arise from a Reagan Administration policy of singling out black voting rights activists for prosecution, a group of nine black citizens (including four elected officials) from Greene, Lowndes, Perry, Sumter and Wilcox counties filed a class action suit on June 11 in federal district court in Montgomery challenging this policy and asking that the current, discriminatory, investigations be stopped.

Named as defendants in the federal suit are US Attorney General Edwin Meese; William Bradford Reynolds, Acting Associate Attorney General and head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division; Stephen S. Trott, who oversees Justice's Criminal Division; and the US Attorneys for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Alabama. The Southern Poverty Law Center and the Southeastern Office of the American Civil Liberties Union are representing the Black Belt citizens who have brought the complaint.

"We think it's unfair the way the investigation is being conducted and felt this was the only way to let the people know what was going on," said Wilcox County Sheriff

Prince Arnold, one of the plaintiffs.

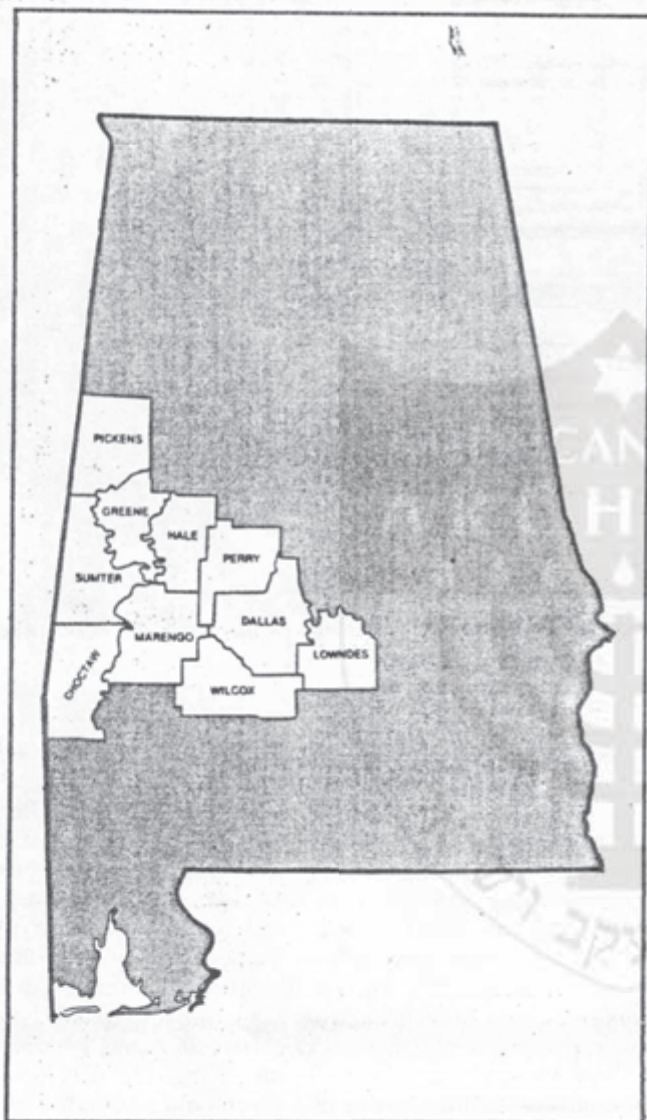
The civil suit charges that Justice Department officials and US Attorneys "are engaged in a concerted effort to unlawfully interfere with black citizens' associational and political activities" in the Black Belt, and that the current investigations discourage citizens from exercising their right to vote. Federal and local officials are also accused of ignoring numerous citizens' complaints as well as other information (such as that collected by federal election observers) with regard to electoral fraud and intimidation committed by whites and by black political opponents of the targets of the investigations.

In recent weeks, a clutch of FBI agents operating out of Mobile, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa offices have questioned as many as a thousand black absentee voters about the casting of their ballots in September 1984 elections. Civil rights leaders in the region wonder where these agents have been during the long years of white intimidation and violence that have accompanied the challenge to minority rule in the Black Belt.

The involvement of US Attorneys — whom local black citizens have taken to calling "federal persecutors" — in actions that intimidate voting rights organizations and voters in this majority black region of the South presents yet another face of the Reagan Administration's national effort



to push back two decades of civil rights gains. While not as widely known as Justice's moves to overturn affirmative action programs in state and local governments across the country, or its recent decision to oppose (in a US Supreme Court brief) North Carolina's singlemember redistricting plan, the trial of the "Marion Three" and the ongoing Black Belt investigations threaten to reverse the substantial electoral gains made by grassroots black majorities since the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.



Southwest Alabama Black Belt Counties

The discriminatory nature of the Justice Department's Black Belt investigations can be traced to a Reagan Administration policy change. Prior to 1984, Justice deferred to local authorities in cases of mixed federal-state elections in which an alleged crime had no effect on the outcome of a federal election. Just such an election was the September, 1984 primary from which the current indictments have sprung. In the summer of 1984, Justice Department officials — including William Bradford Reynolds and Stephen Trott

—devised a new policy for federal investigations of election offenses. Now, federal officials could begin to investigate "political participants" who "seek out the elderly, socially disadvantaged, or the illiterate, for the purpose of subjugating their electoral will" or under whose "watchful eye" a voter happened to "mark his or her ballot." According to Justice's manual on election crimes, this policy is aimed at persons who "exploit . . . the franchise of . . . socially dependent voters."

The Justice Department has applied this superficially helpful new policy in an explicitly racial and regional manner, targeting for investigation only black civil rights activists in Alabama Black Belt and other Southern majority-black counties. According to materials filed by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in a pre-trial motion on behalf of Perry County defendant Spencer Hogue, Jr., Assistant Director of Justice's Office of Public Affairs John Russell is quoted as saying that "civil rights leaders and religious leaders" have been targeted for investigation because of "arrogance on the part of blacks" in the region.

"They have come in here, with their indictment papers in their pockets, to wipe us out," says Sumter County schoolboard member Wendell Paris, one target of the investigation. "There's another Reconstruction headed this way. If they get the people they're after, that's the end for the foreseeable future of black sheriffs in the Black Belt of Alabama, that's the end of black state legislators, that's the end of officials elected by the majority of black people."

At stake in the Black Belt is the coalescence of black political power over a multi-county region which has historically been dominated by some of the Deep South's strongest white politicians. At stake are scores of local elective offices, administrative control of revenues, resources and policies, sufficient clout to secure black participation in government public works contracts and programs, several seats in the Alabama legislature, influence upon the outcome of a US Congressional candidacy, and the margin of difference in a close Senate race.

Over the past twenty years, blacks in the ten southwest Alabama counties affected most by the current prosecutions have gradually won local elective offices. Prior to 1965, whites controlled all ten county commissions, eleven boards of education and thirty-four town governments. Since the Voting Rights Act, blacks have emerged to fill the majority of the seats on five county commissions and five school boards. Blacks now direct the municipal governments of nine towns, while whites still remain in control of five county governments and thirty-three of forty-two towns, including every county seat. The 138 black elected officials in the ten west Alabama Black Belt counties account for forty-four percent of all of Alabama's black elected office holders. Among this number are three sheriffs, one probate judge, three state representatives and one state senator.

Although anything close to exact voting registration figures for blacks and whites in this ten county area (indeed, throughout the South) are both hard to come by and reflect voting rolls from which the dead, departed and duplicitous of both races have not been cleared, the relative numbers tell a story. From the pre-1965 era when there were essentially no registered black voters in the Black Belt, 1982 registration figures show more than 70,000 black voters and 62,659 whites.





Albert Turner

"The local white powers and the feds have said that the Black Belt has gotten too politically strong," says Wendell Paris. "That's what this is about. This isn't really about a few absentee ballots. And they've begun by indicting Albert Turner because he is the bellcow of the Black Belt."

"Do you think that they're going to come through here and put Albert and Evelyn in jail, Spencer Hogue in jail, Spiver Gordon and Rosie Carpenter in jail, John Hulett, Reverend Threadgill in jail — and you think black folks would come back to the polls?"

The success of the strategy of collaboration between local and federal officials to thwart the emergence of black political power in this majority-black region of the South will be significantly affected by the outcome and the public reaction to the trial of the three defendants from Perry County.

After months of a joint local-federal investigation in which white law enforcement officials, US attorneys and FBI agents targeted black civil rights leaders, violated the secrecy of black voters' ballots, eavesdropped upon the activities of a grassroots voting organization, intimidated grand jury witnesses, and ignored evidence of election wrongdoing committed by the largely white, political opponents of the defendants, federal prosecutors have assembled the approximately two dozen absentee ballots which the Turners and Hogue are accused of altering, falsely witnessing

and mailing and for which they face years in prison and tens of thousands of dollars in fines.

Like Black Belt circumstances in general, the Perry County situation must be understood in an historical context. For twenty years Albert Turner, Evelyn Turner and Spencer Hogue, Jr., have worked through the community organization which they founded, the Perry County Civil League, to improve the lot of black citizens in their home county and region. From 1965 until 1972, Albert Turner directed the Alabama activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He was a chief lieutenant and confidant of Martin Luther King, Jr., driving the highways and backroads of Alabama during the height of modern white resistance.

"There's no explanation in the world as to how I'm still living," Turner has said. I ran the state SCLC office. I was the top nigger. And I didn't back off of nothing. I went in every county in this Black Belt and preached and left at twelve o'clock that night and drove home by myself. And ain't never looked back. Now you tell me there ain't no God. I don't listen to that kind of talk."

In the mid-1960s, voting rights activities of the Perry County Civic League first began to move the county toward political democracy. The group faced an intransigent land-holding class, descendants of antebellum Black Belt planters, who owned the area's resources, and controlled the local governmental offices. Supporters of the Perry County Civic



League also faced the deferential customs, deep fears and historical powerlessness of the black population in this region where economic survival has been tied for generations to the fortunes of local white families.

The PCCL helped local blacks to fight the battles for integration of public facilities and institutions. It assisted poor, elderly and disabled black citizens in making application for federal food, medical and financial aid. And, over a period of years, using the wedge provided by the Voting Rights Act, the PCCL chipped away at white rule in this county where today sixty percent of the population is black.

Throughout the Black Belt prior to 1965, blacks were shut-out of the electoral process. No blacks were elected to public office in these counties for nearly a century following Reconstruction. The Turners, now under indictment for alleged voting law violations, initiated the lawsuits that first brought federal registrars into Perry County to aid blacks in becoming registered voters. PCCL supporters have carried voters to the polls, accompanied them past the uniformed presence of armed white lawmen, and upon request, have gone with them into the voting booth. As in surrounding counties where similar efforts were underway, black registration in Perry County grew steadily, increasing from twelve voters in 1965 to the over five-thousand names that are on the current rolls.

Blacks who protested their historical inability to vote in Perry County were met first with hostility, arrest and violence. In March 1965, Jimmie Lee Jackson, a black voting

rights activist was murdered. When racial violence diminished, white resistance continued with public and private institutions fighting against integration and democratic control. Today, Perry County, like the rest of the Black Belt remains at the heart of Dixie's private school, "Christian academy" movement.

"The effects of this history," observes Steve Suits, SRC executive director, "are real and direct upon many elderly blacks who have been victimized by a history of racial exclusion and violence — and by the low levels of education obtained as a result of government-enforced segregation.

