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Mexico, 1976-1977.

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Miguel Guajardo B.

November 1, 1976

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

Dear Mr. Schindler:

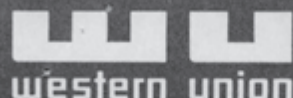
As the result of the elections held on July 4 of this year, Mr. Jose Lopez Portillo will be inaugurated as President of the United States of Mexico on December 1, 1976 in Mexico City.

President-elect Lopez Portillo, aware of your friendship and interest in our country, has asked me to extend to you his cordial invitation to this ceremony and to the other public functions celebrating his inauguration, confident that this occasion will serve to strengthen these ties even further.

Please let me know if you will attend, so that we can send you the corresponding program. Also, please advise if you will be accompanied by a member of your family, in order that we may make the necessary arrangements.

We look forward to hearing from you and to the opportunity of being with you on that occasion.





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Telegram

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MEXICO DF 75/73 8 2105

MR RABINO SCHINDLER

515 PARK AVE NEWYORK CITY NY

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRANSMISSION OF THE EXECUTIVE

POWER AND KNOWING YOUR INTEREST IN MEXICO MR JOSE

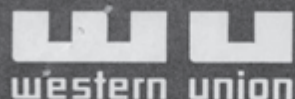
LOPEZ PORTILLO PRESIDENT ELLECT OF MEXICO HAS INSTRUCTED

ME TO INVITE YOU TO THIS SIGNIFICATIVE EVENT THE 1ST OF

DECEMBER EXPECTING YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE METIONED

CEREMONY I WILL AWAIT YOUR REPLY BEFORE THE 15TH OF





Telegram

NOVEMBER OUR TELEX NUMBERS ARE 017-9973 AND 017-9974
LIC GUSTAO CARVAJAL PRIVATE SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENT
ELECT OF MEXICO
COL 017-9973 017-9974
NNN
NNNN



AS8708-5

September 23, 1976

Mr. S. Lack
6867 Wynnwood Drive
Houston, Texas 77008

Dear Mr. Lack:

Al Vorspan has told me of his conversation with you and your concern regarding the relationship between the American Jewish community and the government of Mexico. I was pleased to learn of your interest and your desire to share some of your thoughts as to a process which might lead to amelioration of the problem.

I believe when Al spoke with you he indicated that we are quite hopeful that there will be a change in the relationship once the elections take place in Mexico and a new president is inaugurated. During recent days I have had some meetings with a few people who are very close to the president-elect, people who may well be quite important in the new administration, and I am indeed hopeful that the very near future will bring a positive change.

Needless to note, should this not be the case, I would welcome an opportunity to hear some of your suggestions as to ways and means of asserting pressure which might be of assistance. We could chat by telephone or, if you visit New York with any frequency, I would most certainly be delighted to meet you and have a chance to speak with you during such a visit to our city.

May I take this opportunity to extend to you and your dear ones every good wish for a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

P.S. After dictating this letter I had occasion to meet with the Mexican Ambassador and the president-elect of Mexico, with whom I was very much impressed. While there are no guarantees, I do feel that patience on our part is indicated.

713

MEMORANDUM

To Rabbi A. M. Schindler From A. Vorspan Date 9/20/76

CC: _____

Sandy Lack, a member of the board of Temple Emanuel of Houston, is deeply involved in the subject of our relationship with Mexico. He wants some ideas from us on how to use "backdoor influence", such as working with the Roman Catholic church, to put pressure on the Mexican government. I told him not to do anything until I talked with you.

He is very wealthy and very pro-Union, and I think we should give him some attention. His address is 6867 Wynnwood Drive, Houston 77008.

Anyway, I told him to cool everything because of its delicacy, until Echeverria goes out at least. Nonetheless, I think a thoughtful letter from you would be much appreciated.

August 5, 1976

Mr. Edward T. Wilkes
Apartado Postal 90
Ajijic, Jal. Mexico

Dear Mr. Wilkes:

As I am the present Chairman of the Presidents' Conference, Rabbi Miller has shared with me your letter of July 20.

I want to express my appreciation to you for writing as you did and for sharing your thoughts. We are deeply grateful and I want you to know that many of us feel just as you do in regard to the situation. It was thus good to have your comments underscore our own instinctive reactions.

With every good wish and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

Apartado Postal 90
Ajijic, Jal. Mexico
July 20, 1976

The Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major Jewish Organizations

Esteemed Sir:

The enclosed cancelled check is only a means I chose to get you to listen to me. Those who help you when you need it have already proved that they are friends.

I am concerned that three times this country has placed itself by its vote in the U.N., as well as a recent statement condemning the Israeli rescue in Uganda, on the side of the enemies of Israel.

What I want to emphasize is that neither in the government here, or among the people is there anything that can be properly described as anti-Semitism. What there is, no doubt is something as bad or worse. I fear that certain persons, in order to further their personal ambitions, and achieve power in the Third World, with the help of Arabs and Communists, will continue to issue these unfriendly statements, and are willing to risk Jewish boycotts to achieve their ends.

It comes down to this - against the anti-Semite one can be constantly ~~on~~ on the alert, but against people who hypocritically profess friendship, and then knife you when you least expect it, what can you do?

This is the situation as I see it.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Wilkes

Edward T. Wilkes

Graubard delighted you want meeting as he has 1 p.m. date with Alemain.....set our meeting earlier at his request....

11 a.m. pres, conf, office - Karen to contact:

✓ Graubard

Matzkin

Miller

~~XXXXXX~~

Torczyner

✓ Rosenthal

✓ Hellman

Chernin

Baum or Maslow or someone from Congress
plus AMS



told her if anyone else special from the committee should be included she should do so.....

1/26

Arnold Forster

Morton M. Rosenthal

January 21, 1976

Mexico

President Echeverria was pleased by the Presidents Conference statement, according to Hodgins. He reports that instructions have gone out to all Mexican officials that they make no comment, while the Jewish community is in the process of reformulating its position.

Our statement did not appear in the Mexican press, despite its having been put on the AP wire and presumably that of other wire services; Hodgins does not know why.

The Mexican Jewish community had not, as of yesterday afternoon, publicly reacted to our statement of last Wednesday, despite my phone conversations with Mexico on Thursday, 1/15, in which we agreed that the Central Committee would send the statement to JTA at once. I was on the phone again yesterday, trying to get the statement to JTA in time for the Wednesday deadline of most Anglo-Jewish papers.

Hodgins told me that the Mexican Tourist Council will dedicate a larger portion of its 1976 advertising budget to Anglo-Jewish publications.

MHR/CSS

cc: B. Epstein
S. Graubard
Y. Hellman
L. Peirez
A. Schindler ✓

REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR
AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

11 AM
1/26

by

The Delegation to Mexico

January 14, 1976

On November 10, 1975, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that Zionism is equivalent to racism. Mexico was one of those voting for the resolution. Subsequently, thousands of Americans of all denominations cancelled scheduled vacation trips to Mexico. At the request of their memberships, Jewish organizations that schedule tours to Mexico suspended their tours. Many major American firms also cancelled conventions scheduled for Mexico.

A former President of Mexico, Miguel Aleman, who is now the Director of the Mexican National Tourist Council, requested a meeting with leaders of Jewish organizations. On November 25, such a meeting was held in New York. Mr. Aleman assured them of Mexico's friendship for Israel and Jews and suggested reinstating tours to Mexico. Mr. Aleman invited the group to come to Mexico that weekend to discuss the problem with President Echeverria.

Refusal to accept an invitation extended by the President of a country with close ties to the United States and Israel might be interpreted as a gesture of ill-will. On the other hand, there was reluctance to accept without assurances that the government of Mexico would no longer support anti-Zionist measures and a positive statement from the President of Mexico.

By December 10, we had assurance that this would be forthcoming, and it was decided to accept the invitation. Israel's Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon had expressed to the press satisfaction with Mexico's "retraction" on the issue of racism as expressed by Mexico's Foreign Minister, Emilio Rubasa, then on a visit to Israel.

On December 11, a delegation of representatives of major Jewish organizations with the approval of Rabbi Israel Miller, Chairman of the Presidents' Conference left for Mexico.

In Mexico, we were further encouraged by the tone and content of the joint communique issued the previous day, at the end of Mr. Rubasa's visit to Israel. It stressed mutual interest in closer cooperation and enumerated a number of positive developments: the opening of air routes between Mexico and Israel was to be negotiated; the Israeli theatre group was to visit Mexico; Mexico pledged to support efforts to secure peace in the Middle East in accord with U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon was officially invited to visit Mexico.

On the following day, we had an extended conference with President Echeverria. The remarks made by President Echeverria in the course of that conference were recorded; quotations set forth below were taken from the official transcript of the conference:

"Now, we are not anti-Zionist. We understand the historical and honorable meaning of Zionism. Mexico has also suffered much and the human conscience rebels against the persecution of the Jews; the ancient persecution and particularly that of Hitler, and we know what is the historical and moral significance of Zionism and we profoundly respect it."

"But if you ask me: 'What do you think of Zionism?' I tell you that it is profoundly honorable; that it has been a pillar of salvation and a road to survival for the Jewish people ..."

"Now, I tell you -- and this is being recorded and you can publish it -- that Zionism is profoundly honorable, the Jewish people, their historical struggle. For many years, Jews distinguished in sciences, art, research, technology and business have been among our best friends. We have sent -- and if they allow us we shall continue to send -- many students to Israel. There has never been any problems."

In further discussion with members of the delegation, the President affirmed that Foreign Minister Rabasa, in the course of his visits to Jerusalem last month, acted under his instructions when he stated that Zionism is not racism, and entered the various agreements mentioned in the joint communique. He also affirmed that Mexico, in the future, will not support any other anti-Zionism resolutions.

After the meeting with President Echeverria, a public statement was prepared in English, translated into Spanish and shown to the President, who agreed that it was a fair representation of his position. This statement, which was read at an official press conference, said, in part, "The President told that delegation that he in no way identifies Zionism with racism and that the votes of his government at the United Nations were not intended to convey that impression. He emphasized the right of the Jewish people to a national homeland in Israel." He also told us that he had taken steps "to insure that future votes by Mexico cannot be misinterpreted or misunderstood as equating Zionism with racism."

