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May 14, 1976

Mr. Yehuda Leket
Aliyah Desk
The Jewish Agency
515 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Leket:

The enclosed letter from Dr. Yaari of Haifa was sent to me and I have indicated to Dr. Yaari that I would share it with the appropriate forum. I do believe this is a matter to be handled by your office.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

Encl.

May 13, 1976

Dr. Shieradztei Yaari
Leon Bloom 14/7
Haifa, Israel

Dear Dr. Yaari:

I write to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter
and to thank you for your comments.

I assure you that I will relay them to the appropriate
forum.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

Alaya Dgt

May 3, 1976

Rabbi Paul J. Citrin
Temple Israel
Boston, Mass, 02215

Dear Paul:

It was good hearing from you. I regret that I don't have the text of my sermon at Beth Elohim and thus cannot share a copy with you.

AMERICAN JEWISH

You ought to know that substantially I agree with your comments and the thrust of all my remarks in behalf of the Presidents' Conference tries to get that message across. As you well know, newspaper reports are not always accurate and complete and this was certainly the case with the scant quotation you shared with me.

I appreciate your sharing your thoughts with me. With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander H. Schindler

RABBI PAUL J. CITRIN
TEMPLE ISRAEL
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215

*Ad? -
Substantially
agree with him.
Quotation only*

April 28, 1976
Scout

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

Dear Alex:

If you have a full text of the remarks you made at Temple Beth Elohim on April 23rd, I would appreciate receiving a copy. I am enclosing the BOSTON GLOBE'S scanty report of your address; of course, it hardly says enough to transmit a fair picture.

Even without seeing the full text of your sermon, I would like to react to the sentence which quotes you as saying that you would like the Israeli government "to be more forthcoming" in efforts to reach a peaceful settlement with the Arabs. I agree with you, because I believe that Israel will never fully know the true intentions of the Arabs until it tests them with formal, detailed, public proposals for settlement. I would very much like to see Israel lob the political ball back into Arab courts by making what Aryeh Eliav calls a declaration of intent which would be carried out when the Arabs explicitly accept Israel's right to exist. However, without such simultaneous concrete, active evidence from the Arabs, it seems that being more forthcoming is no less a recipe for suicide than doing nothing.

Recently a GLOBE editorial also suggested that Israel must assume greater responsibility for peace and more flexibility in its position. I am concerned by such statements because they fail to mention the minimal Arab responsibility to renounce warfare and to recognize Israel's legitimacy. Pressure on Israel alone from the United States, whether from the government or from the media, is unbalanced and unjust. Furthermore, one imagines that indeed Israel might be "more forthcoming" if the United States would apply some pressure, however slight, in the direction of the Arabs. Those who refrain from discussing the Arab share of responsibility for peace reduce their moral credibility.

I am not interested in having the leadership of the American Jewish

April 28, 1976

community act as aye-sayers and uncritical defenders of Israeli policy. Yet, I fear that in our efforts to regain some independence, we may become tools of those who really wish us no good. Therefore, I hope that you, as President of our Union, and as Chairman of the Council of Presidents, are using your leadership privately and publicly to influence our government to press the Arabs, too, toward their peace-making responsibilities.

Though I have some inkling of your hectic schedule, I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience. With appreciation for your labors, I am

Cordially yours,

Paul

Rabbi Paul J. Citrin

/d



Jewish leader favors Israeli pact with Arabs

The leader of the more than 1 million Reform Jews in the United States said yesterday US Jews are becoming less one-minded on Israeli policy in the Mideast.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schinler said the reform movement specifically would like the Israeli government "to be more forthcoming" in efforts to reach a peaceful settlement with its Arab neighbors. He would not specify on which issues he advocated this attitude, but he indicated tensions on the West Bank and possible talks with Palestinians were topics on which Jewish Americans might have divergent views.

"I personally am a dove and always have been," Schinler said.

The New York-based rabbi is president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and recently returned from talks with government leaders in Israel. He participated in services last night at Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley, honoring Howard M. Wilkoff of Weston, past congregation president.

HERBERT MILLMAN
National Jewish Welfare Board
Fifteen East Twenty-Sixth Street
New York, N.Y. 10010

Mr. Answer

Office of the Executive Vice-President

April 30, 1976

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

Dear Alex:

I received a copy of your letter to presidents sharing a reaction by a Knesset member to your recent visit to Israel in behalf of the Conference of Presidents. I found this most rewarding.

It is evident that you have initiated a new constructive dimension of dialogue between the organizational leadership of American Jewry and the approximate counterpart in Israel.

This can only be good.

Thanks for sharing.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,


HERBERT MILLMAN

cc: Daniel Rose
Yehuda Hellman

לשכת ראש הממשלה
PRIME MINISTER'S BUREAU

Jerusalem, April 23, 1976

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Alex,

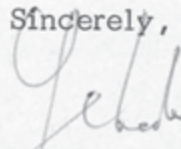
The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge with thanks your letter to him of April 6 and to state that he was most happy at the opportunity of meeting you during your recent visit.

Your letter to me of April 6 crossed with mine and I am delighted to note that we both concur that your first visit as Chairman of the President's Conference was most successful.

You can count on me to be of service to you as best I can.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,


Yehuda Avner
Adviser to the
Prime Minister

April 28, 1976

Mr. Aaron Normand
22 Hatichon Street
Savyon, Israel

Dear Mr. Normand:

Many thanks for your thoughtful letter of April 8. I appreciate your having taken the time to share your views with me.

Let me assure you that your views will be given forceful expression within the Presidents' Conference. However, beyond that I trust you can appreciate the fact that in making public statements I am, as chairman of the Conference, bound in my responsibilities to express the consensus of opinion.

With repeated thanks and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

bcc: Al Vorspan
Yehuda Hellman

*Appreciate views - show them -
will give them peaceful
expression within conference -
beyond that are bound by
responsibilities as chairman
to express conclusions -
(show letter
and my
answer with
Mr. Yehuda)*

AARON NORMAND

22 Hatichon Street,

Savyon, ISRAEL.

April 8, 1976.

despatched 22nd April.

Rabbi Alexander Shindler,
President,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,
838, 5th Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10021,
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Shindler,

I am taking the liberty of turning to you as the leader of the great Zionist communities of American Jewry.

I am following with grave doubts both my Government's and my fellow countrymen's views and attitudes on the present state of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

My country is in a constantly increasing danger and I turn to you, as the leader of a great Jewish community in a great country, to try to help us in our plight.

The present state of mind in the country precludes the possibility that Israel's leadership should be able to reverse the prevailing extremist religio-nationalistic trends that are nourished by a mixture of hopes and fears for the country's security.

This way of thought is based on the concept that the pre-six day war Israel has to be discarded as an unrealistic and unmaintainable national unit. Therefore, annexation or permanent occupation of new territories, coupled with population and land-ownership changes involving the Arab population, is a prerequisite for the continuing existence of a Jewish State.

This belief is shared by the vast majority of the Jewish population in Israel and is supported by historical, religious, national economic and, last but not least, national defence and security arguments.

The execution of this policy is sanctioned by all the Zionist political parties, except Moked.

This policy is strongly opposed both by the surrounding Arab countries as well as by the local Arabs - mostly Palestinians - who are the objects of this policy and in the last analysis expected to foot the bill. Although the policy of annexation, population and property change was actually opposed all along, even by the staunchest friends

of/...

friends of Israel, it is only recently that friendly nations voice openly their dissent. This openly declared attitude of Israel's friends amongst the world's nations, coupled with the dramatic increase in Arab financial power, puts a rather grave question mark to the validity of the almost unanimously-held belief here that "if the Arabs are unwilling to accept our conditions voluntarily, we can continue to impose same on them, whether the rest of the world agrees with us or not."

This attitude was taken for granted here before the Yom Kippur War and has not really changed since. Neither the tragic consequences of the Yom Kippur War nor the continuing retreat of the economy, aliyah and standards of morality make the population and the country's leadership reflect whether we have not embarked on the wrong course.

Every new setback and disappointment causes more determination to act by sentimental motivations, with an ever-increasing disregard for facts that are piling up against us.

We are, in my opinion, approaching a Massadah spirit, which is engulfing the whole nation.

It is only a strong leadership of world Jewry that can still have a sobering and constructive influence on our country.

Friendly nations are unable to help us because disagreement with our nationally accepted policy brandishes them either as anti-Semites or as cowards who surrender to petrodollars.

Israelis disagreeing with the accepted national policy are brandished as defeatists and leftists, i.e. Communists and the day may not be far when they will be considered traitors.

American Jewish leadership has so far not committed itself politically. Except for giving every possible material and moral help to Israel, the attitude appears to be that "after all, nobody knows better than the Israelis themselves what is good for them, and it is our duty, therefore, to support them when they ask for our help."

I would venture the remark that has been - within limits - until recently the attitude of the U.S. Administration, as well.

It is a humiliating admission to make, but I indeed have grave doubts if we in Israel are in a position today to judge and to decide what is good for this country.

Those who are led and those who lead us have fallen victim to rosy dreams and dark fears that blur the boundaries between reality and imagination.

We/...

We are victims of protracted stress and hardship which result in confusion, similar to that which caused the loss of moral and logical balance of hundreds of millions of people in Europe at periods of wars and deprivation.

I have no doubt that to try and help Israel against its will cannot by any means be called an easy task.

But, taking a long view, the challenge and hope to indeed be able to help Israel in its plight should make the risk worth while.

Your Honour may be able to help this country more than Rabbi Jochanan Ben Zakkai did at the time, by saving Yavneh and its sages.

It is not too late yet to help this country to avoid the tragic circumstances that necessitated Rabbi Jochanan Ben Zakkai's dramatic action.

Constructive action has its dynamics not less than destructive fanaticism.

I am therefore convinced that, once started, a constructive movement to enable Israel to continue living and developing within the limits of reality will eventually find wide support amongst my countrymen as well.

One more hope I wish to express and that is that our sages saying:-

may also apply to this letter.

With best wishes for a

Yours sincerely,

A. Normand

Aaron Normand

April 6, 1976

Mr. Raphael Bashan
Yediot Achronot
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Raphael:

It was wonderful to meet you and I was delighted with the report of our interview. You were faithful in recording and reporting my view and I want you to know how grateful I am.