"For example, a black woman at the age of sixty-seven today in Perry County has spent almost three-fourths of her life in segregation where blacks could not vote, could not attend white schools, could not use public toilets, and had to have a white person vouch for her in order to obtain loans or government services. This is why it is important that the black elderly, who make up fifteen percent of the Perry County population have private citizens whom they trust to assist in exercising the right to vote. For many of these blacks, merely approaching a courthouse or polling place means overcoming a lifetime of custom."

"We have problems," says voting rights worker Rosie Carpenter of Greene County, "because we are competing with white bankers, doctors, lawyers and businessmen. They sit near the polls to intimidate the black voters. Dr. Joe P. Smith, a local doctor here, came over to the black precinct at the Eutaw Activity Center and there were black people afraid to vote their conviction because he was sitting at that table.

"A black lady told me when I went to show her how we were voting. 'I tell you what I'm going to do. Dr. Joe P. been to my house and he gave me this card and showed me how to vote. You know he's us doctor. I'm going to vote the way that the black people are voting, but I can't let him know it because he is us doctor and we will need him.'

"This same doctor," Ms. Carpenter continues, "had white folks picking up and hauling black folks. Out at the armory I saw white ladies bringing in their cooks and maids. I had never seen that before in history. The white mistresses were bringing their cooks in.

"When Spiver Gordon was running to be the first black elected to the Eutaw city council," recalls Ms. Carpenter, white policemen were posted at black voting boxes, in their uniforms and with pistols."

Absentee balloting emerged as a matter of serious concern to whites in the Black Belt during the late 1960s, as black registration became more common. For at least a decade, white absentee landowners and former residents who have ties of kin and friends "down home," but who now live anywhere from Birmingham to Chicago to New York have continued to vote in Black Belt contests at the request of local white officeholders and candidates. (See "Crackdown in the Black Belt," *Southern Changes*, March/April, 1985.) On election nights throughout the early 1970s, white officials found electoral deliverance inside dependable absentee voting boxes filled with lopsided margins. Federal and state authorities took no notice, and sought no indictments, against any whites on charges of absentee voter fraud.

"Do you know why the roads to white folks' cemeteries are paved in the Black Belt?," Wilcox County Commissioner



Annie Thomas and Rosie Carpenter of Greene County.



Bobby Joe Johnson asks. "It's so people won't get their feet wet if it rains on election day."

Black support groups such as the Perry County Civic League sought to counter white abuse of absentee balloting not only by registering complaints, but by registering a greater number of black absentee voters. They have worked to make the election process easier and more accessible for elderly blacks, for those attending college away from home, and for the many county residents who must commute to manufacturing and wood-cutting jobs across county lines.

"You can't win an election in the Black Belt of Alabama if you don't have a sophisticated get-out-the-absentee vote effort," points out Annie Thomas, Rosie Carpenter's sister and another experienced organizer in Greene County.

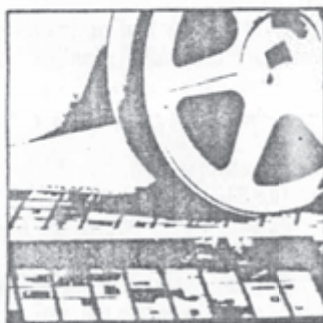
Among the black absentee voters in the Black Belt counties are a disproportionately high number of voters who are illiterate or otherwise incapable by themselves of understanding the intricate procedures required in order to apply for, fill out, witness and return absentee ballots in the proper form. "Without the assistance of persons knowledgeable about absentee voting procedures and the issues and candidates involved," says the SRC's Suitts, "many rural black voters in the Black Belt counties of Alabama, although fully qualified to vote absentee, would be unable to do so and accordingly would be deprived of the franchise."

Virtually all blacks in the Black Belt over the age of twenty-five were educated, if at all, in substantially inferior, segregated schools. The level of education for the adult population, especially the elderly, is very low. By the 1980 census, only forty-three percent of the total population over



Rev. Thomas Threadgill

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the age of twenty-five in Perry County had a high school diploma, although fifty-seven percent of all Alabamians of that age had high school diplomas. For the elderly and black the level of education is much lower. For example, the number of persons twenty-five years or older with four years of high school education in 1950 in Perry County — those who would be fifty-five years or older today — was only 110 of 5,780 blacks.

Black Belt counties are the state's poorest. To find jobs, many workers must travel out of their home county everyday. Census data for 1980 shows that thirty-one percent of the working population in Perry County (home of the Turners and Hogue) work outside the county. In nearby Lowndes County, the number reaches almost fifty percent. To vote, these commuting workers must miss work — and jeopardize their jobs with white employers — or obtain absentee ballots.

Job and housing discrimination in Black Belt counties has restricted many blacks to housing in widely dispersed rural areas, distant from voting locations. For these citizens, absentee balloting has meant increased participation in elections.

The right to vote in the Black Belt also remains impeded by practical barriers. The number of days, the location, and the times at which a citizen can register to vote in this region are limited severely in comparison to more urban and suburban locations in Alabama.



"There ain't nobody else out there who understands this stuff like we do," Albert Turner has said with regard to the efforts of community organizers to gather the rural black absentee vote. "I mean you got to know the laws, you got to have dedication. You've got to get up off your ass and get out there and go to them folks' houses. This ain't no playtime."

The Perry County Civic League's get-out-the-absentee-vote organization merits awards rather than indictments. The PCCL has taken a foothold in the Voting Rights Act and climbed toward political power by squeezing every possible vote from the county's black communities.

About ten or fifteen group leaders are responsible for the different communities of Perry County. Group captains first identify potential absentee voters and help them fill out applications for ballots. State law requires county officials to post, daily, the names of persons requesting absentee ballots and also requires the ballot to be sent on the day the county clerk receives the request. Black Belt voting rights workers watch the courthouse bulletin board to see when a ballot is in the mail.

"And we get out there," says Rosie Carpenter, who performs a similar task in Greene County, "and make sure the voters get their ballots before anybody else can get them."

"Over the last several years," says Steve Suitts, "elderly

black voters in the Black Belt have come to depend upon black citizens, often civil rights advocates, to assist them in filling out their ballots. The relationship between the activists and elderly blacks is based upon trust, oral communications and shared assumptions. The advocate must often interpret the oral instructions of the voter in light of their past relationship and understanding.

"For instance, several years ago, I travelled with a black civil rights worker in the Black Belt as he visited with and assisted absentee voters. I remember in particular one person we stopped to see.

"I want it done like last time," said an elderly black voter, telling the organizer how she wished to vote. Yet, on this election's ballot there were fewer candidates than 'last time.'

"Because I was present," Suitts continues, "the black organizer asked the woman a question he later told me he already had answered for himself.

"You want to vote for the blacks that are running?"

"You know that's it," she said. 'Don't you make fun of an old woman like me.'"

Oral tradition and black community consensus inform the political culture of the Black Belt. To be effective, civil rights advocates must make good faith interpretations of oral instructions, which may not be plain in meaning to others who do not know the assumptions established over time in their relationship. Yet, if community organizers approached many elderly and non-literate voters differently, they would discourage many of these folk from voting, and they would not have achieved the increased registration and turnout in the Black Belt since 1965.

Not all elderly black voters who need and ask for assistance fit the customary image. "We have some very shrewd and determined old folks among the elderly population in this Black Belt," says Wendell Paris. "They are our best voters because they were the ones out there in the streets getting their heads beaten in 1965. Anybody who was fifty years old in the movement is seventy years old today. They are our best voters. They'll get on the telephone and call you and say, 'When are you going to come and get my vote?' They are serious about voting."

After ballots are marked, they are collected door to door by the group captains and brought to a central meeting. Perhaps one person picks up twenty-five ballots in her community. A man in another community may gather seventy-five or a hundred ballots. All the ballots are brought together in order to know exactly who has been contacted and how many will be mailed. In Perry County, the marked ballots are then taken to the county seat of Marion to be mailed, using postage purchased by the PCCL. In the September 4, 1984 primary Albert and Evelyn Turner mailed about 350 ballots; Spencer Hogue, Jr. mailed perhaps 150.

"If you mailed a ballot from the end of the county, out in the rural area," says Rosie Carpenter, speaking from her experience in Greene County, "it probably never would get to town."

White opponents have been known to go through the backwoods roads of Perry County and take enough ballots out of the mailbox to change an election.

"This is what folks like Albert Turner went through the

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Black Belt teaching people," say Wendell Paris. That's why the white folks consider him as the instigator of this."

When black communities are organized so thoroughly, all the potential absentee voters are easily identified. "We know," says Annie Thomas, "who is going to college, who's sick, who goes out of the county to work. And that's what the FBI can't understand. That's the reason they look for conspiracies and think there's so much fraud. They know that there is no way for any a single individual to honestly be able to go out in all these places and know who's sick or who's going out of the county to work. What surprises the FBI is the fact that we have a system whereby a local person who knows the community gets people these applications and ballots. They don't believe anybody could know all these people and their situations. But you can't do it any other way and hope to win elections."

With gradual but steady success, the Perry County Civic League has identified, promoted and help elect candidates that represent the majority of the county's black voters. Yet, as the current prosecutions demonstrate, the PCCL continues to face a core of diehard enemies among the county's traditional white leadership, as well as a small but significant number of black political rivals who at one time or another failed to get PCCL endorsement for their candidacies.

White powerholders in the town of Marion and the county of Perry have not taken kindly to the PCCL's persistent attempts to perpetrate democracy. The beginnings of the current trial go back to the fall and winter of 1982-83 when state district attorney Roy Johnson of Marion convened a grand jury to consider his allegations that the PCCL's voter-assistance programs were not conducted lawfully. This investigation targeted Albert Turner and Spencer Hogue, Jr., and arose from the successful efforts of PCCL-endorsed candidates in the September, 1982 primary and run-off elections. Throughout the Perry County drama, District Attorney Johnson has acted the defender for the interests of the county's good white society.

After Johnson presented his evidence against Turner, Hogue and other PCCL supporters, the grand jury found no grounds for any indictments. In preparing the final report of the grand jury, however, he inserted a passage referring to vote "tampering" and requested an "outside agency, preferably federal to monitor our elections." Subsequently, Johnson and others in Perry County, including Probate Judge Floyd Cooke appearing on local television, have relied upon this statement in the grand jury report as proof of a local desire and need for a federal criminal investigation. Interviews with the grand jurors themselves, however, have established that they did not intend to request a federal criminal investigation, but were merely endorsing the kind of routine federal voter assistance and monitoring which blacks in the area have been requesting and receiving since passage of the Voting Rights Act.

By the time that the majority black, locally constituted, state grand jury had failed to indict any members of the Perry County Civic League, District Attorney Johnson was already looking for federal friends in high prosecutorial places. In October of 1982 he wrote to Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. Johnson charged that the situation in Perry County with regard to absentee voting



Bobby Joe Johnson

abuse and intimidation at the polls was "becoming explosive." He said the county sheriff's office was unable to protect citizens' voting rights. Johnson suggested the need for a federal investigation and asked, not for the usual federal observers, but for federal marshalls to supervise upcoming elections. In reply, Assistant Attorney General Reynolds wrote Johnson that under provisions of the Voting Rights Act, the office of Attorney General could not send federal marshalls to conduct local elections. Reynolds suggested that Johnson take his information to the FBI or the US Attorney for the Southern District.