Since then, there have been several international meetings at which Mexico did not support resolutions which included references to the November 10 resolution attacking Zionism. Mexico absented herself from the vote at the December 17 UNESCO meeting in Paris on a resolution calling for insertion into an official UNESCO document of references to the November 10 resolution. Mexico, as well as the United States and other western powers, was absent from the vote at the International Civil Aviation Organization meeting in Montreal last month when a similar situation arose.

Contrary to the belief expressed by some that the resignation of Foreign Minister Rabasa meant a change in policy regarding Zionism and Israel, the new Foreign Minister, Alfonso Garcia Robles, stated that the change of ministers "does not imply any modification in the foreign policy of Mexico". President Echeverria, on January 2, similarly stated "The international policy will be the same, he who conducts it is the President of the Republic, who is the one responsible for foreign policy".

Speaking to reporters on January 8, Garcia Robles blamed the international news media for distorting Mexico's position on Zionism. Referring to the December 15 vote, he repeated the statement made by the Mexican delegate "our vote should by no means be interpreted as acceptance of the equation which some would make between Zionism and other policies, which like colonialism and "apartheid", Mexico has always condemned."

Another indication of Mexico's adherence to the policy enunciated by Foreign Minister Rabasa while in Israel and by the President to our delegation is the fact that the official transcript of our meeting was delivered to us by a special emissary of the government of Mexico on December 24, nine days after the U.N. vote which was accompanied by much misunderstanding and confusion.

The members of the delegation recognize that Mexico, alone among the 72 nations that supported the November 10 resolution, has taken the initiative to reestablish good relations between the peoples of Mexico and the United States. Encouraged by President Echeverria's frank remarks and by the actions taken by the Mexican Government since our meeting, we believe that President Echeverria, who alone is responsible for the Foreign Policy of Mexico, has made it clear beyond doubt that Mexican Foreign Policy will hereafter emphasize the positive aspects of Zionism, and will extend to Jews throughout the world the same friendship, affection and understanding which has long existed within Mexico itself.



NATIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meeting of January 18, 1976

Report on Status of
FOREIGN AID BILL*

Tomorrow, the Congress will reconvene after its long mid-winter recess and attention will be focused once again on what should be a priority for all of us, namely, passage of the Foreign Aid Bill, including the full \$2 and a quarter billion for Israel.

Thus far, progress on the bill has been satisfactory from our point of view. Just prior to the Congressional recess, the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Foreign Assistance, chaired by Senator Humphrey, completed its consideration of the aid bill and approved the full \$1 and a half billion in Administration-requested military credits and \$740 million in economic assistance for Israel.

This action is all the more encouraging when you consider the fact that in order to meet the guidelines set by the recently created Senate Budget Committee, it was necessary to reduce the overall foreign aid bill by almost half a billion dollars.

Insofar as aid to Middle Eastern countries is concerned, Egypt's assistance was reduced from \$750 million to \$725 million; Syria was cut from \$90 million to \$35 million; and Jordan was cut from \$77.5 million to \$52.5 million in economic aid and from \$176 million to \$126 million in military aid. Israel was the only country which suffered no cuts whatsoever.

In addition, the Senate Subcommittee adopted an amendment by Senator McGee requiring the Administration to waive repayment of one half of the one and one half billion dollars military credits to Israel and also requiring that the remaining \$750 million be lent to Israel on favorable terms with a ten year grace period to be followed by a twenty year repayment period.

Action by the House International Relations Committee was no less encouraging. The House Committee adopted an amendment by Representative Fascell of Florida that essentially paralleled the McGee amendment. Moreover, the House Committee not only approved the full amount for Israel but added an additional \$15 million in economic aid.

Over and beyond the dollar amounts involved, the Senate Subcommittee adopted an amendment cutting off military sales or programs in which a foreign country discriminates against U. S. citizens on the basis of race, religion, sex or national origin. The amendment does not provide for an overall ban but on a project by project basis. In the House, where an overall non-discrimination amendment has been defeated, an effort will be made to add the language of the Senate amendment. Consideration is also being given in the House to an amendment dealing with emigration of Syrian Jews.

The full Senate Foreign Relations Committee is likely to complete action on the bill within the next two weeks and floor action can be expected sometime

*Based on information obtained from the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and its Director, Morris Amitay

(O V E R)

around mid-February. As of now, it appears likely that the full authorization will be approved.

However, as you know, authorization is only one stage in the legislative process. Action must then be taken by the respective House and Senate Appropriations Committee and, of course, by both bodies as a whole. In the light of the economic situation here at home and the pressures on members of Congress in an election year to show budgetary restraints, it is very likely that cuts will be made in the appropriations stage. From all indications, it appears that the Administration will not oppose all cuts and, indeed, passage of the bill with less than a 10 per cent cut would represent a very significant victory. On the other hand, cuts above that amount would be disastrous for Israel and would require an all-out effort on our part.

There is one additional complicating factor that could have very serious consequences. The bill now under consideration is for the current fiscal year ending June 30. The Administration is called upon now to submit its budget requests for the 1977 fiscal year (beginning July 1) and there is a move to combine the 1976 and 1977 aid measures in a single package.

Such a move would be disastrous. If the Congress is presented with a request for \$7 to \$8 billion in foreign aid in a single package, the pressures for cuts, including cuts for Israel, will be overwhelming. Efforts are being made with the Administration and with Chairman Morgan of the House International Relations Committee not to follow this route. We should know the results of these efforts within the next week or ten days.

The immediate target, as indicated before, is the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Senators who are members of that Committee should receive a significant volume of mail from their constituencies urging them to support the bill as reported on by the Subcommittee.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

John Sparkman, Alabama
Howard H. Baker, Jr., Tennessee
Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Delaware
Clifford P. Case, New Jersey
Frank Church, Idaho
Dick Clark, Iowa
Robert P. Griffin, Michigan
Hubert H. Humphrey, Minnesota
Jacob K. Javits, New York

Mike Mansfield, Montana
Gale W. McGee, Wyoming
George S. McGovern, South Dakota
James B. Pearson, Kansas
Claiborne Pell, Rhode Island
Charles H. Percy, Illinois
Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania
Stuart Symington, Missouri

hn

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O,X,A,R INT(c)

ITF(c), EAC, CJF-EX



memo

January 19, 1976

TO: NJCRAC and CJFWF Member Agencies

FROM: Albert D. Chernin, Executive Vice Chairman

RE: Important Timely Information from Executive Committee Meeting of January 18

This is the first of several contemplated transmittals of reports of proceedings of the NJCRAC Executive Committee meeting held yesterday (Sunday) in New York City. Included at this time are materials on:

- . Policy on Mexico
- . Status of Foreign Aid Legislation
- . Resolution on Attempted UN Bombings in New York City.

POLICY ON MEXICO

Last Wednesday (January 14) the Conference of Presidents, after receiving a report from the delegation that had gone to Mexico last December 12 to confer with Mexican President Echeverria about Mexico's support of anti-Zionist UN resolutions, took the following action:

"The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations notes an encouraging series of actions recently taken by the government of Mexico in its relationship to the Jewish people.

"In the light of these developments, a special committee has been appointed to reassess the Presidents Conference policy and to make appropriate recommendations in the near future."

At our Executive Committee meeting yesterday, Seymour Graubard, Chairman of the National Commission of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who had been chairman of the delegation to Mexico, reported on the background of that action by the Presidents Conference. The gist of his presentation is embodied in the enclosed report, which was distributed to organizations comprising the Presidents Conference (of which the NJCRAC is one) by Rabbi Morton Rosenthal of ADL, as Secretary of the Presidents Conference Committee on Mexico. It reached us today.

Our Executive Committee directed that the member agencies be promptly apprized of this development, so that they would be in position to convey the information to their respective constituencies and others, in preparation for a possible change in policy. Please note, however, that the enclosed report is for your information, to be drawn upon to inform your membership, but not for reproduction, dissemination or release.

We shall continue to keep all of you closely informed, of course, as further developments occur.

THE FOREIGN AID BILL

The report to the Executive Committee by Theodore R. Mann, NJCRAC Israel Task Force Chairman, on the status of the legislation, is enclosed.

Also enclosed, as an aid in addressing communications to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is a list of the members of that committee. They may be addressed at: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

We shall continue to keep you informed of developments, and will recommend interpretive activities when and as required.

RESOLUTION ON ATTEMPTED UN BOMBINGS

As most of you know from news reports, explosive devises were found last week in one of the UN buildings and at headquarters of foreign legations. The timing and locations of the attempted bombings led to speculation that they might have been the work of pro-Israel, anti-Arab elements. The Executive Committee wished to make clear the total opposition of the Jewish community relations agencies to terroristic violence, whatever its source, its motives or its objects. A copy of the resolution of the Executive Committee is enclosed. It is being released to the press and anything you can do to give it currency will be helpful.

We will send you further reports in the near future, from the Executive Committee proceedings, about the UN Security Council Middle East debate (with an address by Ambassador Simcha Dinitz), Soviet Jewry, and changing interreligious relationships.

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National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

FOR RELEASE

CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS: American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, National Council of Jewish Women, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United Synagogue of America — and state, county and local Jewish community relations councils in cities throughout the United States

55 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 564-3450

Samuel Spigler, Director of Information

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

New York, N. Y., January 19, 1976 -- A broadly representative council of Jewish organizations yesterday (Sunday) denounced those responsible for the attempted bombings last week of the UN and offices of foreign nations in New York City.

The Executive Committee of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, at its quarterly meeting, said that, while it deemed the presence of the "murderously terroristic PLO" at the UN Security Council "morally indefensible and injurious to progress toward Middle East peace," this does not justify violence in protest.

The national organizations that are affiliated with the NJCRAC, and all of which joined in the statement, are

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

The text of the statement of denunciation follows:

"Terrorism in all its manifestations is abhorrent, whoever its perpetrators or its victims and whatever its objectives. The national Jewish organizations and Jewish community relations councils in cities throughout the United States that comprise the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council have consistently denounced and condemned all forms of terrorism.

