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Romania, 1976-1978.

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STATEMENT BY RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER  
CHAIRMAN, CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
September 14, 1976 \

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

I appreciate your giving me this opportunity to present the views of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations of which I am chairman. The Conference is the coordinating body of 32 national Jewish organizations and speaks for the organized American Jewish community on this and related issues.

We are in favor of continuing the MFN status which has been conferred on Romania.

Ours is a qualified endorsement. The law's requirement of free emigration assuredly has not yet been achieved; many Romanian Jews desiring to be reunited with their families here and elsewhere are denied the right to do so. Yet we see this failing against the background of those considerable rights which are granted to the Romanian Jewish community itself. We see it also in the context of that independent foreign policy which the Romanian government has pursued and which we favor -- her efforts to normalize relations with nations outside the Soviet bloc, with our own country and with Israel. Nor are the gates of emigration entirely shut; some flow, however sluggish and uncertain, is encouraged. And so we support an additional one-year waiver of section 402, in the hope that continuing efforts by our officials will, in fact, lead to the achievement of the Trade Act's ultimate objective: a free movement of peoples.

My testimony is based not just on a careful sifting of passport and visa statistics, but also on more personal observations gleaned on a journey through Romania. I travelled there some weeks ago on the invitation of the Romanian government, her Jewish community, and with the cooperation of our State Department. I toured Bucharest and five or six centers in the northeast section of that land. I met with leaders of some twenty Jewish communities which I was



unable to visit personally. I conferred with governmental officials and party chiefs -- among them the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party. Of course, I also counselled with our own Embassy officials who were most helpful in all of these encounters and whose manifest devotion to the moral concerns of our government I have come to respect and value greatly.

The Romanian Jewish community enjoys many rights. There are synagogues and communal centers. Worship is unrestricted, liturgical materials are at hand, and even religious instruction is permitted. Canteens have been established in every major Jewish population center and free kosher meals are provided to one and all, even, by special transport, to the home and bedridden. Special medical and dental care is available, and food and clothing are distributed regularly. Several old-age, nursing homes are in operation and much needed for a population whose median age is sixty-five. All of these institutions and activities are administered by the local Jewish community with the approval and cooperation of the Romanian government. They are given considerable financial support by the Joint Distribution Committee, an American Jewish charitable institution, whose efforts are facilitated by the MFN status which Romania now enjoys.

These rights which the Romanian government accords to its Jewish citizens are on a full par with the rights given to her other minority groupings. Yet the concept of human rights, as we perceive it in its fullness, must encompass the right of emigration. And it is on this score, and this score primarily, that our testimony is qualified.

The facts speak for themselves. When Romania was originally granted most-favored-nation status, congress asserted and administration witnesses agreed that further renewal of this special relationship must depend on a steady flow of emigration. The House Committee on Ways and Means, in offering its concurrence, actually foresaw a dramatic rise in this emigration, based on its upward trend

during the weeks preceding last year's hearings.

But there has been no upswing in Romanian emigration. In the twelve months preceding the approval of MFN, 2,592 Romanian Jews were allowed to leave; in the twelve months thereafter, emigration declined by nearly one hundred souls. Reports for the first seven months of 1976 allow us to project no more than 2,300 emigrants, still a further marked decline. If those figures which swelled during last year's hearings and on which the House Committee based its projections had been realized -- an average of 307 per month for the two months preceding and three months following the hearings -- the annual rate of emigration would have approached 3,700, precisely the same number of Jews who left Romania during 1973 and 1974. Thus the current emigration rate is actually 37.5 per cent below what might have been expected if the rate which Romania "demonstrated" to congress had been sustained.

Former Romanian Jews now living in Israel and elsewhere insist that many of their relatives still in Romania want to be reunited with them, and indeed many have indicated to Romanian authorities that they have a desire to do so. Many more undoubtedly want to join their relatives abroad but have not made formal application to leave because of the difficulties which still inhere in the emigration process: the requirements of prior approval from several national and local authorities, lengthy interviews probing motivation, risk of job loss, indefinite delays. Frequently passports are fully processed, even to the point of having visas entered by the Israeli Consulate, only to be withheld at the very last moment for weeks and months on end, with no perceivable pattern, and for no apparent reason.

A governmental policy of restricted, carefully controlled emigrations -- which these statistics and procedures could well be interpreted to reflect -- is clearly inconsistent with the letter and the spirit of the 1975 Trade Act. This is why we qualify our approval of the President's proposal that he waive the



requirements of section 402, which we support on other, weighty grounds, with the request that the emigration figures be kept under continuing careful review and that our government's representatives continue to bend every effort in order to make certain that the practices of Romania will lead substantially to the achievement of a full and free emigration.

I cannot conclude my testimony without once again expressing my admiration and gratitude to the members of our State Department and in particular to our representatives in Bucharest whose words and actions bear testimony to the fact that insofar as the United States is concerned interests in the extension of trade and political sway do not supercede our concern for the extension of human rights, and that among these rights, the free movement of peoples is an ideal to which our national honor is pledged.





ROMANIAN EMIGRATION

SINCE 1963

1963	13,000
1964	26,000
1965	11,000
1966	3,600
1967	800
1968	220
1969	1,400
1970	5,200
1971	1,650
1972	2,650
1973	3,700
1974	3,700 (total for year)

Aug.	612
Sep.	328
Oct.	267
Nov.	200
Dec.	200
1975	2,140 (total for year)

Jan.	70
Feb.	45
Mar.	100
Apr.	80
May	50
Jun.	210
Jul.	430

Aug.	250
Sep.	295
Oct.	360
Nov.	140
Dec.	110

1976	
Jan.	350
Feb.	243
Mar.	103
Apr.	51
May	140
Jun.	222
Jul.	237

PRE MFN

POST MFN

40 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, New York 11215  
September 10, 1976

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Many, many thanks for supporting my position  
regarding Romania in your testimony before  
the Senate Finance Committee.

Thank you also for your letter regarding the  
subject.

Kind greetings to you.

Shalom! Norok! Happy New Year!

Respectfully yours,

Angela Slutsky  
(Mrs. Lew Slutsky)

September 9, 1976

Mrs. Leo Slutzky  
40 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

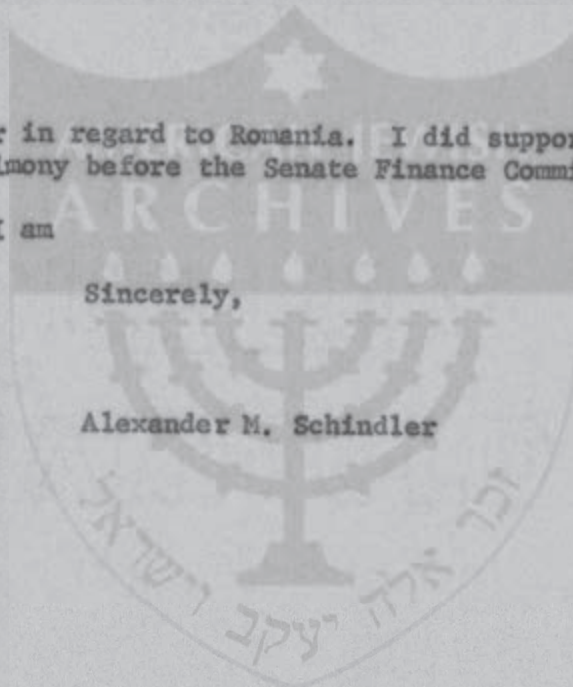
Dear Mrs. Slutzky:

Thank you for your letter in regard to Romania. I did support  
your position in my testimony before the Senate Finance Committee.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler





40 Prospect Park West  
Brooklyn, New York 11215  
September 7, 1976

BY HAND

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I write to you as an American citizen, very proud of my country, to respectfully ask you to help grant favored nation status to Rumania, the country of my birth.

I left Rumania as a child and have no relatives there, but I visited there several times to learn more about my roots. I traveled about the country freely and had access to synagogues and Jewish community centers in many cities and also visited the Synagogue in Bucharest that has been declared a national landmark. My husband and I visited the Jewish Library and Historical Archives. We attended many performances of the Yiddish State Theater. As you undoubtedly know, the first Yiddish theater in the world was established in Rumania in 1876 and is still flourishing. They have performed to great acclaim in Israel, Europe and the United States.

I very recently returned from another trip to Rumania during which I had some fine Kosher meals in the Jewish Community Center in Bucharest and saw a rehearsal by a group of young Jewish singers and musical performers. They rank favorably with any in the United States. The Yiddish State Theater was celebrating its Centennial and I attended every performance in the capital and in Iasi.

Rumania has cultural and diplomatic relations with Israel, and the citizens of both countries travel back and forth between them. El Al Airlines maintains a large office in Rumania.

Rumania is the only Socialist country that grants all the above privileges to its citizens and visitors.

Any consideration granted to this deserving country will be greatly appreciated by me.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

SHALOM!

Respectfully yours,

*Angela Slutzky*  
Angela Slutzky  
(Mrs. Leo Slutzky)

AS:jcr

September 9, 1976

Mr. Kenneth Wallach  
AIPAC  
1341 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ken:

I want to express my deepfelt appreciation to you for all your help and most especially in regard to my testimony before the Senate Finance Committee on MFN. I am grateful to you.

A copy of my testimony is enclosed herewith.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Encl.



September 2, 1976

His Excellency, The Romanian Ambassador Nicolae Nicolae  
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ambassador Nicolae:

Mrs. Schindler and I want to express our sincere gratitude to you for a most delightful evening. Your kind reception was much appreciated and we thoroughly enjoyed being with you and your charming wife. We thank you both for your warm and gracious hospitality.

It is my fond hope that we will see each other soon again and that I may have the pleasure of reciprocating your kind hospitality.

With every good wish and warmest regards, to you and Mrs. Nicolae, in which Mrs. Schindler joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



August 24, 1976

Mr. Vasile Gliga  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Mr. Gliga:

I am most beholden to you for the earnestness and warmth of your reception. The sincerity of your questions touched my spirit and I was deeply moved.

I do hope that we will be able to see one another soon again. It was a joy to be with you and in your beautiful country.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



March 13, 1978

Ing. T. Blumenfeld, President  
Mr. Emil Sechter, Secretary-General  
Federation of Jewish Communities  
in Bucharest and Romania  
Str. Sf. Vineri 9-11/Sector 4  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Friends:

It is my hope that you will pardon the long delay in responding to your gracious letter of January 18. My travels during the past months have been exceedingly heavy and I have also been seeking to ascertain the possibility of being in Bucharest this July.

I was, of course, delighted to learn of the lovely tribute to Rabbi Dr. Rosen. It is richly-merited and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be able to share in the celebration of his thirtieth anniversary. Alas, I fear it will not be possible for me to be with you. I must be in Jerusalem this July for a series of important Jewish organizational meetings and my travel schedule simply precludes being in Bucharest. I do sincerely regret not being able to share in the simcha. Please convey my deepest regrets and my warm good wishes to Dr. Rosen.

With every good wish for a very meaningful and beautiful tribute and with warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



FEDERAȚIA COMUNITĂȚILOR EVREIEȘTI  
DIN REPUBLICA SOCIALISTĂ ROMÂNIA  
CANCELARIA ȘEF RABINULUI  
București — Str. Sf. Vineri 9 - 11 — Sector 4  
Telefon : 15.50.90

ב"ה

הסתדרות הקהלות היהודיות  
בריובליקה הסוציאליסטית רומניא  
לשכת הרב הכולל d.p.

nr.62/1978

January 18, 1978.

Rabbi Alex. Schindler,  
President of the Presidents Conference  
of Major Jewish Organisations  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Roumanian Jewry are now preparing to celebrate a particularly important event in their life: thirty years since the election of Dr. Moses Rosen as Chief Rabbi of the Roumanian Jewish Communities.-

We do not think it is necessary to emphasize that in this span of time, our teacher and Rabbi, through his vision, his dedication and courage completed a work which conferred on him an important place in the history of the Jewish people.-

The worldwide prestige our spiritual leader enjoys which gives him an outstanding place in world Judaism, is also well-known.-

Therefore we are pleased to address you our official invitation to honour by your and your distinguished Lady's presence this high day of ours.-

The festivities will take place on July 3rd and 4th in Bucharest.-

For the honourable guests interested, we will make the necessary travel arrangements to visit the main Jewish Communities in Roumania on the 5th and 6th July, 1978, in order to enable them to directly get acquainted with the present life of those communities.-

We will, of course, be only too glad to offer you our warmest hospitality over the whole period mentioned above.-

We would be grateful to you for receiving confirmation of your acceptance, if possible by end-february.-

We shall subsequently arrange for the complete programme of the festivities to be sent to you.-

Looking forward to your reply at your earliest convenience, we are sending you our brotherly greetings and best wishes.-

On behalf of the Organizing Committee:

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
FEDERATION OF JEWISH COM-  
MUNITIES IN ROUMANIA

EMIL SECHTER

PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
IN BUCHAREST,

ING. T. BLUMENFELD



January 18, 1978

George Anghelescu, Counselor  
Embassy of the Socialist  
Republic of Romania  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Anghelescu:

I have just returned from a journey overseas and found your letter of January 5 awaiting me. It distresses me that time precludes my wishing you well personally before you return to Romania for your new assignment. Hopefully, during a future visit to your country it will be possible to see each other again.

You have been most gracious and helpful in all of our dealings and I want to express my appreciation for your spirit of cooperation. It was good working with you and I, too, have fond memories of a fine association.

I want to extend my warm good wishes to you and your dear ones for the future. May you have good health, happiness and fulfillment.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



EMBASSY OF THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 5, 1978

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

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES  
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am leaving the United States on January, 1978  
upon completing my mission here.

In saying good-bye to you I want to thank you so  
much for your cooperation and assistance and also for the  
support you have provided to developing good relations  
between Romania and U.S.A.

Personally, I will keep a good and long memories  
of our working together and permit me to wish you and your  
family the best wishes for every day of the New Year.

Sincerely yours,  
George Anghelescu  
Counselor



January 18, 1978

Dr. Arnulf M. Pins  
JDC-ISRAEL  
Sderot Herzl 81  
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Arnulf:

It was good hearing from you and I appreciated your comments regarding Israel and the American Jewish community. When you note things look different, I hope you mean they look better! Be assured I try my very best and I look upon my service as chairman of the Presidents' Conference as a service of the heart.

With fondest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler





AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE INC.

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SDEROT HERZL 81, JERUSALEM TEL. 527156 - 533041 שדרות הרצל 81, ירושלים. טל.

December 19, 1977

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Conference of Presidents  
515 Park Avenue  
New York City, New York 10017

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I have followed with interest and pleasure the sensitive and effective way the problems of Israel have been handled by the American Jewish community. From here it looks very different than it used to.

I am sure that a good deal is due to the leadership you have given to it.

I just wanted to let you know.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

  
Arnulf M. Pins

AMP/np



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(212) 687-6200

Cables: Jointdisco New York

December 28, 1977

Ms. Edith Miller  
Assistant to the President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Ms. Miller:

I am in receipt of the two letters that you have received from an Israeli family seeking financial assistance for their family in Rumania. This matter will be taken care of by our office.

Thank you for advising Mr. and Mrs. Heller and Mr. and Mrs. Weisman that their requests have been turned over to JDC.