Roy Johnson persisted. Sometime in 1984, the Justice Department and US Attorney Jeff Sessions of Mobile (who came to his prosecutorial office the grace of Alabama's first-term Republican Senator Jeremiah Denton), agreed to join Roy Johnson in a federal-local investigation of members and supporters of the Perry County Civic League. Conveniently, this effort coincided with the change in US Department of Justice selective-prosecution policies with regard to alleged voter fraud, and with the 1984 federal elections.

In the summer and fall of 1984, with the encouragement of the Department of Justice, District Attorney Johnson began to pursue an investigation of the political and voter assistance activities of PCCL supporters. County officials and would-be officials worked in concert with the US Attorney and FBI agents to secure prosecution of PCCL





Spiver Gordon

supporters in order to undercut the organization's political effectiveness. The investigation included the assigning of the local law enforcement officials to monitor PCCL meetings with listening devices and to conduct surveillance of PCCL voter-assistance activities leading up to the September 4, 1984 primary election.

In addition, after consulting with US Attorney Sessions in Mobile and Department of Justice officials in Washington, District Attorney Johnson advised several Perry County candidates or former candidates for local public office — all of whose candidacies had been or were being opposed by the PCCL — to file a lawsuit in September of 1984 with Circuit Judge Anne McKelvy. This suit's request, which was granted, permitted white Perry County Circuit Clerk Mary Auburtin (a long time PCCL opponent) to number all absentee ballots and envelopes — without the knowledge or consent of absentee voters — in such a way that the names of each voter and the candidates they voted for could be known to law enforcement officials.

After the September election, FBI agents took the numbered absentee ballots, went to the homes of dozens of elderly black citizens, confronting them with ballots which they thought had been cast in secret, and began questioning them about "ballot tampering." By law, federal actions affecting the custody, secrecy and integrity of ballots must be supported by probable cause and authorized both by federal court order and the prior approval of the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice — none of

which occurred in the Perry County investigation. The next step in the federal-local effort was the convening — in the fall of 1984 — of a federal grand jury, not in the Perry County area where all the relevant documents, witnesses and targets were, but in Mobile. Unlike the state grand jury convened in the Black Belt by District Attorney Johnson in 1982, selection of members of a federal grand jury — as well as the jury for the Selma trial — drew upon a jury roll heavily weighted with white, male, Mobilians.

In the weeks between the September, 1984, primary and the November general election, dozens of elderly, black Perry County absentee voters were interrogated at their homes, then — with the help of FBI agents, Alabama State Troopers, several Marion city police officers and a game warden — were loaded on buses, and with a Trooper escort, were transported two-hundred miles to testify about who they had voted for and who had given them assistance in casting their ballots.

These tactics of threatening, frightening and intimidating elderly and uneducated witnesses, and of leading many of them to believe that their absentee voting somehow violated the law, resulted in inaccurate and misleading testimony. Among the witnesses whom the Government carried to Mobile were several whose health was threatened by the trip; a man in his nineties suffered a stroke and a woman, a ninety-year-old woman had a relapse of heart trouble. The Mobile ordeal has convinced some black citizens of Perry County never to vote again.

### Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee

Financial support is urgently needed for the legal defense of the Black Belt community organizers indicted in the current federal investigations. The Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee has been established to raise funds and engage in other activities of support. Contributions should be sent to:

Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee  
P.O. Box 5  
Gainesville, Alabama 35464  
Phone: 205-652-6298 or 652-9676

Mobile is not the Black Belt and the federal white grand jurors who were selected there had little understanding of or sympathy with the defendants' voter-assistance and voter-advocacy activities. Although members of the Perry County Civic League — and participants in similar groups across the South — engage in constitutionally protected activities in helping voters obtain absentee ballots, by endorsing candidates, and by aiding elderly and illiterate voters to cast their ballots, these practices offended some of the Mobile grand jurors' strongly felt beliefs that voting is only proper when each individual voter votes in total isolation and privacy without the knowledge or assistance of anyone else. A twenty-nine count indictment was brought and the trial set for Selma.





Bulletin board, Greene County

One other theme must be wound into the present story of the Marion Three and the Black Belt's prospects for political democracy. By 1982, two local groups — the White Citizens Council and Concerned Citizens of Perry County — were working actively against the Perry County Civic League to elect white candidates and the few black candidates willing to fly a flag of convenience. The appearance of a number of black "coalition" candidates, as they currently describe themselves in the Black Belt, represents the most recent innovation in the effort of white elites to ignore the handwriting on the wall.

In Greene County, where the "coalition" movement stirred to life in early 1984 (and where blacks, who count for seventy-eight percent of the population, have held all of the county's elective offices since 1968), a published handbill announcing the "coalition's" organizational meeting argued that "if the forces of the radical Black front" were to be defeated, the "key for the 1984 County election is to support good, responsible Blacks and to keep Whites out of the race." This strategy of combining white votes from the town of Eutaw with an oblique minority of black votes led to several victories in the 1984 Greene County election.

"In the long run," Wendell Paris observes with regard to the white strategy of divide and conquer, "single-member districting is the best way. Ain't no doubt about about it. You see, you can always get a few of these blacks who ain't into nothing, who just want prestige, and a white man tells him, 'I'll elect you, cause you are a good guy.'"

"Of course, what hurts these white folks so bad is that we did that to them. When we first got started we couldn't beat the entrenched white politicians. So what we did as black people was vote for a milder white man to move out the giant. And came back then with a black to beat the rookie white. They're reversing that on us."

"What they're doing at this point is getting a Tom black elected and next time they're going in themselves because

they hope to have us split."

To head off the "coalition" strategy that cripples black voting strength, Alabama state senator Hank Sanders of Selma along with state representatives Lucius Black of York, and Jenkins Bryant of Newbern (black legislators whose own elections testify to the growing self-determination movement in the Black Belt), navigated a redistricting bill through the Alabama legislature during the 1985 session. The new law provides for the replacement of the present at-large method of electing county commissioners with new single-member district plans for the counties of Greene, Wilcox, Sumter, Lowndes and Perry. Already, white probate judge Floyd Cook of Perry County — a stalwart of old guard opposition — has asked the Justice Department (under the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act) to object to the new state law.

"The local people in Marion," observes Wendell Paris, "would almost rather have war than for the legislature to have passed the single-member district plan. They believe that Albert Turner will run for one of the soon-to-be created districts and be elected. If he does, he could turn out to be chairman of the county commission, which would be tantamount to being probate judge. They were hoping Albert would be in jail by now, or on probation with his record ruined and his influence at a dead end."

The prospect of representation on Black Belt county commissions in proportion to the racial distribution of the population is unprecedented in the region. Supporters of the Perry County Civic League and voting rights groups in the neighboring counties soon to apply the colored pencils of redistricting to huge county maps like the one which fills a living room wall at Albert and Evelyn Turner's home in Marion.

"Free the Marion Three" reads the 1960s-style slogan on a tee shirt now being seen from Selma to Port Epes on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Above the slogan appears a black and white drawing of the Turners and Spencer Hogue, Jr., as they pose in front of a map of Marion drawn in single-member districts. Will the census tracts belong to the people?

"So now," hopes Sumter County schoolboard member Paris, "white voters in Perry County will get their two seats and we will get our three. In Greene they will get their one and we will get our four. In Sumter they will get their two and we will get our four. One person, one vote and a surer chance at fairness for black and white."

And so the importance of the current trial in Selma. ■

## Annual Meeting

The 1985 Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Council will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 8, 9, and 10.

Please reserve these dates. More information will be sent to you later in the summer. ■



# Marion Fraud Trial Proof Didn't Jell

By JOE McFADDEN

Much of Alabama was stunned by the acquittal of the Marion 3. No one ever really believes "innocent until proven guilty." Mere indictment raises suspicions that at least some of those 26 questioned ballots were false.

Yet a multiracial jury, sequestered from suspicions of arson and contempt-of-court alarms, found all three innocent of all charges in less than three hours of deliberation.

"Now the federal court says you can vote as many times as you like," was not an unusual reaction. "When things get hot, start a fire."

None of the working press who sat through the presentation of courtroom evidence expressed much surprise. Nobody proved vote fraud. The rest of us succumbed to the volatile nature of the subject and grasped at any straw which supported whatever we held as a preconceived notion.

There were plenty to grasp. Personified by Albert Turner, the defendants were the same individuals who had overturned an entire social system, forced the same revolutionary voting law they were accused of violating and 20 years later still sometimes agitate have-nots against the haves.

The judge properly hid from the jury a suspicious fire at Turner's home and indications that other counties' voting might be just as bad if the FBI looked as closely. Neither had anything to do with whether these particular ballots had been altered fraudulently.



McFadden

But the rest of us dwelled on these parts of the picture, including lawyers on both sides as much as the judge let them. People farther away in this kind of situation sometimes get a plainer view.

Consider this resume for the readers of Newsday, a newspaper on Long Island. Reporter Marilyn Milloy described the trial at the point where the prosecution witnesses had testified and court was closed on Sunday, June 30.

"Government witnesses, particularly elderly residents on whom prosecutors were relying for much of their strongest testimony, have offered un-

clear and confusing statements. In several cases, they have stunned prosecutors by directly contradicting previous grand jury testimony.

"Many have spoken in nearly inaudible tones. At least six were accompanied by a nurse, one was blind, one toothless, another wheelchair-bound and several carrying canes. At least two praised the defendants, calling them 'fine boys' and friends who had helped them plant seeds and run errands over the years...."

"When Eva Lou Smith took the stand, for instance, she first told the prosecutor she didn't vote in the primary. 'I ain't gonna lie,' she said feistily, her gray hair covered with a yellow kerchief.

"'You know nothing about this ballot?' asked the prosecutor, Gloria Bedwell.

"'No, I don't,' Smith answered. Asked later if she voted in September, she said, 'Yes, I think I did.'

"She then told a defense attorney she had authorized (a defendant) to help her 'decide how to vote.' Asked if her ballot indicated the same choices she'd made when she voted, she said after a pause, 'I can't see it good.'"

Local or visiting reporters seemed

agreed on two main points. The evidence was doubtful. Prosecutors weren't very convincing.

As the Advertiser's Al Benn wrote afterward, defense lawyers exulted when the government insisted on reading sworn grand jury testimony into the record — there lay their defense, engraved, sealed and impervious to questions. Proceed to Atlanta's Mayor Young as a character witness and then closing arguments.

"A popgun versus cannon," another reporter described this part of the trial. The government lady stumbled from one document to another reading her halting argument when she could lay hands on the right paper.

By contrast, any one of the row of defense attorneys was prepared to spellbind anything from a Sunday night congregation to a recalcitrant juror.

But suppose they'd been evenly matched. What of the evidence itself? In that case, surmised a reporter, acquittal might have taken as much as four hours.

*The writer is senior editor of The Advertiser.*



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SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION / OPEN LETTER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Please include my name as a signer of the open letter to Attorney General Meese protesting government attacks on voting rights activists in Alabama.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Organization(or other)identification \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization for Identification Only

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
I want to work with you around this issue. Please contact me.