(m o r e)

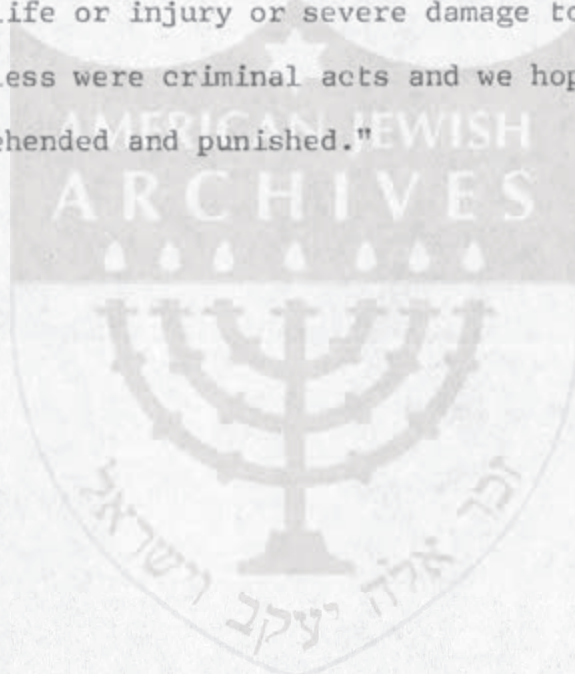
"We now join in condemnation of the attempted bombings of UN buildings and foreign consulates last week during the meeting of the UN Security Council.

"The presence at the Security Council meeting of the murderously terrorist PLO -- the participation of which we regard as morally indefensible and injurious to all hopes for progress toward Middle East peace, as well as contrary to the UN Charter -- does not justify the use of violence in protest.

"Such violence is not only reprehensible. Its perpetrators are grossly mistaken in their calculation of its effects. It can only inflame passions and impede peaceful resolutions.

"Happily, discovery of the bombs last week before they detonated prevented loss of life or injury or severe damage to property. Their placement nevertheless were criminal acts and we hope that those responsible will be apprehended and punished."

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O,X,A
JTA, NYP, Neg.Pr.



Be that as it may, I do want to thank you once again for your gracious hospitality and hope that you will remember me to your good wife, she made a most charming dinner companion, you are lucky.

With every good wish and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

bcc: Ambassador Simcha Dinitz
Yehuda Hellman



February 12, 1976

His Excellency, The Israel Ambassador Simcha Dinitz
Embassy of Israel
1621 22nd Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Simcha:

The enclosed is self-explanatory. It was a most pleasant evening. On at least five or six occasions the Ambassador urged us individually or collectively to fly to Mexico as soon as possible and as the guests of the Government. We demurred on the basis of our many prior commitments but in that connection offered the hope that some overt actions by the Mexican Government, indicating its reversal in policy, would make us really want to go on such a trip. I may stop in to see the Ambassador next time I am in Washington. He indicated that his brother-in-law will be the new Mexican Ambassador to the United Nations. His name, I believe, is Rosenzweig Diaz (?).

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

P.S. Hope you feel better! The Miller function was very nice.

February 12, 1976

His Excellency, The Mexican Ambassador Jose Juan de Olloqui
Embassy of Mexico
2829 16th Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you very much for your warm hospitality. It was a delightful evening, thanks to the graciousness with which you received it.

Most likely you saw an article which appeared on page 5 of today's New York Times which relates to the lengthy page 2 article which appeared in the January 28 issue of the Times.

Then, I reported for the Sub-Committee of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which I head as its Chairman, and that report recommended that our Organizations call off the boycott. The enclosed article of February 12 indicates that my organization, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which cancelled some thirty trips last November, has now determined to resume its tours to Mexico.

I cannot underscore enough what I tried to indicate to you last night, that it is of signal importance that the Mexican Government express its truer feelings toward the Jewish people whenever it is possible to do so in the Council of Nations. In that connection, may I remind you also of my suggestion about the Brussels Conference which will be held February 17-19 and which will discuss the problem of Soviet Jewry. While I understand the problem which you explained, you ought to remember that this is not an Israeli cultural event, that its theme is the freedom of people to migrate in our world and urges all nations, and in particular the Soviet Union, to abide by the many Conventions, including the Helsinki declaration on human rights of which they are a signator. If your Ambassador cannot appear, perhaps your country can do what President Ford has done and that is to write a letter to the American delegation to the Conference, conveying his good wishes for success to them rather than to the total assembly and, as you know, a number of Mexican Jewish citizens will attend the Conference in Brussels.

February 25, 1976

Mr. Bennet Kleinman
1300 Bond Court Building
East 9th Street at St. Clair
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Mr. Kleinman:

The many questions which you raise in your letter of February 10 merit a detailed answer and I hope that you will forgive me if I give you a kind of telegraphic response, merely to assure you that I do not take your request for information lightly and that I deem its substance of importance.

1) I did not say that the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has been too subservient to the desires and the requests of the Government of Israel. What I did say was that "it does not serve the cause of Israel well if this Conference were to be regarded in Washington and elsewhere as an extension or instrumentality of the State of Israel rather than as the spokesmen for the American Jewish Community."

I hope that you fully understand the force of the distinction between the statement as I made it and as you perceived it.

2) I did not say that the Conference would now take a stand in opposition to Israeli proposals. What I did say is the following: "It is our obligation to tell Israel the truth as we perceive it, to offer to Israel the very best of our thinking and never to say to Israelis only what we think Israel wants to hear."

I think that you will agree that such an honest approach is most helpful. Self-delusion grows when it is re-echoed. Unhappily, I have too often been at meetings with Israelis during which American leaders said one thing and then when they met around a different table they said an entirely different thing and when challenged responded by saying, "oh, what's the use."

Mr. Bennet Kleinman

Page -2-

February 25, 1976

3) I do not agree with you if I really understand you correctly, that Israel and the American Jewish community are completely interdependent, that whatever Israel does affects the American Jewish community and whatever American Jewry does affects our brothers in Israel. We both of us, it seems to me, have the right to say to one another just how these actions might have their impact on one of these two interdependent groups and then reach our decisions independently with that further knowledge.

4) As to the matter of tourism to Mexico and the boycott, I want to make it clear that the Presidents' Conference never called the boycott and therefor could not cancel the boycott as it could not undue what it did not do in the first instance. A number of organizations with tour programs determined each for themselves to cancel yours to Mexico and in most instances the constituency of the organization called for the boycott.

There was a sub-committee of the Presidents' Conference which studied this matter and they recommended to the organizations of the Conference that a change in the Mexican government policy toward Israel and the Jewish people has taken place and that this change warranted reconsideration of the boycott, but each organization was and is free to decide as it deems fit. The men and women who sit on the sub-committee are all of them devoted Jews and it was only after a real struggle of mind and heart that they reached their decision. To this I must also add a note that there were many compelling and good and sufficient reasons for a reversal of policy, many of which cannot be put into writing.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

February 13, 1976

Mr. Bennet Kleinsman
1300 Bond Court Building
East 9th Street at St. Clair
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Mr. Kleinsman:

Rabbi Schindler left early this morning for engagements in the mid-west to be followed by a series of meetings out-of-the-country. He will not return to the office until the 1st of March.

Your letter of February 10, which arrived after his departure, will be held for his return.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

KAHN, KLEINMAN, YANOWITZ & ARNSON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1300 BOND COURT BUILDING

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114

(216) 696-3311

HAROLD H. KAHN
(1906-1970)

BENNET KLEINMAN
BENNETT YANOWITZ
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GERALD I. ARNSON
LAURENCE GLAZER
JEFFREY L. KLEIN
MICHAEL H. DIAMANT
GARY D. GREENWALD

February 10, 1976

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:-

I have been reading recently some of the releases in the newspapers quoting you with regard to several matters which have given me some concern.

I am sure you are aware that your statement, that you believe that the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations has been too subservient to the desires and requests of the Government of Israel, has received considerable circulation.

You indicate that the Conference would now take a different stand in this respect and the implication is that it would not be as agreeable with Israeli proposals as has been true in the past.

I am much concerned about these kind of expressions, since I believe that no one who does not live in Israel can conscientiously tell Israel how they should run their affairs, particularly as they regard matters of security.

I would, therefore, like very much to hear from you as to precisely what activities of the Conference you have reference to, and as to what matters you would take different positions than has been true in the past. It would also interest me to know just how the opinions and positions of the Conference would be made available to the Israeli Government, that is to say, whether in private conferences or in public statements.

The other matter I have reference to relates to the change in position of the Conference with regard to tourism to Mexico.

It appears to me that if the Jewish "boycott" of tourism to Mexico was ever justified - and I believe that most

Rabbi Alexander Schindler

-2-

February 10, 1976

American Jews believe that to be so - then there does not appear to me to be any change in the attitude of the Mexican Government towards Israel and the Zionist movement which would call for an elimination of the "boycott."

If you have information to the contrary, it would be of great interest to me to hear from you just what changes have taken place to call for this change in position.

Your response to these questions would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,



BK:MA

WESTON B. B. B.

HOUSE OF

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February 13, 1976

Mr. Joel Kirsch
139 Evans Road
Bloomfield, N.J. 07003

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

Your letter of February 8 makes assumptions which are erroneous on several counts and it would be helpful to everyone concerned if you were to ascertain the facts before your condemn.

a) The Presidents' Conference never called the boycott and the Presidents' Conference never cancelled the boycott as it could not undo what it did not do in the first place.

b) A sub-committee of the Presidents' Conference recommended to our constituency that a change in the Mexican government's policy toward Israel and the Jewish people has taken place and that this change warranted reconsideration of the present policy, but each organization is free to decide as it sees fit. The men and women who sit on the sub-committee are all of them devoted Jews and if you had seen the real struggle of mind and heart which led them to this decision you would react quite differently, and hopefully more judiciously. We Jews have enough problems from those who hate us without attacking each other.

c) Obviously, there were many good and sufficient reasons for reversing our stand, many of which cannot be put into print.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

Feb. 8, 1976

Alexander Shindler:

I couldn't believe my eyes when I read the N.Y. Times story of how you and your organization called-off the de facto boycott of Mexico.

How quickly you forget!!

Imagine a country like Mexico voting to equate all Italians with corruption.

Would the leading Italian groups forget 2 months later and build up that country's economy.

Your mistake was tragic. I call upon you to resign your position.

Joel Kirsch

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

Cable Address: COJOGRA

PLaza 2-1616

TO: Members associated in the Conference of Presidents
of Major American Jewish Organizations

From: Arthur Levine, Acting Chairman

We believe you will be interested in the following
statement issued today by the Presidents Conference.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish
Organizations deplores the letter sent on July 9 to the President
of the United Nations Security Council by Mexico's Permanent
Representative to the U.N.

In that letter, the Mexican Ambassador to the U.N. -- who
made clear that he was acting under the direct instructions of
President Echevarria -- expressed the view that Israel's act of
self-defense in rescuing its citizens from Uganda was a "flagrant
violation" of the U.N. Charter and of international law and would
"create precedents of incalculable danger for all civilized
coexistence."