I also enjoyed the interview very much. It is always a delight to be interviewed by someone not only perceptive but exceedingly well prepared. It was a delightful experience.

I relish the opportunity to come to know you on a more personal level for I feel we are kindred spirits. It is my fond hope that we will have an opportunity in the future to renew our friendship and to come to know each other better.

With repeated thanks and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

April 6, 1976

Mr. Max Varon
Foreign Ministry
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Max:

Many thanks for your help in arranging the various meetings during my recent visit to Israel. I am grateful for your consideration and assistance.

The party at your home was so lovely and I am beholden to you and Rosie for your warm and gracious hospitality.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

April 6, 1976

Mrs. Golda Meir
Prime Minister's Office
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

My Dear Mrs. Meir:

It was so very good to see you again and I deeply
appreciate your taking the time to meet with me.
It is always a pleasure to be with you and I am
grateful for your consideration.

With every good wish and warmest personal regards,
I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

April 6, 1976

The Honorable Yitzhak Rabin
Prime Minister of Israel
Jerusalem, Israel

My Dear Mr. Rabin:

It was very good seeing you again and I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me. I am delighted that we had an opportunity to talk.

Your many personal kindnesses to me are much appreciated and I also want to tell you how grateful I am to your staff for their consideration. They were all most helpful and gracious to me.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

April 6, 1976

Mr. Shimon Peres
Minister of Defense
Prime Minister's Office
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Peres:

I am truly sorry that we didn't really have a chance to chat with one another. I certainly would have benefitted from the opportunity to exchange views with you. I do hope the future will provide an opportunity for such a get together.

I have not forgotten the subject of the telephone call to me and if I hear anything at all I certainly will get on to it at once and be in touch.

With every good wish and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

April 6, 1976

Mr. Yehuda Avner
Prime Minister's Office
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Yehuda:

I hope you will understand and forgive me for not calling to say goodbye before I left Israel. Needless to say, I am deeply grateful to you for your many personal courtesies and especially for your manifest desire to make certain that my meeting with the Prime Minister worked out well.

You ought to know that I said some very nice things about your boss in many places and that includes press conferences, television appearances, etc. but those mamserim invariably cut those comments out. I believe Ha'aretz included one brief paragraph and I hope that he saw it, but in any event I think you ought to know that I tried and my comments were favorable.

With repeated thanks and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

April 6, 1976

Mr. Don Patir
Prime Minister's Office
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Don:

I am deeply grateful to you for your many courtesies to me during my visit to Israel. You were so helpful and so very kind in every way. I hope you will forgive me for not calling you before I left the country, but I need not tell you what time limitations were mine and I hope you will understand.

I look forward to seeing you on many occasions in the future. I responded to you with warmth and friendship and it was a joy to be with you.

With repeated thanks for all your efforts and with warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

February 27, 1976

Mr. Leon Fine, Advocate
Fine & Dagan
6 Malkay Israel Square
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Mr. Fine:

It was good hearing from you and I do, of course, recall having met you when Jay, z.l., introduced us some years ago. Your gracious good wishes on my election as chairman of the Presidents' Conference were much appreciated, even as I am grateful for your kind offer to be of assistance.

I also want to thank you for your letter of February 16 in regard to Mr. Shalom Cohen. Regretfully, during the period of his visit to the United States I will be out of the city for the bulk of the time. Therefore, I am suggesting that Mr. Cohen contact the Executive Director of the Presidents' Conference, Mr. Yehuda Hellman, and arrange to meet with him. Mr. Hellman is expecting his call and looking forward to meeting Mr. Cohen.

With repeated thanks and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman

FINE & DAGAN, ADVOCATES & ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

6 Malkay Israel Square, Tel-Aviv

LEON FINE, B. A., LL. B. (New York)

SHIMON DAGAN, LL. B. (Jerusalem)

Telephone 25 75 25, 25 93 55

Cables: EASTLAW Tel Aviv

Our File.....

Date February 16, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of Reform Congregations
Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I would like to take the liberty to introduce you to Mr. Shalom Cohen, a former Member of Knesseth and President of the Israeli Black Panther Movement.

As you may know, the Israeli government - through the Ministerial Committee for Social Betterment, the Histadrut and the Jewish Agency - have agreed to the setting up of a Youth Village for the training of leaders and youth workers from the underprivileged and marginal neighborhoods. This worthy and timely project has received the support of Justice Minister Zadok, Police Minister Hillel, Jewish Agency Chairman Almogi and many esteemed and distinguished leaders of the Jewish Community in Israel.

Mr. Cohen will be visiting the U.S.A. commencing March 15 to April 15 and he is very anxious to make your acquaintance and that of your associates in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

He has asked me to introduce him to you and will be writing to you directly hereafter to arrange to meet you following his arrival in the U.S.A.

I would be very grateful if you would do whatever you can to be of assistance to Mr. Cohen.

With thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Leon Fine, Advocate

LF/bk

cc: Mr. Shalom Cohen
Kiryat Matalon
Petah Tikva, Israel.

Yehuda - 8/26
Will you
see him for
me?
I'll respond
in kind.

FINE & DAGAN, ADVOCATES & ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

6 Malkay Israel Square, Tel-Aviv

LEON FINE, B.A., LL.B. (New York)

SHIMON DAGAN, LL.B. (Jerusalem)

Telephone 25 75 25, 25 93 55

Cables: EASTLAW Tel Aviv

Our File.....

Date February 16, 1976.....

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Union of Reform Congregations
Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

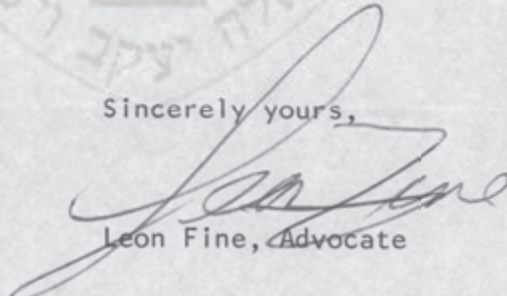
I would like to add my congratulations and best wishes to you on your election as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

All of us in Israel are aware of the important challenges ahead and of the vital role your organizations fulfill in matters of concern to Israel and the Jewish people.

If I can ever be of any help in any way, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


Leon Fine, Advocate

P.S. I hope you remember meeting me on several occasions; we were introduced by my cousin, the late Jay Kaufman while I was on shlichut in America on behalf of Israel Magazine.

LF/bk

COPY
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
OF MAJOR
AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

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American Jewish Congress
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American Zionist Federation
Anti-Defamation League
B'nai B'rith
B'nai B'rith Women
Bnai Zion
Central Conference of
American Rabbis
Council of Jewish Federations
and Welfare Funds (observer)
Hadassah
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish Reconstructionist
Foundation
Jewish War Veterans
of the U.S.A.
Labor Zionist Alliance
Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrachi
National Committee for
Labor Israel, Inc.
National Council of
Jewish Women
National Council of
Young Israel
National Federation of
Temple Sisterhoods
National Jewish Community
Relations Advisory Council
National Jewish Welfare Board
North American Jewish
Youth Council
Pioneer Women
The Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinical Council of America
Union of American Hebrew
Congregations
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
United Synagogue of America
Women's American ORT
Women's League for
Conservative Judaism
World Zionist Organization
American Section, Inc.
Zionist Organization of America

February 11, 1976

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to convey to you our Conference's grave concern with the reports given wide circulation in the public press that the administration is giving serious consideration, indeed, is about to reach a decision on a program of arms aid and sales to Egypt.

As you know, we have been understanding of and sympathetic with the general thrust of American foreign policy which seeks to strengthen the moderate forces in the Arab world and which has been so successful in drawing Egypt more closely into the orbit of U.S. influence. As a consequence, we have accepted and even supported the granting of extensive economic aid to Egypt. Not only is this wise, but it is also morally right.

But the sale of arms to Egypt is another matter in its entirety.

To begin with, we see no justifiable need for such aid. Egypt, even now, and thanks to the lavish rearmament program of the U.S.S.R., enjoys a vast superiority in arms and personnel over Israel. Does Egypt really need more military equipment? Does it stand under the threat of imminent attack? In a word, we fear that such sales to Egypt will only further impair that tenuous balance of power which presently obtains and which is the necessary precondition of peace. Military supplies for Egypt must be seen in the context of the arms which are supplied to Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and a host of other Arab countries from a variety of sources.

Moreover, the experience of the past has taught America that once such arms are dispatched, their disposition can never really be restrained, all promises to the contrary notwithstanding. No one can be certain where this equipment will be sent or how it will ultimately be used. All effective American control might well be lost.

These, then, are some of the reasons among others which give rise to our concerns, and we would much appreciate your thoughtful response to them.

Again, we have no objection in principle to economic aid, and I write even from the more personal experience of a recent lengthy journey through that land. What Egypt needs are tractors and not tanks; what its people desperately need and want is bread and not more bullets.

Very sincerely yours,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

AMS:arf





Golda Meir

with best thanks for the
beautiful flowers.

New York, Nov. 1977

Mar. 29-'76

Dear Edie,

Enclosed are papers Mr.

Hellman wanted me to
forward to you -

Chus Miller



Raid
4/2

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

שגרירות ישראל
בניין

March 19, 1976

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents
of Major Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Alex:

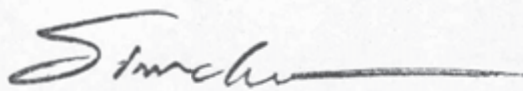
I take great pleasure in extending an invitation to you and Mr. Yehuda Hellman to be our guests in Israel from Sunday, March 28 to Thursday, April 1, 1976.

I am enclosing copy of an itinerary which includes meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the Jewish Agency.

I am confident that the visit will enable you to obtain at first hand, the thoughts and views of the Israeli leaders and people.