Return To: National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression  
126 West 119th St. Suite 101  
New York NY 10026  
(212) 866-8600



*mae Org*

RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS, INC.  
100 Maryland Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20002

(202) 543-7032

To: RCAR Denominational Leaders and Board Members  
From: Mark A. Bartner, Legislative Coordinator *MAB*  
Date: August 8, 1985  
Re: Letter in response to assault on family planning funding

*C. [unclear]  
8/22/85*

The latest manifestation of the fight for abortion rights is the assault on family planning in the guise of opposing abortion. Anti-choice forces have joined with opponents of family planning in a new strategy aimed at ending all U.S. support for family planning, both domestic and international. This campaign has already lead to the defunding of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and possibly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), and threatens the reauthorization of Title X, the national family planning program.

The assault on family planning has been led by the usual anti-abortion activists -- Jesse Helms, Chris Smith, Henry Hyde, etc. They have succeeded in turning debate on family planning programs into debates on abortion. Arguing that funding any agency which uses even its non-U.S. funds for abortions is to support abortion, Hyde and others have jeopardized these programs, which do more to prevent unintended pregnancies, and thus abortions, than all the moralizing of right-to-lifers.

In June, the House failed to reauthorize Title X on a suspension vote. Although a bare majority supported reauthorization, a two-thirds majority was required for passage under suspension. The narrowness of the vote indicates that there has been a significant drop in Congressional support for Title X. The Senate version has 32 cosponsors, but the bill is being blocked by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT). Title X is due to expire on October 1 if it is not reauthorized.

The FY 1986-87 foreign aid authorization bill, while still granting \$290 billion in budget authority for family planning programs, nevertheless earmarks no funds for UNFPA and IPPF, which traditionally receive a set share of the funds. This frees the Administration to pursue its "Mexico City" population policy, which denies funding to any non-governmental agency which directly or indirectly supports abortion; and to withhold funding from UNFPA in the guise of protesting coerced abortion and infanticide in the People's Republic of China. It is important to remember that U.S. funds have been prohibited from being used for abortions since 1973.

Since Congress has heard from religious leaders opposed to family planning, it is imperative for religious leaders who support the U.S. commitment to family planning to speak out. We are therefore planning to send the enclosed letter to all Members of Congress, signed by the heads of each organization or denomination within RCAR. We would also welcome denominations and groups which are not RCAR members, but support family planning. At this time, it is vital for religious leaders of diverse faiths to express their support for family planning.

We have compiled a list of denominational leaders whom we would like to sign the letter. In order to save time, a copy of the letter and this memo is going to RCAR Board members and those denominational leaders (please refer to enclosed list). RCAR Please also refer the letter to other denominational leaders whom you believe should sign the letter. Board members are asked to follow up to get leaders of your denomination to sign the letter. In addition, Board members are asked to notify us if there is a better procedure for obtaining signatures from

your denominational leaders. We would like your response by Friday, August 23, so that the letter can be mailed before Congress returns in September. Enclosed are two labels which we will use for your signature on the letter. Please sign them and return them to RCAR. Please indicate your correct title if different from that on the enclosed list.

Please contact Mark Bartner or Freddie Hodges for more information. Thank you for your cooperation.





# DRAFT LETTER ON FAMILY PLANNING

Dear Representative:

As representatives of a number of diverse faith groups, we are writing to express our unwavering support for international and domestic family planning funding by the United States. We are deeply concerned about the outcome of recent votes concerning international family planning services and Title X, the national family planning program. We remain committed to these programs, and are particularly concerned that the abortion issue is being used to smokescreen opposition to family planning.

It cannot be stated strongly enough that family planning is the single most effective method of reducing the need for abortion services. We, too, are concerned about maintaining traditional family values, but we do not believe that the defunding of population programs is the answer to these concerns. Family planning is one of the most "pro-family" issues of our time.

Internationally, many religious organizations work in developing nations, where they witness daily the poverty and starvation which accompanies worldwide drought. It is a blessing for men and women to be able to plan for the children for which they can adequately care, and not to have to suffer the agony of watching malnourished children die slowly in their arms.

The foreign aid authorization bill passed by Congress this year will restrict funding to the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. The result will be to increase misery and suffering, and may ultimately result in the need for increased abortion services. Reducing aid to effective international population programs will not reduce the abortion rate. We should not punish more than 100 countries which benefit from UNFPA population funds because of our concern about coercion in China, which has a lower abortion rate than the U.S. No UNFPA funds are used for abortions anywhere in the world, including China.

The attempt to weaken or defund Title X will not increase morality or reduce the number of abortions. It will, however, increase the number of teenagers who become pregnant and subsequently have abortions because they are too poor or too scared to obtain family planning services another way. The confidentiality of Title X guarantees to millions of teenage girls and low-income women the availability of contraceptives and counseling, thereby making it less likely that they will become pregnant unintentionally.

Title X also provides funds for fertility services, which give childless couples a real chance to have wanted children; prenatal care, which leads to the delivery of healthy babies; and research to improve the safety and effectiveness of contraceptives. All of these activities are "pro-family," because the purpose of Title X is to help people plan for the children and families they can afford to love and cherish.

Responsible people must be permitted to make responsible choices concerning their reproductive lives. The right to privacy should be protected, and the vital humanitarian aid provided through UNFPA and IPPF must continue to be available, as it has been for two decades. We urge you to encourage the President to continue funding UNFPA at current levels and to restore funding to IPPF at the earliest possible opportunity.

As religious leaders representing numerous Protestant, Jewish and other faith groups, we encourage you to vote to restore both domestic and international family planning funding as a means to enhance the quality of life for the entire world community.



BECAUSE OF RECENT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS (SEE ENCLOSED ARTICLE) REGARDING INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING, WE HAVE ADDED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH, TO BE INSERTED AFTER THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH ON PAGE ONE:

We are also concerned by the recent decision by Agency for International Development (AID) Administrator M. Peter McPherson to dramatically increase funding to agencies which promote only "natural" family planning. We believe that people have the right to make an informed decision on what method of family planning suits them best, based upon complete and accurate information about all options available to them. Promoting "natural" family planning, which studies have proven to be highly ineffective, denies women the opportunity to make an informed choice. By doing so, AID is imposing one religious belief concerning contraception to the detriment of views of other religious traditions. The withdrawal of the informed consent guidelines, which have effectively guided AID policy for 20 years, threatens the effectiveness of birth control programs throughout the world. For this reason, as well, it is vital for Congress to take a stand in favor of maintaining longstanding U.S. support for family planning programs as part of our longstanding commitment to development assistance.



Washington Post 8/13/85

# 'Natural' Family Planning Groups Funded

## *Major Shift by AID, Effective Immediately, Follows Vigorous Lobbying Campaign*

By Lionel Barber  
Washington Post Staff Writer

In a break with a long-established policy, the Agency for International Development has agreed to fund groups that promote only "natural" family planning in underdeveloped countries, without reference to other available forms of contraception.

In the past, AID required all its grant recipients to supply couples with a wide choice of contraceptive methods, such as birth-control pills, intrauterine devices, spermicides and condoms.

The agency's shift means that the natural family planning advocates will be able to promote just their own method, which involves refraining from sexual intercourse during about half of a woman's menstrual cycle.

Some of the groups oppose the use of other contraceptive methods, saying that they destroy life in its earliest forms through mechanical or chemical means.

The policy change comes after a vigorous lobbying campaign by some natural family planning groups that involved Vice President Bush and former White House aide Faith Ryan Whittlesey, who is now the U.S. ambassador to Switzerland.

AID is the federal agency most involved with channeling foreign aid and information for family planning to the Third World.

The new policy will apply immediately to a \$20 million AID program for five years that will promote this method.

Since 1981, AID funding for natural family planning has mushroomed from \$800,000 to \$7 million.

The natural family planning groups who lobbied for the change are opposed to abortion and all

forms of contraception other than periodic abstinence.

They now encourage use of the so-called Billings method, in which women test their cervical mucus to determine when they are fertile and thus when they must abstain from intercourse.

But the effectiveness of the method has been challenged. A recent World Health Organization survey in El Salvador, India, Ireland, New Zealand and the Philippines found that even though 93 percent of the women were able to recognize when they were fertile, the method was only 78 percent effective because couples did not abstain from intercourse when they were supposed to.

The change in the AID policy has angered groups committed to "informed consent," the idea that people receiving family planning advice should be given information on a wide range of birth-control choices.

"For 20 years, AID has strongly supported freedom of choice in family planning programs. It has now adopted a policy that will deny women abroad freedom of choice in their method of family planning," said Kathleen Mazzocco, spokesman for the Population Crisis Committee in Washington.

But the decision has delighted the groups that lobbied for it. "I am still boggled that we won on this issue; I never expected it," said Mike Marker, co-director of the Minnesota-based Human Life Center.

Since he was appointed in 1981, AID Director M. Peter McPherson has been under pressure from conservatives and antiabortion groups. They have criticized AID for providing foreign aid to famine-struck Marxist regimes in Mozambique and Ethiopia and accused the agency of being indirectly involved in

promoting abortion in China—a charge denied by McPherson, who has repeatedly emphasized that AID promotes all forms of family planning except abortion.

According to Capitol Hill sources, pressure to change the agency's "informed-consent" policy came first in a March 13 letter to McPherson from Whittlesey, then special assistant to the president for public liaison.

Whittlesey voiced the concern of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights that AID was discriminating against natural family planning organizations that were seeking agency grants.

"I would appreciate your guidance regarding these allegations since they would affect the president's credibility with the pro-life movement, which has been so supportive of the president," she wrote. "It would be unfortunate if any conflict developed between the administration's pro-life policies and its population assistance policies."

Whittlesey asked McPherson whether informed consent was an internal AID policy or required by Congress. "If NFP recipients are required to provide referrals to organizations that engage in abortion or provide chemical or mechanical techniques, we will be excluding the very groups that are more effective in promoting NFP . . .," she wrote.

On March 15, McPherson met with representatives of antiabortion groups. Among them was Mercedes Arzu Wilson, executive director of the Family of the Americas Foundation, which lists as one of its objectives "the rejection of contraception, abortion and sterilization."

According to an internal AID memorandum, Wilson asked if AID intended to change its policy on informed consent. When McPherson said it did not, Wilson replied: "Then we are out of it."

On May 21, Wilson and Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), a vocal opponent of abortion, met with the

vice president. On May 29, Wilson wrote Bush:

"As you so rightly commented, Mr. Vice President, the internal regulations that Mr. McPherson refuses to change are absolutely irrational and are channelling taxpayers' monies to the wrong hands."

According to Bush spokesman Shirley Green, the vice president thought that government regulations were standing in the way of a worthy goal. "He thought the policy should be reviewed," said Green, "but he did not lean on McPherson."

In mid-June, AID softened its line on "informed consent," saying that to qualify for agency funds, natural family planning groups only had to refer clients to other family planning services if they specifically asked for such information.

But on June 18, eight natural family planning groups, led by Marker and Wilson, wired McPherson to say that their "conscience" prevented them from going along with this policy.

By July 8, McPherson had altered the agency's position, saying the groups did not have to provide information on other methods.

"I struggled with this decision a lot," McPherson said last week. "It was not taken in a day. But I feel this modification is an advance of family planning overall."

He said that the policy had excluded many of the groups most knowledgeable about natural family planning from qualifying for the agency's expanded grant program in that area.