All good wishes.

Cordially,

  
Zev Hymowitz  
Assoc. Exec. Vice President

ZH/myk



The Joint Distribution Committee receives its funds chiefly from American Jewry through the United Jewish Appeal. The JDC also receives smaller amounts from the Central British Fund, Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany, Ltd. of England, United Jewish Relief Agencies of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and communities in Latin America.

December 20, 1977

Mr. Zev Hymowitz  
Joint Distribution Committee  
60 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Hymowitz:

It was good chatting with you this morning. In accordance with our conversation, I enclose herewith the two letters received from Israeli families seeking financial assistance for mishpochah in Romania. Thank you for your prompt and positive response and your eagerness to be of help.

We shall advise Mr. and Mrs. Heller and Mr. and Mrs. Weissman that their requests have been turned over to the Joint Distribution Committee.

With gratitude and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

Encl.



December 20, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. David Weissman  
Rehov Zahal 15/3  
Kyryat Yam B  
Haifa, Israel

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Weissman:

We have your letter seeking assistance for Mr. and Mrs. Jacob of Bucharest. Our organization is not in a position to be of service in such situations, no matter how worthy the cause. We are, therefore, sending your letter on to the Joint Distribution Committee.

The JDC is the organization which sees to the needs of our people in communities such as Bucharest. Please be assured they will look into the situation and do their utmost to provide aid for your family in their plight.

With kindest greetings and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President



December 23, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. Erich Heller  
Rehov Hamelhahrevim 144/8  
Beer-Sheva, ISRAEL

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heller:

We have received your letter seeking assistance for your sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Armutlisky of Bucharest. Our organization is not in a position to be of service in such situations, no matter how worthy. We are, therefore, sending your letter on to the Joint Distribtuon Committee.

The JDC is the organization which sees to the needs of our people in communities wuch as Bucharest. Please be assured they will look into the situation and do their utmost to provide aid for your family in their plight.

With kindest greetings and every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President



December 23, 1977

Thomas W. Simons, Jr.  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Mr. Simons:

It was nice hearing from you and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing with me a copy of your article from the yearbook of the Leo Baeck Institute. I am delighted to add this to my library and look forward to some quiet time when I may read the article at leisure.

Your kind words about my efforts mean much to me and I am grateful for the warm of your message.

At the moment I don't have plans for a visit to Romania, but then my calendar changes so quickly it is possible I will find myself in Bucharest in the near future. Be assured I look forward to seeing you again.

With every good wish for a healthy and happy New Year,  
I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Bucharest, Romania

November 29, 1977

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Recalling your July meeting with Harry Barnes in Washington, at which I tagged along, I take the liberty of sending an off-print of an article of mine on Jewish history which has just appeared in the Leo Baeck Institute's latest yearbook.

We remain admirers of your good work in the vineyards of better Romanian-American relations, and of course stay involved ourselves in those aspects affected by the issues surrounding Jewish emigration. Two weeks ago I went with Congressman Solarz back to Iasi (his grandmother left from there in 1885), and while I was probably not as affected as he was, it was a pretty near thing.

I realize that Israel has higher priorities than Jewish emigration from Romania at this point, and that you must too, but to the extent you find time to help untangle the bureaucratic knots in which the question seems to be caught in Tel Aviv, you have a very large cheering section here. We are also looking forward to your next visit to Bucharest.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas W. Simons, Jr.  
Deputy Chief of Mission



*Thomas Winston Simons, Jr.*  
*Counselor of Embassy of the United States of America*

JOHN WEINTRAUB

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

3223 SMITH STREET, SUITE 209  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 713  
526-7337

October 27, 1977

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Thank you very much for furnishing me with copies of REFORM JUDAISM,  
for the months of March and April of this year.

Under separate cover, I have already forwarded them to a colleague,  
and I have been assured by him that they will be sent to Mr. Leonel Castillo,  
the new Commissioner of Immigration from Houston.

The articles are brief, concise, and well documented with respect to  
the background of Valerin Trifa.

Perhaps the reason why a greater percentage of Romanian Jewry survived  
the holocaust is that even Antonescu could not tolerate the barbaric conduct  
of Trifa, Hora Simia, etc., and had them deported from Romania during the  
early part of the War.

I sincerely appreciate your personal concern with respect to this issue,  
and I feel that the mere presence of Trifa in the United States is repugnant  
to our concept of freedom and brotherhood.

Sincerely yours,

  
Johnny Weintraub

JW:ls



3223 Smith Street, # 209  
Houston, Texas 77006  
December 14, 1977

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Several months ago, I wrote to you concerning "Bishop" Trifa, and you kindly forwarded to me copies of the March and April, 1977, editions of your esteemed publication, REFORM JUDAISM.

You may be pleased to know that the publication not only brought<sup>it</sup> to the attention of members of Reform Congregations, but, also, the copies that you forwarded to me have reached the desk of the Commissioner of Immigration, the Honorable Leonel Castillo, from Houston.

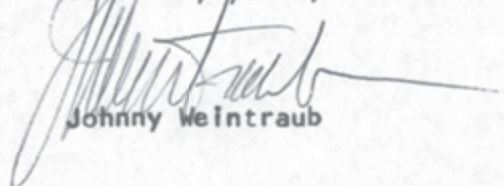
I am well aware that "Bishop" Trifa is on the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches, and that he has tremendous political support and backing from the National Council of Churches.

The General Counsel for the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, has asked for the names of eyewitnesses. By necessity, any potential witness would have to be at least fifty-five years of age or older, and, undoubtedly, many have passed away, or are presently in old-age homes.

Nonetheless, I would appreciate your forwarding the General Counsel's request to Chief Rabbi Moshe Rosen of Romania, and, likewise, I will write to my relatives in Bucharest.

Once, again, I thank you for your concern for the blessed memory of the little children who were so brutally slaughtered by Trifa in January of 1941.

Sincerely yours,

  
Johnny Weintraub



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

CO 1421

DEC 2 1977

Mr. John Weintraub  
Attorney at Law  
3223 Smith Street  
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Mr. Weintraub:

Thank you for sending, through Mr. Williamson, the issues of Reform Judaism which contain information about Valerian Trifa.

As you know, proceedings have been instituted against Mr. Trifa to revoke his citizenship. If you know of any eyewitnesses to Mr. Trifa's activities in Rumania please contact Martin Mendelsohn, the attorney in charge of all Nazi war criminal prosecutions, at my office in Washington.

Sincerely,

  
David Crosland  
General Counsel





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

AND REFER TO THIS FILE NO.

CO 1421

DEC 2 1977

Mr. Peter D. Williamson  
Attorney at Law  
821 American Building  
Houston, Texas 77002

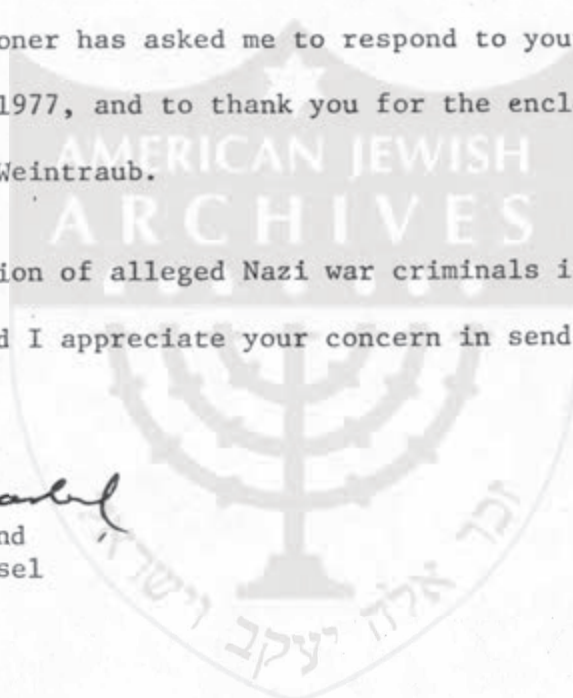
Dear Mr. Williamson:

The Commissioner has asked me to respond to your letter of  
November 8, 1977, and to thank you for the enclosures supplied  
by Mr. John Weintraub.

The prosecution of alleged Nazi war criminals is now under my  
direction and I appreciate your concern in sending the information.

Sincerely,

  
David Crosland  
General Counsel



from the desk of Edith J. Miller

If Schneer goes OK  
if not regret &  
ask if ADAS can  
pay respects — at  
Hotel

---





**ENGELHARD**  
**MINERALS & CHEMICALS CORPORATION**

1221 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

MILTON F. ROSENTHAL  
CHAIRMAN

(212) 764-3700

October 10, 1977

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I am very pleased to invite you to a reception and luncheon in honor of Ion Patan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Trade and International Economic Co-operation of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on Friday, October 28th, 1977. The reception will commence at 12:30 P.M., with luncheon at 1:00 P.M. at the "21 Club", 21 West 52nd Street, New York City.

I would appreciate it if you would inform me as early as possible whether you will attend.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Milton F. Rosenthal*

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

R. S. V. P.  
Miss Eileen Shea  
(212) 790-5900

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November 4, 1977

Mr. Alfred H. Moses  
Covington & Burling  
888 Sixteenth St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of October 4 and the material you were kind enough to enclose. I, too, am delayed in responding to you for this has been a most hectic time for me and will continue to be so for the next few weeks.

The UAHC Biennial, our major assembly when some 3000 representatives of Reform Congregations of the United States and Canada join for five days of meetings, study and inspiration, will convene in San Francisco but a few short weeks from now and as you can imagine I am deeply involved in the pre-Biennial preparations. Once the Convention has ended I will have an opportunity to study the materials you sent.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

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October 4, 1977

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Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Chairman  
President's Conference of the Major  
American Jewish Organizations  
515 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Re: Barre Meeting

Dear Alex:

I apologize for the delay in the follow-up to our meeting with Premier Barre. Somehow Yom Kippur always takes a week out of my life. Maybe He will add them back so as to prolong my days.

You had suggested a letter to Barre picking up on our boycott discussion. As you will recall, Barre boasted that France had the only government that insured its citizens against boycott-related losses. In responding, I commented that Coface's requirement that exporters comply with boycott-related certifications and other demands as a condition to obtaining insurance meant that the French Government was not only avoiding a risk of boycott losses but was the only government in the Western world which required its exporters to comply with boycott demands. Barre then took a different tack and referred to U.S. legislation as being similar in purpose to the French administrative decision, to which I responded that our law generally prohibited compliance with boycott-related requests other than those applying to goods and services emanating from Israel.

The exchange was not very illuminating other than to reveal that Barre either felt he could get by with a



Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
October 4, 1977  
Page Two

thinly disguised subterfuge or did not know how Coface operates and the distinction between such operations and U.S. boycott law.

I am enclosing a few paragraphs which you may want to include in a letter to Barre, assuming you have not already sent him a letter as a follow-up to the meeting.

I intend to carry through on the Roumanian issue which you and I discussed. I greatly appreciate your undertaking to share information with me in this area.

Sincerely yours,



Alfred H. Moses

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Encls

P.S. Alex - The enclosed account which I wrote on the boycott saga will, I believe, be of interest to you.

A.H.M.

DRAFT OF INSERT TO LETTER TO PREMIER BARRE

In our meeting we mentioned that the American Jewish community had been heartened by the unanimous approval by the French Parliament of the anti-boycott legislation signed on June 7 but was dismayed by the July 24 decision of your Office making the law inapplicable to commercial operations guaranteed by Coface. As a result of this decision, France is seen in the United States as the one government in the Western World that by official action requires contracting parties to comply with Arab boycott demands, including those which would be clearly illegal under the text of the legislation passed by the French Parliament.

We had hoped that France, with its strong traditions of liberty and protection of individual rights, would join with the United States in opposing the intrusion of Arab boycott demands on domestic business decisions. The anti-boycott law which President Carter signed on July 22 was passed overwhelmingly in both Houses of our Congress and prohibits compliance with a broad range of Arab boycott demands. The only exceptions pertain to certain limited activities by United States business concerns resident in Arab countries and practices of a normal commercial nature that do not involve the active participation by United States businesses in Arab boycott practices.



Although we did not have an opportunity to discuss this matter at length in our meeting with you, the subject did come up, and I wanted you to know how the American Jewish community feels about this important matter and our hope that your government will find a way to resolve this issue consistent with the principles we share.



"I am . . . particularly pleased today to sign into law the 1977 Amendments to the Export Administration Act which will keep foreign boycott practices from intruding directly into American commerce." These words spoken by the President in the Rose Garden on June 22 marked the climax to a unique undertaking. Two groups with widely divergent views, one representing Jewish interests, the other the business community, were able, after three months of intensive negotiations, to agree on specific legislative language which the Administration endorsed and the Congress enacted. The final agreement, which I had the privilege of presenting to the Administration in the White House on April 26, was signed on behalf of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and the Anti-Defamation League and, for the business community, by the Business Roundtable, an organization comprised of some 170 chief executive officers of the nation's major corporations.

A first-hand account of the final negotiations will put much on the record which has not yet appeared. Even more important, there are lessons from an account of the negotiations and the background to them that may be of value to the American Jewish community and American corporate leaders. Indeed, the experience with the controversial boycott legislation may suggest an approach for resolving other domestic controversies which involve sharply opposed positions of domestic interest groups.



The boycott issue emerged full bloom with the swearing in of the 39th President on January 20 and the convening a few weeks before of the 95th Congress. President Carter, in his memorable television debate with President Ford on October 6, called the Arab boycott "an absolute disgrace" and promised to do "everything I can as President to stop the boycott of American business by Arab countries."

This was in sharp contrast to the position taken by the Ford administration. Even though both the House and Senate had passed bills aimed at curbing the intrusion on American citizens and business by the Arab boycott of Israel, the 94th Congress adjourned just a week before the television debate without enacting anti-boycott legislation. The House bill had passed shortly before the Congress was scheduled to adjourn and, with only a few days left in the session, Senators Abourezk and Tower used a threatened filibuster to block the appointment of Senate conferees. An angry Senator Stevenson, the sponsor of the Senate bill, told the Senate:

"The will of Congress is now being frustrated by a parliamentary ploy aimed at keeping this legislation from being brought to a vote in the Senate. The effort is being supported by the administration."

At the eleventh hour, and after the reported intercession of Max Fisher, the President's long-time friend and Republican fund raiser, word was sent from President Ford to his White House staff to seek agreement on watered-down legislation.

A flurry of late night phone calls ensued as the clock ran down to less than 24 hours to adjournment. A hurried meeting the following morning to test the water on a possible compromise with key boycott congressmen came to naught. The Ford administration's move was too late and too political. The Democrats had a good issue and they knew it. There was no chance they would fritter it away by agreeing to a half measure at the behest of a campaigning Jerry Ford.

Not only were President Carter's campaign words reassuring to supporters of anti-boycott legislation, but the makeup of the 95th Congress, with strong Democratic majorities in both Houses, gave every indication of being hospitable to prompt enactment of the bills left waiting at the altar when the 94th Congress adjourned. The Senate bill had passed by a vote of 67-13, and the House bill received a ringing endorsement of 318 ayes to 63 nays. Moreover, a shadow conference committee had reached a compromise on differences between the two bills along the lines of the stronger House measure. This compromise measure was introduced in the early days of the 95th Congress by Senator Stevenson (S.69), with a stronger bill (S.92) introduced by Senator Proxmire, Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, and Senator Williams, a committee member; in the House a companion bill to S.92 (H.R.1561) was introduced the same day by Congressmen Bingham and Rosenthal.