Wishing you a very successful trip and with warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,


Simcha Dinitz
Ambassador

Enc.-

March 29, Monday

8:00 am Breakfast with Mr. Moshe Rivlin,
Director General of the Jewish Agency

9:00 am Meeting with the Prime Minister

11:00 am Meeting with Monsignor Caro (if he recovers)

1:00 pm Lunch with Mr. Y. Navon
Chairman of the Security & Foreign
Affairs Committee of the Knesset
and other members of the Committee

3:00 pm Meeting with Mr. W. A. Gafni
Director General of the Treasury

8:30 pm At the home of Mr. M. Varon

March 30, Tuesday

8:30 am Meeting with Mr. Y. Almogi

11:00 am Meeting with the Foreign Minister

1:30 pm Lunch with Mr. A. Dulchin

afternoon travel to Tel Aviv

Overnight HILTON Hotel, Tel Aviv

March 31, Wednesday

8:30 am Meeting with General Shlomo Gazit

10:00 am Meeting with Mr. A. Ben-Nathan

2:30 pm Meeting with Mr. A. Shavit
Chairman, Israeli Manufacturers Association
and other Manufacturers of the I.M.A.

5:00 pm Meeting with Editors

7:30 pm Dinner with the U.S. Ambassador

Melvin Bell

April 1, Thursday

Morning Visit an Army Camp

if there is time, visit a development town

Evening Press Conference

April 2, Friday

Morning

departure from Israel



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To

RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER

Via TRB 5271
Insert "RCA"

GREATLY REGRET MISUNDERSTANDING AND NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT 8:30 A.M.

AT MY OFFICE JERUSALEM 30th MARCH AS PER APPOINTMENT SET UP THROUGH FOREIGN OFFICE.

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

REGARDS,

YOSEF ALMOGI



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*To edit
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ALEXANDER SCHINDLER
515 PARK AVE
NEW YORK NY 10021

THIS MAILGRAM IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

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PO BOX 92

JERUSALEM (ISRAEL)

REQUESTED MEETING WITH YOU WEEKS AGO SORRY THERE HAS BEEN A
BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS HAVE URGED FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CONSULT
WITH YOU NOT ONLY IN REGARDS TO OUR MEETING BUT ALSO WITH REFERENCE
TO EVERY ASPECT OF OUR PROGRAM IN ISRAEL WARMEST REGARDS

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THE EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
JERUSALEM

November 2, 1978

לשכת יו"ר ההנהלה
ירושלים

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

Dear Alex:

No Answer

Many thanks for your letter of October 13, and for your good wishes for the New Year, which are reciprocated in full measure, as I'm sure you know.

With warmest house-to-house greetings,

Sincerely,


Leon Dulzin

December 8, 1978

The Honorable Yitzhak Navon
President of the State of Israel
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Navon:

For myself personally, as well as the families of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, I write to express heartfelt condolences to our brothers and sisters in Israel, indeed to Jews in every far-flung corner of the world.

In the passing of Golda Meir the human family has lost a giant, a woman of valor who embodied the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people.

She gave inspiration to the Zionist movement and the men and women she led in helping found and build the State of Israel. She gave pride to her fellow Jews in every corner of the globe for the dignity with which she led her cause and the commitment that made it ours. She gave heart to people everywhere who seek to live in freedom and who are called upon to defend freedom's cause, as her countrymen defended theirs.

With great courage she led the people of Israel through a period of tragic war. With great vision she led her country through two crucial negotiations that we now know was the beginning of the long journey, not yet completed, toward peace and reconciliation between Arab and Jew in the Middle East. There could be no more fitting valedictory for this modern day matriarch and prophet of her people.

We mourn her passing; we are all diminished by it.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

April 27, 1978

Mr. Harry Barnard
801 Lavergne Avenue
Wilmette, Ill. 60091

Dear Mr. Barnard:

Many thanks for your most gracious and warm letter of support. It was thoughtful of you to take the time to write.

My efforts in behalf of Klal Yisroel are a service of the heart. It is gratifying to know that I reach other hearts.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler, Rabbi
Chairman

HARRY BARNARD
301 LAVERGNE AVENUE
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091

Personal

April 12, 1978

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Your magnificent leadership in American Jewry in the present crisis concerning Israel is a source of great satisfaction to me and I send this note to tell you so.

I was brought up to be an anti-Zionist Jew, out in Colorado, even though Stephen S. Wise, seeming like God to me, installed the rabbi there, but I have seen the light. The leadership you are giving for sympathetic understanding of Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin, and of Israel's needs, and your courage in pinpointing disturbing attitudes these days in the White House and the State Department, is tremendously important.

No doubt some American Jews are diffident in these matters, but I believe the great majority of Jews support you. You of course know that both Herzl and Brandeis learned that the "ordinary" Jews, as distinct from so-called "big names," are the backbone of the Jewish community: it is so today also and you have become their strong voice.

Sincerely,


Harry Barnard

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler,
Chairman, Conference of Major
American Jewish Organizations,
515 Park Avenue,
New York, N. Y. 10022

HARRY BARNARD is recognized as an outstanding journalist and biographer of American political figures. His first biography was *EAGLE FORGOTTEN* (John P. Altgeld). Other published biographies by Mr. Barnard include *Rutherford B. Hayes and His America*, which was acclaimed in the *Saturday Review* as a landmark biography for its use of modern psychological insights, and *Independent Man: The Life of Senator James Couzens*, which the *New York Times* included in its list of "100 Best Books of the Year."

Mr. Barnard was chief editorial writer of the former *Chicago Times* and author of a nationally syndicated editorial page column, "Liberal at Large," which was sponsored by the *Chicago Daily News* and the *Des Moines Register Syndicate*. He began his newspaper career with the *Chicago Herald and Examiner*, where he served as rewrite man, travel editor, and assistant Sunday editor. He was also on the editorial staffs of the *Detroit Times* and the *Chicago Sun*.

His book reviews have appeared in the *Saturday Review*, *The Nation*, *Panorama* of the *Chicago Daily News*, *Book Week* of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. He has also contributed to such encyclopedias and reference works as *Encyclopedia Americana*, *The Dictionary of American Biography*, and *Encyclopedia Judaica*.

Mr. Barnard has the distinction of having his biographies of Altgeld and Hayes included in the collection of representative American books selected for the White House Library of President John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Barnard has been on the faculties of the University of Chicago, Roosevelt University, and Columbia College, Chicago. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago.

He is currently at work on a biography of the late Wendell Willkie, having just published *THE FORGING OF AN AMERICAN JEW, The Life and Times of Julian W. Mack*. See also *Who's Who*.

Harry Barnard
801 Lovergne Avenue
Wilmette, Ill. 60091

May 2, 1978

Rabbi Rav A. Soloff
Beth Sholom Congregation
700 Indiana Street
Johnstown, Penna. 15905

Dear Rav:

It was thoughtful of you to share with me the item by Cooley in the Christian Science Monitor. Many thanks.

I had no idea of the degree of isolation in Johnstown, although I must note the news of Navon's election did not get too much coverage in the general press here. It was covered extensively in the Anglo-Jewish press.

With warmest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Beth Sholom Congregation

700 Indiana Street
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15905

Rabbi Rav A. Soloff, Ph. D., D.D.

April 26, 1978

Dear Alex,

Did you see the report of Prince Fahed's
interview with Paris Match?

You know how isolated we are out
here? Not even readers of the New York Times,
daily, knew of President Gitzchak Navon's
election until I saw it in an old Christian
Science Monitor! One of my members had
picked it up in a Yiddish paper.

Chag Sameach.

Most cordially,
Rav

April 26, 1978

President Jimmy Carter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear President Carter,

With regard to the proposed sale of war planes to Saudi Arabia, I wish to remind you of the statement by Saudi Crown Prince Fahed saying an annual Saudi military expenditure of \$8 billion "aims at making the Saudi army capable to intervene wherever national duty would call". Prince Fahed made it clear that he was referring to the possibility of a devastating reaction against Israel. (Prince Fahed's interview with the Paris Magazine Paris Match is reported by John K. Cooley on page 12 of The Christian Science Monitor of Monday, April 24, 1978.)

This is no time for the United States to sell advanced war planes to Saudi Arabia. If the purposed sale of war planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia cannot be dealt with for each country separately on its merits I would urge that no sales be authorized at this moment.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Rav A. Soloff

RAS:blm

C
O
P
Y

Arab warnings to Israeli leadership multiply

By John K. Cooley

Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Athens

Latest United States efforts to reactivate Egypt-Israel peace talks are taking place amid rising militancy and impatience in Arab countries outside Egypt.

These have included a warning by Saudi Crown Prince Fahed that "war is the only alternative" if current peace efforts fail.

There also are signs of tension in the Persian Gulf oil-producing states, with a consequent diplomatic effort by King Hussein of Jordan to forge a new Arab alliance "to defend the sources of Arab oil" against either Israeli action or subversion by Arab radicals.

President Carter's Mideast envoy, Alfred Atherton, met April 23 with President Sadat in the Egyptian Red Sea port of Hurghada, Cairo Radio reported.

Mideast analysts believe Mr. Atherton explored with Mr. Sadat Egypt's minimum demands for reopening talks with Israel before President Carter meets Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin early next month.

Carter lead anticipated

Comment from Egypt and Israel indicates that both sides expect President Carter to make specific suggestions for breaking the deadlock then.

Saudi Crown Prince Fahed's reminder that the Arabs still have the war option if Israel continues to hold and settle occupied Arab territory came in an interview with the Paris magazine, Paris Match. If the present peace "opportunity" led nowhere, Prince Fahed said, "then a resulting [Arab] reaction against Israel might be devastating."

An annual Saudi military expenditure of \$8 billion "aims at making the Saudi Army capable to intervene wherever national duty would call." (In urging Congress to pass a package bill selling warplanes to Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, the U.S. administration is urging that the Saudi military machine is not geared to fight Israel).

"The intransigence of Mehachem Begin," Prince Fahed said, "is not in the interest of Israel or its allies. We, the Arabs, have always been lenient and Israel now has to choose between a just peace, which is what we want, and war."

Arab summit urged

Jordanian emissaries have been touring Arab capitals urging the convening of an Arab summit conference, including both President Sadat and his "rejectionists" Arab critics, to set up a unified Arab military command and to work out "a common strategy for the defense of the sources of oil."

In Beirut, Lebanon, meanwhile, Lebanese, Syrian, Saudi, and even Palestinian security agents are trying to track down a group calling itself "Arab Destiny." It has telephoned several newsmen to claim responsibility for an explosion at Saudi Arabia's big Abqaiq oil field April 15.