Asked if Bush had pressed him to change the policy, McPherson replied, "His office did talk to me when they referred Mrs. Wilson's letter to me. I called the vice president after I had made my decision. He said 'Fine.'"



# Killing Population Aid

REP. DAVID OBEY, chairman of the House subcommittee dealing with foreign aid appropriations, says he won't recommend any money for international family planning programs next year until Congress decides what if any policy it wants to pursue. Mr. Obey is no foe of these programs. But, he points out, amendments added to other bills, together with new restrictive administration regulations, may have put most family planning programs out of business already. As a result, the need for continued funding is unclear.

It would be nothing less than a tragedy if the United States, for more than a generation the world's principal sponsor of population aid for developing countries, ended its support. No small element of the tragedy would be the increases in infanticide, abortion and infant mortality that would inevitably result. But Congress cannot go on pretending to respond to widespread public support for voluntary family planning programs while also making it impossible for those programs to operate.

U.S. family planning aid has always operated on the premise that deference should be paid to local laws and customs and personal preferences. Channeling aid through voluntary and multilateral organizations has been the preferred approach to avoid the appearance or the reality of interference by the U.S. government. Developing a trustworthy network of service providers in impoverished and remote areas has not been easy. But the cooperation of church groups, voluntary organizations and local governments has

produced significant progress in recent years.

No U.S. money—for that matter, no United Nations money—is used for legal abortions, much less for coerced abortions or infanticide. The Reagan administration itself has investigated and certified that. Nonetheless, in the name of combating alleged coercive practices in China, both houses have adopted amendments to a supplemental appropriations bill and to the foreign aid authorization bill that may make it impossible for many family planning programs to operate.

The Agency for International Development, moreover, having already cut off aid to the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the major operator of programs in developing countries, has now issued rules giving favored treatment to programs that counsel sexual abstinence as the only method of birth control. The new rules also require all other local agencies to stop dealing with doctors, hospitals and other medical service providers that perform legal abortions.

The most vocal groups advocating these restrictions make no bones about the fact that they oppose all "artificial" birth control. That's not a position that would win much support among U.S. families and certainly not one that Congress should be imposing on people in other countries, directly or indirectly. If Congress doesn't believe the Chinese government's assurances that it opposes infanticide and other abuses, it should deal with that issue head on instead of using it as an excuse to obliterate an immensely valuable world program.

## Family-Planning Scare Tactics

If you want to clear a room of congressmen these days, all you have to do is whisper "abortion." That's the technique that foes of birth control are using to block legislation—such as the domestic family-planning programs supported by Title X of the Public Health Service Act—that, judged on merit, would enjoy wide support in both parties.

No money under Title X has been used for abortion-related activities for more than a decade. In fact, as senior Republicans and Democrats on the House health subcommittee agree, money spent on family planning is one of the most effective ways of reducing abortions. An estimated 430,000 abortions are avoided in this country each year because of these programs.

Title X has been the target of the part of the anti-abortion movement that also opposes all "unnatural" birth control. Directly presented, this position would win little support in a country in which women use contraceptives widely. So opponents chip away at the programs by offering amendments that they hope will label program supporters as being "pro-abortion" or "anti-family."

One amendment would prevent subsidized family-planning services from being offered in places where abortions are also carried out. This would have little effect on abortion clinics, but it would close down family-planning services at a substantial number of hospitals—a foolish disruption of useful services.

Another amendment would prevent doctors from discussing legal abortions as an option for patients—probably a First Amendment violation. Another would require family-planning centers to notify parents if their teen-age daughters seek services—a rule far more likely to encourage sexual activity than not.

Hoping to avoid a fight, bipartisan supporters of Title X tried last week to bring the measure to the House floor under a procedure preventing any amendments. While the vote won majority support—which would not have been possible if abortion had really been at issue—it failed to get the two-thirds majority needed to block amendments. Now sponsors may sidestep reauthorizing Title X and simply continue funding through the usual last-minute omnibus appropriation bill.

Avoiding debate on an easily distorted issue is tempting. But Congress ought to be willing to stand up and be counted on a measure where public support is real. There is wide agreement that parents ought to encourage their children to behave responsibly and that family-planning clinics should, as they do, encourage family participation. But the evidence from this and similar countries shows that wider cultural factors—and not family planning—determine the level of teen-age sexual activity, and that family planning is the best way to avoid the sad consequences of much of that activity.



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\*Please make additions, deletions and/or corrections and return them to RCAR. If your agency is not listed, please contact the correct persons for their signatures. Please make sure the title and position of each person listed is correct.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for the letter has been extended to Thursday, September 5 at 12 noon.







6 May 1985

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

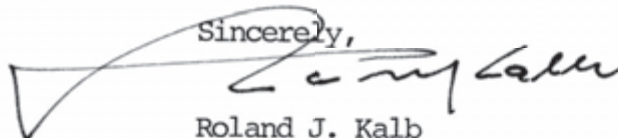
I am writing to you on behalf of the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center which I understand you have visited and, towards which you have expressed support.

As you may know, I am in the process of creating the American chapter of the Friends of Assaf Harofeh in an effort to coordinate fund raising activities nationwide for this very exciting health care institution which provides medical care in all major disciplines.

I am planning to be in Israel during the first part of June so that I may finalize plans for the American effort and establish goals to insure the success of our commitment to the institution and to the people of Israel.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your interest in the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center. American support is surely vital to its success.

Sincerely,



Roland J. Kalb

RJK:a

roland j. kalb two eaton lane, scarsdale, new york 10583

STATE OF ISRAEL  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

"ASSAF HAROFEH" MEDICAL CENTER  
Affiliated to the Sackler School of Medicine  
Tel Aviv University  
ZERIFIN, ISRAEL

Date May 27, 1985 תאריך

Ref. No. סמל

מדינת ישראל  
משרד הבריאות

מרכז רפואי "אסף הרופא"  
מסונף לבית הספר לרפואה ע"ש סאקלר  
אוניברסיטת תל-אביב  
ישראל

*[Handwritten signature]*

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

First of all let me thank you again for your interest in Assaf Harofeh Medical Center, for your effort to visit the hospital and to look at first hand at our facilities, our problems and our hopes for the future.

It is indeed very comfortable to know that leaders of the Jewish Community like yourself are interested in us and are actively supporting our so much needed hospitalization project.

I am writing to report to you that so far, inspite of all the financial difficulties, we manage to keep on the building process of the Aliza Begin Project, we have invested in it more than 1 million dollars already, and the government is actively supporting this project by matching every dollar that we manage to raise from our friends in Israel and abroad. However, our limited resources are now nearing the exhaustion point and every help that you can possibly extend to us morally, financially or by your outstanding organizing capability is very much needed and will be sincerely appreciated.

We have now a newly appointed representative in the U.S. - Mr. Roland Kalb of N.Y. who was elected President of the American Chapter of the Friends of Assaf Harofeh and we all hope that he will be very useful to you in your efforts on behalf of the Aliza Begin Building Project in Assaf Harofeh.

Thanking you again for all your goodwill and wishing you all the best in health and happiness.

Yours sincerely

M. Waron, M.D.  
Hospital director

Copy: Mr. Yehiel Kadishai,  
Prime Minister's Office Jerusalem

Mr. Roland Kalb, Representative of the American Friends of Assaf Harofeh Hospital, 2 Eaton Lane, Scarsdale N.Y. 10583, U.S.A.

מען למכתבים:

מרכז רפואי "אסף הרופא", צריפין, דואר באר יעקב 70300, ישראל — טל' 228111 — 08  
Address: "Assaf Harofeh", Medical Center, Zerifin, P.O.B. Beer Yaacov 70300, Israel

מ. בר. 264 — 6026405



# AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

110 Oxford Street Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 492-5929

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*Taken care of*  
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*No further*  
*Hopkins*  
*disposition*  
*Chandler*  
March 13, 1985

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing at Al Vorspan's suggestion to request that the UAHC serves as a conduit for tax-exempt contributions to the American Jewish World Service during the period necessary for the IRS to approve our own 501 (c)(3) status. That period may be several weeks or months. This is a critical time for our fund-raising, thus we would appreciate this assistance. I am enclosing letters from our attorney and our CPA stating their belief that we meet all requirements for IRS approval.

The American Jewish World Service has been established as a non-political channel for funding long-term development projects and when necessary emergency famine relief programs throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. Our programs benefit people in need regardless of religious or ethnic background.

Our motivations are quite simple. We believe the chronic hunger and poverty facing over 450 million people in the poor nations will know no solution until all people of good will place the problem above politics and ideology. Though long-term development is our primary purpose, compassion compels us to work on emergency relief when necessary.

This is today necessary in Africa where so many people are at serious risk of starvation. We have chosen to begin our work in the southern African nation of Mozambique which is one of the nations hardest hit by the multi-year drought and subsequent famine. Our in-country assessment in January showed that medicine is the major relief need not being met by any of the international agencies. Currently there is a total absence of basic drugs inside the country. We have committed AJWS to emergency provisions while we also work with longer-term strategies of primary health care and training.

Rabbi Schindler -2

Emergency supplies will be airlifted to Mozambique in early to mid May. Already we have received a donation of approximately \$100,000 in medicines from a pharmaceutical firm. This is a major step toward the airlift.

I make this request for the UAHC to serve as a temporary tax-exempt channel as the Synagogue Council of America has requested that they phase out of this role. Al Vorspan can fill you in on the internal problem at the SCA. As five members of our Board are also on the SCA Board, it is clear that we enjoyed strong support there.

I am enclosing a current list of our Board of Trustees. To this list should be added Elie Wiesel who has just accepted Board membership.

Your early decision on this request would be greatly appreciated as our fund-raising efforts have been placed in limbo until we find the alternate channel. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information you may need.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
Laurence R. Simon

enclosures

cc Al Vorspan



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JOSEPH FINER, C. P. A. (1909-1959)

March 8, 1985

## CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Lawrence Simon, President  
American Jewish World Service, Inc.  
110 Oxford Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

In Re: American Jewish World Service, Inc.

Dear Larry:

On behalf of your organization, I have filed the application form and related documents with the Internal Revenue Service in Brooklyn, New York, in order to obtain a ruling declaring the organization to be exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Having looked over such documents as the Articles of Organization, the Bylaws, and the Prospectus, I fully expect the Internal Revenue to issue a favorable ruling for the organization, stating it to be a public charity exempt under Section 501(c)(3).

Sincerely,



Myron Greenside

MG/nm

HERBERT M. WEISS & ASSOCIATES

50 MILK ST.

BOSTON, MASS. 02109

March 1, 1985

Mr. Lawrence Simon, President  
American Jewish World Service, Inc.  
110 Oxford Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Larry,

American Jewish World Service, Inc. has been incorporated under the Massachusetts not-for-profit statute (G.L. Ch. 180).

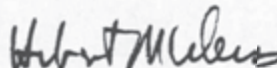
Myron Greenside, C.P.A., of Starr, Finer, Starr & Co. of Boston has advised me that he has applied to the Internal Revenue Service for a determination letter to the effect that A.J.W.S. is a qualified charity under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). While I have not yet seen the application as filed, I am generally aware of its contents from discussions with Mr. Greenside, and I assume the application described the operation and purposes in a manner consistent with its on-going activities.

I also assume the possibility that the Internal Revenue Service may require some modifications or amendments and that these will be made and will not be sufficiently material to substantially delay or prevent the issuance of a favorable determination letter.