The prevailing optimism of proponents of the legislation failed to take into account the effect of the enormous increase in trade between the United States and the Arab world, in particular Saudi Arabia and the Arab Emirates, as well as the differences which were bound to emerge between campaign oratory and policy implementation by an incoming administration. United States sales to Saudi Arabia and the Arab Emirates for the first two months of 1977 had increased by 42%. If the trend continued, exports to these countries, we were told, would exceed \$4 billion for the year, providing a welcome source of recycled petrodollars. Kuwait, the third largest purchaser of U.S. goods in the Arab world, had more than doubled its purchases of American products in the last two years. Exports to Israel, which as recently as 1974 had exceeded sales to Saudi Arabia, the Arab Emirates and Kuwait, together, were now less than a third of sales to the three Arab countries. U.S. companies active in the Middle East were not slow to react to the potential impact of tough boycott legislation on lucrative trade opportunities.

American industry had been caught unaware, as had the Ford Administration, by the passage of anti-boycott legislation the previous fall, particularly in the House, but it was now geared for battle. An avalanche of industry groups and business lobbyists descended on the newly convened Congress and the new Administration to warn of the catastrophic consequences that would be upon us if the

proposed legislation were enacted. The Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association predicted a loss in its industry alone of more than 100,000 jobs per year for the next five years, with over \$1.3 billion in potential wages. The major oil companies were also active in opposing legislation, with Mobil Oil Corp. assuming the role of front runner. Other groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce took a less alarmist view. They professed agreement with the principles embodied in the proposed legislation but concluded, not surprisingly, that existing laws and regulations were adequate to combat the restrictive trade practices and discriminatory acts fostered by the boycott. This led Senator Proxmire to remark, "I am puzzled by the position you take. It seems contradictory to believe in principles, but to do nothing." Other groups such as the Emergency Committee for American Trade, though recognizing that the boycott ran counter to ECAT's opposition to boycotts and restrictive trade practices, urged the Congress to go easy lest "harsh" legislation upset the chances for peace in the Middle East.

Vociferous opposition by industry did not go unnoticed either on the Hill or by the new Administration, which was then in the process of seeking to reassure American business it had nothing to fear from the Carter Administration. To prove this the President turned increasingly to business leaders for high profile national assignments.



Irving S. Shapiro, Chairman of the Board of du Pont, was asked to head the President's FBI Committee, and Reginald H. Jones, Chairman of the Board of General Electric Company, was asked to help coordinate cooperation between labor, management and the Government in restraining inflation. Shapiro and Jones also happened to be chairman and co-chairman, respectively, of the Business Roundtable.

Hearings on the Senate and House bills were delayed for several weeks pending the return of Cyrus Vance from his first trip to the Middle East as Secretary of State. Senator Stevenson had agreed to the delay as a courtesy to Vance. Hearings in the Senate did not get under way until February 21, with the Secretary scheduled to testify on February 28.

Representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League appeared jointly before the Senate and House committees on behalf of the three agencies and the other constituent agencies of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. Maxwell E. Greenberg, Chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Anti-Defamation League, gave the lead testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on International Finance on February 21, and I, as Chairman of the Domestic Affairs Commission of the American Jewish Committee, gave the lead testimony before the House International Relations Committee on March 8. Philip Baum, Associate Director of the American Jewish Congress, participated in the Senate

hearing and Paul S. Berger, a Washington attorney and a vice president of the American Jewish Congress, participated in the House hearing.

In the Senate hearing, the three Jewish agencies strongly supported S.92 which made it illegal for a United States person for boycott reasons to refrain from doing business with a boycotted country (Israel), with a company resident in a boycotted country, its nationals, or with a United States person engaged in business in, or with, a boycotted country or which for some other reason was on the Arab blacklist. The bill also made it a crime to furnish boycott-related information, including certificates that goods were not manufactured in Israel ("negative certificates of origin") or to refrain for boycott reasons from employing a United States person on the basis of race, religion, etc.

Greenberg's prepared testimony carefully avoided any mention of what was then common knowledge -- the ADL and the Business Roundtable had for some three weeks been working on a joint statement of principles to serve as a guide in drafting boycott legislation. At the hearing Senator Proxmire made it clear that he, and other members of Congress, would welcome an announcement by the two groups that they had agreed on such a statement. This view was repeated a week later by Secretary Vance in his testimony. He stated, "I have received encouraging reports that the meetings between the Anti-Defamation League and the Business



Roundtable have been constructive. A substantial meeting of minds by these representative groups on a set of principles on which legislation will be based will be a great help to us in our deliberations."

The two groups had been meeting since January 28 and, although the ADL's negotiators initiated some guarded discussions with representatives of the other two Jewish agencies, the Joint Statement of Principles released on March 2 represented for all intents and purposes the work of the ADL alone. The American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress, however, supported the statement, as they understood it, when their representatives testified in the House on March 8.

The Joint Statement endorsed the "refraining from dealing" clauses and prohibitions on furnishing information embodied in S.92 and the companion House bill. In a number of respects, however, it departed from the legislative formulations then before the Congress by providing an exception where a United States person did nothing more than comply with a unilateral selection by another party (including a United States person) of specific persons to be involved in distinct aspects of a transaction as subcontractor, supplier, insurer or the like. The example most frequently used to illustrate the point is that of a truck manufacturer who receives an order for a hundred trucks equipped with x company tires. Can the truck manufacturer comply if x

company's tires have been selected for boycott reasons. The Joint Statement said yes. The statement also sought to extricate from penalty a United States person who could not do business in a boycotting country without violating either United States law or the laws of the foreign country with respect to its activities within the host country. These two exceptions, "unilateral selection" and "compliance with host country law" and a general non-evasion provision designed to guard against the use of special tactics to avoid the strictures of the Act, became the focus of attention for the Congress, the Administration and interested groups. Other provisions of the Joint Statement such as how to deal with foreign subsidiaries, the treatment of letters of credit, and preemption of state boycott laws, all of which seemed important at the time, proved less difficult to apply.

The Joint Statement was formally presented to the Congress on March 8 as part of the House testimony of the three Jewish agencies. My prepared statement which led off the hearing was reviewed and edited in advance by the three agencies and reflected the ADL's understanding of the reach of the Joint Statement. There were gratifying words of approbation from the twenty or so congressmen present, and after some two hours of testimony, the Committee conveniently adjourned in time for lunch without a discordant note.



Despite the enthusiastic reception accorded the Jewish agencies in the Senate and House, all was not well. The Administration was having difficulty getting its act together. The President, for his part, was committed to supporting legislation prohibiting compliance by American business with the so-called secondary and tertiary boycotts of Israel -- i.e., Arab insistence that an American company: (i) not do business in Israel or with Israeli concerns (secondary) or, (ii) with American companies that do business in Israel or with Israeli concerns, etc., (tertiary). The three government departments most directly concerned with the boycott issue, State, Treasury and Commerce, had traditionally opposed legislative expansion in the boycott field, citing foreign policy and business considerations. The Commerce Department's stance had softened somewhat in Elliot Richardson's tenure as secretary in the last year and a half of the Ford administration. Richardson had counseled for support of legislation along the lines of the Stevenson bill in the 94th Congress, but was out-gunned by Simon at Treasury and Dr. Kissinger. The situation had not changed significantly during the first sixty days of the Carter administration. Key positions in State and Commerce were still filled with Ford and Nixon appointees. On a matter this complex, a cabinet officer is forced to rely on deputy assistant secretaries and the like. The complexion of this influential

cadre changes very slowly. Moreover, Commerce's natural constituency, business, very loudly proclaimed the dire consequences that would flow from passage of boycott legislation and the Carter administration was not exactly insensitive to predictions of heightened unemployment and the loss of export sales.

The box in which the Administration found itself was made clear by the testimony of the first representative of the new administration to testify on this issue before the Congress. Secretary Vance, in his Senate appearance on February 28, coupled support for banning boycott-motivated discrimination and secondary and tertiary boycotts with an extended discussion of the difficulties involved in seeking to enforce such principles. He pointed out concessions already obtained through diplomatic means, such as persuading the Saudis to drop negative certificates of origin. Such words as "forthright diplomacy is another way to pursue our efforts, and we have found a forthcoming response" had a familiar ring to boycott watchers. The clear implication of Vance's statement was that if State had its "drothers," it would prefer diplomacy to legislation. When pressed by Senator Stevenson as to whether enactment of the proposed legislation would adversely affect chances for peace in the Middle East, Vance replied, "That would not be helpful, and indeed might be harmful." His answer to Stevenson's question



as to the effect on oil prices was similarly negative. He replied, "No one can predict for the future, but it would not be helpful." It was clear the Administration was not going to follow blindly the Congress' lead. That the Administration was not willing to endorse the bills then being considered by the Congress was made clear by Vance's concluding statement that he and other cabinet members would be happy to make available their experts to work with Congressional staff to formulate "new legislative language on which we can agree."

The next day when Vance appeared before the House International Relations Committee, he was told by Chairman Zablocki that the Committee would welcome Administration suggestions for amendments to H.R.1561, but the committee was not about to scrap a bill it had worked on for more than a year. Vance had been told the same thing by concerned senators the day before and he readily agreed with Zablocki to follow the amendment route. When pressed by Congressman Rosenthal for specific amendments, Vance responded with a limited number of largely technical changes of no real import. What had started out as a bang the day before had ended as a whimper, if only for the moment.

Leaders in the business community were not slow, however, to recognize a kindred spirit in Cyrus Vance and his advisors at State. Successive spokesmen for business

groups continually referred to Secretary Vance's testimony in support of contentions that the proposed legislation was either unnecessary or went too far. Mobil Oil Corp. went a step further. Although a member of the Roundtable's Policy Committee, Mobil refused to endorse the Joint Statement of Principles, suggesting instead that the Business Roundtable and the Anti-Defamation League jointly endorse the principles outlined by Vance in his statements to the Senate and House.

The Roundtable proceeded to press home with the Administration its view as to how the principles in the Joint Statement should be applied. On March 10 Irving Shapiro, its chairman, wrote to Secretary Vance urging that the exception for host law compliance, recognized in the Joint Statement but not clearly delineated, should apply to U.S. companies' business directed "to or within" a boycotting country. In other words, the Congress should except from the prohibitions of the law, boycott-motivated activities by a U.S. company so long as they were required by a foreign country's laws and regulations. This would have covered all exports to Arab countries. Residence in the boycotting country, Shapiro urged, should not be required. This would have reduced the law to a pious exhortation against boycott practices and not much else. Shapiro also urged that the unilateral selection exception in the Joint Statement be applied to permit a U.S. company to make the final designation of a subcontractor, supplier or the like from a list



of acceptable candidates submitted by a boycotting country and that the U.S. company be permitted to prepare the list from which the boycotting country could make the unilateral selection. This would have put U.S. companies in the active boycott stream. Neither condition we were told was acceptable to the ADL, and certainly neither was acceptable to the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress.

In the preface to his letter, Shapiro referred to my testimony before the House on March 8, and implied that as I had not negotiated the Joint Statement, I was not qualified to comment on its meaning. He conveniently omitted mentioning that neither had he, the statement having been negotiated by a battery of lawyers on each side. Mr. Shapiro repeated his criticism a few days later in his testimony before the Senate, which prompted me to write to Shapiro reminding him that my views were the same as those expressed by the ADL's negotiators. Shapiro wrote back, curiously enough, that he had no quarrel with me (although I was the only one he singled out publicly for criticism), only with the ADL negotiators who had an obligation, in his view, to avoid what had happened.

Unfortunately, what had happened was that the Joint Statement of Principles, which each side believed it had negotiated in good faith, proved difficult to apply in statutory language. It is one thing to agree on principles,

another to write legislation, and here is where the agreement foundered, causing Shapiro, as the person who had originally proposed and subsequently championed the cause of the Joint Statement, some anguish. He was obviously in a fighting mood and he made his views known in unvarnished words to the press and others. In accusing the ADL of bad faith in not siding with his interpretation of the Joint Statement, Shapiro did little to advance the spirit of mutual trust needed to work out the problems that remained. Later, when the three Jewish agencies returned to the negotiating table with the Roundtable, one of the conditions of the agencies was that Shapiro stop going public and confine his remarks to negotiating channels.

It was inevitable that the White House would be drawn into the act. Things came to a head the weekend of March 12. The Administration was being pressed by Shapiro and other business spokesmen to endorse the Business Roundtable's interpretation of the Joint Statement. Secretary Kreps was due to testify before the House the following Monday. Commerce had responsibility for administering the Export Administration Act and her testimony was crucial. The Secretary was away for the weekend and a high level decision would have to be made largely in her absence. The testimony which her staff had prepared was unmistakably tilted toward business. When word of this reached Paul Berger on March 12,



he asked the American Jewish Committee's Washington representative, Hyman Bookbinder, to try to arrange a hurried meeting with Stuart Eizenstat, the President's Assistant for Domestic Affairs. Berger and I joined "Bookie," as he is known to all, at the White House that afternoon. Saturday, March 12, was a busy day for Eizenstat. He had already met with Secretary Blumenthal of Treasury before seeing us. An unanswered telephone message from Shapiro was awaiting him when we arrived.

Dispensing with the usual introductory niceties, Eizenstat put before us Shapiro's March 10 letter and asked for our response. Eizenstat's question did not come as a surprise. Knowledge of the letter and its contents was one of the reasons we had requested the meeting. Our group had conferred before the meeting and concluded that we should stick by the unilateral selection exception, so long as there was no pre-selection complicity by the U.S. company to which the selection was addressed. We also determined to support the exception for compliance with host country laws provided it was clear the exception would be limited to U.S. persons resident in a boycotting country.

Eizenstat focused on the same two points and, after a half hour's discussion spaced around a private five minute boycott meeting with Secretary Vance, he was prepared to say that in his view our position was reasonable and

would be supported by the Administration. He was careful to point out, however, that he could not speak for Secretary Kreps, only the President could direct the Secretary, but that he would confer with the Secretary's staff and, if necessary, talk with the Secretary before she testified Monday morning.

In the weeks that followed, the Administration remained faithful to the assurances given by Eizenstat. Secretary Kreps in her testimony on March 14 did not go beyond the limited recommendations made by Secretary Vance in responding to Rosenthal's prodding some two weeks earlier. Later both Vance and Kreps filed additional amendments with the House committee covering unilateral selection and compliance with host country laws. Although somewhat lacking in specificity the amendments did not do violence to the understanding reached with Eizenstat.

The House and Senate committees were now moving rapidly toward agreement on committee mark-ups. In the House, Congressmen Hamilton and Whalen produced a compromise between the principal sponsors of the legislation, Congressmen Bingham, Rosenthal and Solarz and the Administration. This package was approved by the committee on March 31. On April 6 the Senate committee approved somewhat similar amendments to S.69, but not without four days of often acrimonious debate followed by 8 to 7 votes on key amendments. Some committee members acknowledged they had been



persuaded to take a more "moderate" view of the need for legislation at a breakfast meeting conveniently hosted for 16 key senators during the committee's deliberations by Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister \_\_\_\_\_ Yamani. Supporters of tougher legislation vowed to take the battle to the Senate floor.