Four oil workers were killed and a large oil-gas separator plant destroyed. The Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) said the explosion was due to a leaking gas pipe.

Saudi, Iranian, Kuwaiti, and United Arab Emirates leaders have been holding meetings in various capitals to discuss coordination of efforts to protect oilfields. Kuwait introduced compulsory military service April 15.

A report released by the Arab Economic Unity Council in Cairo warns against the growing number of foreigners working in Arab oil states as a security risk.

May 2, 1978

Dr. Abraham Gootnick
105 Milburn Lane
Roslyn, N.Y. 11577

Dear Dr. Gootnick:

Thank you for your letter of April 23. I am grateful for your continued concern and for your sharing your thoughts with me. Unfortunately, my schedule is such that it is simply not possible for me to meet with the many who seek to discuss the Middle East situation with me personally. Time simply does not permit me to do so.

You ought to know, however, that some new programs have been set in motion and I continue to do all that I can to serve the cause of Israel, even as my colleagues in the Presidents' Conference continue to strive in behalf of Israel.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

ABRAHAM GOOTNICK, M.D., F.A.C.P.

~~MANHATTAN MEDICAL BUILDING~~
~~333 N. 5TH AVENUE~~
~~MANHATTAN~~
~~NEW YORK 10017~~

~~MANHATTAN MEDICAL BUILDING~~
~~333 N. 5TH AVENUE~~
~~MANHATTAN~~
~~NEW YORK 10017~~

April 23, 1978

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

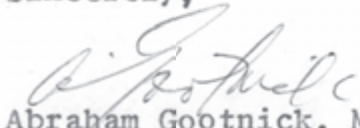
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Thank you for the acknowledgment of my letter. But I am greatly troubled that at this late hour, when a massive protest against the Carter policy may stave off the worst of what's coming, the question of using our major weapon is still "under consideration." We have not yet resorted to the open reminder of the political options open to millions of American Jews. What more can we possibly be waiting for? What more need the administration do to convince our Jewish leaders of its implacable intentions toward Israel? Surely our present passivity has done nothing but encourage our enemies to ever more open assaults on Israel. What more is there to lose?

Whom can we turn to for the mobilization and organization of our fight for the survival of Israel? In your present position, even if some of your colleagues are misguided or fearful, you alone could set in motion the mass demonstrations needed to convince Washington (the Congress even more than the White House) that there will be an unacceptable political price to pay for pushing Israel to the wall. The voice of our people would also serve to show up our intellectual defeatists for the insignificant splinter they are. I am sure you have read today's full-page advertisement in the Times over the signatures of Zumwalt, Keegan, Amory, Foley, and others. Can we ourselves do less, when it is almost too late?

Rabbi Schindler, we turn to you in this moment of terrible danger for our people. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to talk with you, and to share with you my sense of desperate urgency.

Sincerely,


Abraham Gootnick, M.D.
105 Milburn Lane
Roslyn, N.Y. 11577

AG:tm

April 24, 1978

Mr. Itshak E. Zeeter
Askan Zioni
Ramat Joseph (Bat Yam)
Henrietta Szold Street 17A
Israel

Dear Mr. Zeeter:

I have your recent letter and it is with regret that I must advise I am unable to be of assistance. Our organization simply does not have the resources to aid you in your plea. This I deeply regret.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

עמק חילוק

אלוהי שאל

רמת אלה 19/4/97

לכב'

אשר: זלזל פיקר

זה חלוצה עק יצא מנגדק אול' מ'ק עק/3/28 אל
א'ח'ע'ק ע'ס'ע'ע'.

בינ'ת ש'מ'ת עק א'ש'ע'ק ע'מ'ת א'ת ח'צ'ת
ש'ע'ק. א'ת מ'ת'ת ע'ק ע'ש'ע'ת א'ת א'ז'ע'ת מ'ק ע'ק 120!

ה'ב'ב'ה

א'ז'ה ע'א'י

(מ'ת'ע'ק ע'ק/א')

אישור על קבלת
בשנת הכספים 1977/78

קצבת זקנה

מהמוסד לבטוח לאומי
01/07/63

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יצחק זלצר

בת ים הנריטה סלד 21 5

סניף

31

ישוב

5000

מספר התיק

השולח: סניף המוסד לביטוח לאומי

4/171550-0-04-5

יפא רח. התקומה 30

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00		00	
סכום	תאריך	סכום	תאריך
00		00	
סכום	תאריך	סה"כ בהמחאות:	
00		₪00	

January 26, 1978

Mr. Paul Duling
61 Hillandale Road
Westport, CT. 06880

Dear Mr. Duling:

I have your letter of January 5 and I thank you for sharing your concerns. I am afraid I do not perceive the actions of our community as you do. Indeed, our perceptions are so far apart it would be difficult to carry on a meaningful dialogue by mail.

Suffice it to say only that our goal is to achieve peace in the Middle East. This above all is what we yearn for and work for and we will support any and every effort, whatever its source, which in our judgment truly works toward that goal. We resist only those forces which under the guise of seeking peace are merely trying to scuttle it.

Perhaps one day we will have an opportunity meet and discuss this matter personally.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

January 5 1978

President
Conference of Presidents
of Major American Jewish Organizations
New York NY

Dear Mr. President,

I must express myself on your work. For many years, I have worked with Jewish organizations and Jews and admire the scholarly way they have approached problems - seeking the truth, the facts.

My friends - not all, but some - have become so emotionally involved in the Zion-Israeli situation that they no longer look at the problems of the Middle East with the same detachment that I have come to admire them for.

In private and public meetings, they have become an embarrassment because of their lack of facts, usually quoting biased Jewish propaganda sources. At times, I have had to bail them out of situations that only would make them look uninformed or even foolish. Perhaps I have come to expect too much of Jews.

Your ads, press releases and actions, along with the Anti-Defamation groups are so obviously one-sided that they defame a good number of non-Jews, and distort their true stands.

Surely the present aim for peace did not originate with the Israelis. For 30 years they have created endless problems, most of their own making, most because of their insensitive attitudes and actions against the local people they have replaced.

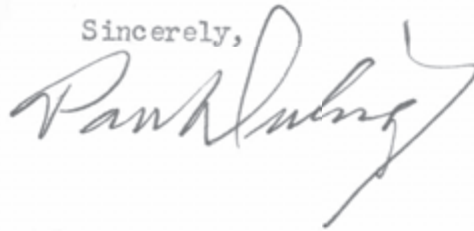
The Israelis' opposing UN peace keeping efforts over the years and creating new instances of problems is well recognized, and I have been appalled at such actions.

I appeal to you to turn the corner, change your tactics, take a new look at what you have done and are doing, to support President Carter and Sedat - to support Prime Minister Begin in efforts to back away from past war provoking actions and attitudes.

I have been really sorry to see what has been happening to the Jewish Cause, Jewish reputation, and Jewish influence for the past three decades. It has been a steady deterioration, and your organization and those with you have brought much of this about. Return to Jewish Principles - you can be a beacon to the rest of nations. Or, again, have I come to expect too much of Jews?

Paul Duling
61 Hillandale Rd
Westport, Ct 06880

Sincerely,



January 23, 1978

Mr. Robert K. Bucher
Route 3
Mechanicsburg, PA. 17055

Dear MR. Bucher:

Thank you for your letter of the 18th. Rabbi Schindler is out-of-the-city and your letter will be brought to his attention on his return. I am certain he will be grateful to you for sharing your concerns with him.

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

519/001915
Jan 18, 1978

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Pres.
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I believe the Jewish Community of the U.S.
should pressure the Administration to leave Israeli
boundaries where they are at present. It would
teach the Arabs to mind their own business.

Sincerely

Robert K. Bucher

GT 3

Mechanicsburg Pa 17055

December 15, 1977

Mr. Emanuel Schwartz
605 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

I am returning herewith your mailgrams to Ambassador Diniz^{It} and President Sadat.

That Israel's leaders take such a peace initiative seriously inclines me to do so also. There comes a time when you must muster the courage to take yes for an answer. This does not mean that you can relax all guards, but some risks for peace must be taken and I agree with Mr. Begin's policy fully.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.

Dear Rabbi

Please put in true
material enclosed
after reading them
Yours ES

December 27, 1977

Mr. Emanuel Schwartz
605 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

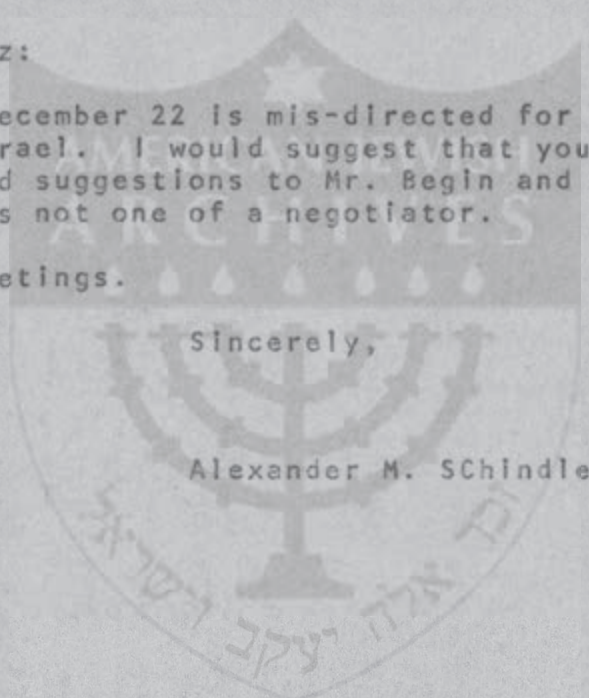
Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Your letter of December 22 is mis-directed for I do not negotiate for Israel. I would suggest that you express your concerns and suggestions to Mr. Begin and not to me for my role is not one of a negotiator.

With kindest greetings.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Please
reply
if possible

Please forward them
to my letter to Mr. Agranat & Mr. Dayan

12/21/77
Dear Robt. Alexander Schneider
Don't you think that Israel
is buying peace at a very
high price? you see the
moment you give the Arabs
a finger they want a hand
than the whole body
You would think the way
they lost that they would
the 1973 war and not
Israel - therefore negotiate
and try and get the best deal
Because Right now you are
gambling with the FUTURE
of Israel, So BELWARE
Sure Israel needs PEACE
desperately. But there is
such a thing called unlimited
& greedy demands.
I have no faith in Begin & Dayan

1/20/20



I am also a
Member of the
Herbert + Wm.
M. Boyer is our
President

Did Russia or
America ever give up
any kind of territory
they conquered? Why
should ISRAEL
mind you Israel did
not conquer anything
she just got back
what rightfully belonged
to her.

connected with
probably near
the present

Rubber Alexander tell
of to Mr. Carter &

Said at. If they don't know it. That assurance has Israel that 20 years from now the Palest. Jews may start a war & hoping to win because they will be 7-8 miles away from Israel. Paper

Ado Auer

10th October, 1977.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

Many thanks for your reply to my previous letter regarding the necessity of having the right of all Jews wishing to return to Israel confirmed should there be any tampering with the Resolutions 242 and 238 by inserting the phrase that the legitimate rights of the Palestinians must be respected; as also my very insistent feeling that the total mobilisation of the scientific and technical resources of the Jewish people is absolutely essential now in order to devise ways and means to break the Arab energy monopoly within the next five to ten years, before Arab financial power is used to strangle the state of Israel.

Now that it has become apparent that the United States is interested in breaking ~~the~~ the log-jam at any price, compromising their previous undertakings to Israel if necessary should they stand in the way of the American policy clearly enunciated in the June 1977 issue of the Reader's Digest-Resolve the Middle East Crisis-Now. The major point of the article was the dependence of the States on Arab oil for the foreseeable future as well as the fact that US aid is essential to keep Israel going. Not much training in logic is required to see that he who pays the piper calls the tune.

It now is becoming crystal clear that American Jewry will have to bear the increasing burden of keeping the State of Israel going to undercut the influence that the US must have should Israel keep on surviving by means of her hand-outs alone. So that what is now required as never before is a total and increasing commitment by American Jewry to rally to the support of Israel in such a way that she can retain her flexibility in dealing with all the very involved issues that are to be met soon at Geneva or elsewhere. It is here that influential leaders like yourself will have to use your influence with your congregants and supporters to regard the present situation as the greatest crisis the Jewish State has yet faced, and one in which only a total commitment to its increasing independence from foreign financial support will give it the strength to survive the

PAGE TWO.

new Arab onslaught on its ^{as}freedom, independence, security and financial stability. This onslaught is even disguised/a peace offensive, giving our enemies and lukewarm friends the chance to accuse us of sabotaging peace if we do not go along with their proposals that must ultimately lead us into bondage or should I say further bondage as it is clear that our dependence on US aid is just the beginning of the vassal even slave state we are going to become should we be unable to shake off the growing dependence on foreign aid. Even here in South Africa the Prime Minister keeps on saying that South Africa owes nobody any money and cannot be bought and does not ask the US for any hand-outs-it is clear that Israel has allowed herself to lose some of that precious independence we have all struggled so hard to achieve and the reason is simply that the Jewish people have had insufficient pride and self-reliance to rally to the support of Israel in a way that will make even our enemies realise that we mean business. I wish you all the success you need should you decide to lead such a movement to recover the lost independence of Israel. Should there eventually be interference with Jewish contributions to Israel from the US then I assume there will be a mass-immigration of Jews to Israel from America, for then the writing will truly be on the wall-we do not have to remain prisoners of the Diaspora for ever.

There is another, more involved point that I would like to raise. When the joint big power statement was made on the legitimate rights of the Palestinians it became clear to me that the Arabs regarded this as a victory for them as it gives them one more prop to refuse to accept the fact that the Jewish people have an inalienable right to the land of Israel by virtue of our intimate, prolonged and unwavering attachment to the land of Israel as reflected in our religious, national and cultural history. To accept this rather than that Israel is a plaything invented by UNO to assuage the sense of guilt of Europe over the 6 million dead, and thus not of

any consequence, has never been possible by the Arabs and therefore has inevitably given rise to the development of terrorist movements to eliminate the unwelcome intruder whom they never have and never will grant equal rights to freedom and independence, except on their own terms, which would make Israel their vassal at best or turn it into another ghetto at worst. This inability to accept Israel on equal terms, i.e. that she has equal rights to freedom and independence in the land of Israel as the Arabs have in the rest of the area is the crux of the Middle East problem and not the Pseudo-problem of the Palestinians, which never existed till, in desperation the Arabs fell back on this ploy to enable them to keep on denying the valid historical, religious and cultural ties that ~~xxx~~ gave Israel as much right to exist in the area as they themselves had.

I also note that Carter and his men seem very reluctant to acknowledge this inalienable right of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland for which so many of our people perished and so many sacrifices were made to rescue it from the semi-desert it had become, through neglect—clearly indicating that no people other than the Jewish people felt the intimate and unbreakable tie to the land of Israel. I think that the US is not willing to accept our inalienable rights as this will clearly lose them the Arab support they have, so that this particular point is far more important than is generally realised by us—of course the Arabs realise it very well and it is the cornerstone of their policy to deny this inalienable right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. Should there be any doubt on this point, I refer you to Perspectives on a Troubled Decade: Science, Philosophy and Religion, 1939-1949. A symposium published by Harper, New York—it was the Tenth Symposium and edited by Lyman Bryson, Louis Finkelstein and R.M. Maciver. Chapter Ten on Attempts at Self-Interpretation in Contemporary Islam, Section 2 clearly enunciates the total rejection by Arab intellectuals and their religious leaders of any rights that the Jewish people might have to the land of Israel. Arab policy has been totally consistent on this point both before and since those statements

were made. Thus we can expect demands by the Arabs, such as return of the Palestinians to their homes rather ^{than} to ~~ex~~ accept the realities of the population exchange, in order to further trample underfoot our rights to the land of Israel—in addition we can expect attempts to limit immigration to Israel, thereby further limiting our freedom and independence and other efforts to sabotage our inalienable rights to the land of Israel. We can make certain compromises for the sake of peace, but never can we compromise on the fact of our inalienable right to the land of Israel—to do so would be to deny all our history, culture and national rights and would be tantamount to committing national suicide. This is well recognised by the Arabs who are attempting to achieve this state by denying us our inalienable rights through the ~~misuse~~ use of the PLO as the aggrieved party who have to be compensated for the violation of their rights at the expense of Israel to the point where it totally denies the Jewish people their own far deeper, far longer and far more legitimate rights to the land of Israel than any contender, in particular the PLO whose nationalism is a true reflection of the whole Arab world's total inability to accept that the Jewish people have certain inalienable rights to the land of Israel that must be respected in any settlement—without which recognition there can never be peace. The above issue was clearly highlighted recently in the General Assembly when one delegate made this point that Israel owed its existence to UNO, thus giving UNO the right to tamper with it in any way it ~~saw~~ saw fit, possibly even to de-establish it. The Israeli delegate made the correct response in that these and other resolutions merely affirmed the inalienable rights of the Jewish people to the land of Israel, but it is so rarely that this point is made that it has largely been ignored. Let President Carter not put his political future on the line for the sake of Israel—we do not need his sacrifices to ensure our existence—but only his recognition of our inalienable rights to the land of Israel, come what may. If he chooses not to give this recognition, it is not the end of the road for us, only the end of a false friendship that we are better off without.

May the leaders of the Jewish people not throw away our ancient and G-d given rights because they believe that we cannot survive without being propped up artificially by others who only grudgingly, if at all, can grant us the right to exist—a right that we have struggled to establish for ourselves through the ages of persecution and that we seem to have in our grasp if only we can weather the storm that is now raging around us and will continue to do so for some time yet, till the rest of the world is convinced we can stand up for our rights no matter what is thrown against ^{us} in the struggle to try and mould us in the image that will suit others, but will spell the end of Jewish history and its significance for us and the world. In this struggle, I wish you God-speed.

Yours sincerely,

F. J. Lichtigfeld
Lichtigfeld, F. J., B.Sc., M.B.B.Ch., F.F.Psych. (S.A.)

84 Second Road, Kew,
Johannesburg, South Africa.



November 11, 1977

Professor Emile Benoit
Elka Park, N.Y. 12427

Dear Professor Benoit:

Thank you for your note of November 2 and for sharing your sentiments with me. I am grateful for the candor and the expression of your views.

Thank you, too, for your gracious contribution. I assure you your name will not appear in our list of contributors, in accordance with your request you will remain anonymous.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman

EMILE BENOIT

Professor Emile Benoit
Elka Park, N. Y. 12427
(518) 589-5318

November 2

Gentlemen:

I am a member of the Society of Friends. I am deeply convinced that terrorist organizations like the PLO should be outlawed, and should not be rewarded for their terroristic activities by being allowed to play a role in diplomatic decisions.

It is my belief that an organization should be formed, which is interdenominational, and can not be discounted as merely representing Jewish self-interest, and which seeks to abolish terrorism, and to oppose all demands of terroristic organizations. I think you would attract a good deal of support that way which is not necessarily pro-Jewish. I for example have always been anti-Zionist, but I am much more anti-terrorist.

I regret that as a retired person, I can make only a nominal contribution, and I would prefer not to be on your list of contributors.

Sincerely yours,

From the desk of

YEHUDA HELLMAN

Do you want to answer?
AR 7

515 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.

November 11, 1977

Samuel E. Seigel, Esq.
225 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10007

Dear Mr. Seigel:

Many thanks for your gracious contribution to the Presidents' Conference. We are grateful for your support.

The Presidents' Conference works with representatives of the many member-organizations and they, in turn, provide program ideas and projects for their individual constituencies. We are delighted to have your offer of assistance and suggest that you step up your efforts in behalf of Klal Yisroel in your organizational work or synagogue projects.

With repeated thanks and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

cc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman

SAMUEL E. SEIGEL

Attorney and Counsellor at Law

BARCLAY 7-7066

225 ~~253~~ BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

November 2, 1977

Conference of Presidents
Major American Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022

Att: Rabbi Schindler.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Enclosed herewith please find my check and
coupon concerning the PLO.