I understand that there are parallel organizations (i.e., Catholic Relief Services, Church World Services, Lutheran World Relief, and American Friends Service Committee, among others) who are qualified charities and that the A.J.W.S. should similarly qualify.

It is my expectation, therefore, that a favorable determination letter will issue in due course. If you have any questions, please call me or Mr. Greenside.

Sincerely,



Herbert M. Weiss

HMW/el

cc: Mr. Myron Greenside  
Mr. Lawrence Phillips



# AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

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\* as of 3/8/85

\*\* organizations listed for identification purposes only.





*Mose Ory*

January 24, 1985

The Hon. Naftali Lavie, Ambassador  
Consul General  
~~Consulate~~ General of Israel  
800 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Naftali:

Many thanks for your gracious invitation to serve on the Honorary National Committee being formed for the World Assembly in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the victory over the Nazis. Let me advise you immediately that I will be delighted to have my name appear on this Honorary Committee.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



הקונסוליה הכללית של  
ישראל בניו-יורק

CONSULATE GENERAL  
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK

800 SECOND AVENUE  
NEW YORK N.Y. 10017

OXFORD 7-5500

January 16, 1985

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

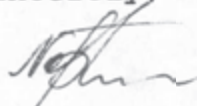
Dear Rabbi Schindler,

The World Assembly to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the victory over the Nazis will be held in Israel this coming May. The Assembly is being organized under the patronage of Prime Minister Shimon Peres and an International Honorary Presidium to include Heads of State will be chaired by the President of the State of Israel, The Honorable Chaim Herzog. The gathering is being convened to serve as a forum for all those individuals, both Jewish and non-Jewish who were instrumental in the battle against Nazi Germany.

It is a privilege for me to extend to you a formal invitation to join an Honorary National Committee now being formed in the United States. This Committee will be headed by Dr. Henry Kissinger and will be composed of many outstanding public personalities. Your membership on this Committee will lend dignity and stature to the thousands of participants who are expected to attend.

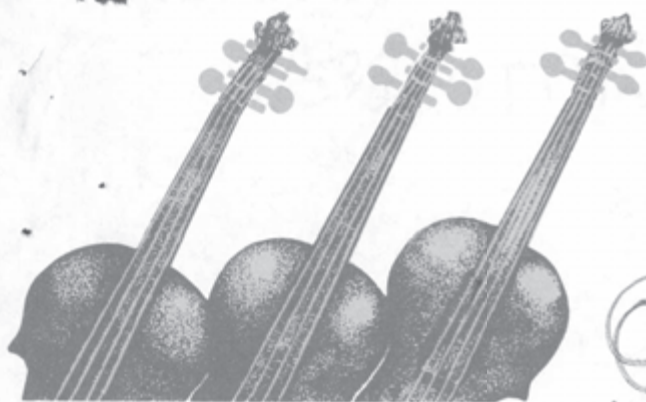
We will be honored if you would kindly respond to this invitation at your earliest convenience. If you would like additional information, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

  
Naphtali Lavie  
Ambassador  
Consul General

*Tell him  
OK*





# Symphony for Peace

A Benefit Concert

Arthur Winograd  
Conductor

Benita Valente  
Soprano

December 20, 1984

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing to ask you to be an Honorary Sponsor of "Symphony for Peace", a benefit concert to be held at Bushnell Memorial Hall on the evening of March 31, 1985. As Music Director of the Hartford Symphony, I will be conducting this concert with members of the Hartford Symphony who are donating their time and talent.

#### Sponsoring Organizations

Peace Education, Inc.  
Connecticut Freeze  
American Friends  
Service Committee  
Physicians for  
Social Responsibility  
Lawyers Alliance for  
Nuclear Arms Control  
Nuclear Weapons Education Fund  
National Freeze Campaign  
Musicians Against Nuclear Arms  
Peace Center of the Christian  
Conference of Connecticut

This very special event is being sponsored by seven organizations--listed on this letterhead--which are deeply committed to stopping the arms race and which are committed to the concept of a bilateral, verifiable nuclear weapons freeze between the United States and the Soviet Union. Funds raised by the concert will be used by these organizations, all tax-exempt, to further the process of education about the vital issue of ending the nuclear arms race.

The inspiration for "Symphony for Peace" originated with some of the Hartford Symphony members themselves, who are part of Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA). Similar events have been held in other cities over the past two years, including Boston, New York, Chicago, Cleveland, and Washington. In each case, the concerts have been extremely successful, both in raising the levels of consciousness about the dangers of the arms race and strengthening the financial base of the sponsoring organizations.

Symphony for Peace  
c/o Peace Education, Inc.  
55 Van Dyke Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

(203) 522-7068

To Benefit Work  
for a Mutual  
Nuclear Weapons Freeze

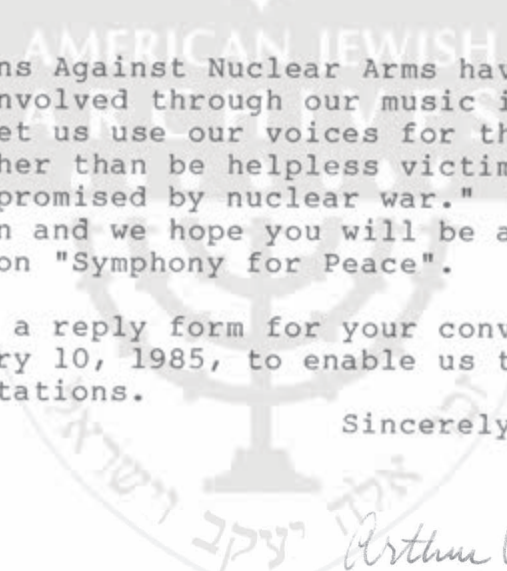
Page two

On behalf of the Concert Steering Committee, made up of representatives of the sponsoring organizations, I would like to ask you to participate in this event by joining other leading Connecticut citizens in lending your name to the concert letterhead, program, and fundraising appeals as an Honorary Sponsor. In this capacity, you will be invited to attend the concert, a pre-concert dinner, and a reception following the concert as a special guest. Your involvement in this event will help make "Symphony for Peace" a highlight of the cultural calendar while at the same time underscoring the vital importance of working for arms control.

The Musicians Against Nuclear Arms have said, "As musicians we are involved through our music in the affirmation of life. Let us use our voices for the survival of civilization rather than be helpless victims of the death and destruction promised by nuclear war." We know you share our concern and we hope you will be a part of our effort in putting on "Symphony for Peace".

Enclosed is a reply form for your convenience. Please respond by January 10, 1985, to enable us to list you on the concert invitations.

Sincerely,

  
*Arthur Winograd*  
Arthur Winograd  
Conductor, Hartford  
Symphony Orchestra

P.S. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Wass, the Concert Coordinator, at 522-7068.



*Muc*  
*Or*

October 3, 1984

Mr. LeRoy Robinson, Jr.  
Chairman  
Family Service America  
44 East 23rd Street  
New York, New York 10010

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your gracious letter in regard to the 73rd Anniversary Celebration of Family Service America. It will please me very much to serve as an Honorary Sponsor of "A Salute to Families!" Please do feel free to add my name to the list of Honorary Sponsors.

I am making note of the Celebration on February 21, 1985. I am not certain it will be possible for me to attend as I have some conflict on my schedule, even now. If I am in New York, of course, I will be happy to attend.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



# FSA

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September 27, 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing in the hope that you will permit us to include your name among the Honorary Sponsors of "A Salute to Families!" -- the 73rd Anniversary Celebration of Family Service America -- which will be held at the New York Hilton on Thursday evening, February 21, 1985. (I am enclosing a list of those who served as Honorary Sponsors for last year's occasion.)

This year, we will be presenting the Corporate National Distinguished Service Awards to two outstanding industry leaders, Walter V. Shipley, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Chemical New York Corporation and Chemical Bank, and John B. Carter, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U. S. and a member of its Board of Directors.

As you may know, since its founding in 1911, Family Service America has been the only privately sponsored national organization devoted entirely to the strengthening of services for families in 42 states and six Canadian provinces. With ten thousand volunteers and seven thousand professionals, FSA helped to improve the lives of more than three million men, women and children.

Your serving as an Honorary Sponsor implies no obligation except to add your name to those distinguished men and women who have already agreed to join in this year's "A Salute to Families!"

With deepest appreciation,

Sincerely,

LR/me  
Enclosures

LeRoy Robinson, Jr.  
Chairman



44 East 23rd Street, New York, New York 10010 (212) 674-6100

FAMILIES STRENGTHEN AMERICA



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72nd Anniversary Celebration - Family Service America

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## UNITED STATES COMMITTEE UNITED NATIONS LUMBINI PROJECT

September 25, 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Thank you very much for your recent letter. I am disappointed that you are unable to join the Board of Advisors of the United States Committee, United Nations Lumbini Project. However, I understand your situation.

I hope we can work together in the future. With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Karl G. Springer  
Executive Director

KGS/em  
L4d





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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & CULTURE  
World Zionist Organization, American Section, Inc.  
515 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022  
Telephone: (212) 752-0600 ext. 385, 386  
YOEL RAPPEL, Director

*called  
regrets  
9/13*

September 24, 1984

Dear Committee Member:

I hope the summer has been a pleasant one as we now turn our thoughts to the coming school year.

By the time this letter reaches you, the 16th class will already be in Kfar Blum, and it is not too soon for us to be thinking about future classes.

To that end, we will be holding a meeting on Thursday, September 13, 1984 at 6:00 P.M. at the W.Z.O. - 515 Park Avenue, New York (second floor auditorium). Yoel Rappel, the Director of the Department of Education and Culture will join us and you will have an opportunity to meet with him, hear reports about the returned class and that which has recently left, etc.

We do hope you and your spouse will join us. A light supper of sandwiches and drinks will be available. Please let us know if you will attend by returning the enclosed envelope and coupon.

I look forward to seeing you September 13.

Sincerely yours,

*Fradle*

Fradle Freidenreich

FF/hs

*Misc Orig*

September 13, 1984

Mr. Haïm Ben-Shahar  
The Israel-Diaspora Institute  
Tel Aviv University Campus  
Ramat-Aviv, Tel Aviv, 69978  
Israel

Dear Mr. Ben-Shahar:

Thank you for your letter of August 30. I appreciate your comments and I believe that we hold many similar views. I would like to be of assistance and to work with you on the conference on "Who is a Jew?" as a Jewish Survival Issue. My travel schedule of course is a very hectic one but if I can be involved in the Steering Committee work, I would be delighted. Please keep me posted as plans develop.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



#7



THE ISRAEL-DIASPORA INSTITUTE

המכון ליחסי ישראל-תפוצות

August 30, 1984,  
Elul 2, 5744.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler,  
President,  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,  
830 5th Ave.,  
New York,  
N.Y. 10021.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I saw you quoted, earlier this month, on the current round of the "Who is a Jew?" controversy, to the effect that "Jewish unity must never become a bargaining chip on the table of political power".

I could not agree more, but that table is exactly where the issue rests so long as we relate only to its political aspects in Israel.