Although it was generally felt that the House bill was stronger than the Senate version, the differences were not as great as many perceived. Although they dealt with the issues somewhat differently, both bills provided exceptions for unilateral selection and compliance with host country laws. For example, the House measure on unilateral selection prohibited a United States person from complying with such a selection "if the United States person has actual knowledge that the sole purpose of the designation is to implement the boycott." There was no such purpose or knowledge test in the Senate version but the Senate Bill provided that the exception did not apply if a U.S. person did the selecting. The host country laws exception was somewhat tighter in the Senate version than in the House bill, but both bills gave the President leeway to grant limited exceptions for U.S. persons caught between our law and the laws of a boycotting country.

The Congress adjourned for the Easter recess on April , but interested groups were already making plans

for resuming the battle when the Congress reconvened. Oil company lobbyists were circulating a nine point list entitled "Minimum Changes Required to Permit Continued U.S.-Arab Trade Relations." The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) was urging its member agencies to support amendments to the Senate bill to bar unilateral selections if it were known that the "primary" purpose of the selection was to implement the boycott.

The Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Emergency Committee for American Trade scheduled a joint meeting in Washington for April 18 at which it would urge some 300 members to lobby against passage of the boycott legislation and at least, water-down the Senate bill. The next day the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) would begin its annual meeting with some 600 delegates from across the country who could be counted upon to work to strengthen the Senate bill. Emotions ran high. The divisiveness in prospect was something neither side wanted.

Some weeks before, the Business Roundtable and the ADL had failed in a second attempt to reconcile their differences. Lawyers for the two groups had met in Washington but were unable to reach agreement on the key issue of unilateral selection. Both sides went away shaking their heads in discouragement.



Wiser heads in the business community knew by mid-April that they could not win politically. The House bill had been reported out of committee 33 to 0 and there was no likelihood under the House's rules that amendments would be accepted on the floor. The situation in the Senate was different. It was expected that floor amendments would be offered on both sides. The Administration let it be known that it would not support any amendments, but the business community was understandably concerned that liberal leanings in the Senate would carry the day for stronger legislation. After all, the boycott could hardly be defended on moral grounds and business' scare tactics and foreign policy arguments were not winning many converts. Realizing this, Irving Shapiro, on April 13, sought the help of Max Kampelman, one of the three ADL representatives who negotiated the Joint Statement. Mr. Shapiro's good judgment in his choice of Kampelman was confirmed by subsequent events. Kampelman, a Washington attorney who had been an assistant to Senator Humphrey when he arrived in the Senate in 1949, had made it clear throughout the negotiations that he favored a compromise in the interest of achieving boycott legislation (which he considered important but largely symbolic) with a minimum of rancor and divisiveness. After Shapiro's call, Kampelman sought out Bookbinder, his friend of thirty years, for help in finding out if a compromise was still possible.

Bookie was enthusiastic about the idea. As he saw it, the issues separating the two sides were not so vital they could not be compromised. Bookbinder was leaving for Israel the next day and that left it up to Berger and me to work with Kampelman to see what could be done.

Shapiro's timing was excellent. Burton Joseph, president of the ADL, had scheduled a meeting for April 15 in New York with representatives of the principal Jewish agencies. Twenty or so persons gathered in a room in the Harmonie Club to hear Joseph report on the consequences to the Jewish community of increased Arab influence in the United States. Boycott legislation per se was not on the agenda. But within an hour or two boycott legislation became the focus of discussion, with the three Washington lawyers, Kampelman, Berger and myself, urging that the time had come to put differences with the Roundtable on the Joint Statement behind us and seek agreement on specific language amending the Senate bill. This, we argued, would avoid a floor fight and put an end to the confrontational posture building up between Jewish groups and the business community. The argument carried the day and, at Joseph's suggestion, the lawyers in the group met separately at lunch to consider possible amendments. Agreement came quickly, and the larger group, which consisted of the presidents and top staff of the major national agencies working on the boycott, sent us



back to Washington to begin negotiations. Four days later, Kampelman, Berger and I sat down in Washington with the Business Roundtable's lawyers to begin negotiations.

The Roundtable brought to the table four lawyers headed by Hans Angermueller, the highly-regarded General Counsel of Citibank. Both sides knew they had to move quickly. While representatives of the two groups were meeting, the House bill passed by a vote of 364 to 43. Senate action was due to follow early in May. The Roundtable's opening salvo called for choosing the Senate bill over the House version, deleting from the unilateral selection exception the restriction on U.S. persons making the selection and adding a clarifying amendment or two to other sections of the bill. For our part, the narrowing of the exception for compliance with host country laws and the strengthening of the bill's non-evasion provision were seen as essential objectives. The way the bill worked, the only U.S. person who could make a boycott-related unilateral selection was a resident of a boycotting country. If the host country laws exception was made sufficiently narrow, the unilateral selection exception would not be so troublesome. Indeed, the unilateral selection exception as it then stood in the Senate bill would have required the Aramco's and the like, resident in the Arab world, to take their business away from U.S. companies. This did not seem to us to be either necessary

or desirable and we agreed to delete the U.S. person restriction in the unilateral selection exception. In return, the Roundtable's representatives agreed to strengthening amendments to the compliance with host country laws exception, and the non-evasion provision, and to add language to make it clearer that the unilateral selection exception only applied in certain restricted circumstances, such as transactions in the normal course of business and to specified suppliers of services performed only within a boycotting country. The negotiations consumed the better part of a week chocked full of boycott activity both at and away from the negotiating table.

Before meeting with the Roundtable's representatives, our group decided to go back to Eizenstat to let the Administration know we were ready to try again for agreement with the Roundtable, this time on amendments to the Senate bill, but to do so, we needed to know where the Administration stood. Eizenstat gave such assurances as he could subject to seeing the final agreement. The Administration had favored such an approach from the beginning. The spectre of the President's having to make a decision on issues dividing proponents of the legislation and the business community haunted the President's aides. This became even clearer a week or so later. The Roundtable's leadership was apparently not content to rely on the ability of its negotiators to



work out a compromise. While the negotiations were in progress, a telegram was sent to the President requesting that he meet with the signers, Shapiro, Reginald H. Jones, Chairman of General Electric, Walter B. Wriston, Chairman of Citicorp, Clifton C. Garvin, Jr., Chairman of Exxon, and George Shultz, President of Bechtel. Shapiro and the others argued that the pending legislation would make U.S. trade with Arab countries so difficult as to be impossible. The President's advisors were urging him not to get in the middle of the controversy. If the President met with the Roundtable's leaders, he would have to meet with proponents of the legislation and this would result in his having to choose between two sides each of which had merit. The telegram remained unanswered.

The next stop for our group was Congress. The real heroes of the boycott struggle were not those of us now tinkering with language refinements, but members of Congress such as Bingham, Proxmire, Rosenthal, Stevenson, Sarbanes and others who with great skill and dedication had persuaded their colleagues that the Arab boycott of Israel had become an American issue involving the freedom of American companies to do business where and with whom they wanted without being required to certify to a long list of obnoxious conditions. Our proposal for renewing talks with the Roundtable was embraced by most congressional proponents of the

legislation, although one or two felt matters of principle were involved that should not be compromised. The general reaction, however, was favorable and we felt free to proceed with the negotiations.

Both sides had their critics. Even within the three Jewish agencies there were those who felt strongly more could be gained by leaving the issues to be resolved in the normal political channels than by attempting to work things out in advance with the Roundtable. One Jewish organization which plays hardball on the Hill with the best found it particularly difficult to think in terms of a compromise. Its representative made it clear, in a meeting on the Hill with a key senator, that he agreed with the senator's preference for fighting it out on the floor. He was prepared then and there to help whip up support for a floor fight. A stormy corridor session outside the senator's office followed and produced a tacit agreement there would be no interference with efforts to work out a compromise as long as things did not drag out to the point where proponents of stronger legislation would be unable to rally their forces in time for an effective campaign on the Senate floor.

The Roundtable was having its troubles, too. Mobil Oil was stirring up trouble with its stridency, putting pressure on the other major oil companies to follow suit in



demonstrating support for "improved U.S.-Arab relations." Rawleigh Warner, Mobil's chairman, was still hard at it when I ran into him by chance at the White House. He was quick to tell me that the Joint Statement was a big mistake. Others shared his view. Dresser Industries ran a double page ad in the Wall Street Journal claiming the boycott legislation would mean the soup kitchen for 500,000 American workers. And as late as April 25, at a Cabinet meeting Treasury's Blumenthal and State's representative (Vance was absent), reported urgent messages of concern from top business leaders. At that time, agreement with the Roundtable was only a day away.

Negotiators for the two groups assembled at the White House on April 26 to deliver the signed agreement to the Administration. Each group, after obtaining concurrence from its policy-makers, was committed to urge adoption of the amendments in the Senate, and thereafter take no action inconsistent with such amendments as they wended their way through the conference committee. Eizenstat, David Rubinstein, his principal assistant on boycott matters, Robert Lipschultz, counsel to the President, and Warren M. Christopher, Undersecretary of State, crowded into the room with the remaining space filled by the negotiators for the two sides. A sigh of relief could be heard from the Administration as the agreement was read even though formalities required the

White House to poll State, Commerce and Treasury for their views. The next day we had the official word that the Administration was on board. Indeed, we are told that if the two groups for some reason found they could not support the agreement, the Administration would adopt it as its own proposal, to which we demurred. If the Roundtable was not going to support the agreement, we did not want to be committed to compromises which the business community would be free to disregard.

This was not an idle threat. The Roundtable's policy committee had yet to bless the agreement. Shapiro, as its chairman, refused to poll its members until he was certain of overwhelming approval. This depended largely on Exxon's vote. For without Exxon, the other oil companies could be tempted to follow Mobil's lead and shy away from an agreement with Jewish groups that was sure to be criticized in the Arab world. For more than 24 hours Exxon's vote remained in doubt. Garvin, its chairman, was on vacation and there was no one at Exxon who would approve the agreement in his absence. Finally, on the night of April 27, Vance and Eizenstat reached Garvin by telephone to tell him of the President's interest in seeing the agreement approved. Garvin was sympathetic but stated that approval by Exxon's Board of Directors was required. All he could promise was that he would recommend approval to the Board. The next day



the Board met and approved the agreement. That clinched it. Telegrams were immediately dispatched to the Roundtable's policy committee signed by Shapiro, Garvin, Wriston, Shultz and John D. deButts, Chairman of AT&T. Only two companies dissented. On Tuesday, May 3, the President was able to announce publicly that agreement had been reached by the two groups.

Things moved quickly. The President, in a public announcement, urged the Senate and the Congress to adopt the agreed upon amendments. Senator Stevenson simultaneously announced that he would support the amendments on the Senate floor. The Senate leadership lost no time in bringing the matter to a vote. The agreed upon amendments were introduced by Senator Heinz and adopted without dissent. In conference, the House acceded to the Senate version and the battle was over.

In a little more than two weeks the Jewish organizations and the Roundtable had achieved something unique -- agreement on legislative language enacted without change by the Congress -- an effort lauded by most, though criticized in part by some, such as Senator Javits, who correctly, but needlessly, pointed out that "none of the Jewish organizations or the representatives of the Roundtable were elected to the United States Senate." He and other members of the Congress objected to some of the specific

compromises required to reach agreement, but nevertheless applauded the result. So did everyone else, the Administration, the business community and the Jewish community. Israel, the object of the boycott, had stayed out of the congressional fray, viewing the matter largely as a domestic issue, but it, too, joined in the celebration with congratulatory telegrams to the three Jewish organizations.

The outcome furnished important lessons for both groups. The business community learned once again that the Congress will not put purely business considerations above matters of principle. But if business is well led, compromises can be effected that preserve essential business considerations without violating matters of principle. The Jewish community learned that the business community was neither monolithic nor omnipotent. It was primarily the large international banks, the oil companies, and petroleum-engineering and related services organizations that felt threatened by the boycott. General Mills, on the other hand, testified in favor of the boycott legislation while other business representatives made it known that their principal concern was that the law be both clear in its application and impose a minimum of reporting for business, already overwhelmed by Government reporting requirements.

The legislation did not accomplish everything sought by either side, but the result kept faith with the



important principles involved without unduly handcuffing American business in its efforts to compete in the Arab world. It is hoped that the good will which emerged from the process will carry through the difficult period to follow as the Department of Commerce wrestles with the issues left by the legislation to be resolved by regulation.

Most important for the Jewish community is the knowledge that on this issue which involved American principles, but affected directly and singly the Jewish community, the Congress and the American people stood firmly by us. Our opponents and the cynical may attribute the result to the "Jewish lobby". However strongly the Jewish community felt about the legislation, there was no professional effort in support of the legislation in any way comparable to the scores of lawyers and other professional lobbyists opposing the legislation on behalf of business interests. Congressional support for the legislation came from members of the Congress who were incensed by Arab intrusions into United States business practices and by the real or potential discrimination which flowed from Arab demands that American business certify to "Israelrein" practices. Predictions of profit and job losses, even where believable, were not enough to sanction our country's knuckling under to the Arab boycott. Perhaps this is the lasting message to be told by those of us who were privileged to participate in the effort which led to passage of the anti-boycott legislation.

April 24, 1978

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Lackner  
Rehov Katznelson 117 - Apt. 11  
Givataim  
Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dear Rodica and Julian:

It was wonderful to hear from you and to learn that things are looking up for you and the family. I am delighted to know that Julian has a job in Tel-Aviv and that Rodica is completing a special course for English teachers. It is my fond hope that life will be good and fulfilling in the days and years ahead.

Rhea joins me in sending fondest regards to you. We hope you had a beautiful Pesach and hope during one of our visits to Israel we will see you again.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Tel-Aviv 12<sup>th</sup> April 1978

Dear Mr Schindler,

I dare to write you a few lines, for this time more hopeful and with better news.

Of course, that every beginning for everybody is very difficult.

We passed through a very difficult and sad period, but now, sun shines in our street too.

My husband found a good job in Tel Aviv industrial area and I am going to finish a special course for English teachers.

For two years, we have rented an apartment in Ghivataim and we hope to be able to fulfil ourselves in peace and freedom.

We send you and your family our best wishes.

At the same time, we wish you much success in your noble activity for the Jewish cause. Yours sincerely, Liora Lackner

Religious  
recipients  
good writing  
wife I'll see them  
best from  
photo





Sincere wishes  
of happiness for  
Desak holidays.  
Our warmest regards  
to your wonderful wife  
and family.  
Yours sincerely  
Rodica & Luban  
Lackner

TAPE TOUNS LTD P.O. BOX 2266 JERUSALEM

Mr.  
Alexander H. Schindler  
Office of the President  
838 - 5th Av. New York  
N.Y. 10021

U.S.A.

MARSADA: THE NORTHERN PALACE FROM THE LOWER  
TERRACE

MARSADA: LA PALAIS DU NORD, DU TERRASSE INFERIEUR

MARSADA: DER NÖRDLICHE PALAST, GEGEHEN VON DER  
UNTEREN TERRASSE





Sincere  
greetings and  
happy holidays for  
you and family.  
The same wishes to your  
distinguished wife.  
Yours sincerely  
Rodica & Julian  
Lackner

How pleased  
I am to be  
able to write  
them to  
Israel.