We regard that comment as a false and misleading statement
of international law and an immoral assessment of the meaning
of the rescue at Entebbe, an assessment which can serve only to
encourage future terrorist activity. In condemning Israel for
striking a blow against Arab terrorism, President Echevarria
condones the action of governments that cooperate with terrorists,
as Uganda clearly did in the case of the hijacked Air France
plane. In opposing the right of Israel to defend the lives of

-- more --

its citizens, President Echevarria joins hands with the very terrorists he claims to oppose.

We are confident that these views do not represent the sentiments of the Mexican people but rather the personal ambition of Mr. Echevarria, a lame-duck president whose term expires within a few months and who is apparently still seeking to court favor with the Afro-Asian bloc whose votes he needs to win election to a sought-after U.N. post.

Earlier this year, Mr. Echevarria gave assurances to American Jewish community leaders that Mexico's vote in support of the anti-Zionism resolution at the United Nations did not represent any anti-Israel sentiment on the part of his government. These assurances have now been violated. Indeed, the statement in his letter to the U.N., which accepts at face value the denial by the terrorist P.L.O. of any responsibility for the hijacking, is nothing less than a whitewash of the P.L.O., which has vowed to destroy Israel. Mr. Echevarria knows that responsibility for the hijacking was claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a member of the P.L.O.

That part of the Echevarria letter to the U.N. professing to condemn terrorism is hollow and empty of meaning. Well-established principles of international law accept the right of a state to rescue its citizens from any other state unwilling to protect them against terrorism.

A new President will take office in Mexico in December. We look forward to a more enlightened policy when that new administration assumes power, one that is in keeping with the long and honorable tradition of the Mexican people in support of the principles of international law, respect and friendship among nations, and human dignity.

X X X

7/14/76

CONFIDENTIAL

September 9, 1976

His Excellency, The Israel Ambassador Simcha Dinitz
Embassy of Israel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Simcha:

Mr. Zapata from Mexico came to see me and we had a very pleasant and possibly fruitful conversation.

The thrust of his remarks was twofold:

A/ That there are absolutely no racial overtones to anything which Mexico did. Everything which it did was rooted in its overall foreign policy approach; and

B/ That one or two swallows do not a summer make and that Mexico's actions must be measured in wider terms.

In my response I pointed to that special bond which binds us to the Jewish people as a whole, making an attack on one of its parts an attack on the whole. I hit very hard on the fact that neither the anti-Zionist vote nor the post-Entebbe statement could be understood in foreign policy terms but, of course, I agreed with him that the past is the past, the future is important and that we on our part desire nothing more than full normalization of our relationship and a return to the friendship which obtained in the past.

We spoke a little bit about the issues which will come up before the United Nations in its coming session and I urged him to execute great care lest any action exacerbate the situation. I also suggested to him that the new President, in his inaugural address, might seize the occasion to say something and that if either of these were to transpire ---something positive in the U.N. and on the President's part --- the American Jewish leadership would certainly react favorably and publicly.

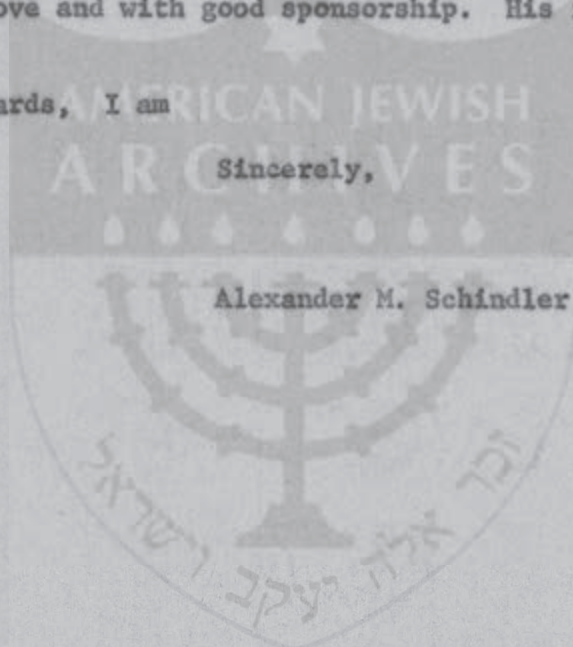
Ambassador Simcha Dinitz
September 9, 1976
Page -2-

I told Mr. Zapata how much we appreciate his past helpfulness (Chanan Aynor called me a day or so ago to tell me this is in fact so). Mr. Zapata expects to be in Israel in December. He speaks with a self-assurance and an authority which belie his years, he is a young man clearly on the move and with good sponsorship. His first wife was Jewish.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

PLaza 2-1616

Cable Address: COJOGRA

MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE Wednesday, 21 July 1976

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Arthur Levine at 3:00 p.m.

Last week, on Wednesday, 14 July, a meeting was convened of those organizations maintaining travel programs to and offices in Mexico for the purpose of drawing up some guidelines in the wake of Mexico's submission of an unsolicited letter to the U.N. Security Council which accused Israel of having violated Uganda's sovereignty by means of its raid on Entebbe airport. A statement and a press release were prepared on the basis of that meeting. Normal Presidents Conference procedures were not followed in order to forestall accusations of being "the tail on the dog."

While the Mexican protest delivered by Ambassador Roberto de Rosenzweig Diaz was directed against Israel as a nation, the Presidents Conference statement was carefully worded so its thrust was not directed against either the Mexican people or the Mexican government but against President Luis Echeverria as a person. Nowhere in the statement was there any mention of a boycott.

Mr. Levine went into a brief analysis of the status of the Mexican Jewish community and their fears of a boycott and discussed the recent overt indications of what may well be the beginnings of a concerted anti-Semitic campaign in that country (the principals involved in a tax-fraud investigation now receiving prominent headlines in the Mexican press are, by chance, only Jewish; anti-Semitic cartoons are appearing in the Mexican dailies; and the silencing of Excelsior, a leading liberal Mexican newspaper and its conversion into little more than a house-organ for the Echeverria government which took place only days before the letter to the U.N. Security Council. Excelsior had criticized Mexico's anti-Zionist stand in the U.N. General Assembly and it had been anticipated that it would renew its criticism and oppose Echeverria's policy over Uganda; hence, the take-over.)

It was Mr. Levine's hope that out of this meeting the Presidents Conference would evolve some course of action based on what we know is happening and what we can reasonably predict may happen, thereby anticipating events rather than behaving reactively.

Rabbi Joseph Karasick (WJC) called the 30,000-member Jewish community living in Mexico a "hostage community" and stated his belief that it would be a bad idea to become embroiled in a "Mexican situation" without prior consultation with its Jewish community.

It was Judge Paul Ribner's contention (JWV) that, inasmuch as Mexico is as anti-American as it is anti-Israel, we should appeal to the larger American community not to travel to Mexico. Judge Ribner went on to say that the Presidents Conference should issue a statement, the gist of which would be that until we see positive action on Mexico's part we shall encourage the American people to avoid Mexican travels.

Charlotte Jacobson (WZO) opposed proclaiming a boycott, stating that one should simply and quietly not travel to Mexico.

Rabbi Balfour Brickner (UAHC) expressed the opinion that the Presidents Conference statement was "gornish." He went on to say that the people are way ahead of us. They feel they've been gulled and conned and, on their own, aren't going. We should, therefore, also follow our instincts and go along with what our constituents are saying and doing.

Bernard Weisberg (LZA) stated that he had been extremely disturbed to read about last week's Presidents Conference meeting in the New York Times rather than learn about it from the Conference. "Thank God the statement was meaningless." Mr. Weisberg concurred with Rabbi Brickner about the memberships being ahead of their leaders. The LZA has received many phone calls from travel agencies as well as from its members asking for guidance.

Charlotte Stein (Pioneer Women) said that her organization has been swamped with calls and letters with regard to Mexico and emphasized that Pioneer Women has very quietly cut out its Mexican trips even though there is a Pioneer Women chapter in that country.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman (RA) stated "it would be tragic if the Presidents Conference becomes involved" and felt that it was up to the individual organizations to make a decision.

Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger (RCA) agreed with Rabbi Kelman, feeling it would not be a tragedy if the Presidents Conference did not take a stand. He felt that the best thing in this situation would be not to take action, leaving it up to the individual organizations. It was also his feeling that all mention of this particular meeting be stricken from the record.

David Steifel (NAJYC) felt we should take extreme measures. The boycott was effective the last time and should be continued.

Al Chernin (NJCRAC) hoped we would examine this issue in a less charged atmosphere. Who is responsible for Mexico's policies today, he asked. Echeverria is a lame-duck president and will be relinquishing his position in December. Despite that, the mood of the Jewish community is right out of Clifford Odets' "Waiting for Lefty" -- "Strike!" Mr. Chernin also asked "What is the best strategy?" It was his feeling that we should quietly wait for the new president to take office. If we take a public stance we are going to force the incoming president into a corner whereby he'll feel he has no choice but to leap to Mexico's defense.

Consequently, perhaps it would be best for us to plan for a meeting with the Mexicans in December rather than lunge for the jugular to achieve an immediate catharsis.

Rose Matzkin (Hadassah) said "if we think that a Presidents Conference delegation to Mexico is going to affect Mexico's foreign policy, then we are deceiving ourselves." She stated that we should be just as angry with other nations (Brazil, other South American countries) and shouldn't act as though Mexico is the only unfriendly nation. But, she asked, what is the purpose of this meeting? What are we going to do? Issue another statement? Boycott? Individual organizational reactions? Would someone please clarify.

Rabbi Ira Youdovin (RA) said that now is not the time for a boycott; rather we should search for a half-way measure with which to establish credibility. In the meanwhile, organizations should quietly, without publicity, cancel travel arrangements to Mexico.

Dr. Harris Schonberg (B'nai B'rith) also felt that any contemplated actions should be left up to the individual organizations and, Arthur Levine, speaking in his capacity as president of the United Synagogue of America, agreed.

Phil Baum (AJCongress) interjected with a clarification of terminology, explaining that there is crucial difference between a boycott and a decision not to send tours to Mexico.

Rabbi Brickner suggested that the Presidents Conference issue a private memorandum for dissemination among its constituent members, fully cognizant that it would become public knowledge. The statement he suggested was in effect that "while the Presidents Conference itself does not sponsor travel to Mexico, it does not look with disfavor upon those organizations who decide not to encourage further tourism to Mexico."