We need to try again (despite the frustration of previous, worthy attempts) to break the vicious circle of antagonism and non-communication surrounding this critical issue, and to convene a serious deliberation on its conceptual, spiritual, halakhic and ethical dimensions. Most of all, we need to create a vehicle which would allow for some dialogue on the matter. Without this, the gap will grow, a situation we can ill afford, particularly in such a time of political and ideological polarization. Jewish unity is truly in the balance.

The Israel-Diaspora Institute, about which I have written you before, (and whose Co-ordinator, Mr. Shelly Schreter, interviewed you last May), is proposing a conference on "Who is a Jew?" as a Jewish Survival Issue. In effect, we see this as the long-overdue extension of Ben Gurion's famous initiative, as described in the enclosed proposal, to clarify the issue.

I feel strongly that you should play a central role in this conference, from the articulation of the agenda through the implementation and the follow-up afterwards. I am, therefore, inviting you to serve on the conference steering committee, and will be in touch with you personally next month to discuss the matter. Let me add that the President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, has taken a deep interest in this conference. He has agreed to deliver the keynote address at its opening, to preside at its conclusion and to advise the steering committee in formulating the plans.

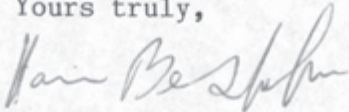
קרית אוניברסיטת תל-אביב, רמת-אביב, תל-אביב 69978 טלפון : 420111, (03)420018, טלקס : 342171

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, RAMAT-AVIV, TEL AVIV, 69978, TEL. (03)420018, 420111, TELEX 342171 VERSY IL.

I am well aware of the difficulties in putting together such a gathering but am driven by a sense of urgency and anxiety about the cost of failing to do so. The Israel-Diaspora Institute, it seems to me, is an extremely appropriate sponsor for such a venture, given its non-political and non-ideological (in religious terms) nature, and its raison d'être of reinforcing and enhancing the relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry.

I sincerely hope to be able to work with you in this important undertaking.

Yours truly,



Haim Ben-Shahar.





Ed: cc's enclosed to  
To Ar. V.  
Eric Goffe  
Don Guter  
Dick Cohen.

Should I respond favorably to  
Shachar's plea? It is worthy,  
of course, but is this the  
appropriate umbrella?

Don, please call Zeev  
Chofetz to get his assessment.  
Eric, please check w/ some  
of our people in Israel to  
see what they think.



*Misc  
Only*

*free*

June 29, 1984

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Per your conversation with a member of the NatPAC staff, we are including your name in the ad we are running in July.

We greatly appreciate the authorization for the use of your name on our list of distinguished Americans who are standing up to be counted as friends of strong U.S.-Israel relations.

Thank you again for your cooperation in this important matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Ira N. Forman*  
Ira N. Forman  
Director,  
New York Operations

INF:sl

MEDICO PARCHMENT

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*Musey*

✓

June 26, 1984

Ms. Nancy Bell, Administrative Coordinator  
Center for Jewish Community Studies  
1017 Gladfelter Hall  
Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Dear Ms. Bell:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, which has just reached our office. We are pleased to learn that you are interested in the work of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and will be happy to share pertinent materials with you.

Under separate cover, a copy of our 1982-83 Annual Report is being sent to you as well as brochure which describes the programs and services of the UAHC. Our major publication is the magazine REFORM JUDAISM and we are sending a few back issues for your perusal. We have also asked the editor to place the Center for Jewish Community Studies on the mailing roster to receive RJ in the future.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Daniel J. Elazar



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

June 26, 1984

Aron Hirt-Manheimer

We have received a request from the Center for Jewish Community Studies at Temple University to send them our annual report and a newsletter. They would like to have an exchange. Would you be kind enough to put them on the mailing list for Reform Judaism and send me a few back copies of the Magazine to share with them. The address is: 1017 Gladfelter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122.

Some of the names connected with this will be known to you, including the president, Daniel Elazar, and the secretary, Mervin Verbit.



CENTER FOR  
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COMMUNITY  
STUDIES

מרכז  
לחקר  
הקהילה  
היהודית



1017 Gladfelter Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122, USA. Tel. (215) 787-1459

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April 10, 1984

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

President

Union of American Hebrew

Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10021

Dear. Rabbi Schindler,

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs/Center for Jewish Community Studies is a world-wide policy studies institute devoted to Jewish public affairs. The Centers maintain a library, archives and reprint materials. In order to up-date the archives, we would like to receive from your organization both an annual report and a newsletter. Perhaps we could arrange an exchange of newsletters?

We have enclosed a more detailed account of the Centers' activities. We appreciate your consideration of the above request and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Very truly yours,

*Nancy Bell*

Nancy Bell

Administrative Coordinator

encl

cc: Daniel Elazar  
Jerusalem

*OK to  
send!*

*OK*

*RJ too  
Put them  
in files*



JERUSALEM CENTER

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS



המרכז הירושלמי

לענייני ציבור ומדינה

המרכז לחקר הקהילה היהודית  
Center for Jewish Community Studies

מכון ירושלים ללמודים פדרליים  
Jerusalem Institute for Federal Studies

The Center for Jewish Community Studies with its Israel arm, the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, is in the forefront of the development of programs designed to strengthen and promote the interests of Israel, the American Jewish community, and the Jewish people all over the world.

#### WHO ARE WE?

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs/Center for Jewish Community Studies is an independent, non-profit institute for policy research and education serving Israel and the Jewish people. Policy research has become an established branch of the policy making process in the United States and other Western countries. More recently, it has begun to be fashionable to establish 'think tanks' within the Jewish community. Because the leadership of the Jewish people is of such high quality, they too, have come to learn that in a complex world, no real leader can rely solely upon being a 'mavin.' The reconstituted Jewish polity of the post-war era needs the broad perspectives and exploration of issues in depth that only a center such as ours can provide.

The Jerusalem Center is more than just another such institute. Not only are we one of the oldest in a young field but we are the only successful independent think tank of world-wide scope which combines in-depth research and action-oriented policy studies across the range of issues on the contemporary Jewish agenda.

From our founding, we have sought to view the Jewish people in Israel and the diaspora as one, whose state and diaspora communities have shared public concerns as well as special local ones, all of which need to be given thoughtful consideration by academic and other experts drawn from a variety of disciplines, locations and viewpoints who are also regularly involved in Jewish public affairs as individuals. We maintain offices in Jerusalem, Philadelphia, and Montreal. Our network of Fellows and Associates is spread throughout the world. We believe that our unique mix gives us the requisite objectivity and flexibility, within the framework of our shared commitment to the Jewish people.



-- *The Jewish Agency*: Our Fellows include the foremost students of the Jewish hence we have been working on the future of that body at its request and the request of the diaspora leadership.

-- *Exploring the Jewish Political Tradition*: A unique aspect of our work is that all of the foregoing are grounded within a carefully thought-through framework based on a sense of the historic destiny and responsibility of the Jewish people and an understanding of the Jewish political tradition as underlying Jewish public activity since Biblical times. We have pioneered in the exploration of the Jewish political tradition with such success that our work has led to the emergence of a new academic field of Jewish political studies, whose practitioners now teach at nearly a dozen universities in Israel and North America. This field has become the discipline behind the profession of Jewish communal service and is already shaping the thinking of professionals in the Jewish field.

-- *Studying Jewish Community Organization*: To give our work proper grounding, we not only go to the rich Jewish past but maintain a range of studies of contemporary Jewish life--mapping Jewish community organization throughout the world (you may know *Community and Polity*, one of our products); scanning the synagogue as communal institution, probing the new role of the Federations, and the like.

The Center is particularly qualified to undertake studies across the range of concerns of the organized Jewish community, to contribute to the education of communal leaders, and to deal with organizational problems within the Jewish community.

#### WHAT DO WE DO OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO YOU?

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs is uniquely qualified and equipped to provide long-range guidance and resources to the world Jewish polity. Through our involvement in Project Renewal, we have been able to establish strong, productive lines between the sponsor communities and their Israeli project communities which have enhanced the project itself and raised it from just another fund-raising campaign to a more participatory experience for the sponsor communities. The *Jerusalem Letter/Viewpoints* is widely acclaimed by community leaders all over the world as one of the most reliable, enriching and unique sources of information about trends in the current Jewish agenda. Our publications (which our supporters and sponsoring institutions receive) serve to keep our readers abreast of the latest findings in Jewish public policy research and programming. The informal briefings we provide affiliated key community leaders upon their arrival in Israel familiarizes them with aspects of the current Israeli scene and equips them to evaluate pressing issues from a more informed perspective.

We are, in effect, the independent eyes and ears in Israel for American Jewish leaders who feel the need for on-the-scene information and evaluation free of governmental constraints.

JERUSALEM CENTER  
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS



המרכז הירושלמי  
לענייני ציבור ומדינה

המרכז לחקר הקהילה היהודית  
Center for Jewish Community Studies

מכון ירושלים ללמודים פדרליים  
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*Mac*

March 21, 1984

Mr. Yaakov Riz, President  
Operation Truth  
1453 Levick Street  
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Mr. Riz:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts with me. I appreciate your comments.

Unfortunately, I do not serve a congregation and therefore am not in a position to invited you to address my people. I trust you understand my situation.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



## Teaching The Holocaust

By Chaim Potok

*Philadelphia schools were the first in the country to turn history's darkest hour into a curriculum. Here's the reason why.*

TO HELP PREVENT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST!

**REMEMBER!**

**LEST WE FORGET!**

**WALLENBERG SAVED 100,000 JEWS FROM THE NAZI GAS-CHAMBERS! NOW WE MUST SAVE HIS LIFE FROM THE RED GULAG!**

**OPERATION TRUTH PROJECT SURVIVAL**

**AN APPEAL TO CONSCIENCE**

**SUPPORT**

Yaakov Riz has created a Holocaust museum in his Northeast Philadelphia basement, which he says thousands of young people have visited.

Help us to save Raoul Wallenberg from the Red Gulag somewhere in Siberia! Join Us!  
SUPPORT OPERATION TRUTH

**OPERATION TRUTH  
HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**  
1453 LEVICK ST.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19149  
(215) 535-4398

DEDICATED TO **RAOUL WALLENBERG**

**Y**AAKOV RIZ lives in Northeast Philadelphia in a gray fieldstone rowhouse fronted by a small raised lawn. It seems a quiet street, lined now with trees that stand bare beneath a chill white sky.

I have heard about this basement. It has been converted by Yaakov Riz into a museum of Holocaust memorabilia. It is a small room and the descent into its midst is chilling. The walls are lined with pictures and posters—battered, askew, ineptly mounted—depicting the agonies of the Holocaust. Starved faces, skeletal forms, frozen screams. Placed among the pictures are slogans in an amateurish hand: OUR WORST ENEMY IS OUR OWN APATHY. ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS THAT THE PEOPLE DO NOTHING. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IS THE ANSWER TO SURVIVAL.

There are books, magazines, newspapers, all on the Holocaust. Neo-Nazi hate literature covers a small section of wall. In some of the large photographs German officers shear the beard of an old Jew, women try vainly to cover their nakedness from the eyes of jeering German soldiers, a boy raises his arms high over his head before the rifle pointed at his back. 11 Polish nuns who attempted to save Jews are being shot to death by German troops in a snow-filled forest. Yaakov Riz points out a cake of soap made of human fat, a whip used on Jews by a Nazi officer, a gas mask of the sort worn by guards who opened the gas chambers to remove the bodies. There is a large oil painting of a concentration-camp scene.