דואר אוויר  
PAR AVION



1.12.77



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מסוף הארץ  
ISRAEL LANDSCAPES

Mr.

Alexander Schindler

Office of the President

838 Fifth Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10021

to be able to write them to Israel.

S. A.

בית שאן - רצפת מסיפס ביזאנטית

BEIT SHEAN - BYZANTINE MOSAIC FLOOR

MERCAZ KLITA - REH. HADSHMER 47/283

December 15, 1977

Mrs. Ilana Glanz  
17 B, Haschachar Street  
Herzliya, Israel

Dear Mrs. Glanz:

Your letter seeking my assistance in regard to your aunt and uncle in Bucharest has reached me desk. I hasten to advise that I have written to Rabbi Rosen and have asked him to do his utmost to perform a mitzvah in behalf of Elizabetha and Joseph Pulver. It is my fond hope that he will reconsider your request and arrange to have warm food sent to them from the community kitchen.

Should I hear from him I will be in contact with you. In turn, I would ask that you let me know if Rabbi Rosen contacts you directly. I would very much wish to know what transpires.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



December 15, 1977

Rabbi Moshe Rosen  
Jewish Federation  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Rabbi Rosen:

Mrs. Ilana Glanz of Herzliya, Israel, has written to seek my intervention and assistance in regard to the most difficult personal plight of her aunt and uncle, Elizabetha and Joseph Pulver of 51, Theophile St., Bucharest. In an effort to perform what I believe to be a mitzvah, I take the liberty of writing directly to you in behalf of the Pulver family.

Mrs. Pulver is 78 years of age and completely paralyzed. Mr. Pulver is 80 and does not work. He attends to the constant needs of his wife. A bachelor son supports them, giving over half of his income to his parents, and he also resides at home with his parents. He attends to his mother's needs during the evening hours.

Due to these circumstances, no member of the family is able to get to the community kitchen run by the Jewish community and there is no one to see that they receive warm meals. The son cannot leave his place of employment to obtain the food and bring it to his parents. The father cannot leave Mrs. Pulver alone at any time.

Mrs. Glanz advises that she discussed the possibility of having warm food sent to her aunt and uncle, if not daily, at least several times during the week. She also offered to reimburse the Jewish community for this act of kindness. Evidently it was felt that since there is a son to look after this aged couple it would not be possible to have food sent to them.

It is my fond hope that some arrangements can be made to provide warm meals for the Pulvers. Such a simple act of concern and caring would serve to ease their plight and sustain them during this most difficult time of their lives. Please do give special consideration to what appears to me to be a most needy and worthy family. Should you wish to contact Mrs. Glanz, she resides at 17 B, Hashachar Street, Herzliya, Israel.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Ilana Glanz  
17B, Hashachar St.  
Herzliya, ISRAEL

Rabbi A. Schindler  
Conf. of Presidents of Major  
American Jewish Organizations  
515 Park Avenue, New York  
N.Y. 10022 U S A

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

During a brief visit to Rumania with my husband, we visited my aunt & uncle, Elizabetha & Joseph Pulver of 51, Theophile St., Bucharest, Rumania.

To our dismay we discovered, that my aunt who is an old lady of 78, is completely paralyzed. Her husband, is an old man of 80. They have a son who is a bachelor, who supports them, lives with them and gives them half of his income (incidentally, owing to his attention and care, this young man in his mid-thirties is unable to get married and start a family of his own).

In Bucharest there is a community kitchen run by the Jewish community headed by Rabbi Rosen. Since my nephew is at work all day, and my uncle is so old, there is nobody who can cook a warm meal for the old couple. Needless to point out, that a paralyzed old lady requires constant attention and nursing, which she gets from her son and her husband. However, she does not get any warm food at all.

We approached Rabbi Rosen and asked that warm food be sent to this old couple - if not daily, then at least several times a week. We pointed out that we would be more than willing to pay for it from Israel (as we are already helping my aunt and uncle financially). Rabbi Rosen's reply was negative. He refused to have food sent from the centre since he claimed that they have a son who can look after them.

Having pointed out the unhappy circumstances of this old couple and their devoted son, we would be most obliged if you could contact Rabbi Rosen personally, and try to use your influence on him and persuade him that food should be sent to this couple, under these circumstances, when, as I wish to point out again, expense would be fully covered by us.

This is a cry from our heart - all we ask for is traditional Jewish help for the aged and the infirm - as we say in Hebrew - אל תשליכנו לעת זקנה.

Thankin g you for your attention and future assistance, and hoping your intervention will bear fruit, I remain,

Yours gratefully,

Ilana Glanz

*Write Rosen  
making inquiry  
in re this.  
A.S.*

*Tell them  
I am.*



December 12, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Lackner  
Mercaz Klita  
Rehov Hashomer 47/2833  
Tiberias, Israel

Dear Rodica and Hullan:

Rhea and I were thrilled to receive your Hanukah greetings. Having you write in joy and freedom from Israel means much to us. We pray that all goes well with you and the entire family.

May the beauty and light of the festival of Hanukah continue to enrich and enhance your lives in the days and years ahead.

With warmest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Mankeem

'75. In Israel

declared nil to  
do with Israel  
& left.

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?o merit of





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

12/OCT/77

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

For the last couple of months I have been waiting good news regarding my family's case, but nothing has happened up to now. That is why I decided to write you again.

I would like to make sure that my previous letter has reached you personally. I hope it would not bother you if I am enclosing a copy of my previous letter, mailed to you at the end of June '77.

Perhaps, I am acting a little bit childish, but I have to point out, once more, that I do trust your kindness and your authority.

With my best regards

Andrei Mannheim

*Mannheim*

Andrei Mannheim

3430 Ellendale #117

Montreal Que H3S 1W9

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Ave New York

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I am allowing myself to draw your attention and to steal part of your precious time, because your help could possibly be the only chance in solving my problem.

That is why I shall try to describe, as briefly as I can, the reason that made me call on your help.

My name is Andrei Mannheim, I am landed immigrant in Canada, (since Febr. 1977) native of Romania. I was able to leave legally Romania after my marriage with a foreign citizen. I would like to draw your attention on the tragic situation that my family (father, mother, sister, still in Romania) is living, without the opportunity to leave the country and join me.

Facts are as follows :

My father, George Mannheim, had the bad luck to work, a long time ago, for a Romanian state foreign trade company, called "Romano-Export". During the years 1962-1964, a whole chain of political trials took place, framed against the Jews working within all foreign trade companies. They ended with sentencing for different prison terms without any real charge. ("enemies of the country") MY father , like his other colleagues, was sentenced as a political prisoner, charged completely groundless for "undermining the national economy".



And, believe me Sir, anybody knew without any doubt that the trial was an abusive frame-up and its aim was "to clean" these trade companies of Jews. Only one year and a half after my father was arrested and kept imprisoned, without any proof, the "so-called" trial took place. The charge against these defendants was that 10-12 years before (1950-1952) they had signed economic contracts unfavorable to the Romanian state, deliberately to sap the communist regime. At the end of the trial (which finally took place in mid-summer 1974) my father was sentenced to 5 years of jail. He had the lightest sentence of all the people who were involved in this purge. He refused to plea guilty and was imprisoned as an innocent man.

But our family's calvary had not ended even after his release. My family was and is living ceaselessly under the harrasment of the police and security; our furniture, household appliances, most of the personal belonging have been confiscated by the security for paying off part of the "damage" claimed by the state. What really hurts, is the fact that everybody knows the whole trial was an antisemitic set-up, (under the reign of the former Romanian Minister of security) but innocent people is continuing, even today, to endure its consequences.

From his actual salary, the state is taking a major part (one third) for repaying something of the claimed "damage". My father is on parol, and he is not allowed to leave the country.

During the trial, the state claimed an imaginary "damage" of 100,000 \$, brought about by my father and 5 other colleagues, all together. Beeing 53 years old, my father could pay back one third of his salary, only until his retirement. That is why , all the amount of money the state could recover means approx. 100000 romanian Lei (5000 \$)

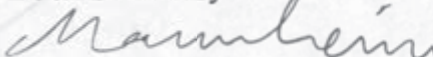
What I really would like, is to see my family released, beeing allowed to leave the country. They can no longer endure the results of such a shameful frame-up. Their phone is tapped,



their mail is censored, their moral is very low, their nerves are reaching a dangerous deadline. They are in a very bad shape, they have to fear any word, they have to lower their heads. I am calling on your help, to try intercede in my family's favour, by different diplomatic ways. I hope the Romanian authorities will take into consideration your appeal; they must set to rights a barbaric deed. Perhaps you can meet my strongest wish, to have my family released without bearing any longer such an unjust burden.

I wrote you, being deeply concerned about the unfortunate plight they are facing. I know your human rights defence role, and I am relying on your influence and authority to persuade the Romanian authorities to let my family leave. My father has no right to apply himself for a passport because of his "debt". That is why I hope that a strong appeal from abroad, could determine them to allow my father to leave, disregarding his debt. I am faithful that you will take into consideration my letter; if you need some more information, please feel free to call upon me. I must confess that your likely help is the only chance left to save the almost wrecked existence of my family.

Yours truly



Andrei Mannheim

P.S. I think it's meaningless to ask you that any possible attempts to be discreet and out of publicity. I fear, in case you can not help them, the possible persecution of the security.



Data about my family:

Father: Gh. Mannheim born the 9/sept/1924 at Poeni-Cluj (Romania)

Mather: Ernesta Mannheim, Born the 7/march/1927 at Bucharest (Romania)

Sister: Anne-Marie Mannheim, born the 5/aug/1954 at Bucharest

Their address; Alea Podul Giurgiului No.1  
Bloc 14 Apt 213 sector 5  
Bucharest Romania



EMBASSY OF ISRAEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



שגרירות ישראל  
ושינגטון

July 15, 1977

Mrs. Edith J. Miller  
The Union Of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

Dear Mrs. Miller,

Thank you for your note conveying Mr. Mannheim's letter to Rabbi Schindler and your reply of July 7, 1977 .

I am making inquiries as to how we can help, and will let you know as soon as I have something.

Sincerely,  
Eliezer Gavrieli



*Relie -  
Add to list*

July 7, 1977

Mr. Andrei Mannheim  
3430 Ellendale #117  
Montreal H3S 1W9  
Canada

Dear Mr. Mannheim:

Your recent letter in regard to your family in Romania reached our office during Rabbi Schindler's absence from the country. He is overseas and not due to return until late July.

Be assured your letter will be brought to his attention and I am confident he will do his utmost to be of aid to you and your family in your desire to be reunited.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

bcc: Mr. Eli Gavf~~fe~~ele



Dear Sir,

I'm allowing myself to draw your attention and to steal part of your precious time, because your help, could possibly be, the only chance in solving my problem. That is why I'll try to describe as briefly as I can, the reason that made me call on your help.

My name is Andrei Mannheim; I am a landed immigrant in Canada (for 5 months), native of Romania. I was able to leave Romania legally, after my marriage with a foreigner. I would like to draw your attention on the tragic situation that my family (father, mother, sister still in Romania) is living, without the opportunity to leave the country and join me. Facts are as follows: My father G. Mannheim, had the bad luck to work, a long time ago, for a Romanian Foreign trade state company. During the years 1962-1964, in Romania, a whole chain of political trials took place, framed against the Jews working within these companies. They ended with sentencing for different prison terms, of people without any real charge (enemies of the people). My father, like his other colleagues, was sentenced as political prisoner charged completely groundless for "undermining the national economy". And, believe me, anybody knew without any doubt that the trial was an abusive frame-up and its aim was "to clean" these trade companies of Jews. Only one year and a half after my father was arrested and kept imprisoned without any proof, the "so called" trial took place. The charges against these "defendants" were that 10-12 years before (1950-1952) they had signed economic contracts unfavorable to the Romanian state, deliberately to sap the communist regime. At the end of the trial (which finally took place in mid-summer 1974) my father was sentenced to 5 years



of jail. He had the lightest sentence of all 8 people who were involved in this purge. My father has refused to plead guilty and has been imprisoned as an innocent man. But our family's calvary had not ended even after his release. My family was living ceaselessly under the harassment of the police and security; our furniture and household appliances have been confiscated by the security for paying-off part of the "damage" claimed by the state. What really hurts, is the fact that everybody knows the whole trial was an anti-semitic set-up (under the reign of the former Romanian minister of security) but innocent people are continuing, even now, to endure its consequences. From his actual salary, the state is taking a major part (one third) for paying-off part of the claimed "damage". He is on parole and is not allowed to leave the country. During the trial, the state claimed an imaginary "damage" of \$100,000 brought about by my father and five other colleagues, together. Being 52 year old, my father could pay one-third of his salary only until his retirement. So, all the amount of money the Romanian state could recover, means 100,000 Romanian LEI. (approx. \$ 5,000) What I really would like, is to see my family being allowed to leave the country. They can no longer endure the results of such a shameful frame-up. Their phone is tapped, their mail is censored, their moral is very low, their nerves are reaching a dangerous deadline. They have to fear any word, they have to lower their heads, they are in very bad shape. I'm calling on your help to try to intercede in my family's favour by different ways. I hope the Romanian authorities will take into consideration your appeal;



they have to set to rights - a barbaric deed, Perhaps you can meet my strongest wish to have my family released and they will not bear anymore such a injust burden. I wrote you, beeing deeply concerned about the unfortunate plight they are faceing. I am relying on your influence and authority to try to persuede the Romanian authorities to let my family leave. My father has no right to apply himself for a passport because of his "debt". That is why I hope that a strong appeal from your level could determine them to call my father, and allow him to leave, disregarding his debt. I am faithful you will take into consideration my letter and if you need some more information, please feel free to call upon me. I must confess you that your likely help could be the only chance to save them.

Yours very truly

Chamberlain

P.S. I think it's meaningless to ask you that your possible attempts to be discreet and out of publicity. I fear, in case you can not help them, the possible persecution of the security. Maybe, during one of your trips to Romania you could discuss this problem with somebody at the highest level there. I hope you can help me.

Montreal June 27/77



4

## Data about my family:

- a. Father: Gheorghe Mannheim, born at  
Poeni-Cluj (Romania) 9-09-1924
- b. Mother: Ernesta Mannheim born at  
Bucharest 7-03-1927
- c. Sister: Anne-Marie Mannheim born at  
Bucharest 5-08-1955

Their address:

STR. PODUL GIURGIULUI 1  
BLOC 14 APT. 213  
SECTOR 5 BUCHAREST ROMANIA

September 19, 1977

Dear Rodica & Julian:

Shalom! What a wonderful and special joy it is for me to be writing to you in Israel. I hope you are well settled by now and that all is well with you and your family.

Rhea joins me in expressing our fond good wishes to you and all your loved ones for the New Year. May it be a year blessed with good health, happiness and much fulfillment as you begin your lives anew in Israel.

