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Series B: Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, 1962-1996.

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Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

December 26, 1995

To: Past Chairmen

From: Leon Levy, Chairman

Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman

As was discussed at the December 13th meeting of the past chairmen, the Conference of Presidents will mark its 40th anniversary at a special gala dinner honoring the past chairmen in the spring of 1996. In order to facilitate scheduling, use the attached calendars to black out the dates which pose a conflict for you and return them to the Conference office, 110 East 59th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

LL MH



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Chris Carl

October 10, 1995 16 Tishri 5756

Leon Levy, Chairman
Presidents' Conference
110 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

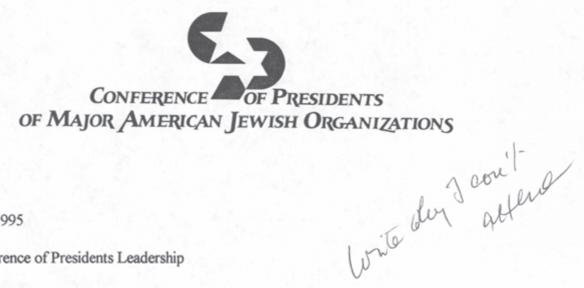
Dear Leon:

Much to my regret I cannot join you in Washington for the Jerusalem 3000 Inaugural Ceremony on October 25. I shall be in Israel for the meetings of the Jewish Agency.

With warm good wishes for a meaningful program and with fond regards, am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Leon Levy Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

October 2, 1995

To: Conference of Presidents Leadership

From: Leon Levy, Chairman

Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman

Shoshana S. Cardin, Chairman, National Committee for Jerusalem 3000

SAVE THE DATE:

JERUSALEM 3000 INAUGURAL CEREMONY

OCTOBER 25, 1995

U.S. CAPITOL ROTUNDA

4:00 pm

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Senator Robert Dole, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and other Congressional leaders as well as prominent personalities will join the National Committee for Jerusalem 3000 to launch Jerusalem 3000 in the United States.

Please mark your calendar. An invitation will follow.

MH/LL/SSC



Gres Corf

34 178

May 3, 1995 3 Iyar 5755

From: Edie Miller

To: Paul Rockfeld

RE; PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE BILL

Please note the request for \$8,000. dues for 1995-96 - we did not approve the increase but let me know the sum allocated in the budget.

Did we pay anything for 1994-95? We certainly didn't approve \$8,000. so that arrears figure is incorrect...what do we owe?

1600. Pd.

יניקב



Lester Pollack Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

April 28, 1995

To: Rabbi Alexander Schindler/Melvin Merians

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

From: Lester Pollack

Malcolm Hoenlein

DUES STATEMENT

Annual Dues 1995-1996 Fiscal Year: \$ 8,000

Arrears: \$ 8,000

Balance Due: \$16,000

February 6, 1995 6 Adar 1 5755

Presidents' Conference
110 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Lester:

AMERICAN IEWISH

Your gracious invitation to join you as an Honorary Member of the Salute to Israel Parade Committee is much appreciated and I accept with delight.

Unfortunately, however, it will not be possible for me to join you at the Parade itself. The UAHC Board of Trustees will be meeting in Philadelphia on May 21, thus you can appreciate the necessity of my absence from the city and the festivities in tribute to Israel.

I'll be marching with you in heart and spirit!

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Lester Pollack Chairman

- - 1 A

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

January 31, 1995



Dear Fellow President,

I am writing to you with an invitation to join me as a member of the Salute to Israel Parade Honorary Committee. As you may already know, the parade will take place on Sunday, May 21, 1995, rain or shine, on New York's Fifth Avenue. I look forward to marching with you as part of the VIP delegation on that day.

The Salute to Israel Parade is the single largest event held anywhere in the world in support of Israel. Hundreds of thousands of people participate in this event annually. It is perceived by government, community leaders and the media as a gauge of the American Jewish community's support of Israel. Furthermore, it is one of the strongest informal educational tools of the Zionist curriculum in the school system. Its educational content, centered on an annually selected theme, is implemented within schools, synagogues, youth and adult organizations and federations. Parade preparation is a yearlong process synthesizing Israel, Jewish culture and Jewish values.

Clearly, the Parade is a community-wide event and a showcase of the organized Jewish community. Therefore, it is appropriate for all presidents and chairmen of major Jewish organizations to be part of this committee. As a committee member, you would be privy to the process which brings this unique event to fruition. I look forward to your affirmative response to this invitation. My very best regards.

Sincerely,

Lester Pollack Chairman

110 East 59th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 318-6111 • FAX# (212) 644-4135

*Development Corporation for Israel Jewish Labor Committee

Plas. Conf

Two Page Fax

November 29, 1994 26 Kislev 5755

TO: Malcolm Hoenlein

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Tomorrow I shall be leaving the city for the UAHC Board of Trustees meeting in Tampa, to be followed by travel in the area. Thus, I am unable to join with you and our associates of the Presidents' Conference for the Annual Yehuda Hellman Memorial Lecture. This distresses me very much for Yehuda was a precious friend and colleague and I regret not being able to share in the tribute. I miss him even as I think of him often and with great fondness.

I have conveyed the reason for my absence to Aviva and the family but I ask that you express my regrets to our honored guest speaker, Dr. Henry Kissinger. It is my hope that I will have an opportunity to receive a written copy of his address to the gathering. I always glean new insights from him.

Much to my dismay, my inability to be with you on December 6 also precludes the sacred duty of speaking words of tribute and appreciation for the life of another dear friend and colleague who was but recently taken from our midst, alas far too soon for he had so much more to give to our work. I refer, of course, to Richard Cohen and I have enclosed some words of recognition and ask that you have my message read to the assembly and shared with the family.

Again, my regrets and my warm regards to one and all.

The American Jewish community is bereft by the tragic and untimely death of Richard Cohen, media consultant to many Jewish organizations, including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He served us loyally for decades and at a cost to us which was far below what his efforts merited. His was a labor of love for the Presidents' Conference and for the Jewish people as a whole.

Dick was a brilliant writer and editor with an uncanny ability to provide personalized and devoted attention to each and every client. Truly a spokesperson for the American Jewish Community, Dick was highly respected by all who knew him. He was a tireless worker who gave of himself and his talents with great energy. His feisty demeanor disguised a soft and caring heart.

A great humanitarian, Dick was a proud Jew and lover of Israel, as well as a loyal American who saw active combat in World War II. His career path took him to Paris after the War, where he worked for the American Joint Distribution Committee while also serving as a correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. On returning to America, he served JDC in New York and eventually the American Jewish Congress in St. Louis and New York. In 1979 he established Richard Cohen Associates.

The cause of Soviet Jewry's plight was important to Dick and he was deeply involved in their struggle. He was the chief press officer for three World Conferences on Soviet Jewry and author of the first comprehensive history of their striving for freedom, "Let My People Go."

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to his wife, Dr. Aphrodite Clamar-Cohen; his daughters, Joelle, Nina and Leslie; two sons-in-law, four grandchildren and a sister, Ruth Schecter.

Zecher Tzaddik Levracha.

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Lester Pollack Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

November 18, 1994

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

Dear Alex,

We would be pleased if you would offer the annual tribute to Yehuda Hellman & on behalf of the Presidents Conference at the December 6 memorial. Also, given Yehuda's close association with Richard Cohen (, we think it appropriate to recognize Dick's contribution to the Conference and numerous member agencies in this forum. Aviva Hellman has concurred.

As in past years, the tribute would open the gathering and be followed by the lecture and a collation. Dr. Henry Kissinger will be the guest speaker, as you know.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely

Lester Pollack Chairman

Malcolm Hoenlein

Malssly Shealern

Executive Chairman

110 East 59th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 318-6111 • FAX# (212) 644-4135

Congregations of America United Israel Appeal

Opploy



July 26, 1994

FROM: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

TO: Rabbi Eric Yoffie, Rabbi Daniel B. Syme

COPY: Melvin Merians

Lester Pollack called me to discuss increasing our annual dues to the Presidents' Conference from \$6,000 to \$10,000. I told him that our budget for this fiscal year had already been approved and that there is very little leeway but that we could look into the matter at some time later this year. I also indicated that before even considering an increase in dues, we would have to have his assurance that the Union of Orthodox Congregations and the United Synagogue would also be given a dues increase and that they would both be paying the \$10,000 fee.

I made it very clear to him that we have been distressed in the past because of inequities in organizational dues and we felt these two organization should be on a par with us. As a matter of fact, I recall attending a Presidents' Conference Budget Committee meeting some time ago when Shoshana Cardin was President, and I made the very same point at that time and was given the assurance that the process would be handled in an equitable fashion.

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 1994

FROM:

Edith J. Miller

TO:

Paul Rockfeld

COPY:

Would you please let me have a check for \$5.00 for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish

Organizations. Alex was to attend a breakfast meeting for which a reservation was made and, unfortunately, he could not attend at the last minute. Please make payment directly to the Presidents Conference with this notice so they know which meeting was involved.

Thank you.



Union of American Hebrew Congregations SERVING REFORM JUDAISM IN NORTH AMERICA 838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212) 249-0100 Pras Corl

April 1, 1993 10 Nisan 5753

The Honorable Yitzhak Rabin Prime Minister of Israel Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The 25th anniversary of a unified Jerusalem is a very special simcha. Circumstances preclude my joining the Presidents' Conference journey to Israel to participate in the Prime Minister's Conference for Jerusalem and I write to convey to you my sincere regrets.

The Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will be meeting in Nashville, Tennessee during the same period of time as your Conference. As you can well appreciate, I simply cannot absent myself from this semi-annual Board meeting when the program agenda of the UAHC, and at this particular session the budget, are discussed and determined for the coming year. My presence, as you can appreciate is critical.

I write primarily to make certain my absence does not indicate a lack of support for Israel or for your policies. Quite the contrary, I admire the manner in which you lead Israel in this period of its travail. I wish you all the best for a very meaningful Conference for Jerusalem, even as I pray for peace and understanding between all peoples in that very special and beautiful city.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

21

ראש הממשלה PRIME MINISTER

Province

Rabbi Alexander Schindler Union Of American Hebrew Congreations 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am writing to invite you to join me and all of Israel at the Conference for Jerusalem celebrating the closing of the 25th year of unification, this May 17-20, 1993.

While you have been to Israel many times, it is particularly important now, at this crucial juncture in our history, that you come and stand with us together to celebrate the unity and eternity of Jerusalem and of our People. Your participation is also meaningful to us, because it will encourage others to come. A special dignitary session is being planned and I hope you will be there.

While we are keenly aware of Jerusalem's unique place in our history, in our faith, in our culture and in our future, it is important that we demonstrate to the world at large how strongly and proudly Jews everywhere identify with Israel's ancient capital. There must be no doubt that the welfare of united Jerusalem and the destiny of Jewish creativity are joyfully linked forever.

Jerusalem is important to every Jew no matter where he lives. For thousands of years we could do little more than pray and yearn for our return. Today, at last, Jerusalem is the capital of the sovereign Jewish State of Israel and every Jew draws inspiration and strength from her glorious past, her spiritual message and her sublime beauty.

I urge you to join us on May 17th and to use your influence to help ensure that the Conference for Jerusalem broadcasts an unmistakable and resounding message throughout the world.

Make "Next Year in Jerusalem" happen this year.

Yikak Rabin

Prime Minister

Lester Pollack Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

March 29, 1993

To: Presidents and Executive Directors

National Coordinating Committee for Jerusalem 25

From: Lester Pollack, Chairman, Conference of Presidents

Shoshana Cardin, Chairman, National Coordinating

Committee for Jerusalem 25

Marvin Lender, Gen. (Ret.) Uzi Narkiss, Co-Chairmen,

National Coordinating Committee for Jerusalem 25

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asked us to convey to you this personal invitation to the Prime Minister's Conference for Jerusalem, May 17-20. The Presidents Conference National Coordinating Committee for Jerusalem 25, as you know, is spearheading the American celebration of this significant occasion.

We urge you to join us in Jerusalem for this important event, and to return the registration form you received under separate cover.

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RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER • UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
PRESIDENT 838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021-7064 (212)249-0100

March 30, 1993 8 Nisan 5753

Lester Pollack
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations
110 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Lester:

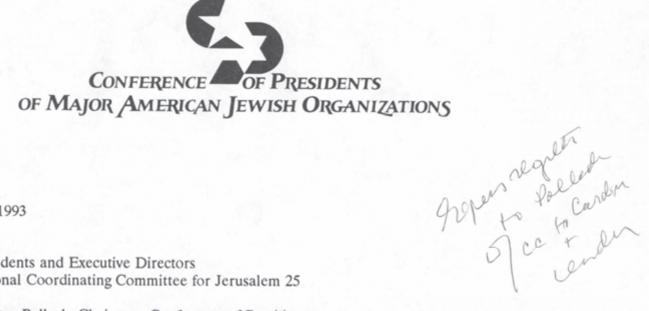
I was delighted to receive the information on the Prime Minister's Conference for Jerusalem to be held from May 16-20, commemorating 25 years of a united Jerusalem. I truly rue the fact that I am not able to be with you. I am on the West Coast the weekend of the 15th and 16th, and the UAHC Board of Trustees meetings will convene on May 20. Thus, as you can see, any travel to Israel at the time of the Conference is simply out of the question.

Let me take this opportunity to convey warm regards to you and my best wishes for a sweet and joyous Passover.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Shoshana Cardin Marvin Lender Uzi Narkiss



Lester Pollack Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Vice Chairman

March 24, 1993

Presidents and Executive Directors

National Coordinating Committee for Jerusalem 25

From: Lester Pollack, Chairman, Conference of Presidents

Shoshana Cardin, Chairman, National Coordinating Committee

for Jerusalem 25

Marvin Lender, Gen. (Ret.) Uzi Narkiss, Co-Chairmen, National Coordinating

Committee for Jerusalem 25

We urge you to join us in accepting the invitation of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to participate in the "Prime Minister's Conference for Jerusalem," May 16-20, marking 25 years of a united Jerusalem.

The Prime Minister is personally involved in this important international gathering. He has written to us, "While you have been to Israel many times, it is particularly important now, at this crucial juncture in our history, that you come and stand with us together to celebrate the unity and eternity of Jerusalem and of our people."

We also urge that you encourage national and local ceremonies for the signing of the Covenant of Jerusalem (Amanat Yerushalayim), and that local leadership bring the signed Covenants to Jerusalem for presentation at a special ceremony at the Western Wall.

Please try to implement as many of the educational and public programs to highlight our commitment to Jerusalem, the eternal, united capital of Israel.

In addition to the plenaries, lectures, workshops, ceremonies and tours which comprise the conference program, the Conference of Presidents is planning a special supplementary program including several meetings for leaders of member agencies.

A detailed schedule will be available shortly. Please complete the registration form you received under separate cover and return it to Kenes Tours, so that flight and hotel arrangements can be made. And, return the enclosed form to the Conference so that we can apprise Prime Minister Rabin of your participation.

LP

SSC

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UN

Prime Minister's Conference for Jerusalem May 16-20,1993

Please return the form below so that we can apprise Prime Minister Rabin of your participation. NAME _____ ORGANIZATION ____ ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER () __ I accept the Prime Minister's invitation to participate in the Jerusalem 25 Conference. ___ I am unable to be in Jerusalem in May. Other participants from my organization will be: We are arranging signing ceremonies in:



The Earl.

March 25, 1993 3 Nisan 5753

Herman L. Sainer WZO- American Section 110 East 59th Street New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr.Sainer:

As Rabbi Schindler is out of the city, I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your March 22 letter. Let me assure you it will be brought to his attention on his return.

Rabbi Schindler, I know, will be grateful to you for sharing your concerns and for bringing the Klein/Goldblatt column to his attention.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller Assistant to the President

ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית – אגף אמריקאי WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION American Section, Inc. 110 EAST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022 (212) 752-0600 March 22, 1993 Rabbi Alexander Schindler Union of American Hebrew Congregations 838 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10021

Dear Alex:

Please consider this a personal letter, bearing the message that I find the support by the UAHC of American Peace Now's bid for membership in the Conference of Presidents a ghastly premonition of unholy division in the future of American Jewry's eager support of the State of Israel under the banner proclaiming that indeed We Are One.

The fact that certain members of APN are closely tied to the Clinton administration (alas) hardly transforms the APN to acceptable membership in the mainstream of American Jewish life. Kindly note the enclosed copy of page 4 in today's JTA Bulletin in that connection. I trust, furthermore, that you will agree with me that Mark Rosenblum is simply wrong in declaring (column 1 in the Bulletin) that "It has become plausible to imagine us (APN) playing a constructive role inside the organized Jewish community".

Also enclosed you will find the article by Morton A. Klein and Michael Goldblatt enumerating a host of reasons for barring APN from the Presidents Conference, published in the Broward Jewish World, issue of March 12-18, 1933, for your reading pleasure.

With warm personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

Hy Sainer

Enclosures (2)

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
PEACE NOW BATTLING FOR A PLACE
IN AMERICAN JEWISH MAINSTREAM
By Lisa Hosteln
Jewish Exponent

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) -- When President Clinton's transition team sought an audience with key American Jewish leaders late last year, it called on two standard-bearers of organized American Jewry; the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

But the transition team also invited to this high-level gathering a group for whom being in the loop is a rather new experience: Americans

for Peace Now.

Earlier this month, APN was seated once again alongside AIPAC, this time before the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations. Both groups were advocating for the continuation of current levels of U.S. aid to Israel.

With several of its board members and supporters closely tied to or actually part of the Clinton administration, APN, it appears, has entered the mainstream of American political life.

But the question remains: Is the group, which began just over a decade ago as a support group for Israel's Peace Now movement, ready to enter the mainstream of American Jewish life?

For the leaders of the 10,000-member fundraising and advocacy group, the answer is an

unequivocal yes.

"It has become plausible to imagine us playing a constructive role inside the organized lewish community," said Mark Rosenblum, a founder of the American organization and currently its vice president and political director.

As evidence of its desire to move from the margins, APN has applied for membership in the Conference of Presidents, an umbrella group representing some 50 U.S. Jewish organizations.

The conference is scheduled to vote on the group's application later this month. Its membership committee has recommended APN's acceptance, though not unanimously.

The umbrella group is often seen by U.S. and foreign governments as a central address for

American Jewish opinion.

President's Record Questioned

Letters and calls from both supporters and critics of APN have been streaming into the New York headquarters of the conference. No prior application has prompted debate "quite to the degree" that APN's has, said Malcolm Hoenlein, the umbrella group's executive vice chairman.

Philadelphia activists Morton Klein and Michael Goldblatt, both affiliated with the rightwing Zionist Organization of America, have been in the forefront of a national campaign to prevent Peace Now's inclusion in the umbrella group.

Charging that APN lies outside the bounds of mainstream Jewish opinion, opponents focus on the group's dovish policies and on its newly elected president, Gail Pressberg, in particular.

Pressberg's past, which includes nine years as director of Middle East Programs at the American Friends Service Committee, followed by a two-year stint at the Washington-based Foundation for Middle East Peace, is a source of concern to other more mainstream members of the American Jewish community as well.

While at the Philadelphia-based AFSC until 1987, Pressberg was actively engaged in advocating a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, promoting dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, and urging the U.S. government to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization long before the PLO's 1988 renunciation of terrorism and recognition of Israel.

As a promoter of policies then seen to be hostile to Israel, Pressberg was perceived by some in the Jewish establishment as "a real problem," according to one Jewish communal leader who had

contacts with her at the time.

In an extensive telephone interview from her Washington office, Pressberg lamented the charges against her and defended her record.

"I've been a Zionist all my life, but I was not working for a Zionist organization before," she said of her years at AFSC and the Foundation for Middle East Peace. "I am now," she stressed.

Pressberg's supporters think she is getting a

bum rap.

Rosenblum, her APN colleague, credits Pressberg with working on Israeli-Palestinian dialogue "long before it was fashionable."

"The ones sitting at the negotiating table today are the ones she got together," he said. "She will be credited as one who helped get us to this unprecedented opportunity" where Israelis and Palestinians are talking peace.

Many Groups Still Undecided

Asked whether her views have changed since her days at organizations perceived as less-thanfriendly to Israel, Pressberg responded:

"Am I a completely different person? No, I'm not a completely difference person. But have my views evolved? Yes, my views have evolved, like almost everyone else I know in the American Jewish community.

"I ask people to look at my affiliation with Shalom Achshav and judge my record over the past three years," she said, using the Hebrew name for Peace Now, APN's sister group in Israel.

How much a role Pressberg's record will play in the decision about whether to admit APN to the Conference of Presidents remains to be seen.

According to an official of a national Jewish organization, who requested anonymity, "There is a clear distinction between the way people are responding to Peace Now and the way they are responding to Pressberg.

"Except for those on the fringe, most people in the Jewish community see the right of Peace Now to step up to the table and participate in discussions," the official said.

But with many organizations still undecided about APN's application to the conference, it is not clear how the vote will turn out.

The Zionist Organization of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America are among those who have registered their opposition.

On the other side, American Jewish Congress and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations \are among those on record supporting APN's bid.

"It's hard to imagine that their application would ultimately be denied, since they meet all the criteria for membership." said the head of one influential group, who asked not to be named:

Lawrence Rubin, executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said his group is undecided, but he is personally "inclined to support the application." He pointed out that APN "has a relationship and an entree both in Jerusalem and Washington that would be very useful" to the Jewish community.

Bar Peace Now from Presidents' Conference

BY MORTON A. KLEIN on MICHAEL GOLDBLATT

The recent application by Americans For Peace Now for membership in the Conference of Presi-dents of Major American Jewish Organizations should be the subject of a thorough debate in the Jewish community. Americans For Peace Now claims that it is entitled to membership in the Con-ference because its views are "within the majorference because its views are "within the main-stream of American Jewish opinion." Yet a careful review of the statements and activities of Americans For Peace Now reveals that on many of the crucial issues of the day, it has adopted positions diametrically opposed to those of the Presidents'

Conference.

While the Conference of Presidents supported U.S. loan guarantees for Israel, American For Peace Now favored the Bush administration's at-Peace Now favored the Bush administration's attempt to restrict the guarantees. Peace Now's Cochair, Peter Edelman, testified before Congress in support of the Bush position that the guarantees should be withheld until Israel agreed to prevent all'further settlement of Jews in Judea and Samaria (including, according to U.S. terms, the Old City of Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip.

Americans For Peace Now has also diverged radically from the Conference of Presidents on the question of Israeli negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Conference has supported Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

ported Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO, because of the PLO's continuing commitment to the phased destruction of the Jewish State. Since 1988, Americans For Peace Now has publicly pressed Israel and the U.S. to negotiate with the PLO.

APN was out of step on loan guarantees, the PLO and Jerusalem

Americans For Peace Now is also at odds with the mainstream Jewish community on the issue of Jerusalem. While the Conference of Presidents has affirmed the right of Jews to live anywhere in the Holy City, Americans For Peace Now has publicly urged the Israeli government to expel all Jews from the "Christian Quarter" of Jerusalem's Old City.

As they weigh Peace Now's membership application, the constituents of the Presidents' Conference also should consider the significance of the feet.

also should consider the significance of the fact that the roots of Americans For Peace Now are grounded in several of the extreme-left, pro-PLO groups that arose on the fringe of U.S. Jewry during the 1970s.

Three officials of American For Peace Now were

previously involved with the Committee on New Alternatives in the Middle East, or CONAME,

which lobbied against U.S. arms shipments to Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

The co-chair of Americans For Peace Now (Letty Cottin Pogrebin) and nine members of Peace Now's board of directors or board advisors are official "endorsers" of the Jewish Peace Lobby, a group that the American Jewish Congress has described as "a pro-PLO lobbying operation" whose "main in-tent is to embarrass the State of Israel."

"a pro-PLO lobbying operation" whose "main intent is to embarrass the State of Israel."

There is also a close relationship between Americans For Peace Now and the extremist New Jewish Agenda. In a 1989 study of Agenda, the American Jewish Committee concluded: "Although NJA policies and platforms speak of a commitment 'to the existence of Israel,' there is a paucity of literature and activities that would reflect such commitment."

Eight Peace Now board members and its co-chair have all been publicly associated with New Jewish Agenda in recent years. And Peace Now's Denver representative doubles as the leader of the Denver chapter of New Jewish Agenda.

The new president of Americans for Peace Now, Gail Pressberg, has a particularly troubling track record. Pressberg was formerly director of Middle East programs for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); a 1990 study by the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council concluded that the AFSC has an "anti-Israel agenda" and has engaged in "continual support for the PLO." As an AFSC official, Pressberg called for

karci, 12-13, 1533 removing Jerusalem from Israeli sovereignty, forcing Israel back to the pre-1967 borders, and reduc-

ing U.S. aid to Israel.)

Pressberg subsequently became executive director of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, a group that the Anti-Defamation League has degroup that the Anti-Defamation League has described (in its handbook, Pro-Arab Propaganda in America: Vehicles and Voices) as having "a decided slant toward the anti-Israel pro-Palestinian position." (The Foundation has even made financial contributions to the anti-Zionist group, "American Jewish Alternatives to Zionism, Inc." as well as to the passionately anti-Israel journal, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.) Pressberg did such a good job for the Foundation that she won the 1988 Janet Lee Stevens Award for her "contribution of Janet Lee Stevens Award for her "contribution of exceptional merit in the field of Arab-American af-

fairs that have furthered the cause of Arab-American understanding."

Today, Pressberg is both president of Americans
For Peace Now and a member of the Advisory
Council of the openly extremist America-Israel

Council For Israeli-Palestinian Peace, which has re-peatedly lobbied against U.S. aid to Israel. The Council's chairman, Israeli extremist Mattityahu Peled, has declared that Israel "must be coerced in a brutal way—cutting off U.S. aid, limiting com-mercial relations, and the like."

Is it just a coincidence that so many officials of Americans For Peace, Now have associated them-

Americans For Peace Now have associated them-selves with such extreme causes, or is American For Peace Now really a convenient vehicle for ex-tremists in "moderate" clothing? And are the extreme positions that Americans For Peace Now has adopted expressions of "loyal dissent," are do they adopted expressions of "loyal dissent," are do they actively undermine Israel's well-being? These are important questions that the Conference of Presidents must consider before it decides whether or not Americans For Peace Now can be trusted to faithfully uphold the consensus positions articulated by the Conference.

Mr. Klein is president, and Dr. Goldblatt is vice president of the American Zionist Movement in Philadelphia.



Jus. Conf.

March 18, 1993 25 Adar 5753

Robert O. LeRoy, President
Witness to the Holocaust, Inc.
Route 4, Box 148
Elgin, IL 60120

Dear Mr. LeRoy:

Inasmuch as both Rabbi Schindler and Mr. Merians are presently travelling in behalf of the UAHC, I write to acknowledge your letter of March 14.

In their behalf I thank you for sharing your thoughts and assure you that your letter will be brought to their attention on their return.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller Assistant to the President

WN

MARCH 14, 1993

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS 838 FIFTH AVENUE New York, NY 10021

ATTN: RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER & MELVIN MERIANS

DEAR RABBI SCHINDLER AND MR. MERIANS:

As a member of your organization and as a fervent supporter of the State of Israel, I strongly urge YOU to VOTE AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF FRIENDS OF PEACE NOW AS A MEMBER OF THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS.

YOUR ACTION IN THIS REGARD IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION THAT THIS WILL BE YOUR POSITION.

SINCERBLY

ROBERT O. LEROY, PRESIDENT / WITNESSES TO THE HOLOCAUST, INC.

PHONE: (708) 695-7900 FAX: (708) 695-3911



March 17, 1893 24 Adar 5753

Dr. Herbert Zigerman 181 Meadowbrook Drive Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Dear Dr. Zigerman:

As Rabbi Schindler is out of the city, I write to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 12.

Let me assure you that your thoughts on the membership application of Americans for Peace Now to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will be brought to Rabbi Schindler's attention on his return. I know that he will be grateful to you for sharing your thoughts with him.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller Assistant to the President

Dr. Herbert Zigerman 181 Meadowbrook Drive Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

March 12, 1993

Union of Amer. Hebrew Congregations Rabbi A. Schindler 838 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As a concerned Jew, who has spent much of his adult life in Jewish affairs, who has dual U.S./Israeli citizenship and lives in Israel half of the year, and who keeps updated on Jewish affairs, I implore you to reject the Americans for Peace now!!! It is, without a doubt, not ready yet to enter the mainstream of American Jewish life.

When one read their history, especially the writings of Michael Goldblatt and Mort Klein, one comes away even more assured that they are just do not deserve the honor to be included in the role of established Jewish organizations.

Even the argument that they have entree into the Clinton administration is not sufficient to give them a rostrum to spew their anti-Israel smear literature.

sincerely,

Dr. H. Zigerman

MEMORANDUM

Pur Conf

Date:

February 23, 1993

From:

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie

To:

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

I discussed the issue of Peace Now's Gail Pressberg with David Saperstein, Leonard Fein, Menachem Rosensaft, and a few others. The following are my conclusions:

- 1. Pressberg's background is indeed problematic. She has clearly taken some questionable positions over the years. We should not put ourselves in a position of having to defend her.
- 2. Nonetheless, we should continue to strongly support Peace Now's admission. We can make the argument, of course, that a group's admission should not be tied to the qualities of any one professional. Beyond that, we could also make the point that in Peace Now, the president does not in fact exercise that much authority. More important are the two current co-chairs, Peter Edelman and Letty Cotten Pogrebin -- both of whom are leftists but certainly respectable.
- 3. It may be that Peace Now will not have that much trouble getting in. The Orthodox Union supports them, the Peace Now people tell me that more than 20 organizations have voiced support, and even Malcolm Hoenlin is publicly saying that he is in favor. While it will be controversial to bring them in, it might even be more disruptive and divisive for the Conference to keep them out.



Our look



March 3, 1993 10 Adar 5753

Rabbi Gerald Zeliger Congregation Neve Shalom 250 Grove Avenue Metuchen, NJ 08840

Dear Gerald: AMERICAN IEWISH

In view of the Presidents' Conference discussion on the membership request from Peace Now, I am taking the liberty of sharing with you the enclosed memo which I received from Eric Yoffie. I do believe it will be of interest to you.

With every good wish and warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 23, 1993

From: Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie

To: Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

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

November 30, 1992 5 Kislev 5753

Shoshana S. Cardin Chairman Presidents Conference 110 East 59th Street New York, NY 10022

Dear Shoshana:

Sorry I won't be able to be with you for the December 4th Luncheon. Unfortunately, I will be enroute to Harrisburg where I officiate that night at the 140th of the congregation.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Shoshana S. Cardin Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein

November 24, 1992

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to invite you to a private luncheon with Gerald A. Johnston, President and Chief Operating Officer of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation on Friday, December 4, at 11:30 am in the Conference offices, 110 East 59th Street. Mr. Johnston has expressed an interest in discussing with a group of our leaders issues related to the US defense industry, arms sales, relations with Israel, etc. This came about as a result of earlier approaches during the debate on the sale of F-15's to Saudi Arabia.

I believe that this meeting offers the opportunity for a meaningful and important dialogue on issues that we are likely to face in the future.

Sincerely,

Shoshana S. Cardin

Chairman

Shoshana S. Cardin Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Director

November 25, 1992

To: Presidents Conference Leadership

From: Shoshana S. Cardin, Chairman

Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Director

Re: Presidents Conference Annual Meeting

We are pleased that Mort Zuckerman, publisher of <u>U.S. News and World Report</u>, analyst and commentator, will address the Annual Meeting of the Conference of Presidents at <u>3:30 pm</u> (new time) on Wednesday, December 2, 1992, 110 East 59th Street, fourth floor Assembly Hall. He will discuss the impact of the U.S. elections on U.S.- Israel relations and other issues on our agenda.

We will also have the election of the new chairman.

Please respond immediately to the Presidents Conference meeting response line (212-339-6993) with your name, organizational affiliation, phone number, and the meeting to which you are responding.

SSC

Rent 1/25

MANN, UNGAR & SPECTOR

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1709 SPRUCE STREET
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103

TEL: (215) 732-3120 FAX: (215) 790-1366

THEODORE R. MANN

to F.Y.E.

August 17, 1992

Malcolm Hoenlein
Executive Director
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations
110 E. 59th Street
New York, NY 10022

Dear Malcolm:

Re Shoshana's and your August 4 memo on the tragic events in Bosnia and the session with Kurdish leaders, I would like you to describe the basis for the Presidents' Conference actions. To my knowledge these events do not involve either the Israeli-American governmental relationship or endangered Jews elsewhere in the world where American government action is called for.

A number of our organizations have spoken out strongly on these sorry events. It may even be that there is total unanimity among our organizations. But there is no principal that the Conference may publicly address any issue simply because there is total unanimity. The Conference is not a Kehilla and was never intended to be. Yet you have recently undertaken 1) to be the central address for community relations efforts in the United States in support of foreign aid and 2) to be American Jewry's voice regarding foreign affairs generally when violations of human rights occur.

I realize that the results of the recent Israeli elections may make less salient the Conference's role regarding the Israeli-American governmental relationship. But that is no reason to extend its role into other areas.

The work of the state of the full

Malcolm Hoenlein

-2-

August 17, 1992

Malcolm, I am deeply concerned about this trend. While it is difficult to describe an ideal model for American Jewry's self-governance in the future, it is not at all difficult -- for me at least -- to conclude that the Conference is not that model.

It is time, I think, for you to spell out the parameters of the Conference's functions, not just for me but for all of its constituents so that they might react to it.

Sincerely,

THEODORE R. MANN

TRM/kml

cc:

Abe Foxman
David Harris
Henry Siegman
Larry Rubin
Alexander Schindler
Howard Squadron

August 10, 1992 11 Av 5752

Malcolm Hoenlein, Director Presidents' Conference 110 East 59th St. New York, NY 10022

Dear Malcolm:

I have received the list of Member Organizations of the Presidents' Conference and note I am listed as director of the UAHC and Melvin Merians is noted as the President. This is, of course, incorrect and while I realize we do not fit the pattern of titles used by the Presidents' Conference I do believe your roster should be corrected.

Melvin Merians is the Chairman of the Board of the UAHC and I am the President. You may have other member organizations which utilize different titles, some directors are Vice Presidents, Executive V.P., etc. Why not give the title after each name or designate at the top of the column lay and/or professional heads of the organizations.

Please do correct the format and the UAHC designations. I would be most grateful.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

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RENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

SHOSHANA S. CARDIN, CHAIRMAN MALCOLM HOENLEIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION AMERICAN GATHERING/FEDERATION OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS AMERICAN ORT FEDERATION AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION AMIT WOMEN AMERICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION ANTI DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH ASSOCIATION OF REFORM ZIONISTS OF AMERICA AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH FOUNDATION R' JOSEPH STERNSTEIN B'NAI B'RITH B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN BNAI ZION CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR ISRAEL EMUNAH WOMEN OF AMERICA FEDERATION OF RECONSTRUCTIONIST SYNAGOGUES & HAVUROT

HADASSAH, WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS ASSOCIATION JEWISH INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND JEWISH WAR VETERANS JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE MERCAZ NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR ISRAEL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

PRESIDENT

BEN MEED

DAVID STEINER ALFRED MOSES ROBERT LIFTON MURRAY KOPPELMAN LEON LEVY NORMA HOLZER SIMON SCHWARTZ

MELVIN SALBERG

NORMAN SCHWARTZ KENT SCHINER JOAN KORT WERNER BUCKOLD

R' WALTER JACOB CHARLES GOODMAN

DAVID HERMELIN SONDRA FISCH

VALERIE KAPLAN

DEBORAH KAPLAN MARTIN KESSELHAUT

LESTER POLLACK

TED DINERSTEIN LENORE MILLER RUTH POPKIN ALBERT COHEN SYLVIA HASSENFELD R' MATTHEW SIMON

JAY MAZUR

SHOSHANA S. CARDIN MARK LEVIN

DIRECTOR

SAM BLOCH

TOM DINE DAVID HARRIS HENRY SIEGMAN MARSHALL JACOBSON

MARVIN LEFF KAREN RUBINSTEIN

ABRAHAM FOXMAN

R' AMMIEL HIRSCH DONALD ADELMAN SIDNEY CLEARFIELD ELAINE BINDER MEL PARNESS

R' JOSEPH GLASER MARTIN KRAAR

AMB. MEIR ROSENNE SHIRLEY SINGER

R' MORDECHAI LIEBLING

BETH WOHLGELERNTER MARTIN WENICK

SOLOMON GREENFIELD

TOM NEUMANN MARTIN LAPAN DR. SAMUEL COHEN HERB ROSENBLEETH MICHAEL SCHNEIDER RENAH RABINOWITZ

JERRY GOODMAN



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN JOAN BRONK NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL CHAIM KAMINETSKY NATIONAL JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL NA'AMAT USA POALE AGUDATH ISRAEL* RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS OF AMERICA UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS PAMELA COHN UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA WIZO WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM/NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS JUDITH HERTZ WORKMEN'S CIRCLE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION/ AMERICAN SECTION ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

MAYNARD WISHNER HARRIET GREEN

R' FABIAN SCHONFELD HILLEL RAYMON

R' MOSHE GORELIK

R' SOL ROTH

MELVIN MERIANS NORMAN LIPOFF JOEL TAUBER

ALAN TICHNOR

SHELDON RUDOFF EVELYN SOMMER SANDRA ISENSTEIN

AUDREY CITAK TRUDY MINER

HAROLD OSTROFF

BERNICE TANNENBAUM W. JAMES SCHILLER

IRIS GROSS R' EPHRAIM STURM

LARRY RUBIN

R' GERALD ZELIZER R' JOEL MEYERS R' BENYAMIN WALFISH ISRAEL FRIEDMAN

> R' ALEX SCHINDLER MICAH NAFTALIN HERMAN MARKOWITZ R' BRIAN LURIE

> R' JEROME EPSTEIN

R' PINCHAS STOLPER

TEHILLA ELPERN

BERNICE BALTER DOROTHY LEFFLER

ELLEN ROSENBERG ROBERT KAPLAN

ZELIG CHINITZ PAUL FLACKS

Official Observer







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

Jhr Car

June 11, 1991 29 Sivan 5751

Shoshana S. Cardin Chairman Presidents Conference 110 East 59th Street New York, NY 10022

Dear Shoshana: AMERICAN JEWISH

I would be delighted to serve on the Presidents Conference Nominating Committee, but be sure to give me sufficient warning concerning projected meetings. My schedule gets impossibly crowded.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Shoshana S. Cardin Chairman

Malcolm I. Hoenlein Executive Director

June 4, 1991

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

Dear Alex,

We are pleased to invite you to serve on the Presidents Conference Nominating Committee. We recognize the demands on your time and committee meetings will be kept to a minimum.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Shoshana S. Cardin Chairman

Malcolm Hoenlein Executive Director

110 East 59th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 318-6111 • FAX # (212) 644-4135

B'nai B'rith B'nai B'rith Women Bnai Zlom Central Conference of American Rabbis

Central Conservation of Rabbis

"Council of Jewish Federations
"Development Corporation for Israel Emunah Women of America

Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot Hadassah "Hebrew Immigrant Ald Society

Jewish Community Centers
Association
Jewish Institute for National
Security Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish National Fund
Jewish War Veterans of USA

*Joint Distribution Committee

Labor Zionist Alliance Mercaz NA'AMAT USA

National Conference on Soviet Jewry National Committee for Labor Israel National Council of Jewish

National Council of Jewish Women National Council of Young Israel National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods National Jewish Community
Relations Advisory Council
"Peale Agudath Israel
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Usion of American Hebrew
Congregations
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
"United Israel Appeal

United Jewish Appeal
United Synagogue of America
WIZO USA
Women's American ORT
Women's League for Conservative
Judaism
Women's League for Israel
Workmen's Circle
World Zionist Organization/
American Section
Zionist Organization of America

*Official Observer

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath

Just a note to remind you of the Presidents Conference meeting next Monday, April 6th. It is scheduled to be held at 12:15 (see notice attached) and it is for the lay and professional directors of the respective organizations only.

I think it would be important for you to attend it with Earl (albeit, and perhaps especially because, Earl thinks otherwise). I am sure there will be no difficulty in making an early departure. Your appearance and some participation in the discussion is very important.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

Al Vorspan - CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Yehudah Hellman - CONFIDENTIAL

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the September 3 Presidents Conference meeting; I will be in Warwick with the Regional staff. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. Yehudah tells me that it is very important.

Yehudah tells me further that Minkoff is calling another meeting for his Public Relations Committee scheduled for the 26th. I have not heard concerning it. Be that as it may, Yehudah would much appreciate it if you would call him up before attending this meeting.

Thanks.

(377)

Presidents Conf August 9, 1968 Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath Earl Morse; Al Vorspan The oft-postponed Premier's Conference originally scheduled for July, then rescheduled for August, and again postponed, will now be held on January Sth through the 12th in Jerusalan. This is the latest information which I have end I give it to you for what it is worth. Obviously, as is anything with the Presidents Conference, this date is strictly tentative. The Memorial Foundation and COJO will have its meetings attendant upon this Conference. We will be entitled to two delegates for the Premier's Conference. The World Union for Progressive Judaism will be entitled to one delegate to the Memorial Foundation. Since the Memorial Foundation pays for those who come to it, perhaps we can prevail on Bill Rosenthall to appoint someone from the Union staff as delegate rather than Hugo Green, whom he has been sending in your stead.

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MEMORANDUM

Fle gresdent ruger	Date April 11, 1967
From Rabbi William A. Rosenthall	
To Rabbi A. M. Schindler	
Copy for information of Mr. Judah Hellm	an, Presidents Conference
Subject	

The dates of the 1968 International Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism are not yet set. There is strong probability, however, that it will be July 1st through 6th, 1968.

You doubtless know that it will be at Amsterdam.

I shall let you know when the dates are confirmed.

WAR/r

Bill

Rabbi A M. Schindler

Rabbi William Rosenthall

Judah Hellman, Presidents Conference

Has the July 1968 date for the World Union of Progressive Judaism Conference been set? I assume it has.

Please let me know since a World Conference of Jewish Leaders is being projected for the same month and I want to help avoid possible conflicts.