Yaakov Riz talks. His family perished in Auschwitz—except for one brother, whom he did not find until long after the war. Riz was not in a death camp but was interned by the Russians in a slave-labor camp for about six years. After his release in 1947, he was sent to Poland. From there he fled to Palestine, was wounded in the Israeli War of Independence, and ended up in America. He came to Philadelphia in 1957. He is married, has three grown children, is the principal of a small Yiddish school, and is overwhelmed with guilt at having survived the Holocaust. He believes that God allowed him to live in order to teach the Jewish tradition and to keep alive the memory of the Holocaust. One day he had a vision—to establish a walk-in center on the Holocaust. This he did—in his basement, which 22 years ago was his children's recreation room. He claims that thousands of young people have been to this basement, 20 or 30 at a time. He talks of their letters to him. Beneath his tinted glasses his face looks flushed.

His dream is to build an identity center and a museum.

His outspokenness, he says, is part of the reason the Holocaust is taught in the Philadelphia public-school system. He says he speaks to classes himself a couple of times a year.

Yaakov Riz  
1453 Levick Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19149

Dear Yaakov Riz,

I read about you in an article in a Philadelphia magazine written by Chaim Potok, and because of this article I am very interested in learning more about your project. I am a twenty year old student of Spanish and French who would love to learn Yiddish, but I have had no luck in finding books and other materials to help me in my studies. Could you possibly send me some books so that I can begin to learn the language and discover the great Yiddish culture? Anything you can spare for me would be highly appreciated. I am furthermore interested in the Holocaust, Soviet Communism, and Nazism; do you have any particular books to recommend on these subjects?

Not only am I interested in studying Yiddish, I am also eager to learn more about Jewish history. I also read an article about you in The Daily Advance, Remembering the Holocaust Helps Insure Peace in the Future, written by Dr. Paul Carlson. I think that it's important for Jews and non-Jews alike to hear about what you are doing to insure that past injustices do not reoccur. I myself am a Catholic, and I only hope that you can find the support you need to continue your work. Please be aware that I am willing to help inform people about that work.

Thank you very much,  
Vickie Monnig

Lenny Neil Friedman is producing a film about the life and work of Yaakov Riz and his Holocaust Museum. Friedman heard about Riz's work and was so impressed that he felt the story must be made available to a wider audience. Brad Solhoff is directing the film, to be called My Promise to God, which will also be the name of a book by Yaakov Riz.

**Film about Riz to be shown**

The world premiere screening of "My Promise to God," a film about the life of Yaakov Riz, founder of the Jewish Identity Center and Holocaust Museum, is slated Tuesday, 11 a.m., in the Mayor's Reception Room 202 in City Hall.

Educator, lecturer and humorist Jacob Riz, will entertain with Yiddish humor the Golden Age Club, at the Rhawnhurst Jewish Center, Summerdale Ave. and Hoffnagle St., Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 1:15 p.m.

The Yiddish Musical and Humor Kapelya founded by Yaakov Riz, to bring a revival of Yiddish Culture and Music in America will entertain you. Call now Yaakov Riz (215) 535-4398

Vickie Monnig  
7504 Elm  
Raytown, Mo. 64138  
(816) 356-1673



# Jewish Identity Center

an Historical - Ethnical Museum  
1453 Levick Street • Philadelphia, PA 19149 • 535-4398

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February, 1984

Dear Supporter of the JIC - Holocaust Museum,

We are appealing to you, once again, for your support of our yearly traditional Free Passover Seder for youth and college students. As you know from previous years, this project is vitally important in as much as it offers an opportunity for young people to attend a Seder which they would not have otherwise. Each year, over 100 culturally and economically deprived youths are treated to an evening filled with Jewish traditions, music and of course, a Passover meal. This year, your help is needed more than ever before in as much as we are extending our invitation to our Soviet Jewish brethren, most of which have never experienced the celebration of Passover due to their persecution under the Communist government.

The Jewish Identity Center works all year around to ensure that this project will be successful, but it can only work if the needed funds are there. This is a time of year when the missionary movements are extremely active in recruiting new members through their so called "Passover Seder". We would hate to think that our children would end up attending one of their dinners because the funds could not be raised for this project.

The Seder will be held at the Drizin Weiss Jewish War Veteran Post on Sunday, April 22, at 5:00 P.M. The Post, which is located at 913 Tyson Avenue, has been gracious enough to lend us their facility for the second year in a row.

Shalom,  
*Chuck Feldman*  
CHUCK FELDMAN  
President  
JEWISH IDENTITY CENTER

**FREE**

PASSOVER SEDER  
FOR YOUTH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Checks only please, do not send cash)

**AN APPEAL  
TO  
CONSCIENCE**

Jewish Identity Center at 1453 Levick Street, Philadelphia, PA 19149

## THE ACTION OF THE JIC SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

1453 Levick Street • Philadelphia, PA 19149 • 535-4398

BLUE GRASS PLAZA 2417 WELSH ROAD PHILA., PA. 19114 (215) 4-3900

## Free Youth Seder Highlights Passover

by Rhonda Hoffman

Jewish Times Staff Writer

Laughter and song, and the story of Passover filled the room at the I.L. Peretz Workmen's Circle School, 6515 Bustleton Ave., on Saturday evening as close to 100 people gathered to celebrate Passover, the festival of freedom. Many were children, both Russian and American, who came with their parents and grandparents, to partake of this timeless tradition. Sponsored by the Jewish Identity Center, founded by Yaakov Riz, this sixth annual seder featured a special "Identity Haggadah for Contemporaries" compiled by Dr. Philip Rosen, an educator and social historian.

The seder commenced with a reading from the Haggadah about the significance of freedom, by Riz, the director of the Jewish Identity Center, and Holocaust Museum on 1453 Levick St. and the principal of the Workmen's Circle School. "The seder is the means by which families and friends, young and old, are brought together and reminded of the heritage of the Jewish people. This provides the content of Jewish identity, for identity is more than a feeling, it means to know, love and be part of a tradition, history and culture of a people. . . . As we observe the seder celebration and drink to ancient liberation, we pray for modern liberation for all those living in political, economic and social bondage. As we bring the seder cups to our lips, we remember, too, the liberation of Jews from the Nazi Holocaust and the ending of 2000 years of homelessness by the creation of the State of Israel."

AFTER RIZ'S THOUGHT-PROVOKING introduction, all seder participants sang a song written by Riz, "Shalom is Pain and Gloom" Rabbi Maurice Nouveller from Beth Chaim in Feasterville conducted the seder, reading from portions of the Haggadah and instilling his own wit and wisdom into the traditional ceremony. His rendition of "Let My People Go" was uplifting and inspiring. If only the Egyptians had heard him sing it 4000 years ago, they indeed might have listened to his plea.

Riz's daughter, Iona, also led the group in several familiar Hebrew songs including "Day-yay-noo," "Pyramidn," and "Shoimer Yisroel." His wife, Sheila and eldest daughter, Eschella, also contributed to the success of the seder through their efforts.

Thursday, May 13, 1982 The Jewish Times of the Greater Northeast

### Thank You for Free Seder Coverage

I want to thank the Jewish Times and its writer Rhonda Hoffman for her beautiful article about our free Passover Seder for youth in the April 15 issue. At the same time, I want to thank all the good people who donated to the free Seder. Without them we couldn't have had the Seder.

Many of the participants, especially from the Soviet Union, this year participated in the first Passover Seder of their lives.

I also want to thank a dedicated worker of the Jewish Identity Center and Holocaust Museum, Fred Feldman, who was the master of ceremonies. Also Chuck Feldman, of the Garden of Earthly Delights, who helped my wife with the Passover food; my son-in-law Stuart Abrams, who dedicated a song to the project; poet Harry Martin Polis; and Kathy Krantz, the pianist.

Again thanks to the Jewish Times for the publicity you gave us all the time which made it possible to have the free Seder. We hope to continue next year.

YAAKOV RIZ

**SUPPORT.** Your leadership support is essential to the effort to move the center out of the basement and to allow a grass-roots fund-raising campaign to begin. Join the fight against conversion, assimilation, racism, ignorance, frustration, and the disintegration of cultural art forms. Volunteers and contributions are vital. Contact the Jewish Identity Center at 1453 Levick Street, Philadelphia, PA 19149, or call (215) 535-4398.

## JIC Seeks Help In Fund-Raising

The Jewish Identity Center, where all programs and films of Jewish content are free, is seeking volunteers to help raise funds to continue the work for the Jewish youth and the community.



And HOLOCAUST MUSEUM



Yaakov Riz  
Founder



Iona Riz  
Entertainer



JEWISH IDENTITY CENTER  
Free Passover Seder



Eschella Riz  
Poet



IONA RIZ  
Entertainer



Friday, March 16, 1984 Philadelphia Daily News

**JEWISH IDENTITY CENTER AND HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**, 1453 Lewick St. 535-4398.  
Educational center for information on Nazi atrocities. Visits by appointment only.

## Money Isn't Enough, Rabbi Says

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. — Reform Jewish congregations need to be more demanding of their members, says the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

In a sermon at the Community Synagogue in Port Washington, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler said, "The only thing that Reform congregations demand of their members today is that they pay their dues." He lamented that while liberal Jews insist on their right to choose, "all too often, we choose nothing at all or, choosing something, we observe it only haphazardly. We saunter in, we saunter through, we saunter out."

In the typical Reform synagogue during a Sabbath service, he asked, "Will there be more than a corporal's guard of worshipers in attendance? Walk into the typical reform Jewish home on the Sabbath and what do you find there? The candles? Well, yes — maybe. The kiddush [blessing before a Sabbath meal]? Rarely.

"How do we use the Sabbath to sanctify our space and time? And how in heaven's name will the Sabbath preserve us if we do not find even a single way to preserve the Sabbath?"

*Thank you for sharing your thoughts. Leo*

March 16, 1984

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Enclosed in this letter is your statement and you are so right. And as the Talmud teaches us: "Mikol Melamdo Hiskalti." I hope you will agree to our Project how to reach out to the lost Jewish youth who are searching for their Jewish identity. I openly say, that God gave me the vision, opened my eyes to see the Truth and showed me a way what to do. But, he didn't give me the money to go with it. Because for 27 years I'm teaching a Jewish school on \$11,000.00 dollars a year salary, and for this small amount I also upkeep the first in America Jewish Identity and Free Walk In Center and Operation Truth Holocaust Museum in my...basement because I couldn't find till this day a Jewish leader with vision to listen to my Project of Jewish survival.

I appeal to you, first, help us with a donation for our annual Free Passover Seder for lost Jewish youth. See the other side about one of our Seders. Second, Invite me to your Congregation to speak and bring with me two VHS Video tape films about my work. 1) "My Promise To God" About My Center Museum and about my life. It is a half hour documentary film how the first Holocaust Museum in America started. 2) "Israel-America's Key To Survival." Produced by a Christian friend of Israel. Rev. Mike Evans. Founder of The "Lovers Of Israel." It is one of the best films of a Eye Witness in Lebanon. Why Israel "invaded" Lebanon?

Can you do this for me? It will be a great help. Maybe some good people will help my Project.

Shalom Ubracha,

Yaakov Riz,

President Operation Truth H.M.

*1/10/84*