With fondest regards from house to house, I am

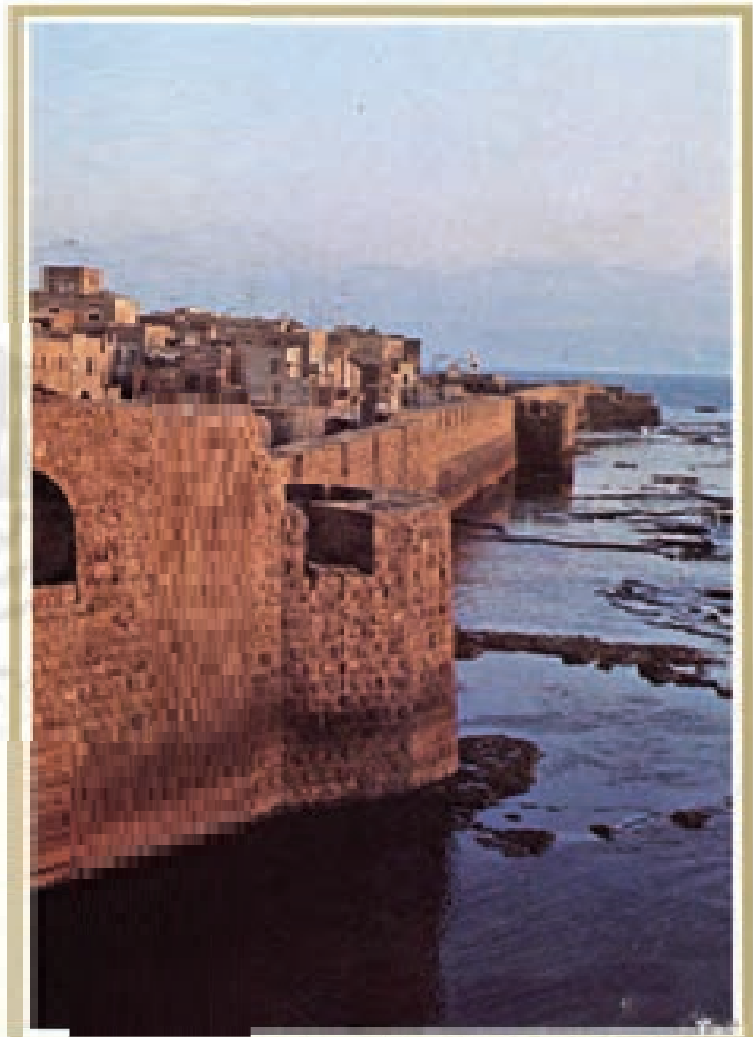
Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Lackner  
Mercaz Klita  
Rehov Hashomer 47/283  
Tiberias, Israel



לשנה טובה תכתבו • A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Acre • The Sea Wall

עכו. החומה העתיקה

by the second  
of the New Year,  
and wish you and  
your family a sincere  
Happy New Year  
with our thanks for everything  
that you have done for us.  
With love,  
Yours sincerely,  
Rodica & Julian  
Lackner



לשנה טובה תכתבו  
שנת בריאות, שפע ושלוש

A very special  
New Year's wish  
that is sent with much  
affection  
May the New Year  
be for you a year of  
true perfection

כצוק מעשה-אדם עולות חומות העיר עכו מתוך הים

Like a man-made cliff, the City Walls of Acre  
rise out of the sea



September 7, 1977

Mr. Raymond Vianu  
c/o Mrs. Ana Cogan  
Rehov Haprachim 11/22  
Romema  
Haifa, Israel

Dear Raymond:

What a joy it was to receive your letter from Israel! My heart is filled to overflowing to know that you, Irene and your sons have been reunited with your family and loved ones. My efforts in your behalf were a service of the heart and I thank God that all our prayers were answered and I rejoice with you.

As we approach the New Year I want to express my warm good wishes to you and your family. May the New Year and the new beginning for the Vianu family be blessed with good, health, happiness, fulfillment and much joy.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



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

Tel Aviv, August 23, 1977

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

This letter comes to you from one whose family you have greatly helped to achieve a long sought and fought for reunion with their relatives in Israel: the Vianu family, formerly of Bucharest, Romania.

After eight long and frustrating years of unsuccessful attempts to be granted permission to leave Romania, and only two or three weeks after having received three written negative answers in a row, on July 2 we were informed by the Passport Office people that we were free to leave. On August 9 we flew to Israel to start a new life and were reunited with our many relatives there.

I am well aware that this happy outcome was made possible thanks only to the efforts of people of goodwill like yourself, who by their intercession forced the Romanian authorities to give way and to cease their senseless refusal to grant my family and myself the basic human right of being free to choose the place we want to live in.

Now that we are in a free country and at liberty to express my feelings without constraint, I find it difficult to put into words the gratitude my wife, my two sons, and myself feel for you and for those others who have played a decisive part in making us free people. Please rest assured that we shall never forget what you have done for us.

Gratefully yours,  
Raymond Vianu



Ms. Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
New York, N.Y.

Tel Aviv, August 21, 1977

Dear Ms. Miller:

Before anything else I would like to thank you most sincerely for your kind letter of July 11 addressed to Mrs. Anna Logan concerning our case, the Vianu family case.

Since August 9 we are in Israel, reunited with our relatives, thanks to the efforts of wonderful people like Rabbi Schindler.

I know I should have written sooner, but we were all in a daze at the sudden and unexpected release from bondage, and it took us a little time to get used to our new environment. I hope you will understand and will forgive us for having let so much time elapse before writing to you.

Yours very sincerely,  
Raymond Vianu



Ana Cogan  
Rh.Haprachim 11/22, Romema,  
Haifa, Israel.

Haifa, 20.7.1977

Ms.Edith J.Miller,  
Assistant to the President,  
Union of American Hebrew Congregations,  
838 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N.Y.10021  
U. S. A.

*Hold for Zohie*

Dear Ms.Miller,

I was deeply touched by your warm letter in which you told us the good news about the Vianu family. Indeed, the fact that they will be shortly arriving to Israel was confirmed to us by the Vianus themselves, who called us, informing us that they have received their passports. We are eagerly awaiting their arrival here, in Israel, during the next few weeks.

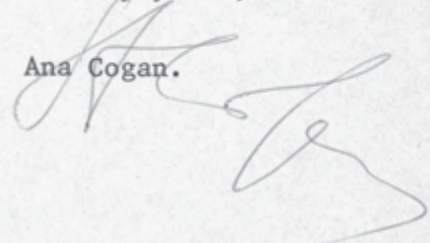
After their struggle of 9 years, the Vianus, as well as ourselves, are in such a turmoil now, that it is difficult to sort out where does the happiness begin, and where begins the fear that something may happen to stop them during the very last minutes. We pray to see them already in Israel, in the midst of the family.

Dear Ms.Miller, on our behalf and on the behalf of the Vianu, would you, please, convey our deepest thanks to Rabbi Alexander Schindler for his help. We are profoundly indebted to him also for making us feel that we were not alone in need and sorrow: his kind attention made us feel that we were heard and being cared for.

Thank you. And may our Lord bless you in all your noble efforts to help people in need, as you did with us.

Sincerely yours,

Ana Cogan.





*See Letter  
from Meekie*

July 11, 1977

Mrs. Ana Cogan  
Rehov Haprachim 11/22  
Romema  
Haifa, Israel

Dear Mrs. Cogan:

Your recent letter to Rabbi Schindler has just been received, during his absence from the country. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of responding in his behalf.

Rabbi Schindler was in contact with the Romanian authorities in June in regard to a few families in Romania seeking to be reunited with dear ones in Israel or the United States. Among the families about whom he made inquiry was the Vianu family. Just a few days ago a response was received from the Romanian Embassy in Washington and they advised Rabbi Schindler that "Raymond Vianu with his wife and two children were permitted to leave for Israel." I pray that this is so and that by this time the Vianu's are indeed already in Israel. Please do let us know by return mail if you have heard from them and just what their status is at this time. Rabbi Schindler will be very eager to hear from you.

With every good wish and kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President

*See Eli Garuch*



Ana Cogan,  
Rh.Haprachim 11/22, Romema,  
Haifa, Israel.  
Tel.04 - 25-40-47.

To the Conference of Presidents of Major  
Jewish Organizations,  
515 Park Avenue, N.Y.10022

For the Attention of Rabbi Alexander Schindler

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

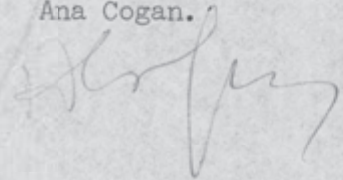
I am writing to you on behalf of my sister, Dr.Sophie Wilhelm, 75 years old,  
Her only daughter, Irene Vianu and her family are for eight years fighting to  
get out of Romania. I am enclosing a copy of the letter Raymond Vianu, the son-  
in-law of my sister asked me to send to the USA Congress; the original of this  
letter was smuggled from Romania at great risks. It is a long letter, but please,  
do read it. It is worth while.

Thank you very much for your attention, and if you think that you could help  
the Vianu family - and I am sure you will be deeply touched by their tragedy,  
please do help them!

GOD BLESS YOU!

Ana Cogan.

*Per N. M. Nicolae  
they were granted  
permission to leave*





The Editor,  
Newsweek,  
Newsweek Building,  
444 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

14 June, 1977

Dear Sir:

God bless President Carter for his stand on human rights  
everywhere in the world.

I am 15, I live in Israel alone and have been waiting  
for nearly 8 years that my daughter, Irene Vianu, her  
husband and their two sons be allowed to leave Romania  
and join me here. Their passport applications have been  
turned down about 17 times since 1969, the last time in  
May 1977, on the eve of the Belgrade meeting on security  
and cooperation in Europe. My daughter has several times  
been denied even a tourist visa to visit me.

I do hope the democratic West will keep insisting that  
all parties to the Helsinki Agreement, Romania included,  
comply in deeds not only in words with its human rights  
provisions.

Dr. Sophia Wilhelm-Calmunovic

Bat Yam (Israel)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

c/o ANA COGAN, FH. HAFRACHIM 11/22, HAIFA, ISRAEL.



The Honorable Dante Fascell,  
Chairman, Congress Committee on Security  
and Co-operation in Europe, United States Congress,  
Washington, D.C.

Bucharest, May 29, 1977

Dear Sir:

Having heard of your active concern in the question of human rights and of your work in monitoring the implementation of the provisions of Basket III of the Helsinki Agreement, I submit to you my case and that of my family in the hope that you may help us.

My name is Raymond Vianu, I am a Romanian citizen and I live with my wife, Irene, and our two sons, Victor Dan and Alexandru, in Bucharest, Romania.. For a number of years I was a member of the Romanian diplomatic service; between 1951 and 1957 I served as First secretary to the Romanian Legation in London, where our sons were born, and from 1957 to early 1960 in the same capacity to the Romanian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. In January 1961 I was separated from the diplomatic service, the reason I was given being that I had relatives abroad. Since then I have held several minor jobs and now I do translation work for a building research institute in Bucharest.

By the end of 1969 my wife and I had come to feel that we wished to spend the rest of our lives in Israel and thus, in December 1969 we applied for passports for us and the boys. A little later my wife's mother, Dr. Sophie Wilhelm-Calmanovici, also applied for a passport. She filed her application later than us because of some red-tape difficulty with her birth certificate. Towards the end of 1970 she was issued the passport and left for Israel, confident that we would follow her soon. However, this was not to be. Months went by and our application remained unanswered despite our repeated inquiries. It took the authorities no less than 15 months to reach a decision and on March 25, 1971 we received a slip of paper with one sentence only: "We inform you that your application for permission to leave for Israel has been submitted to the Commission for Passports and Visas which decided to reject it". Just these cold, impersonal words. No explanation, no attempt to justify a denial of a family's basic right to decide freely where they wanted to live.

However, having once made up our minds, we did not accept this refusal as final and other petitions and interviews at the Passport Office followed. The only result was another slip of paper, dated July 25, 1972, which said: "With reference to your petition of 21 April, 1972 addressed to the Commission for Passports and Visas we inform you that your case is definitely filed and disposed of."

Then we were told that only a new application, i.e. new forms to be filed, a new set of birth certificates and marriage certificates, etc. would be taken into consideration. So, in April 1974 we did apply again. Only, this time the procedure had been "improved" in contrast with 1969, we had to produce an attestation from our respective places of work confirming that during the preceding three years we had had no contact with, or knowledge of, classified documents. We got the attestations, but to do so we had to inform our employers of our intention to emigrate. As a result my wife, who was then working as a journalist for an economic review, lost her job. The press being held to be an important component of the "ideological front", a person who wishes to leave the country for whatever reason is deemed unfit to be trusted any longer. So, when my wife asked for that attestation she was refused at first and was told that as she had access to western newspapers, which were not normally available to ordinary citizens, she was deemed to do classified work!! However, they told her, if she would tender her resignation, they would give her the attestation. Having no choice, she did so and was duly handed the document stating that she hadn't worked with classified materials, which of course had been the case all along.

/...



the loss of her job, the impossibility of finding another one - since her training and experience made her suited for jobs that entailed contact with English-speaking and French-speaking foreigners, and since a would-be emigrant is once and for all barred from such contacts -, and the long separation from her mother, whom she dearly loves, caused my wife to suffer a nervous breakdown, as a result of which she was forced to retire on a small disability pension.

Another reason for her anxiety, and mine no less, is the lack of prospects for our children here and their understandable feeling of frustration. Indeed, a third of their lives to this day - they were 14 and 12 respectively when we made our application in 1969, and are 22 and 20 now - was spent in nerve-racking disappointment at seeing their parents and themselves prevented, year after year, from settling in the country of their choice and from joining relatives and close friends there. Also, having applied for permission to leave Romania, they are for ever branded and their prospects of getting a job according to their real abilities are bleak, to say the least.

Our second application met with the same stubborn refusal. On Oct. 31, 1974 we received the rejection slip, and on January 3, 1975, after several appeals and interviews we got this: "With reference to your petition of November 29, 1974 addressed to the Commission for passports and visas we inform you that your appeal has not been approved. Your case has been filed and may not be reconsidered."

Countless further appeals and aggravating interviews with officials of the Passport Office were of no avail and elicited no explanation for these repeated refusals on the part of the Romanian authorities. Separate appeals addressed to the country's President and to his wife by myself and by my mother-in-law from Israel proved as futile as our other attempts and were not even acknowledged.

In 1976 we decided to make a third attempt. In the meantime the procedure had been perfected further with a view of making passport applications even more difficult and disagreeable.

One cannot any longer apply directly for permission to leave the country by filling the application form and handing it to the Passport Office. Now one had to fill in a preliminary form with a few basic data and stating the desire to leave the country for good. This is not a proper application, but just an application to receive the proper application form! This done, one begins a first period of waiting, of waiting to be summoned before a panel of "inquisitors" at the District People's Council in order to be put on the carpet for wishing to leave. Not before is this formality complied with and the panel's affirmative point of view received at the Passport Office is one entitled to receive the application form proper.

This first period of waiting may last as long as the authorities wish it to last. They may even tell one that the panel at the People's Council has advised against one's applying and then one just cannot file an application; such a case does not count as an unsolved case. It is a non-case.