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal (ADL) reminded the Presidents Conference that the incoming president of Mexico wants greater American investments in that country and also wants the friendship of the American Jewish community. Rabbi Rosenthal went on to state that, while Mexico is an ostensible democracy, in actuality it is a dictatorship and its government is the rule of one man. For us to take an action which would create an unfavorable climate for him, he said, would make things that much more difficult. Therefore, the Presidents Conference should stand by the statement as is.

Dr. Aron Weinberger (JNF) said that while we should not encourage tourism to Mexico, the last thing we should do is take the public utterances of a "captive community" (as exists in Mexico) at face value. As a refugee from Poland he knows full well that minority communities often issue statements their governments wish to hear.

Rabbi Kelman once again stated that we should be quiet and leave well enough alone.

Charlotte Jacobson's feeling was that silence is wrong and extremism is also wrong. The dliemma facing us, however, is that our silence may be misinterpreted and therefore some statement should be made.

Phil Baum expressed the opinion that the meeting was "turning in on itself" and that further discussion would be fruitless. Nevertheless, he emphasized, the most salutory point would be to remain silent at this juncture.

Rabbi Brickner returned to his original suggestion, turning it into a motion for consideration by the Presidents Conference. The motion he proposed was that a statement be issued by the Presidents Conference for the use of its own constituents "not looking with disfavor upon those organizations who decide not to encourage further tourism to Mexico."

The motion was seconded.

With one person per organization voting on the motion, the vote was five in favor and twelve opposed.

The motion was defeated.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

respectfully submitted by Joanne Jahr

August 24, 1979

Mr. Theodore R. Mann, Chairman
National Jewish Community Relations
Advisory Council
55 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Ted:

Once again, I urgently and formally request that a meeting of the NJCRAC Executive Board be convened. In addition to a full discussion of the substantive issues confronting our community, I ask that procedures also be placed on the agenda for careful scrutiny.

1/ Now nearly two weeks into the crisis, the organizations of the NJCRAC have not been convened in full to achieve a consensus of thought and action. Requests that such a meeting be called have consistently been ignored.

2/ Rump meetings of individual organizations were held in which the lay and/or professional leaders of the NJCRAC participated, but as of this writing the constituent organizations of the NJCRAC have not been informed concerning the ideas and directions emerging from these discussions.

3/ The NJCRAC published a statement in whose development we were not involved and which we never approved. And yet, the Union's name appears in these public documents as co-endorsee.

It is clear that the NJCRAC has failed to function in this crisis either effectively or in a professional manner.

Kindest greetings.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Once again, I urgently and formally request that an ~~a~~ meeting of the NJCRAC Executive Board be convened. In addition to a full discussion of the substantive issues confronting our community, I ask that ~~the NJCRAC~~ ^{procedures} also be placed on the agenda for careful scrutiny. ~~The NJCRAC did not function in this crisis either effectively or in a professional manner.~~

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It is clear, that the NJRAC failed to function in this criss ~~with~~ effectively or in a professional manner.



Mam
Chernin

OK

August 14, 1979

Mr. Theodore Mann
Mann & Ungar
1711 Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA. 19103

Dear Ted:

Our brief conversation at the conclusion of last Friday's meeting did not give us sufficient time to resolve the matter we discussed. In any event, I raised a procedural matter and the substantive issues which confronted us then were too important to be delayed. Still, the issue I raised is of sufficient weight from the long range point of view to compel me to voice my objection in writing.

As I told you, I do not want to have the Presidents' Conference reduced to be an adjunct of the NJCRAC. As the meeting evolved this is precisely what took place. In your opening remarks you indicated that you convened the Israel Task Force to pre-digest the problem and to recommend action to the Presidents' Conference. Al Chernin then got up and announced what "we were going to do." At no point were we asked to approve or disapprove these suggestions, we were merely to comment, to modify, but not to decide.

This impression is further reinforced by your nationally distributed memorandum on the letterhead of the NJCRAC which begins with the sentence "The Presidents Conference, acting on the recommendations from the Strategy Committee of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force..."

All of this is a denigration of the role of the Presidents' Conference. Why should any president of a national organization attend a meeting in which he or she is asked merely to rubberstamp the action of others. You left us with a veto, maybe; but you certainly denied us any deliberative role.

I am afraid that you are confounding your two-fold function as chairman of the Presidents' Conference and chairman of the NJCRAC and you will have to make up your mind as to which master you are serving. You have no right unilaterally to strengthen the NJCRAC at the expense of the Presidents' Conference. As chairman of the Presidents' Conference you represent all of the national organizations which join that body and not only the NJCRAC nor only the defense agencies.

If, as you say, you would like to see a formal connecting link between the Pres. Conf. and the Israel Task Force, you have every right to have the procedural alteration considered by the Presidents' Conference but then you should formally present the matter to us for consideration. You

Mr. Theodore Mann
August 14, 1979
Page -2-

have no right to establish this linkage by fiat.

On another matter entirely, I am not happy to learn that the plans which were evolved last Friday and before that by the Israel Task Force have now been unilaterally discontinued (ads, etc.). I think that this is a serious mistake. I do not believe that anything that transpired over the week-end indicates a change in the Administration's position. It was a tactical move not a substantive alteration. The pressures should be continued.

AMERICAN JEWISH
Sincerely, ARCHIVES
Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman

bcc: Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson





NATIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

55 WEST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036 • LOnacre 4-3450

U R G E N T !

REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION!

August 10, 1979

TO: NJCRAC and CJF Member Agencies
FROM: Theodore R. Mann, Chairman
RE: PLO, Arab Blackmail, Carter Administration and the Security Council

The Presidents Conference, acting on the recommendations from the Strategy Committee of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force, called today for a major national effort to convey to the White House prior to the meeting of the U.N. Security Council on August 23 the profound apprehension of the Jewish community about a possible shift in American foreign policy toward the PLO.

This decision reflects the concern we expressed in Al Chernin's memorandum of August 3 "that the Administration's eagerness to involve the Palestinians in negotiations could lead to U.S. accommodations that would in the end legitimize the PLO." In short, what we fear is a tendency to appease the PLO in response to Arab blackmail.

This tendency centers today on the negotiation of a resolution on the Palestinians to be considered by the Security Council on August 23. Thus, the immediate goal should be a clear and unambiguous demonstration of the U.S. rejection of cooperation with the PLO through an American veto on August 23 of a Security Council resolution on the Palestinians, even if such a resolution should use cosmetic language that might disguise its intent of enabling the PLO to affect the negotiating process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a fundamental issue and will go beyond August 23 but what is required now in the next seven days are intensive activities on a national and local level that the White House will hear the message that the United States must not cooperate, directly or indirectly, with the PLO and change the ground rules of the Middle East peace process so carefully constructed in Resolutions 242 and 338 and at Camp David. To this end, we are calling for:

1. Massive outpouring of thousands of letters from the grassroots throughout the United States to the President of the United States; it means a concentrated use of resources, locally and nationally, in the next 7 days to activate the membership of constituent organizations of CRCs and chapters of national organizations. In August, memos by mail are not sufficient; it means direct contact with your constituencies, at least by telephone squads working nationally and locally.

2. Stimulate page one editorials in the Anglo-Jewish press for publication the weekend of August 17 -- the White House press digest includes the Anglos. Such editorial also should call for letters to the White House.
3. Special emphasis should be given to finding a prominent and authoritative voice in your area, possibly in academia or public affairs, to do an op-ed piece on the dangers of the U.S. drift toward the PLO. Nationally, similar efforts are being undertaken.
4. Encourage letters to the editor, particularly from prestige figures including members of Congress.
5. Daily newspapers also should be encouraged to editorialize about the PLO and Arab blackmail.
6. As we recommended in our August 3 memorandum, use the August recess of Congress as opportunity to meet with Congressmen on this issue (enclosed is a report from Houston about such a meeting).

Within the next 10 days, the Conference of Presidents will publish an ad in The New York Times on the themes of "no appeasement of PLO terror and no surrender to Arab blackmail." If communities are interested in running similar ads, please call our office for the text.

We know it's difficult this time of year, but we cannot underestimate the importance of undertaking this crash seven-day program now.

ANALYSIS

Currently before the Security Council is a resolution on the Palestinians drafted with the approval of Arafat and introduced by Kuwait. That resolution, nodding to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in its Preamble, calls for self-determination and national independence for the Palestinians. While the United States has stated that it will veto this resolution, it successfully sought a postponement of the previously scheduled meeting of the Security Council on this resolution in the hope that it could reach an understanding with the PLO through intermediaries on a mutually acceptable alternative resolution.

Even the attempt to reach agreement with the PLO on such a resolution is one more step in the "greening" of the PLO (as Nathan Perlmutter of the ADL put it) and one more step away from a clearly defined U.S. commitment to Israel that it will not deal with the PLO, unless two critical conditions were met. Those conditions are that the PLO must accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the framework for negotiations and, equally important, recognize Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state. That commitment was explicitly stated in a U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Agreement. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger pledged to Israel Foreign Minister Yigal Allon in September 1975, in connection with the second Sinai Disengagement Agreement, that the United States would not recognize or negotiate with the PLO so long as it does not recognize Israel's right to exist and does not accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Carter Administration has reaffirmed this commitment as recently as this past week.

Despite the reaffirmation of this commitment, Administration officials appear to continue to harbor the hope that it might get the PLO to implicitly accept Resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist through a new Security Council resolution whose operative paragraphs would make seemingly innocuous statements on the rights of Palestinians. This would represent an end around run of the U.S. commitment to Israel.

The reasoning of the United States seems to be along the following lines:

1. Essential progress must be made in the negotiations and that progress must be made soon -- reportedly in the next 10 weeks, according to The New York Times article of August 2.
2. Such progress requires the participation of the Palestinians.
3. To get the Palestinians to participate requires the cooperation or at least the acquiescence of the PLO.
4. This would induce Palestinian moderates to step forward to participate in the negotiations.
5. This would lead to an agreement which would cause the PLO to lose its grip and then disappear.

This scenario looks at the PLO and the Middle East through "rose colored glasses," but it is not the reality of the Middle East. Moderates have been intimidated into silence by PLO terrorism and the acceptance of the PLO by the U.S. would reinforce that silence. Rather than cause the PLO to lose its grip, it would increase the power of the PLO over the Palestinian role in the negotiations ending in the emergence of a new Palestinian state, which President Carter himself believes would be a source of instability and a radical threat to other Arab states.