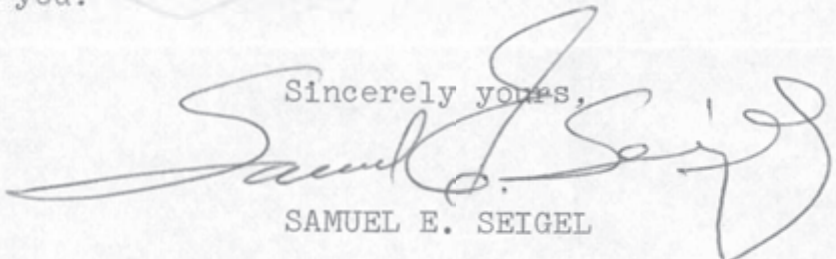
As a resident and community worker in Nassau
County for the past 25 years, I would like very much to
lend my efforts on behalf of Israel and the American
Jewish Community.

Please contact me either at my home or office
since I would like very much to lend whatever time and
work in this vital problem.

I shall expect to hear from you at your earl-
iest.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



SAMUEL E. SEIGEL

SES:es
enc.

540 Conway Road,
Elmont, N.Y. 11003
516/PR 5/5191

October 6, 1977

Dr. I. Graeber
Professor of Social Science
Yeshiva University
500 West 185th Street
New York, New York 10033

Dear Dr. Graeber:

Thank you for your words of advice. Let me assure you that I am doing and will do everything in my power to assure the security and survival of the State of Israel. I certainly want to make certain that we will not commit the sin of silence a second time in our generation.

I only hope that the Hashem Yisborach Shemo will give me the strength required for the task.

Your good wishes for the New Year are fully reciprocated.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

cc: Yehuda Hellman

YESHIVA COLLEGE



YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

500 West 185th Street / New York, N.Y. 10033 / (212) 568-8400

~~Mon~~ October 3, 1977

My dear Rabbi Schneider,

Time and events demand that you put on the mantle of A. H. Silver and Wise and Company to mobilize American Jewry to vigorously and openly protest the appeasement policies of Carter and his ruling clique of Arab and Soviet appeasers; ironically, each for dissimilar reasons and stratagems, but just so as Bile Israel in the process.

Nothing short of demanding Carter's recall who was elected on false promises and pretenses will save Israel and the Jews.

I also call upon you to demand the resignation of Cisrostak and Lipschutz, behind whom Carter and his ruling clique disguise their anti-Israel, anti-Jewish policies - as did

Roosevelt in the early forties, when his counsel was none other than the president of the Bureau of Jewish Education in New York. Read the advice of this "gentleman" who urged Roosevelt to expel Wise from the White House. Read the record of State who lied to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver.

State diplomacy will not do.

Jewish scholars and academics have long been kept at arms length from the Jewish scene. We have foreseen the alignment of U.S. with the Soviet tyranny vis-a-vis Israel and the Jews. We have in fact warned them against such alignment against Israel and the Jews.

Take a page from the blacks who are getting a bigger size of the American pie than they expected - the insulation of the quota system an importation from Europe at the expense of the Jews. Don't let the Shepkins and the Fischers others who wear the crowns of King of the Jews at such low price - . . .

With all my very best for a Happy new year

JN/c 1/51

(Dr) J. Fraebs Professor of Social Science. Formerly consultant to David Katz and Dr. Theodore Adams of SCS.

October 10, 1977

Rabbi Amiel Wohl
Temple Israel
1000 Pinebrook Boulevard
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804

Dear Amiel:

This is to advise that I am sharing your letter of October 5 and the pamphlet enclosed therein with Yehuda Hellman. As the professional for the Presidents' Conference, the distribution of materials to our constituency comes under his purview. Thus, I would ask that you have Mr. Zweiboh discuss the matter directly with Yehuda.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Yehuda Hellman

Statement by Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman, Presidents' Conference - October 5, 1977.....

We are deeply gratified that our country and Israel have apparently settled their differences over the conditions for resuming the Geneva Peace Conference. That Conference can only succeed if it is based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and if it concludes with the signing of formal peace treaties that lead to the establishment of diplomatic, trade and cultural relations between Israel and the Arab States. There can be no peace in the Middle East if the so-called Palestine Liberation Organization is granted the status of party to the negotiations and if those negotiations become embroiled in dispute over an independent Palestinian State on the West Bank. Any such Palestinian State would destroy the chances for peace in the Middle East by providing a base for Soviet penetration and for terrorist incursions against both Israel and Jordan.

America has a vital stake in the security of Israel and in the peace and stability of the Middle East. The reported agreement by the President and the Foreign Minister of Israel on how that peace is to be negotiated is an encouraging and gratifying development which we welcome and support.



September 23, 1977

Ms. Jane Rosen
The Manchester Guardian
425 E. 58th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

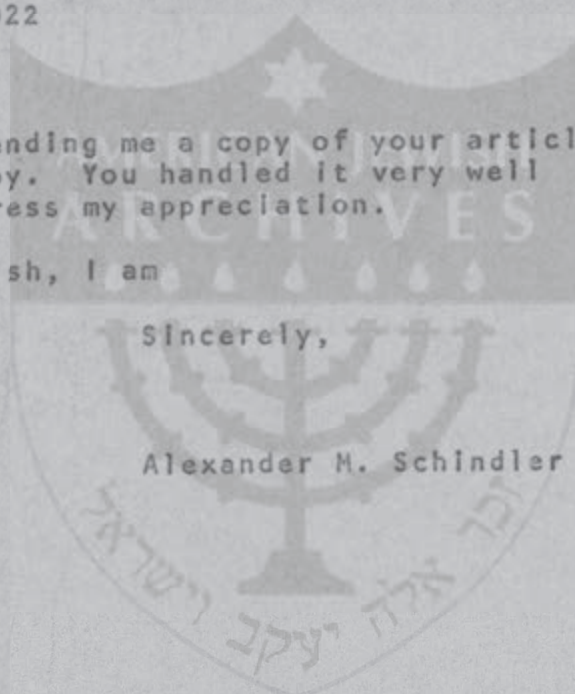
Dear Ms. Rosen:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your article
on the Jewish lobby. You handled it very well
and I want to express my appreciation.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

~~20 EAST 53RD STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022 • MURRAY HILL 8-1330~~

425 E. 58

421-3790

Dear Robb' Schneider,

You asked me to
send you my pieces on
the Jewish lobby when
they appeared in the
Guardian. Here they are
(over) M.

weel done

- I hope you Thinks
they're fair & accurate,
It's a fairly subject, &
I'm grateful for the
information you gave
me.

Gene Rosen

September 19, 1977

Mr. Arthur Rabin
146 Webb Avenue
River Edge, N.J. 07661

Dear MR. Rabin:

Many thanks for your letter of September 7. I appreciate your having taken the time to share with me your thoughts and suggestions in regard to the security of Israel.

With every good wish for the New Year and with kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Arthur Rabin
146 Webb Avenue
River Edge, New Jersey
07661

September 7, 1977

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Although there may be cogent arguments against integrating districts heavily populated by Arabs into the Jewish State, it is obvious that for its future security Israel will need to permanently maintain a substantial, effective physical presence there. We can already see, however, the promotion of a "solution" envisaging no more than electronic devices and guarantees.

In this situation merely referring to Munich might be enough for people who were adults during that time. But it is just a name to most of those who were not even born until years later. Therefore I ask that the Presidents Conference, perhaps in cooperation with the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East, the American Jewish Students Network and the Hillel Foundations, encourage and sponsor nationwide research into the period. Detail by detail the parallels to the current developing situation will startle and alarm even you if you haven't reviewed them recently.

I realize that there are factors present today which were not present in 1938 and that history never exactly repeats but often takes unpredictable turns. However, there is enough similarity here to hopefully awaken a public and a Congress apparently willing to slip into the same pattern behind the leadership of a well-intentioned Administration.

A researcher will find that, contrary to what most people believe, British Prime Minister Chamberlain was neither weak nor evil. He was strong and obstinate, dismissing opposition

warnings. He adopted a policy that he was sincerely convinced would serve Britain's long range interests, settle a dangerous dispute and guarantee peace.

A student who researches the summer of 1938 will learn that the British government basically

- viewed the Sudeten German nationalist leader, Konrad Henlein, as a (compared to Hitler) relative moderate with whom the Czechs should deal;
- saw much justice in Henlein's demands for the "rights of the Sudeten Germans";
- did not realize that Henlein was operating under Hitler's personal direction;
- began to view Czechoslovakia's borders as an unfortunate mistake;
- considered Czechoslovakia's Benes government obstinate, "unrealistic," "intransigent," annoying and standing in the way of peace;
- downgraded the validity of Czech insistence on keeping its excellent army entrenched on its strong Sudeten mountain defense line;
- had as its main aim the keeping of the Soviet Union out of the area;
- felt that carrying out the commitments to Czechoslovakia would no longer serve Allied interests;
- carried on negotiations with the Germans behind Czechoslovakia's back;
- claimed that giving up Sudetenland would actually better serve Czechoslovakia's own long range interests and existence.

Along with the many events and details that point up the above, the researcher will see that the dislodging of the big Czech army from its mountain fortifications not only left that country indefensible and demoralized but strengthened the Nazi regime both strategically and militarily and gave that regime much more confidence and prestige.

The following year the remnant of Czechoslovakia was swept away. Its other two enemies (it was literally surrounded by enemies), Poland and Hungary, grabbed chunks before they themselves were later overrun. Freed of a major concern on its southern flank and convinced of Allied weakness, Germany next struck at Poland. World War II began less than a year after Britain and France finally accepted the Nazi version of the rights of the Sudeten Germans.

I am not writing this to teach you history with which you are already familiar. I want to point out that actual study of this period would be an effective object lesson for viewing current events.

Therefore I suggest that a drive to emphasize the study of 1938-39 begin on college, and even high school, campuses as we go into the 40th anniversary year of Munich. Each campus should try to function as a radial awareness center for the surrounding communities and media. ✓

An appropriate committee activated by the Presidents Conference should begin as soon as possible to

- contact receptive history department chairmen, teachers and school newspapers to ask that they focus on this period;
- distribute recommended reading lists and extracts; (Reprints of pertinent sections of the September and October 1938 issues of Time Magazine alone would be instructive; mixed in with the coverage of the Czech-German crisis are graphic items about the plight of the stateless Jews fleeing the Nazis and finding most doors closed to them);
- have Hillel and other student groups set up displays, seminars and lectures commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Munich disaster;
- seek out Czech-American groups to jointly publicize any memorial activities they may be planning;
- search for records of voices and for film strips relating to the Munich sell-out and its ultimate result. For example, Chamberlain defending his policy in Parliament after the March 1939 occupation of Prague is on a record entitled "Into the Storm - 1939" put out by CMS Records, 14 Warren Street, New York, N.Y. 1007.