In our case we had to wait from July 27 to October 26, 1976 before being allowed to apply for the third time. Another 6 months followed and in April 1977 we were informed by word of mouth (they wouldn't give it in writing) that our application had once again been rejected. This time the official deigned to explain that the reason for this decision was that my wife and myself and our sons constitute a family so that our plea for family reunification does not hold water and we have no valid reason for leaving Romania. If, however, my mother-in-law wished to be near us, she ought to be the one to join us here. In other words she should part with her sister, her nephews and her other relatives in Israel and leave the country she considers to be hers. It took really deep thinking for the Romanian authorities to come up with this after almost eight years.

/...



in a letter recently sent to a friend in Bucharest and not meant for her daughter's eyes, my wife's mother, now 75, wrote these sad words:

"I feel very old... My health is ruined and I am very down-hearted. I am very tired but I go on working, how else could I live? I must confess that loneliness drives me to despair... True, I have good neighbours. When they go shopping they sometimes buy things for me too. They also help me put drops in my eyes as I cannot do it myself... The only thing that keeps me going are my patients, There are not many, but I am glad when somebody enters my house... I would so much like to have my children with me here... What a stupid fate! Why should they not be permitted to come to their mother and grandmother, not even for a visit? Is this to be my life, or rather the end of my life, far from my family? I do wish they would come..."

"I wish you would come" she keeps repeating in all her letters to us, although she well knows that no one is paying heed to her and we cannot do anything for her, and my wife is not even allowed to visit her. Incredible as it may sound, when my wife applied in March 1975 for a tourist visa so that she might visit her mother, even this was turned down, although both our sons and myself were to have stayed behind in Romania, hostage-like.

This then is the case of the Vianu family who for almost eight years are denied permission to leave Romania in order to be reunited with their relatives in Israel.

When the International Pact for civil and political rights was ratified by the Romanian state and when the President of the country put his signature on the Helsinki Agreement our hopes soared. But we were just being naive, though we should have known better, as we found out only too soon straight from the horse's mouth: when we mentioned the provision of these documents concerning the free movement of persons, the stony-faced official at the Passport Office looked bored, shrugged and replied disdainfully that for "them" they meant nothing at all, which as you can see was and is only too true.

Along these long years of unsuccessful struggle we have exhausted all possible avenues of lawful action available to Romanian citizens wishing to secure permission to emigrate. We have appealed to every level of authority, beginning with the local militia section and ending with the President of the country, all to no avail. Judging from other similar cases, it appears that our only hope lies in securing the assistance of some influential persons or organizations from abroad. This is why I have turned to you, aware of your broad-mindedness and militancy on issues of human rights, and wondering whether you may find it possible to help us in our plight.

However, for reasons of self-preservation, please do not mention this letter as having come from me, since the Romanian authorities would get nasty about it. Actually, any of a number of relatives and friends of ours in the U.S., Canada, England, Switzerland, to say nothing of Israel, might have gotten in touch with you on our behalf.

Please accept the expression of our gratitude for whatever you will feel inclined to do for us.

Respectfully yours, Raymond Vianu

P.S. Should the Romanian authorities inform you, through whatever channel, that they have granted us exit visas and passports, please to NOT take their word for it unless you hear from us directly from Israel. I know of more than one case when Romanian embassies have given false assurances that passports had been issued to persons who nevertheless continued to wait for months if not years.

#### PERSONAL DATA

1. Raymond Vianu, b. Jan. 25, 1925, Bucharest. Address: 3, Boteanu St., Bucharest, Romania
2. Irene Vianu, b. May 4, 1928, Bucharest.
3. Victor Dan, b. 24 April, 1955, London, 3rd year student of informatics.
3. Alexandru, b. 20 Aug., 1957, London.
5. Sophie Wilhelm-Calmanovici, 75, gynecologist, Address: 7 Simtat Hatzipornim, Bat-Iam, Israel, c/o Ana Cogan (her sister) Rh. Haprachim 11/22, Romema, Haifa, Israel.



March 21, 1977

Mr. Cyrus Gilbert Abbe  
14 West 90th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10024

Dear Mr. Abbe:

Many thanks for letting me know that you had a letter from Rodica Lackner. I was overjoyed to learn that she and the family were spared their lives. Possessions can be replaced and while it is sad that some were destroyed, I do thank God that the family is safe.

I assure you I will continue to do everything in my power to aid the Lackners. They are a wonderful young family and they would be an asset to Israel. I am determined to see them obtain exit visas.

Rabbi Rosen of Bucharest will be in this country on April 11th to seek aid from the American community for Romanian Jewish community. While disaster relief is uppermost in his mind, I will see what I can do about Rodica and Julian. Undoubtedly, I will have occasion to see the Romanian Ambassador during the period of Rabbi Rosen's visit and I will once again take up the situation of the Lackners.

With appreciation to you for keeping me informed and with kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

*Mention Klita  
Reckst Ha Shomer  
4/28/77  
Zabara Israel*



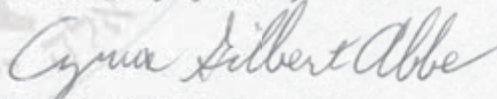
14 West 90th Street  
New York, New York 10024  
March 14, 1977

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

I just received a brief letter from Rodica Lackner. Although her home and her parents' home were damaged and many of their possessions destroyed by the earthquake, they are all alive. Rodica advises that there is nothing new regarding her case. Her husband just lost his job, and she continues working in order to support him and their child. Rodica sends regards to you and your family and requests any help you can give her.

Sincerely yours,



Cyrus Gilbert Abbe

Home telephone: (212) 362-0560

Office telephone: (212) 644-7000



cyrus abbe, friend of lackner's called....

he heard from a usually reliable source who has family in romania that people who have been turned down for visas in the oast have been called in and are getting exit permits... they need the apartments -- also supposedly the jewish agency is paying romania to get these jews out -- so money and apartments are being provided.....hope you can check this out and if indeed true perhaps can get lackners on the list...



February 10, 1977

His Excellency, The Romanian Ambassador  
to the United States, Nicolae M. Nicolae  
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ambassador Nicolae:

I've just returned from an extended trip to the west coast and found quite a bit of correspondence awaiting me which deals with some of the people we discussed at our last meeting. I would like to bring you up-to-date.

A brother of Marcel Struminger indicated that Marcel had applied for an exit visa as late as September, 1976. You will recall you advised me that he was considered a "non-case" because a recent request was not in his file. I am assured that he is most eager to be reunited with his brothers here in the United States. I would appreciate your checking into this matter.

I was also advised that as of last week Rodica and Julian Lackner and their child had not received exit visas. While I can appreciate that these things do take time, I would be grateful if you could let me know the status of their request. You had noted they were being granted permission to emigrate to Israel, I do hope this has not changed in any way.

With appreciation for your usual kind consideration and with warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Trummerger filed  
Sept. Application  
Met Nicolas -  
In. - Thanks  
he renewed  
but this is not  
true - told  
Nicolas - -

201-545-9082  
(H)

201-828-0230  
(O)

*from the desk of Edith J. Miller*

2/7/77

Mr. Sturminger of N.J. called - a second brother of the Romanian Sturminger - his brother applied in September for an exit visa - he has not renounced his wish to emigrate.....The caller had occasion to be with Amb. Nicolae Friday and spoke, Nicolae told him you had discussed brother and that his people thought he had changed his mind...Mr. S. assured him he had not, that he wishes to be reunited with his family in U.S. - also notes difficult to re-apply, and perhaps a word from you to Nicolae will be of help in getting brother here...

h) 201- 545-9082

o) 201-828-0230



*Write Nicolai*

*Lactner,*

*ok for 1st statement*



7/11

Feb 8

Nicola

2/2

Abbe will keep us posted -  
if he hears - thinks Rodica  
hesitant on phone. fears it may  
be problem w/ passport -  
but we'll watch

14 West 90th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10024  
January 31, 1977

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

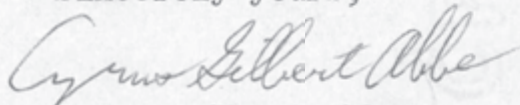
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

As I mentioned to Mrs. Schindler last week on the telephone, I called Mrs. Rodica Lackner in Bucharest after Mr. Nash Aussenberg had informed me your secretary told him the Lackners were free to leave Rumania. Rodica told me over the phone that there was no change in her status. She asked me if I had spoken with Andrei Gal (215-332-0872) to whom she had given a letter about six weeks ago to deliver to me. She also expressed her thanks to you for the letter she had received from you. I have enclosed a copy of the letter Rodica gave Andrei Gal to give me.

I met Rodica and her husband when I was in Bucharest in September and have written on her behalf to numerous Senators and Congressmen, as well as to the State Department and others, in an attempt to assist her in receiving permission to leave Rumania. In September Rodica gave me a letter, a copy of which both in the original handwriting and in a typed version is also enclosed. At the bottom of the typed version is Rodica's telephone number. If you have any questions, you may want to phone her at her home in Bucharest (311760). I suggest calling her about 11:00 p.m. New York time.

If I can give you any additional information or be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at my office (644-7000) during the day or at my home in the evening (362-0560). I hope we can help Rodica and her family to leave Rumania.

Sincerely yours,

  
Cyrus Gilbert Abbe



January 27, 1977

His Excellency, The Romanian Ambassador to  
the United States, Nicolae M. Nicolae  
Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ambassador Nicolae: AMERICAN JEWISH

It was good seeing you again and I am delighted we had an opportunity  
to chat. I was heartened by our meeting and, needless to note, very  
happy to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Lackner and their child had been  
granted permission to emigrate to Israel.

Your intervention in behalf of the Lackners and others has been most  
helpful and I am grateful for your interest and concern.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

3/1/77  
my with Nicolae

To WJM

Date M

Time 12

A.M.  
P.M.

# WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Nash

of \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code  
& Exchange

874-0236

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL		<input type="checkbox"/>

Message

Lecturer - Julian

found from last yr.

Report on adaltrals of one

of note - on trial

needed as a

witness - -

Operator

TM2—Olympic Office Supply Corp., 505 Broadway, N.Y.C.—WO 6-2900

8 5000 - could leave.



February 28 , 1977

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Lackner  
Str. Schitul Maicilor 14  
Sector 6  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Rodica and Julian;

I was, of course, deeply distressed to learn that the information I had received about your exit visas was incorrect and that a further delay has been imposed upon you. Even before I received your recent letter to me this information was shared with me by Mr. Cyrus Abbe and I want you to know that I immediately made further inquiry in your behalf.

As of this date I have not had a further response but I want to assure you that I shall continue to do my utmost in your behalf.

Rhea joins me in sending warmest regards to you both.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Dear Mr. Schindler,

I was deeply touched and impressed by the fact that you are so much interested and active in our case.

Thank you very much for it. Some people told me that you had been told that our problem was completely settled. I am very sorry that I must tell you that you were misinformed. Nothing was settled with us, we have no concrete result.

On the contrary, my husband was implied in the second dossier now, because here, the authorities want to justify themselves why they postponed so much the solving of our case.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January it was one year since our passports were stopped.

We ask you very much, if it is not too difficult for you to have another contact with the Romanian ambassador to see what is the mystery of this misinformation.

Here, the authorities in charge with our



case promise all the time but they  
don't keep their word.

We should be very grateful to you if you  
could do something for us.

Many thanks in anticipation.

We wish you happy holidays for Purim.  
Our best regards to your charming wife.

We remain yours sincerely

Rodica & Julian Lackner.



14 West 90th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10024  
February 7, 1977

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Since my letter to you dated January 31, 1977, I have received a letter from Rodica Lackner, a copy of which is enclosed. Although she thanks us very much for our concern and efforts on her behalf, she says, "Unfortunately, the results are not to be seen."

If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to call me at my office (644-7000) during the day or at my home in the evening (362-0560). As mentioned in my previous letter, if you want, you can phone Rodica in Bucharest at her home (311760). I suggest calling her about 11:00 p.m. New York time.

Sincerely yours,

*Cyrus Gilbert Abbe*  
Cyrus Gilbert Abbe

Enclosure

*Called*  
*2/11/77*  
*re Nicolas*



Our dear friend,

Being the first letter on this year, I with my family want to wish you again much happiness, health and luck along the whole year.

I want to hope that you have already received my season greetings.

Today in the morning when I've heard your voice I was very excited. Thank you very much for your interest shown in our case. At the same time, please, thank you very much to Rabbi Shindler. I've received an illustrated post-card from him. Unfortunately, the results are not to be seen.

The two doctors are now to the Pharmacy and no solution, no solving is given to them.

---

In the letter, which I received  
from Mr. Green, I think that's  
a misunderstanding, because not  
Israel's visa is the trouble. We  
have it. Our passports are  
stopped because my husband's  
checking is not finished yet.  
On the 18th of January it was  
one year since then they have  
stopped us. I suffer very much that our  
"illness" is so long because morally  
and nervously speaking, we are  
completely finished.  
My father had an INFARCT and  
he is not so well so that we  
have a lot of problems upon  
our shoulders.

Julian transmits you his best  
wishes and asks you to continue  
perseveringly your work concerning  
our case.

As a matter of fact, no person  
from the list which I gave you

---



succeeded in doing anything up  
to now.

But we must not lose our hopes.

Please, transmit our best wishes  
and thanks to Mr. Sash, who  
is a true and kind friend.

If you have some news for  
us, let us know them.

Once again thank you very  
much for everything you are  
doing for us.

We remain, yours sincerely  
Rodica & Julian

January 27, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Roth  
82-10 Penelope Avenue  
Middle Village, N.Y. 11379

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Roth:

As you know your plea in behalf of Rodica and Julian Lackner was brought to my attention by Rabbi Zlotowitz. I have been pursuing their request for an exit visa from Romania and have just been advised that their visas have been granted. If they have not already departed, they will very soon be on their way to a new life in Israel.

I know that you will be as happy as I was to learn of this wonderful development.

With kindest greetings, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



January 26, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Lackner  
Str. Schitul Mahcilor 14  
Sector 6  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Rodica and Julian:

While I have not been in contact with you for some time, I have not forgotten your plea for assistance in obtaining exit visas so you might emigrate to Israel with you child. I have been pursuing your request and at a meeting with the Romanian Ambassador to the United States today I had the encouraging news that visas are to be granted. I was delighted with this development, as I know you must be.

I want to wish you well. May you find great happiness and fulfillment in Israel. A lovely family such as yours will be a great asset to Israel. May you be blessed with a beautiful life there.

With every good wish and warmest regards, in which Mrs. Schindler joins me, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



DEC. 1976

Dear Cyrus,

I have this occasion to write you some lines and I hope sincerely, this time to receive them. You will have a surprise because very soon you hear a well-known voice - of Andrei Gall, who will leave Romania for the States - tomorrow.

First of all, thank you very much for everything what you have done for me and my friends. All of us are deeply impressed by the interest you show for our problems. Unfortunately, up to now, nothing was done for anybody. But, on the other hand, it's obvious that some impulses from abroad are welcome. Personally, I had the pleasure of speaking with Mr. Nash too. He is also a fine person and gave me some precious information and advice. I explained him our situation on large and he promised me he would phone you from his voyage. I and Julian consulted with him concerning the aspect of receiving or not a telephone call from your friend. Mr. Nash explained us that we have nothing to lose. We gave him all the details concerning this problem. I spoke with Andrei many problems and as



soon as possible he would send you these lines  
and would phone you. Our case is now  
in a dossier at Magistracy and we don't  
know how long it will last the legal  
proceedings. On the 18th of January it's  
a year since our passports were stopped.  
It's useless to tell you in what nervous  
tension we are all the time.