The framework for peace and responding to Palestinian aspirations exists in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and is spelled out in detail in the Camp David agreement. Pulling a few phrases out of their Camp David context would undermine the significant achievement of Camp David of giving meaning in precise definitions to those phrases and thus retard the fulfillment of Palestinian aspirations. Palestinian moderates understand this; increasing the stature and influence of PLO will not embolden moderates to speak on behalf of the Palestinians; just the opposite.

Despite the statement by Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders that there is an "evolution" in PLO attitudes towards Israel, even the State Department still concedes that Fatah, headed by Arafat, is the dominant element of the PLO and that "therefore major elements and important leaders of the PLO clearly advocate terrorism." It is known that Secretary of State Vance himself recognizes that a third condition, in addition to 242 and recognition of Israel's right to exist, that he stipulated in February 1977 is unlikely to be implemented, namely, that the PLO must revise its national covenant calling for Israel's elimination. What should be clear is that the PLO has not abandoned its goals nor its terrorist tactics. In its posture at the U.N. or Western Europe, it may trim its sails in order to appear respectable to the civilized world, following Lenin's tactics of two steps forward, one step backward, as it moves towards its ultimate goal of the destruction of Israel.

The Administration's justifiable concern about U.S. oil supplies has led them to analyses that blur these realities. The fact is that the long run U.S. energy crisis is not a function of the Arab-Israel conflict. The soaring cost of oil and its increasing scarcity is a direct result of economic considerations and the inherent instability of the suppliers as witness what took place in Iran. Thus caving into the Arab blackmail neither advances the movement toward peace in the

Middle East nor meets the energy needs of the U.S. It is a high price to pay just to meet temporary, short run dislocations. The American people understand that this great nation, if it is to continue its greatness, cannot permit itself to be a pawn of tinhorn despots.

* * * * *

This is the message to get across to the White House prior to August 23. Obviously, it is a message which we will have to continue to stress after August 23 because of the fundamental nature of the problem.

Enclosed is a memorandum that the American Jewish Committee has sent to editors and broadcasters throughout the U.S. that provides a compendium of the key statements of U.S. officials concerning the Palestinians and the PLO. We also refer you to the material we sent with our August 3 memorandum, including a backgrounder, prepared by the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council on "The West Bank, the PLO and the U.S."

The NJCRAC Israel Task Force will meet on Friday morning, August 24, the day after the meeting of the Security Council, and we, of course, will continue to keep you advised of its assessments. In the meantime, please share with us reports of your letter-writing campaign; of meetings with members of Congress; and clippings of editorials, letters-to-the-editor and "op-ed" pieces.



O,X,X-EC,A,R,CJF-EX,CJF-BD,EAC,PCO,ITF-NJ,I(c)

April 7, 1976

Mr. Ely I. Bergmann
Executive Director
Bergmann Enterprises, Ltd.
215 North Flores Street
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Bergmann:

Your letter of 3/11 which reached me on my return from a brief journey to Israel, still does not persuade that we were in error in our judgment on Mexico, nor does it alter my view that there are reasons for this action which had better not appear in public print. I did not say that I would not share these reasons with you (that's the CIA way of which you accuse us). I'll be glad to share them with you - if you are in New York or I in San Antonio - or else you can feel free to pick up the phone.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

From the desk of

YEHUDA HELLMAN

YH has already read this.

515 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



EXECUTIVE OFFICES

BERGMANN ENTERPRISES, LTD.

215 N. FLORES ST.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

ELY I. BERGMANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 11, 1976

Mr. Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations
515 Park Ave.
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Schindler:

Your letter of March 5th makes many assumptions which are erroneous, and it would be helpful for everyone concerned if you were to ascertain the facts before you began to preach. First of all, the information that was obtained, was so noted in the press and the press alone, without any qualifiers or qualifications such as you stated. If the news was so reported as to cause me to react, blame the bad press and not me. I am tired of having Jews become second rate citizens by extending their other cheek after the other had been duly slapped by a world body, and, at the same time the nation (Mexico) who voted against us, still maintains the integrity of her negative vote against Zionism.

Your lofty allusion to "many good and sufficient reasons for reversing our stand, MANY OF WHICH CANNOT BE PUT INTO PRINT", smacks of CIA-type stands taken to justify illegal actions. What are you now afraid of putting into print? Mexico put her vote on the line in the open, what you are doing is no better by being afraid to put it into print.

Let me tell you Eastern liberals something...my son went to the University of the Americas in Mexico City for 1 year; I have friends who have lived there for 30 continuous years and have been to Mexico over 100 times both as a tourist, and to visit my son at the university. The stories then, some 6 years ago, about that nation, reflect the most dictatorial police state second only to Brazil. In the event your press up there did not print the story about the situation in Mexican jails, I am enclosing an article for you to read. You want me to act more judiciously??? Don't be hilarious...I know a bit too much about Mexico, more than the average person, having attended a Presidential inauguration of Lopez Mateos as a guest of the government and other official functions...over 10 years. It was good hearing from you,

Sincerely,

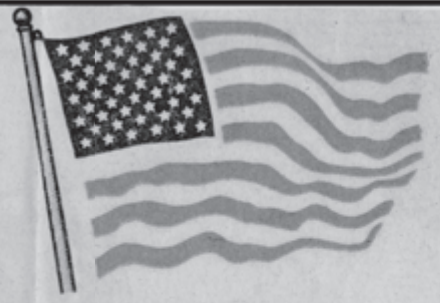
Ely I. Bergmann

EIB:PERSONAL

San Antonio Light

FIRST IN TEXAS COMMUNITY SERVICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1976



EXCLUSIVE

U.S. Suicide in Mazatlan Jail

Torture Revealed On Tapes

By LARRY D. HATFIELD

Special to The Light

SAN FRANCISCO — A young American committed suicide in a Mexican jail last month rather than face torture for his part in an aborted escape attempt, according to tape recordings made by his fellow prisoners and smuggled to America.

The tapes, which were smuggled to the San Francisco Examiner, a Hearst newspaper, are from some of the 39 Americans in the federal prison in Mazatlan. They contain charges that U.S. agents stood by while Mexican police tortured arrested Americans and that a U.S. consular official advised prisoners not to complain to visiting state department investigators or there would be serious repercussions.

The Americans — mostly young and serving terms of five years or more for drug violations — repeated charges heard from other Mexican prisons of extortion, subhuman health and sanitation conditions and constant physical abuse.

Copies of the smuggled tapes are being supplied to Rep. Fortney Stark, (D-Calif.), who has been demanding that the U.S. government pressure Mexico to end widespread abuse of Americans in Mexican jails.

The information also will be furnished to the State Department, which has been attempting to document charges of blackmail, torture and other abuses that were exposed in a series of Examiner stories from Mexico City 14 months ago.

Accounts of the suicide were carried in the Mazatlan papers. The tape recorder was smuggled into the prison after a substantial bribe was paid to a prison guard. The recording sessions themselves were conducted at night, with lookouts watching for guards and loud music being played to conceal the interviews.

Names, ages and hometowns in the following account have been disguised to protect, insofar as possible, the American prisoners involved from retaliation.

"This is no joke," said one of the Americans involved in the clandestine taping. "This could get us killed. People in the States have a hard time realizing that."

In the compendium of terror on the contraband tapes, the most chilling story is that of Jack Closse, an American about 30 years old who shot himself to death Jan. 30 following an aborted escape attempt.

Vice Consul Don Parker, at the U.S. Consulate in Mazatlan, said he could not give details, including his hometown, about Closse because of newly enacted privacy laws. He said he could not discuss details of either Closse's incarceration or his death.

The Mazatlan tapes, however, offer a dramatic telling of what happened



(Continued, Page 24, Col. 1.)

Tapes Tell of Suicide

(Continued from Page 1.)

to Closse, who was serving a 19-year prison term for drug and escape charges.

"The reason the guy committed suicide is because he didn't want to be tortured again," said a fellow American who said he watched Closse go into his cell following the break-up of the Jan. 30 escape attempt in which two Mexican prisoners were shot and killed.

Seconds later, there was a shot and when other inmates reached the cell, Closse's body was found laying face down in a pool of blood. He had shot himself with a 9mm pistol said to have been smuggled in by a Mexican inmate.

Fellow inmates in the "grande" section of the prison said Closse had "confessed" to a previous escape attempt two years ago. "Every escape in here always comes down on the Americans," said one prisoner. "The Americans always get the blame." That apparently is what happened in the 1974 attempt.

Closse was not involved in that attempt, other inmates said, but he was questioned about it by prison guards. During the questioning, they said, his arm was broken. The arm had been crippled and malformed in childhood by polio.

He confessed and his sentence was doubled to 19 years. "He just couldn't face going through it again," said a bitter fellow inmate.

Other Americans were tortured following the latest escape attempt, according to the tapes. One inmate, it was said, was "put in a burlap sack and dunked in the ocean until he confessed."

Most of those incarcerated in

Mazatlan were beaten when arrested, the young American reported.

Typical was a San Francisco resident who said he was arrested on drug possession charges, even though no marijuana or other drugs were found in his apartment.

He was beaten for two hours, he said, including being shocked on the testicles with electric prods and being pistol whipped "closing one eye and tearing my ear really bad." He said he signed a confession in Spanish, and was never offered the services of either a lawyer or interpreter.

Not until 10 days later did a representative of the U.S. Consulate show up, he said. "He (the vice consul) has caused more problems than he has straightened problems out," this inmate said.

Vice Consul Parker was the target of most of the prisoners' criticisms. Several of those speaking on the tapes said Parker repeatedly told them there was "nothing I can do."

A group of several of the American inmates said they had made what they considered confidential reports to Parker, only to suffer repercussions from the prison administration and the inmate committee which effectively runs the prison.

They also claimed Parker warned them about making complaints to visiting state department officials who visited various Mexican jails recently seeking to authenticate charges of abuse. The prisoners said as a result of the warning, they were circumspect with the investigators.

Several Americans also said agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration stood by, and in a couple of instances offered advice, while they were being tortured after their arrests.

There were also reports of evil sanitation conditions. One inmate said he had run out of money so was forced to house himself in "the pit," a tar-paper covered, concrete-floored area between the two main cellblocks of the prison. If an inmate can pay enough to the Mexican convicts who run the prison under the aegis of the warden, they can have private or semi-private cells, American inmates said. If not, they go to the pit.

"It isn't so bad," this inmate said, "you get used to sleeping skin-to-skin with fellow inmates and to being kicked in the head and other parts by people making it to the john. But it has some drawbacks.

"As a matter of fact, there are two sick guys upstairs with hepatitis," he said. "And they wash all their fecal matter and vomit down on top of us and it leaks on my bed and everywhere, on the ground. It's pretty gross."

The question of health care was one of the inmates' most urgent concerns. Several said they were denied medical care for various ailments, including one who has suffered from symptoms of amoebic dysentery for five months without being treated. Frequent appeals to American consular officials have yielded no results, the inmates charged.

Like in most Mexican (and American) prisons, drug traffic is unregulated. One midwestern inmate in his mid-20s said on the tape he has become a junkie since going to the Mazatlan prison.

He was arrested on drug charges but was not a heavy drug user, the inmate said. He did confess to being an addict because under Mexican law, that carries lighter penalties.

March 5, 1976

Mr. Ely I. Bergmann
215 North Flores Street
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Bergmann:

Your letter of February 25 makes assumptions which are erroneous and it would be helpful for everyone concerned if you were to ascertain the facts before you condemn.

2) I did not speak for you nor for the Jewish people in making my report on travel to Mexico. I spoke for those organizations which elected me to a leadership position.

b) The Presidents' Conference never called the boycott and the Presidents' Conference never cancelled the boycott as it could not undo what it did not do in the first place.

c) A sub-committee of the Presidents' Conference recommended to our constituency that a change in the Mexican Government's policy toward Israel and the Jewish people has taken place and that this change warranted reconsideration of the present policy, but each organization is free to decide as it sees fit. The men and women who sit on the sub-committee are all of them devoted Jews and if you had seen the real struggle of mind and heart which led them to this decision you would react quite differently, and hopefully more judiciously. We Jews have enough problems from those who hate us without attacking each other.

d) Obviously, there were many good and sufficient reasons for reversing our stand, many of which cannot be put into print.

e) In terms of the UAHC tour program and travel to Mexico the matter received full and thorough discussion by our Officers and Executive Committee. They made the decision to resume tours to Mexico, it was not a unilateral decision on my part.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman



ELY I. BERGMANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

BERGMANN ENTERPRISES, LTD.

215 N. FLORES ST.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

February 25, 1976

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Presidents' Conference
Conference of Presidents of Major American
Jewish Organizations
838 5th Ave.
New York 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

When I opened my Temple Beth-El Bulletin, I noted an article on Page 2 wherein you and other members saw fit to reverse the attitude of American Jews towards Mexico, after Mexico's vote in the General Assembly regarding Zionism and their abstention on the SAME ISSUE in the UNESCO vote, they did not have the decency to abrogate their vote.

Where do you people get the audacity and authority to speak for the Jewish people? You do not speak for me or my family; you are nothing but a pack of blind group of well-meaning souls who are totally ignorant on the real Mexico. Your farcical pronouncement is ludicrous as well as ill-timed. Mexican Jews have never, REPEAT, NEVER been fully acceptable as first class citizens as Mexicans; in the press they are referred to as "extranjeros" or foreigners although they have been fully naturalized and/or born in Mexico. Furthermore, hundreds of Americans are languishing in filthy jails waiting for trials on trumped up charges and have to bribe jailers and wardens to get food. You call this a liberal country? What are you Rabbis doing up there, thinking with your hearts or with your brains?

This was an excellent opportunity to wrong many rights; it showed that we Jews have a clout but you misguided religious liberals, totally ignorant in the facts of life decided that "we are no longer confronting an adversary, but have regained a friend." You are frankly nuts or crazy or both. There are some 40,000 Jews in Mexico but Mexico affronted millions of Jews in the United States and throughout the world and you have the chutzpah to overlook this? Mexico's vote is a matter of legal record and until she abrogates her vote publically, I do not intend to follow your instructions; furthermore, my wife and I belong to some 6 Jewish organizations, and the first one that organizes trips to Mexico will cause me to resign at once and each group that goes into Mexico will lose a member. Once I am called a racist, and my ethnic group is so identified, nothing will change my mind until the scum who made the pronouncement is out of office, official apologies are made and a positive stand is taken...Mexico has not done that. If you and your ilk wish to love Mexico and go there, that's your business but don't you ever presume that you are talking for all Jews and especially me.

Very truly yours,

Ely I. Bergmann

PERSONAL

*Usual response
I did not
speak for him
I spoke for
those 3
organizations
who elected
me.
period.*

March 5, 1976

Mr. Ely I. Bergmann
215 North Flores Street
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Mr. Bergmann:

Your letter of February 25 makes assumptions which are erroneous and it would be helpful for everyone concerned if you were to ascertain the facts before you condemn.

a) I did not speak for you nor for the Jewish people in making my report on travel to Mexico. I spoke for those organizations which elected me to a leadership position.

b) The Presidents' Conference never called the boycott and the Presidents' Conference never cancelled the boycott as it could not undo what it did not do in the first place.

c) A sub-committee of the Presidents' Conference recommended to our constituency that a change in the Mexican Government's policy toward Israel and the Jewish people has taken place and that this change warranted reconsideration of the present policy, but each organization is free to decide as it sees fit. The men and women who sit on the sub-committee are all of them devoted Jews and if you had seen the real struggle of mind and heart which led them to this decision you would react quite differently, and hopefully more judiciously. We Jews have enough problems from those who hate us without attacking each other.

d) Obviously, there were many good and sufficient reasons for reversing our stand, many of which cannot be put into print.

e) In terms of the UAHC tour program and travel to Mexico the matter received full and thorough discussion by our Officers and Executive Committee. They made the decision to resume tours to Mexico, it was not a unilateral decision on my part.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

March 30, 1976

Mrs. Daniel Nathans
2227 Crest Road
Baltimore, Md. 21209

Dear Mrs. Nathans:

Please forgive the delay in responding to your letter in regard to travel to Mexico. I have been doing a great deal of travelling during the past few months and I trust you will forgive this late response.

First I must clarify the fact that the Presidents' Conference never called a boycott of travel to Mexico. This was done by the various organizations with travel programs. The Presidents' Conference itself is not involved in any way in tour programs to any country.

A sub-committee of the Presidents' Conference did undertake a study of the situation regarding Mexican travel and they recommended to the constituency that a change in the Mexican Government's policy toward Israel and the Jewish people had taken place and that this change warranted reconsideration. However, each organization had to determine its own policy. I can tell you that the men and women who sit on the sub-committee are all of them devoted Jews and they reached their decision only after a real struggle of mind and heart.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler, Rabbi
Chairman

Feb. 24, 1976

Mr. Alex Schindler, Pres.
Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations
515 Park Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Schindler,

A recent item in the JTA Weekly News Digest stated that the Conference is now recommending that each Jewish organization decide for itself whether or not to continue the travel boycott against Mexico. I would like you to send me whatever information you can as to why the boycott should be lifted.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,

Joanne G. Nathans (Mrs. Daniel)

2227 West Rd.

Baltimore, Maryland 21209

Re Mexico

March 8, 1976

Mr. A. D. Simons
210 No. Maguire
Tucson, Arizona 85710

Dear Mr. Simons:

It was thoughtful of you to write as you did regarding Mexico and I appreciate your seeking to find out the facts. As you can understand, much of what transpired in meetings with the officials of the Mexican government cannot be committed to print and I therefore must use the utmost caution in responding to letters such as yours.

As it happens, I am going to be in Tucson this coming week-end and this gives me an opportunity to tell you orally what I am loathe to put into a letter. I am speaking at Temple Emanu-El on Friday night and will be in Tucson till Sunday morning. At the moment I don't know where I shall be staying, but I am sure a call to the Temple will provide that information. Or, if you are at services on Friday night do come over to chat with me at the Oneg Shabbat. It may be that I will recognize you, but I'm not certain for it is a long time since we last saw each other.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Will him feel
be there to contact
me if you to take
only.

Rabbi Alexander Schendler
838 Fifth Ave
New York City

Dear Rabbi

I'm sure you don't remember me by name though we've met several times. I am a member of Sinai Temple in Springfield, Mass and am winter vacationing in Tucson, Ariz. with Mexico only 68 miles away. I've become involved in supporting your position on Jews visiting Mexico (because of Zionism). I need some ammunition as to why?

I incidentally met you and your good wife at Rabbi Snyder's home in Springfield & was there with the late Larry Friedman - father of Elmer Friedman Kline - my thanks in

ad vance for your info. and my
personal regards to you & your
wife.

Sincerely yours

A. D. Furions

210 No. Maquie

Tucson, Arizona

Apr 21 4

85710



THE BROWNSVILLE SECOND HAND STORE

1125 EAST ADAMS STREET
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520

*Telephoned
3/5/76*

March 3, 1976.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
c/o Union American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10021.

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I need your help. Not general help. Explicit help.

My wife and I live in Brownsville, Texas, which is on the border with Mexico. We know Mexico and have traveled there extensively. But we have not entered Mexico since its anti-Israel display at the United Nations.

Now we have read that you and your organization say it is fine to travel in Mexico and spend our money there.

But you do not say why.

I am interested in the why. Yes, I read the news stories that spoke of a meeting some Jews had with some officials of Mexico. But so far as I can find, there is no mention of what was said at that meeting. Just some vague generalities have been reported.

I am asking you to tell me what the Mexicans said that made you and your group feel that tourism to Mexico is fine again. I am not trying to contest you. My wife and I are anxious to go back to Mexico. We enjoy traveling there.

But first I want to know what changed your feeling on the matter. And as I say, I want something concrete, not just an announcement that some people met together and all is now well.

I see that many Jewish organizations are divided on the subject. That is why I feel it is important to have some specifics.

I realize that you are a busy man. Nevertheless, I am asking that you sit down to your typewriter and explain this to me. It is important.

Muchas gracias y buena suerte.

Saul Levinson
Saul Levinson
1125 E. Adams St.
Brownsville, Texas 78520.

SPECIAL DELIVERY
REGISTERED MAIL

February 18, 1976

His Excellency, The Mexican Ambassador José Juan de Olloqui
Embassy of Mexico
2829 16th Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Rabbi Schindler has just telephoned me from Brussels where he is attending an international Conference on Soviet Jewry. More than one thousand delegates from thirty-two nations are participating in this Conference.

Rabbi Schindler has asked me to advise you of his great distress, shared by Conference participants, at learning that a P.L.O. office is to be opened in Mexico City. He was most disturbed by this report and on his return to the States Rabbi Schindler will be seeking to meet with you in order to discuss this matter. He should be back by the end of next week and will be telephoning you in order to set a mutually convenient meeting time.

With kindest greetings.

Yours Very Truly,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President



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

SPECIAL DELIVERY
REGISTERED MAIL

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2829 16th Street, Northwest
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With kindest greetings.

Yours Very Truly,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

February 25, 1976

Mr. J. Seymour Margulies
Apartado Postal 5-126
Guadalajara, Jalisco
Mexico

Dear Mr. Margulies:

Thank you for your letter. I much appreciate your words of caution. However, I do want you to know that there were compelling reasons for us to do what we did, even though we were aware of some of your own reservations. Moreover, nothing was done without involving a spectrum of the leaders of the Mexican Jewish community.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

February 13, 1976

Mr. J. Seymour Margulies
Apartado Postal 5-126
Guadalajara, Jalisco
Mexico

Dear Mr. Margulies:

Your letter of January 28th reached our office but today, after Rabbi Schindler's departure for a series of meetings in and out-of-the country. He will not be back in the office until early March.

Be assured your letter will be brought to his attention on his return.

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

Los Judíos Ponen fin al Boicot

Se Recomienda Normalizar las Relaciones con Nuestro País

NUEVA YORK, enero 27 (UPI). — "No sólo hemos dejado de confrontar a un adversario, sino que hemos recuperado un amigo", declaró hoy el rabino Alexander N. Schindler haciendo referencia a México.

Al reunirse la conferencia de presidentes de organizaciones judías de Estados Unidos, el rabino Schindler, que la preside, recomendó que las relaciones entre los grupos judíos que actúan en este país y México se normalicen plenamente.

Schindler dio a conocer a los delegados a la reunión un informe sobre las relaciones con México, el que dice en parte:

"Hemos estudiado las acciones pertinentes y declaraciones del gobierno de México, y especialmente las del Presidente Luis Echeverría, y estamos satisfechos de que ha ocurrido un viraje decidido en la actitud de México hacia el sionismo, Israel y el pueblo judío.

"Es nuestra recomendación, por consiguiente, que nuestras relaciones se normalicen plenamente".

Las treinta y ocho organizaciones reunidas hoy en Nueva York, fueron las mismas que hicieron un llamamiento a los judíos residentes de este país, para que boicotearan los viajes de turismo a México, como consecuencia del voto de México en las Naciones Unidas, el diez de noviembre, en favor de una resolución que equiparaba al sionismo con el racismo.

En la conferencia se indicó que después de ese voto, México se ausentó el diecisiete de diciembre de una reunión de la Organización para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura de las Naciones Unidas (UNESCO), en París, en que se sometió a votación una resolución por la que UNESCO adoptaría como documento propio la resolución contra el sionismo, adoptada por la Asamblea General de la organización mundial.

También quedó evidenciado que México se había abstenido cuando fue sometida a votación en la Asamblea General una ponencia que pedía a los estados miembros, en

por los árabes, que respal-

Los Judíos

(Viene de la Primera Página)

general, que desistieran de suministrar armas o ayuda económica a Israel; y que también se abstuvo de votar en una reunión de la Organización Internacional de Aviación Civil, en Montreal, en que se propuso la adopción como documento propio de la resolución de la Asamblea General contra el sionismo.

J. SEYMOUR MARGULES
APARTADO POSTAL 5-126
GUADALAJARA, JALISCO
MEXICO

Jan. 28, 1975

Rabbi Schindler—

I have read the enclosed in El Informador today and do not believe a word of it.

The leopard has not changed his spots — and neither has Schoen. I do not think that by and large the Mexican people are anti-Semitic. But L. E. A. is an opportunist and has endorsed the destruction of Israel and has in no way changed from his original position.

Despite the "second" vote,
the denials, and not your
endorsement.

Why must we Jews be so
naïve?

Cordially yours,

Isidor Menger

February 20, 1976

Mr. Leonard Levy, President
Shir Ha-Ma'alot
Harbor Reform Temple
1400 W. Balboa Boulevard
Newport, Beach, California 92663

Dear Mr. Levy:

As you know, Rabbi Schindler is out of the country. Since he is not due back until the end of next week I am taking the liberty of replying to your letter of the 13th.

First, I must note that the Presidents' Conference never called the boycott of tours to Mexico and since it cannot undo what it did not do in the first instance, the Presidents' Conference did not cancel the boycott. You should know that the Presidents' Conference does not sponsor tour programs to any country. A number of its constituent organizations do have tour programs.

A sub-committee of the Presidents' Conference recommended to the constituency that a change in the Mexican government's policy toward Israel and the Jewish people has taken place and that this change warranted reconsideration of the present policy, but each organization is free to decide as it sees fit.

I am enclosing a few press clippings on this subject which will indicate the position of some of the constituent organizations of the Presidents' Conference. Since you specifically mention B'nai B'rith, I can tell you that they have not made a decision as of this time. They are polling their membership and will not announce any decision until that undertaking has been completed. The Anti-Defamation League, as an arm of B'nai B'rith, does not have its own tour program, while they do from time to time have special tours, usually to Israel, they are just that, special events, and therefore no statement has been made by the ADL. I am also enclosing the January 26, 1976 report of the Presidents' Conference Committee on Mexican Relations. I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller
Assistant to the President

Encl.

Shir Ha-Ma'alot
harbor reform temple

bernard p. king, rabbi

1400 w. balboa blvd. ■ newport beach, california 92663 ■ (714) 675-7230

February 13, 1976

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I'm writing in response to an article written in the "B'Nai B'Rith Messenger" in the Friday, January 30, 1976 issue. In the article entitled, "Presidents Call Off Mexico Ban", you were quoted as follows:

"We are satisfied that a decided reversal of Mexico's attitude toward Zionism and the Jewish people has, in fact, taken place."

As the President of Shir Ha-Ma'alot Harbor Reform Temple, I've been called on by many in our community to respond to the current position toward the Mexico vote in the United Nations regarding the Zionism issue.

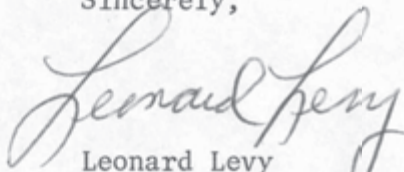
Because of our close proximity to Mexico and my responsibility in my community, this issue is of paramount importance to me.

As spokesman for Presidents of major American Jewish organizations, I'd appreciate your letting me know what the official position toward the issue is. As important, I would appreciate any official statement made by any organization that you might possess -- particularly those made official by B-Nai B'Rith or the Anti-Defamation League.

I understand from Norm Eichberg, President of the Pacific Southwest Region of UAHC that you are currently visiting Israel. I know that you'll be trying to catch up upon your return and would appreciate your answer as soon as conveniently possible.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,



Leonard Levy
President, Board of Trustees
Shir Ha-Ma'alot

January 30, 1976

Ms. Naomi Levine
American Jewish Congress
15 East 84th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028

Dear Naomi:

I have your letter of January 28, and I hasten to assure you that the press report as it appeared in the pages of the New York Times dismayed me as much as it dismayed you. It certainly did not reflect the intent of our release, or even its letter, for that matter.

I am told that you are out of town. Please call me when you return so that I can tell you. I am certain that you will be satisfied with my explanation.

I attach a copy of the statement which I released immediately on my return from Washington.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

STEPHEN WISE CONGRESS HOUSE • 15 EAST 84TH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028 • (212) 879-4500

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 28, 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Chairman
Presidents Conference
515 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Alex:

I was surprised to read in this morning's Times the statement allegedly emanating from the Presidents Conference that "American Jewish leaders have decided to call off their travel boycott to Mexico." The Times story specifically cites you as issuing a statement "explaining the ending of the boycott."

Phil and Will tell me that you presided at the meeting of the Subcommittee at which there was a unanimous decision not to announce the lifting of the travel ban at this point. You will recall that some organizations voiced the need for time to prepare their membership for this decision. I understood that it was agreed further that at the appropriate time those organizations that had travel programs would together decide how and when to announce the revocation of the policy of suspending tours to Mexico.

The Presidents Conference runs no travel programs nor did it initially announce the imposition of a suspension of travel.

I therefore cannot understand how this story could have emerged in the form in which it was published or how you could have permitted yourself to be associated with the announcement it contains.

This places us all in a strange and equivocal position. You are depicted as having declared an end to the travel suspension while the rest of us who actually run such programs have yet to announce such action.

It is all very puzzling and disturbing; and I wonder if you could be good enough to tell me how it all came about.

Sincerely,

Naomi
Naomi Levine

January 20, 1976

Hold for Alex only

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
President's Conference on Major Jewish
Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Alex:

May I extend personal congratulations and best wishes upon your election to this highest office in the American Jewish Community. You need no reminder from me of the critical period which we face and will challenge American Jewish leadership in the days ahead. The task you have accepted is formidable and I know that it will be skillfully dealt with. You can expect the utmost cooperation from all of us.

In regard to the question of Mexico, I am sure that it is recognized there will be difficulty to convey a positive image to the American Jewish community even if the facts substantiate and warrant this shift in attitude. I have no specific recommendation except that it is my feeling that statements by themselves will not suffice. The ideal answer would be a new action or statement by Mexico. The Jewish community grass roots would find it much easier to understand a new shift in attitude and I believe we can then logically accept a positive action. Until this is forthcoming I believe that it will be a difficult task to change moods in the foreseeable future.

Many good wishes in your important new office and hopefully you will be able to make your engagement to be at Temple Israel in Dayton as scheduled.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Paul Flacks, Director
Public Affairs Department

PF:JG
cc: Yehuda Hellman

Note - 1/23/76



Zionist Organization of America

ZOA HOUSE

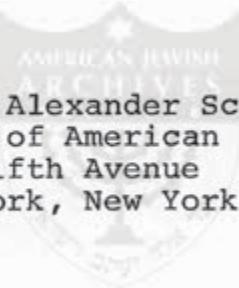
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**ZIONISM
A BADGE
OF
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Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Wear it With Pride!