Possibly recordings exist of talks by Churchill, Roosevelt, Eisenhower and/or others commenting upon the events preceding and following the Munich Pact. Segments should be assembled on tape for distribution. Where only writings are available perhaps well known actors or renowned historians and philosophers could read them onto tapes.

Naturally the point, expressed or implied, should be the parallels between

- the deceptive western public relations images of Hitler and Henlein and those of Assad, Arafat and others regarding their desire for peace;
- the agitation, sometimes violent, for the "rights" of the Sudeten Germans and those of the Palestinian Arabs;

- the gross exaggeration in propaganda of the disabilities of these two ethnic minorities;
- the continuation of the instigated agitation even after the Czech government granted all prior Sudeten demands and the already pledged renewal of "the anti-Zionist struggle" by the PLO when it gains freedom of action in a "Palestine entity;"
- the German armed and subsidized military and terrorist arms of the Sudeten German Nazis operating primarily from across Czechoslovakia's northern border and the Arab armed and subsidized PLA and terrorist groups operating across Israel's northern border;
- the value of the guarantees and commitments given to the Czechs both before and after Munich and those already given to Israel after every cease-fire since 1948;
- the proven need of Czechoslovakia for its Sudeten mountain defense line and of Israel for the Golan Heights and the Judean and Samarian mountains;
- both countries surrounded by enemies wishing to dismember them;
- the criticism of both countries for being unrealistic, intransigent and unmindful of the rights of the Germans/Arabs within their borders;
- the propaganda ploy of Hitler and Henlein in emphasizing a fraudulent Sudeten goal of self-rule to cover their true aim of absorption of the territory and its people by Greater Germany and the already known desire of Arab countries such as Syria and Iraq and of major elements of the PLO to incorporate Palestine into a Greater Syria or similar united Arab nation;
- the British and French reassessments of their commitments to Czechoslovakia in the light of newer interests and out of fear of war with Germany and the present U.S. wavering because of its dependence on Saudi Arabia and fear of Soviet intervention;
- the "good intentions" toward Czechoslovakia with the promise of "lasting peace" for acceptance of the pact and the same in relation to Israel;
- the theory that the guarantees and massive loans would be of greater importance to ultimate security than geography for Czechoslovakia and for Israel;
- the actual plans of Germany and of the Arabs for their victims as opposed to their pronouncements to western newsmen.

Students in every locality should be put to work researching the morgues of area newspapers and magazines to cull their editorials

of 1938 and 1939, particularly the summer of 1938. Did they support a version of evenhandedness then? Did they also portray Hitler as just another nationalist leader or even as a statesman with "valid arguments?" Did they support the "avoidance of war" by the "recognition of the rights of the Sudeten Germans" and criticize Czech government "intransigence" and "hard-liners?"

Photocopies of such editorials could be made part of displays alongside similar current attitudes toward Assad, Sadat, Arafat, the PLO, et al. vis-a-vis the Israelis. The horror which began in September 1939 as a result of September 1938 should of course be the climax of each display and program.

On the other hand, papers which opposed the sell-out of Czechoslovakia then and are supporting Israel's position now should be publicly complimented on their clearsighted consistency.

Incidentally, it is a bit jarring to find that right after the Munich Pact the "intransigent" Czech President Benes and his prime minister, Hodza, resigned and turned the reins of government over to a one-eyed general, Jan Syrový, who was the hero of the Czech Legion of twenty years before. General Syrový had been mobilizing the Czech army and people for resistance but by then he realized that it would be futile and instead undertook the implementation of the terms of the Pact and the rebuilding of the now truncated country.

Again, I fully realize that history does not repeat itself in every detail and that elements can and do enter into a situation to change its course. And I certainly do not want to see the 1938/39 course of history repeat. That is why we must set about now to do the changing.

After the Yom Kippur War it was estimated that the Arab states would need about five years to rearm and retrain for the next round of war. It may be only coincidental that both disengagement agreements are scheduled to end at about that time. In any case, the buildup of political, economic and psychological pressure is clearly developing. By next summer it will be extremely intense. Let us not wait until then to counter it.

You and your staff can probably think of more facets and applications of the above recommendations. They may also be drawbacks and difficulties which I overlooked. But I hope that you will consider

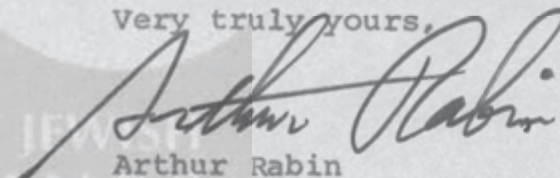
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them at your next planning session.

I apologize for the length of this letter and appreciate your taking the time to read it.

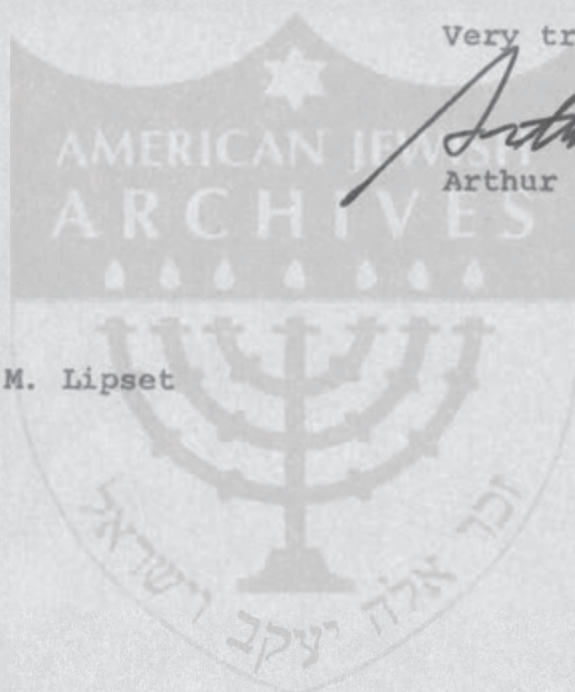
Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur Rabin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Arthur" and last name "Rabin" clearly distinguishable.

Arthur Rabin

cc Prof. Seymour M. Lipset



From ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA (15th Edition - 1977), Volume 2, Page 1196:

"(Czech) Prime Minister Hodza devoted all his talents to a search for a compromise that would satisfy the Sudeten Germans and held long conferences with (Sudeten German leader) Henlein's lieutenants...Henlein played his hand so skillfully that the influential circles, especially in London, believed that he was a free agent and not Hitler's stooge. The advocates of 'appeasement,' then rapidly gaining ground in Great Britain and in France, failed to realize that the Sudeten German negotiators had no intention of compromise and acted on instructions from Berlin. The main task of Henlein's party was to give Hitler a better chance to dislocate the republic without recourse to war...

"Although presented as a measure to make Czechoslovakia more homogeneous and viable the (Munich) pact and its ruthless implementation sealed the fate of the country."

* * * *

From THE GATHERING STORM by Winston S. Churchill (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1948), Book I, Chapter 17, Pages 299-303:

"...the Czech leaders could not believe...that at the very moment when for the first time they had the internal situation in the Sudeten areas in hand, the British Prime Minister (Chamberlain) should himself pay a direct visit to Hitler. This they felt would weaken their position with Germany...

"Both the Prime Minister and Lord Runciman (the British envoy previously sent to mediate between the Czechs and Germans) were convinced that only the cession of the Sudeten areas to Germany would dissuade Hitler from ordering the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Mr. Chamberlain had been strongly impressed at his meeting with Hitler 'that the latter was in a fighting mood.' ...Some ministers found consolation in such phrases as 'the rights of self-determination,' 'the claims of a national minority to just treatment'; and even the mood appeared of 'championing the small man against the Czech bully.'

"The French ministers brought with them a set of draft proposals which...favoured an outright cession of the Sudetenland to Germany. They added, however, that the British Government with France, and with Russia, whom they had not consulted, should guarantee the new frontiers of the mutilated Czechoslovakia...

"I have always believed that (Czech President) Benes was wrong to yield. He should have defended his fortress line (in the Sudeten Mountains)."

(From Winston Churchill's statement to the press on Sept. 21, 1938):

"The partition of Czechoslovakia under pressure from England and France amounts to the complete surrender of the Western Democracies to the Nazi threat of force. Such a collapse will bring peace or security neither to England nor to France. On the contrary, it will place these two nations in an ever-weaker and more dangerous situation...It is not Czechoslovakia alone which is menaced, but also the freedom and democracy of all nations. The belief that security can be obtained by throwing a small state to the wolves is a fatal delusion..."

* * * *

September 14, 1977

Mr. Shepherd Lipa
323 Narrow Lane
Orange, Conn. 06477

Dear Mr. Lipa:

Your letter of August 25th has just reached me and I hasten to reply. While I appreciate your letter and its sarcasm, it should properly have been directed to the person who was responsible for the admonition. As it happens I was not at the particular session of the CCAR Conference for I was in Washington giving direct and public expression to my views.

I counsel you to find out who is guilty before your condemn. This counsel, too, is worthy of the "great teachers of our time."

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

323 Narrow Lane
Orange, Conn. 06477
August 25, 1977

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

We now have a new expression of wisdom and morality to add to the Pirkei Avot: "Don't voice such thoughts, even to yourself, even if they are right". It has a fine ring to it, worthy of being included with the wisdom of the elders.

Since this statement is not ascribed to anyone by name, and since it accurately describes your attitude and actions, why don't you adopt it as your own. Just think, your name can be recorded alongside those of Hillel and the other great teachers of our past.

Very truly yours,


Shepherd Lippa

SH/k1

KATZ IN 'THE MOUNTAINS'

GROSSINGER, N.Y. Shmuel Katz was on his 11th visit to America but his first to that state of mind, rather than nature, known as "the Mountains." As the car from the Israeli Consulate passed the billboards on Route 17, his eye fell on one that wasn't pressing an invitation to gluttony. "Keep Israel Strong," it urged. Enemy territory, "the Mountains" weren't.

Katz was on a mission, as he had been on his first American visit back in 1948, the month before Israel came into existence as an independent state. Then he was trying to buy arms for the Irgun, the force of Jewish irregulars in Palestine who were commonly described in those days as terrorists. That very month, April 1948, they were being condemned—not only by the Arabs, British and Red Cross but by David Ben-Gurion and the chief rabbi—for the destruction of a village called Deir Yassin, where 250 Arabs, women and children included, were killed in an Irgun assault. Katz, an expatriated South African, was a member of the Irgun high command.

Half a lifetime later, he was again an emissary from Menahem Begin, the dominant figure in the Irgun, and now unexpectedly, Israel's Prime Minister.

Katz's mission was to ease American misgivings—in particular, American Jewish misgivings—which had been aroused by journalistic excavations from Begin's underground past as well as by the prospect of a diplomatic clash between the new Administration in Washington and the newer administration in Jerusalem. Since the Six-Day War in 1967, the word "terrorist" has again been part of the usage and gruesome experience of the Middle East but, until the Israeli election, the term was applied exclusively to Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Sticking it on an Israeli Prime Minister seemed to imply a rough moral equation that Katz—a man of scholarly mien and diction who, like Begin, never personally used a gun—had now to refute.

There was a time when the epithet "terrorist" didn't bother the Irgun veteran. Then it had romantic associations to East European movements of the 19th century. Katz's wife wrote a memoir entitled "The Lady Was a Terrorist." ("We thought that was rather piquant," he said.) But the epithet no longer flatters, not with the P.L.O. and the indiscriminate hostage taking and killing of civilians that has made terrorism an evermore sickening phenomenon. Shmuel Katz was ready to defend the Irgun with passion and pride. When I asked whether it wasn't a fact that it retaliated against Arab civilians at a time of random violence against Jews in the 30's, he replied tartly: "Not enough." But he wasn't here to justify the past. He was here to present Menahem Begin as a man of humane principle and reason, to demand for him the same unswerving support that Israeli leaders have been accustomed to receive from American Jews. The most effective way, therefore, to deal with the idea that Begin had been a terrorist was to denounce those who purveyed it.

At Grossinger's, a roadside cruise ship, Katz faced an audience of Reform rabbis who were eager as a group to be rallied and reassured but who were torn and troubled as individuals. In private, the rabbis agonized over fundamental questions in the relations of American Jews to Israel. Could they influence Israeli policy if they thought it unrealistic or dangerous? Or, since the dangers had to be borne by Israelis, should they even try? If they tried and failed, was



Shmuel Katz, right, with Israel's Chief Rabbi Schlomo Goren at a Salute to Israel parade in New York.

it permissible to discuss their doubts openly? Or were those who did so putting themselves in league with the P.L.O.?

pressing for a bargain that would end Israeli occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan River—where the population is 99.7 percent Arab—and Menahem Begin proclaiming the West Bank to be "liberated" Israeli territory, the questions are being asked by American Jews with an urgency they haven't had for 20 years. The desire to shield and preserve Israel from outside pressure is as strong as ever, but it conflicts with the fear that intransigence could prove as inept and indefensible a policy for Israelis as it has been, all these years, for Arabs; that the time to acknowledge the existence of the claim of Palestine Arabs is at hand, or overdue. One troubled rabbi quoted scripture: "You know the heart of a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

That wasn't Shmuel Katz's text, however. Facing the rabbis, he expressed a gentlemanly revulsion over characterizations in the American press of Begin as a former terrorist—"lurid attacks" he called them. The claims of Palestine Arabs were "a hoax," he said; the Carter Administration's emerging proposals, "recipes for war." It was a hard-line speech, but it didn't rule out territorial concessions—didn't really sound so different from what the rabbis were used to hearing from Israeli spokesmen—so most of them were able to leave with the thought that maybe nothing much had changed. The possibility that they might be shifting to a harder line themselves in order to find some accommodation with the new Israeli reality was not, for the moment, acknowledged.

Katz was pleased, even amused, by the failure of rabbis of dovish views to challenge his positions directly. "I was told I would have a rough time with them," he said. "But, you see, they're just weak." By this time, he was at a kosher hostelry in Fallsburgh, preparing to address a gathering of Orthodox rabbis among whom no doves were likely to appear. And, indeed, he was met with applause when he declared: "We are confident that the Jewish community in America will stand out courageously and challenge its Government if it becomes necessary."

But the question remained—who would decide when it became necessary, Israel or the American Jews? The next morning, in the rear acreage of Grossinger's vast dining room, a group of rabbis listened intently as a visiting scholar voiced thoughts that had been unspoken, that Shmuel Katz would consider unspeakable. His emotional conflict was obvious, but his points were bluntly made: that American Jews had a responsibility to assess for themselves Menahem Begin's past and present views as well as the Carter proposals and that "after 29 years of yes-manship," they were failing to do so. He himself, the scholar said, believed the Carter approach to be reasonable, and that American Jews had to find a way to say this to the Israelis. However, he wasn't prepared to say it publicly, not yet. A senior rabbi then rose to rebuke him gently for voicing such thoughts even in private, even if he was right.

Shmuel Katz's assessment had evidently been accurate: that the misgivings of American Jews would not soon amount to much, that those who could not support Israeli positions would mostly keep their doubts to themselves, counting on Menahem Begin to resolve them. The appearance, if not the reality, would still be a near-solid support.

Thus some Jews who six months ago would have shuddered at the thought of Menahem Begin as Israel's Prime Minister will welcome him to America next week in the hope that he'll break the impasse with the Arabs the way de Gaulle did in Algeria. Like Nixon in his opening to China, they are saying, he enjoys a freedom of action his more moderate predecessors lacked. I tried that line on his emissary. "I know," Shmuel Katz replied sarcastically, "de Gaulle made peace in Algeria, Nixon went to China, so Begin is the man to commit suicide—he'll give the country away. Never!"

"Never" is also when the Arabs will accept Israel. The flimsy hope is that these "nevers" can begin to cancel out, but that hope begs numberless questions: among them, whether Menahem Begin, in a lifetime's devotion to militant principle, has allowed himself any vision of peace. Those supporters of Israel who ask that question are more worried than they admit, for they have no answer. ■

September 8, 1977

Mrs. Liba Weingarten
Schmuel Hanavi Street
Block 107/56
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mrs. Weingarten:

Thank you for your kind comments about my activities in behalf of Israel. It was thoughtful of you to write.

While I do not fully share Prime Minister Begin's convictions and therefore your concurrence with them, I do believe him to be a patriot, fully devoted to serving not just the State but the people everywhere and moved only by the desire to secure the safety of the Jewish people.

In answer to your specific question, I would agree that a German translation of his book would be desirable. The writings of any head of a state ought to be examined, although to be sure this particular book records his thoughts and deeds in the early struggle for the establishment of the State of Israel and its consolidation. One would imagine that such a work, therefore, would find its readership in Germany.

With warm good wishes for the New Year, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

for
RbL

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Religious School Principal
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
LILLIAN A. BEAUVAIS, B.J.Ed., B.Sc.Ed.

August
24th
1977

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

Dear Alex:

My apologies for having opened the enclosed by mistake. I didn't realize until after starting to read it that it was actually addressed to you.

I don't know Mrs. Weingarten personally but through the years have received a number of very long, Orthodox-oriented letters from her. Do what you wish with the enclosed.

Needless to say, along with this come my affectionate best wishes to Rhea, the kids and yourself for a wonderful new year, one in which I hope you will be able to achieve some personal relaxation and pleasure along with the incomparable contribution you are making almost daily to the security of Israel and the welfare of Jews everywhere.

I hope to see you soon and often!

As always,



Rabbi Roland B. Gittelson

/b

cc - e RBB

Mrs. Liba Weingarten

née Löbel

Attorney at Law

Vice President

The Jewish Nazi Victims Congreg. Inc.

Jerusalem

Schmuel Hanavi St. Block 107/56

(New York)

Jerusalem, den 10. August 1977

7 * 7

Herrn Rabbiner Dr. Alexander Schindler
c/o Rabbi Ronald B. Gittelsohn
Temple Israel
Boston, Mass. 02215, U.S.A.

Sehr geehrten Herr Rabbiner!

Ich habe mit Interesse Ihre
ausgezeichnete Arbeit zugunsten Men-
chem Begins verfolgt. G.s.B. hat
er es ja jetzt geschafft und ist
endlich Ministerpräsident geworden.
Auch wir haben diesen Mann
seit Jahren unterstützt, eben weil er
ein glänzender Patriot ist.

Gerade als Kaniopfer, denen die
Deutschen liebe Verwandte in
Auschwitz vergast haben, wissen
wir das Jüdische Vaterland
zu schützen.

Natürlich hat MB recht, wenn er
behauptet, daß ganz Eretz Israel
den Juden gehört, denn dieses
Land wurde uns doch vom Ewigen
verheissen, nicht wahr!?

Allerdings fehlt noch die grosse
Hijah aus den U.S.A., wo noch
immer ca 6 Millionen Juden sitzen.
Das State Department sagte ja
ausdrücklich: "billions of Arabs
are living in the Westbank and
in the Δ 10 years since the 6

Say that only a few thousand Jews
settled there. "4"

Was können wir von den Nicht-
juden verlangen, wenn die Mehr-
zahl unseres Volkes noch immer
in der Diaspora lebt!

Ind. sende ich Ihnen 2 Durchschläge
von Briefen, welche sich auf
die "Revolt" beziehen. Vor Jahren
wollte niemand etwas von einer
deutschen Übersetzung ~~etwas~~ wissen,
(auch Benahem Begin nicht, den
ich viele Male persönlich getroffen
habe),
aber jetzt meldet sich jeder.

Da auch Sie ein amerikani-
scher "Jede" sind, wollte ich gerne
von Ihnen hören, ob Sie

auch eine Übersetzung des
Buches für nützlich halten?

Ich danke für baldige Rückantwort
und wünsche Ihnen inzwischen
alles Gute.

(Mrs.) Hiba Ringarten, Attorney at Law
(M) (geb. Löbel)
Jerusalem, Israel
Behor Schmel Hanavi
Block 107/56

2 Anlagen