Last month, we had another misfortune,  
my father suffered a heart attack  
(INFARCT) and was hospitalized at once.  
We hope that he will recover in two or  
three months.

As you see, all the time, we have all  
sorts of problems. Our only delight is our  
daughter Gene, who is really very sweet.

I want once again to thank you very  
much for your kindness and enthusiasm.  
At the same time, thank you for the  
tooth-paste which you sent us with Mr.  
Nash. He was also very, very kind with us.  
I and Julian wish you sincere greetings  
for Hanuka and A Happy New Year.  
Now, I want to present you other details  
concerning our friends. When you left us  
you had in your hands a list of several  
persons who have difficulties in their  
emigration.

If you remember the case of family Liber  
they were told that were refused their  
emigration for the reason that both of them



Let their parents here, in Romania. They were told that in such conditions, they have no chance to leave. Maybe it's possible to do something for them.

About Vlad - Andrei will tell you everything what you want to know more.

Concerning Liane, her father received your kind letter and thanks you very much. I translated it to him. We answered to Dr. Landau and Andrei will speak with her. Now, Liane is in Israel for two months and if it is necessary she remains there longer or she will come to the States if something like an operation could be done for her.

I wrote her address from Israel to Mrs. Landau and I write it once again for you.

DR. ABRAHAM KLIPPER

DAMAT-GAN

REHOV. MEGADIM 14/4

TEL. 73-6338.

We trust you, we hope that you will do something for all of us.

Julian transmits you his best wishes and he desires sincerely to have the occasion to see each other in a near future. Just now, Carol and Michaela are in my office and they send you their best regards.

We remain yours sincerely  
Lodica and Julian



SEPT. 1976

Dear Sir,

My name is Rodica Lackner and my husband's name is Iulian Lackner. I am a teacher of English and my husband is a mechanical engineer. We have a daughter of two years and 6 months.

Last September, we decided to leave Romania for Israel together with my parents.

We deposed our acts and in three months we received a positive answer that we were permitted to go. So that we finished with our jobs, we sold the majority of things in our house and we prepared the necessary acts to get our passports. Just on the day, when we went to take them out, the respective authorities announced to us that our passports were stopped.

The reasons were absurd and full of anti-Semitism because up to God the angels eat you.

My husband was very humiliated, insulted and for nine months we are waiting our case to be solved.

For six months both I and my husband were completely jobless because nobody engaged us in our situation. Now, we are working temporarily for the Federation.

We are young people who want to establish in Israel. It's a pity that we shall reach there so disgusted and with all our powers lost during this period of real miseries.

The Romanian authorities proved a total disinterest concerning the solving of our case. For example, my husband was accused from cruelty that he had a false diploma. As a matter of fact he has graduated Polytechnics in Bucharest, but to check his diploma it lasted one month and a half.

All our memories remained without any answer.

Please help us if it is possible. We'll be grateful to you.

Thank you very much

Rodica & Iulian  
Lackner

Our address is: Rodica & Iulian Lackner  
Str. Schitul Maicilor 14  
Sector 6  
Bucharest, Rumania

Tel. 311760 (Home)  
315732 (Mother's)  
141924 (Office)



Dear Sir,

My name is Rodica Lackner  
and my husband's name is Julian  
Lackner. I am a teacher of English  
and my husband is a mechanical  
engineer. We have a daughter of  
two years and 6 months.

Last September, we decided to leave  
Romania for Israel together with my  
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We deposited our acts and in three  
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had a false diploma. As a matter  
of fact he has graduated Polytechnics  
in Bucharest. But to check his  
Diploma it lasted one month and  
a half.

All our memories remained without any  
answer.

Please help us if it is possible. We'll  
be grateful to you.

Thank you very much  
Rodica & Julian  
Lackner

Our address is: RODICA & JULIAN LACKNER  
STR. SCHITUL MARILOR 14  
SECTOR 6 - BUCHAREST



June 6, 1977

Mr. Tidhar Joseph  
Zohar Detergent Factory  
Kibbutz Dalia, ISRAEL

Dear Mr. Tidhar:

Mazal tov, Mazal tov! Your letter was a source of joy and gladness. I was thrilled to learn that Susana and Andrei have been reunited with the family in Israel. It is news such as this which heartens and strengthens me in my work for the Jewish people.

May your family be blessed with many, many happy years together in an Israel at peace.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



Tel-Aviv Office:  
10 Carlebach St.,  
P.O.Box 20213  
Phone 03.265705  
Cable Add: "DALIAZOHAR"  
Telex: 033.557 "ZOHARDAL"

*Great*



## **ZOHAR DETERGENT FACTORY**      **זוהר דליה**      ביח'ר לסבון ודטרגנטים

Kibbutz Dalia (Israel) Phone 04.993244

קבוץ דליה, דאר דליה, סל. 04.993244

18920

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler

18920

President,

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

838 Fifth Avenue,

New York

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

We take pleasure in advising you that following a period of over two years of forcible separation, the Stoica family is finally reunited.

In our happiness we are grateful to all those who helped us through our ordeal. There is no doubt whatever in our minds as to the vital part of your intervention on our behalf with the Rumanian authorities.

While seeing the child's happiness of having a family again, we pray to God for your health and happiness.

Thanking you again, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Tidhar Joseph*

Tidhar Joseph,

*Stoica*

Stoica Vladimir,

*Susana*

Stoica Susana

TEL AVIV

May 14, 1977

*PP*



Tel-Aviv Office :  
10 Carlebach St.,  
P.O.Box 20213  
Phone 03.265705  
Cable Add : "DALIAZOHAR"  
Telex : 033.557 "ZOHARDAL"



**ZOHAR DETERGENT FACTORY**

**זהר דליה ביח'ר לסבון ודטרגנטים**

Kibbutz Dalia (Israel) Phone 04-991216  
18920

קבוץ דליה, דאר דליה, טל. 04-991216

18920

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

We want to thank you very much for your efforts in freeing our nephew and wife from Rumania. We apologize for not writing to you up to now, but we fully realize the huge amount of activities you must be engaged in and did not want to add anything to it.

However, we feel we have reached a point when we have to inform you of the developments. Immediately after your departure from Rumania, my wife was summoned by the Bucharest's People's Council and advised that this body gives its approval for her emmigration to Israel. Shortly then after the Passport Department asked her to apply for a reexamination of her case and pay the respective fee. According to Rumanian system it seems to us all that the ball started to roll. However, few days ago my wife was summoned again to the same place (at the Bucharest People's Council) and the officials tried again to persuade her to renounce. Failing that they were anxious to know if she informed me about the developments.

Needless to say that such harassments seriously affected my wife's shalky health condition. On top of that, she was informed that she could no longer continue at the same place of employment, this further adding to the stress.

Knowing the Rumanian system from inside, these events are obvious signs trying to see if the source of pressure applied up to now, is still interested in my wife's fate.

In case of passivity, the whole process is to start all over again with doubtful results.

Yours faithfully

*Joseph Tidhar*

Joseph Tidhar Stoica Vladimir

*Susana Stoica*

*Horvath*



Dear Mr. Schindler,

I, undersigned STOICA SUSANA, born GERSON, mother of a five years old boy - STOICA ANDREI,

I beg you to be so kind to help us in solving our problem of bringing together our family, because my husband is living now in Israel.

My husband is gone to Israel a year and a half ago after a study trip of three months in England. Now all the necessary formalities related to his unusual way of leaving for Israel are ended, more then a half year ago, everything what was needed, after his trial, was payed, and in concordance with Decree no. 185/1976 his punishment with jail was pardoned. ( I have also the Decree that certifies this thing. ) He payed his renunciation to Romanian citizenship on 3rd August 1975, and from October 1975 he has the Israelian citizenship.

I am a jew, and I asked to go to Israel, making all the necessary formalities two times: on 8th August 1975 and on 25th March 1976. For theese I have six negatives, and all the audiences (about thirty) and memoires (about twenty) are useless, because every time they are giving the same negative answer.

Thank you very much for your help, and I hope that with your help it will come the day when my son won't cry for his father.

Please excuse me for my English.

With many thanks, your faithful,

*Stical.*

Bucharest 15th November 1976



November 15, 1976

Mr. Joseph Tidhar  
Kibbutz Dalia  
Tel Yokneem 244  
Israel

Dear Mr. Tidhar:

Your most recent letter was received on the eve of Rabbi Schindler's departure for meetings out of the country. He does, however, have your letter and I want to assure you he will do his utmost to be of aid in regard to your neice Susana Stoica.

These matters, regretfully, do take time and we will be in touch with you when we have something to report.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Edith J. Miller  
Assistant to the President





זוהר ביח"ר לדטרגנטים  
ZOHAR DETERGENT FACTORY

To David  
Please advise  
10/13

קבוץ דליה, דאר דליה עלפון יקנעם 244 TEL YOKNEAM (ISRAEL) DALIA KIBUTZ  
משרד תל-אביב: רח' קרליבך 10-ת.ד. 20213-טלפון 35705-Tel. 20213 CARLEBACH STR. 10-P.O.B. 20213-TEL. AVIV OFFICE

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

October 3, 1976.  
Kibbutz Daliah

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I take the liberty of writing to you again in the case of my niece, Susana Stoica who is currently kept apart from her husband by the Rumanian authorities.

Some last minute developments prompted me to disturb you again with my troubles.

As I mentioned to you, up to now, the Rumanian authorities turned down Susana's applications for an exit visa to Israel giving as an excuse the fact that her husband has been convicted in absentia by a Rumanian tribunal and pressed her to ask her husband to request to be pardoned as a condition of letting her go. Not even few days passed after the Rumanian authorities were in the possession of the said request that my niece was summoned up and told that she can not leave Rumania unless the pardon is favourably solved. Fortunately, from other reasons, the Rumanian State Council issued a general decree of pardon, favourably affecting Susana's husband. With her husband pardoned, Susana hoped, as she was promised, that she would be allowed to join her husband in Israel.

This time, the same people told her that her file was irrevocably closed, that she would better divorce her husband as she is never going to leave Rumania unless ( the same unless ) her husband's citizenship situation shall not be favourably solved by the . . .  
. . . Rumanian authorities . ( Her husband, Vladimir Stoica, renounced his Rumanian citizenship more than a year ago ).

So that is how the Rumanian authorities understand to close the vicious circle and destroy human beings. The Rumanian authorities apply as a State policy the old hoodmen practice of torturing the wife and children to punish the husband. Most unfortunately, Susana's health has seriously deteriorated during all her predicament and I do not know how much her weak heart would be able to take.

That is why I abuse of your understanding and beg you to apply the strongest possible pressure on the Rumanian authorities to end this inhuman practice of taking hostages and save my niece.



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Kindly accept my apologies for this long letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph Tidhar*

Joseph Tidhar



זָהָר בִּיחָר לְדֶטֶרְגֶנְטִים  
ZOHAR DETERGENT FACTORY

קבוץ דליה, דאר דליה טלפון יקנעם 244 TEL. YOKNEAM  
משרד תל-אביב: רח' קרליבך 10-ת.ד. 20213-טלפון 35705 TEL. 20213- CARLEBACH STR. 10-P.O.B. 20213-TEL. 35705  
TEL-AVIV OFFICE :

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

October 3, 1976.  
Kibbutz Daliah

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Kindly accept my apologies for this long letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph Tidhar*

Joseph Tidhar





זוהר ביח"ר לדטרגנטים  
ZOHAR DETERGENT FACTORY

קבוצת דליה, דאר דליה טלפון יקנעם 244 KIBUTZ DALIA (ISRAEL) TEL YOKNEAM  
משרד תל-אביב: רח' קרליבך 10-ת.ד. 20213-טלפון 35705 TEL-AVIV OFFICE : CARLEBACH STR. 10-P.O.B. 20213

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

November 7, 1976.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I feel I have to appologize for abusing of your kindness by addressing to you once again in the case of my niece, Susana Stoica.

Apart from the disperation caused by a rapidly deteriorating psychological and health condition of my beloved Susana, a brief notice which appeared in Israeli press on the invitation passed to you by the Rumanian authorities for a second trip to Bucharest, made me overcome my "rationally" imposed patience.

I beg you to let me know if there is any hope of pressing the Rumanian authorities in observing their declared policy of free Jewish emigration to Israel.

We are turning to you for help in a most critical situation and beg you to pardon our disperation and disorientation. We would obey with gratitude any suggestion coming from you as to the course of action to be taken to reunite Susana's family in Israel (such as people or organizations to be contacted, etc.).

Thanking you for your kind attention, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph Tidhar*

Joseph Tidhar.



זָהָר בִּיחִיר לְדֶטֶרְגֵנְטִים  
ZOHAR DETERGENT FACTORY

KIBUTZ DALIA (ISRAEL) TEL YOKNEAM 244 קבוצ דליה, דאר דליה טלפון יקנעם  
TEL-AVIV OFFICE : CARLEBACH STR. 10-P.O.B. 20213-TEL. 35705 טלפון 20213-ת.ד. 10-קרליבך רח' משרד תל-אביב:

Rav A. Schindler.  
President  
New York,  
U.S.A.

August 14, 1976.

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I, the undersigned JOSEPH TIDHAR, founding member of kibutz Dalia ( 1935 ) have learned from a notice published by the " Ha Aretz " that you are to head a delegation going to Rumania in order to support the aliya to Israel.

Over one and a half years now, my nephew, SUSANA STOICA and her 5 years son ANDREI are suffering by being separated from her husband and father VLADIMIR STOICA who came to Israel directly from a scholarship in England.

VLADIMIR STOICA finished the ulpan, settled in Israel and is currently employed by an Israeli export orientated company. He is in touch with our aliya institutions but, up to now, all the efforts to reunite his family failed.

Through our organizations we have learned of the difficult situation of my nephew whose applications for an exit visa were turned down by the Rumanian authorities.

On your trip to Rumania, kindly help us in this critical humanitarian situation.

We pray that your blessed efforts prove successful.

Sincerely yours,

*Joseph Tidhar*

Joseph Tidhar.

Personal data :

Address : SUSANA STOICA  
Sos. Colentina 8, B5, Scara II,  
etaj 9, ap. 83,  
Bucharest,  
ROMANIA

Profession : Computer Engineer.



August 17, 1976

Mr. Joseph Tidhar  
Zohar Detergent Factory  
Kibutz Dalia  
Israel

Dear Mr. Tidhar:

I hasten to inform you that Rabbi Schindler has been called away from his desk and will not be back in the office until next week. Your letter of August 14th has been received and will be brought to the rabbi's attention upon his return. I am sure he will be in contact with you as soon as possible.

With kind regards, I am

Cordially,

Cheryl Sortor  
President's Office

August 26, 1976

Mr. Joseph Tidhar  
Zohar Detergent Factory  
Kibbutz Dalia  
Israel

Dear Mr. Tidhar:

Regretfully, your letter of August 14th reached my office while I was in Romania and thus I was unable to make any personal appeal in the case of Susana Stoica. I want to assure you, however, that I will do my utmost in this case to seek the reuniting of the Stoica family.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler