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*Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas*  
*D. A. I. A.*

PASTEUR 633 5º Piso

TEL. 47-9442/9742

Buenos Aires, April 18, 1978.-

Rabbi Alexander Schindler  
Chairman of the  
PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE  
c/o Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
838 Fifth Ave.  
NEW YORK N.Y. 10021

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

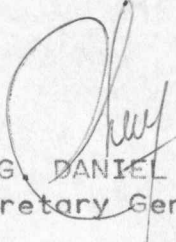
I am pleased to enclose the full text of the report that the undersigned rendered at the Elections Plenary of the DAIA, at the end of the administration and previous to my reelection. This report is reproduced exactly as it was published by the weekly "Mundo Israelita" of Buenos Aires.

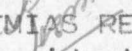
It was unanimously approved by the Assembly, so therefore it represents the official statement of the Argentine Jewish Community.

In view of this, any analysis on our community should bear in mind the enclosed report.

We remain,

VERY CORDIALLY YOURS,

  
ING. DANIEL LEVY  
Secretary General

  
DR. NEHEMIAS RESNIZKY  
President

Encl.

NR/sls

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AT THE DAIA ASSEMBLY DR. NEHEMIAS RESNIZKY, HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION, PRESENTED A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LAST TERM.

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In the course of the DAIA Assembly -attended by a large number of delegates who filled the session hall to capacity- Dr. Nehemías Resnizky presented a detailed report on his last term of office.

"The term which has just expired - he began - was undoubtedly difficult and we had to adjust our tactics to the changing political situation. In a relatively short period of time, our country experienced first a third world leftist style government with Cámpora at its head, a vaguely populist one with Isabel Perón and López Rega next, and finally we came to the present day regime."

During this period - Dr. Resnizky continued - we have remained faithful to certain basic premises:

- 1.- We have succeeded in our aim to preserve the normal development of Jewish life in its different manifestations: educational, religious, cultural, etc. This has always been our main objective. Jewish life and Zionist activity are not in any way restricted in Argentina. Evidence of this is the vast school network - one of the best in the world - the religious practice and Zionist activity (including the recent election of delegates to integrate the Territorial Zionist Organization) and the thriving business of our Sports Clubs.
- 2.- We have always reacted to every assault upon Jewish dignity and security, adjusting our response to the changing political situation.
- 3.- In the different critical stages of the political development of our country we have been careful to avoid serving interests other than those specifically relevant to the Jewish community. We had to exercise a great deal of self control and to stop our ears to the flattering sound of the siren issuing from those who always try to make use of our genuine concerns to further causes which are different or opposed to ours.



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4.- We have successfully resisted the efforts made by our enemies to push us into isolation and to present us as an extraneous body in our country. As we shall see later, we have managed to make of antisemitism and nazi propaganda a national concern and not simply and exclusively a Jewish problem. Taking into account the pressing national problems and the fact that priority number one is given to the fight against subversion, it was no mean achievement to have interested the government and public opinion in the question of antisemitism and nazi propaganda. This was made possible by the close contacts we keep with the different segments of society, and in particular with the Armed Forces. The devoted efforts made by the men in the executive committee of the DAIA and the people in the Public Relations and Press departments resulted in a positive and stabilizing contribution to the community and the welfare of the country. It was not always easy and very often there was disagreement when we voiced our worries or presented our petitions, but on the whole our straightforward and consistent behaviour has earned us the respect of the government and of public opinion.

5.- We have jealously protected our right to express without hindrance our solidarity with the State of Israel and with the Zionist movement, as well as our right to keep ties with our sister organizations through the World Jewish Congress, to which we belong and to whose principles we adhere.

The president of the DAIA next pointed out that "in view of our limited power our strategy has been to make rational use of our strength and to avoid wearing it out in rash moves which were not carefully contemplated and weighed according to the circumstances." He then passed on to review the main activities carried out within the framework of the strategy described.

1.- Struggle against nazi manifestations. Neo-nazism is a worldwide phenomenon which should concern all Jewish organizations. How can one remain indifferent to the recent episode of the symbolic burning of Jews enacted by some nazi officers? How can one minimize the importance of neo-nazism when it has caused serious preoccupation as is reflected in a letter addressed to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt by a distinguished German politician alarmed at the rise of neo-nazism in Western Germany?

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This upsurge of nazism is potentially far more dangerous in Western Germany than similar manifestations in Latin America. The peaceful death of Kappler in his native Solitau, a war criminal and the confessed and convicted executor of 330 Italian civilians, should be a matter of serious concern to us all in view of the passiveness of the German government and particularly of the authorities of Baviera, who in their capacity as heirs to the Hitler heritage are responsible for allowing the pirate works of this war criminal to be freely advertised. On the other hand the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois granting permission for the march of nazi sympathizers is an insult to the moral conscience of mankind. The Court explained its decision on the grounds that "although this march may hurt Jewish sensitiveness, its prohibition would affect the constitutional right of assembly" (such is the textual justification of its verdict). It is as if the nazis who tried by fire and sword to impose an ignominious rule causing millions of deaths in all the subjected countries had offended the Jews only and not the entire human race. For this reason, and because we are aware of the danger of neo-nazism we insisted on our conviction at international meeting and again at a recent assembly of the Latin American Jewish Congress that it is high time we moved away from rhetoric to more effective action. Newspaper reading the world over proves that the publication of nazi material and the activity of neo-nazi groups are every day occurrences. The moment has come for the Jewish communities to take their part in this struggle: a passive community is self-damaging and harmful to other communities. In this connection our community has undertaken an energetic campaign to abolish nazi literature, which proliferated in our country long before the present regime took over. The very existence of this literature is a slap in the face of every Jew and other sectors resulted in the issuing of decrees banning these publications, thus establishing legal precedent on this matter. It is true, however, that these decrees are not comprehensive enough and that they don't ban all they should ban. But the importance of such measures should not be underrated at a time when the Armed Forces concentrate on priority number one, i.e. the fight against subversion.



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Under the circumstances, to have diverted the attention of the Armed Forces away from their main concern to the question of nazi propaganda is a major achievement, which should encourage our sister communities to act likewise. Contrary to what was stated in a foreign newspaper, the decree banning nazi publications is highly encouraging and we trust we shall succeed in our purpose to uproot all nazi manifestations in the country. This assertion is supported by the constant and fluid relations held concerning the achievement of such ends. It is therefore the responsibility of every individual Jew and every democratic citizen to see to it that these decrees do not become the dead letter of the law, and, to quote Iering, it is everybody's right and duty to warn the police authorities whenever these publications are exhibited, if the law is to be respected. This is what the exercise of democracy amounts to. As a result of our constant endeavours against the sinister forces of hatred there is a new awareness which made possible the drafting of a bill - perhaps one of the most comprehensive in international legislation - which contemplates punishment with prison terms for those who in any way or by any means indulge in or encourage acts of racial or religious discrimination. It is a remarkable Bill, which if passed, would honour the country. The "Cabildo" magazine wrongly states that this Bill was conceived "in the withered matrix of the DAIA." This assertion is inaccurate as are most of the statements of this perniciously antisemitic publication; but on the other hand, we pride ourselves in having created the awareness necessary for the drafting of the Bill. It is another contribution to the welfare of the country and to the union of all Argentines.

2.- Struggle against anti-Zionism. One of our most important activities has been directed against the constant propaganda of certain groups who try to associate Zionism with imperialism (this was particularly intense during the different stages of the Peronist government), and Zionism with subversion (under the present regime). The slanderous attacks of these groups - whose calumnies were variously tinted according to the changing political spectrum - purposed to declare Zionism illegal and to present it as a form of nationalism serving its own ends which are directly opposite to the national objectives. The UN object declaration equating Zionism with racism rendered official support to their campaign. It was our task to embark in the work of enlightenment which we accomplished within our

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limitations. I myself held a number of personal interviews to explain the absurdity of the proposed equation and the real motivation behind its supporters here, which is to create suspicion and hatred among the Argentines. Our efforts to fight anti-zionism have not been vain. We have observed in the highest circles of the government clear indications of a better understanding of Zionism as a movement of national redemption for the Jewish people. Moreover, Zionist activity is carried out without any restriction or limitation.

We are however constantly on the alert. The enemy does not withdraw, and the struggle is not easy because the anti-zionist campaign - which is definitely anti-semitic - reveals a curious and paradoxical coincidence between the nazi groups and the terrorist organizations. The Argentine magazine "Gente" published a photograph of some Argentine subversive leaders shaking hands with their colleagues of the Palestinian terrorist organizations. This notwithstanding, many anti-semitic groups who claim to be against subversion support the Palestinians in their struggle against Zionism.

3.- Solidarity with Israel and the Zionist movement. On October 17 1975 the UN third commission with its decision to equate Zionism with racism dealt a fatal blow to the prestige of the organization and endorsed what has come to be known as the second edition of the Laws of Nurenberg. We share the opinion voiced by outstanding personalities in the sense that the Third Commission Declaration has been the first serious anti-semitic assault since Hitler, and that the Jews should become aware of the possible dangers ahead and be prepared to face the situation. This infamous declaration contains the germs of another Munich. The substance of the resolution entails the ontological destruction of the State of Israel as a first step towards total annihilation. With this consideration in mind for a long time, and particularly since the sanction of the shameful resolution still in force, our institution has been actively engaged in the task of enlightenment of the people and the government of our country. The UN resolution and such other declarations confirm what Jorge Luis Borger once said about the incompatibility of ethics and statistics. On the occasions when we were consulted we have urged the government to adopt a position consistent with our great national traditions and to oppose those who aim at the destruction of the State of Israel, to repudiate the OLP and such terrorist organizations as have been



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welcome by international forums. We shall keep on fighting to prevent our country from joining - even by abstention - the new Holy Alliance of those bent on the destruction of Israel. We believe that all terrorists should be measured with the same yard. The special treatment given to some is unjustifiable. We omit the details of the different courses of action taken on account of the limited time, but some mention must be made of the massive response of the community to the call made by the central organizations to repudiate the criminal attack on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road. As community leader I was deeply moved and impressed by the response of the Zionist jalutz forces, the clubs and the new generation which once more proved the existence of a Jewish and Zionist sensibility in our midst. It is now the turn of the Zionist Organization to take the offensive and to clear Zionism of the murky connotation of anti-national attributed to it by the anti-semites. The solidarity of the Jewish people with Israel and their identification with Zionism must be openly and loudly stated: there is an excellent opportunity in the celebrations planned to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Israel. This is the old-new idea of the founder of political Zionism, Dr. Theodore Herzl. We have coined a phrase which we use in public discussion to explain that Israel is to the Jews what Spain is to the Spanish, England to the English and France to the French; with the sole difference that the peoples of these countries have never suffered the tragedy of the Holocaust, and that neither Spain, England nor France have had their right to existence ever questioned. We must remind our friends of the fact that during the second world war and before the existence of the Jewish state some of the most brilliant Jewish minds were trapped within the deadly walls of occupied Europe and that world indifference transformed into pathetic truth Jaim Weizman's words: "The world is divided between those who kill or expell Jews and those who do not let them in."

4.- The Fight against Anti-semitism. We have fought anti-semitic manifestations with the same energy with which we opposed publication of nazi propaganda. We tried to coordinate our reactions to avoid turning protest into routine expressions which, by constant repetition



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might dull the ears of the addressees. Thus, on the occasion of the Graiver affair in May 1977, the anti-semites tried to take advantage of the case and play it up to their own ends. They organized a campaign in which the Jews appeared responsible for the economic troubles in the country. Our institution made an exhaustive study of the case and proceeded to denounce in strong terms those groups who were trying to play the anti-Jewish trump card. We openly denounced them here while we were perfectly aware of the risks we were taking and the responsibilities involved. We said then what we now ratify, that we are a traumatic generation schooled in the experience of what is called the holocaust. The lesson is that we shall never again have passive and silent Jewish minorities. Our energetic action met with the understanding of the people, the Press and the authorities of our country. The traditional newspapers acknowledged the truth of our assertion and lent their support with favourable editorial comments. They condemned those who tried to confuse the legal procedure, undermine the foundation of national unity and awaken fear and alarm in the Jewish community. The government stated its position clearly in the words of the President who said that the responsibility for our national difficulties cannot be blamed on any particular class, race or religious group. The President reiterated the traditional anti-racist position of the Argentine people in a similar statement made in the United States when he asserted: "The Argentine people have no inclination towards nazism. We were born free and we shall always struggle to preserve our freedom." There were other less striking anti-semitic episodes, similar in kind to those which have taken place in other countries. We are sensitive to every single anti-semitic manifestation both in our country and elsewhere. The anti-semitic groups are still with us, lying in wait for an opportunity to strike, and the recent attack on the Sociedad Hebraica Argentina is another proof of their perilousness. We must not, however, overrate anti-semitism in Argentina if we want to avoid distortion of facts and to find means to fight it effectively. We must apply a sense of proportion when assessing the situation in order to avoid serving

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interest alien to those of the Jewish community. This is a prime requisite and the community affected must exercise a greatdeal of prudence, balance and critical judgement. We must be wary particularly of any action undertaken by Jewish organizations in conjunction with groups outside the community who are moved by different motivations and pursue different ends. All such joint actions must be handled with extreme care. The situation is delicate, our country has suffered the triple scourge of chaos, subversion and hiperinflation, there is a large Jewish community and every move must be carefully planned to avoid the danger of superficial judgement or mistaken action which would seriously endanger our position and serve other interests. What has just been said may serve as comment on an article published by the Paris newspaper Le Monde on March 4 about the situation of the Jews in Argentina. The article is biased and damaging to our country and therefore does not help the cause of the Jewish community here. Our members through their official representatives have never ignored anti-Jewish action; but we believe it is our duty to denounce it here and, to the best of our knowledge, to devise the most convenient ways and means to counteract the anti-semitic poison. The above-mentioned article does not help to clarify facts, it is prejudiced and mis-informed. The best refutation of that article is this very assembly where we have publicly stated what you have just herad. To avoid pernicious sequels of misinformation we will pass on this declaration together with supplementary information about our community action to the Latin American branch of the World Jewish Congress the only international body where the DAIA holds membership.

5.- Law number 21745. We can't pass without comment our assessment of the 21.745 Law. This law provides for the creation of the National Register of Faiths to keep a record of all the religious groups and institutions which do not belong to the Roman Catholic Church. The law states that the Executive Power will establish "the conditions and requirements to be fulfilled prior to the granting of official recognition and entry into the Register," and that "these should precede and determine the activities of all religious organizations as well as the



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granting and withdrawing of their legal status or their establishment and existence as subject to the law." Furthermore it states that "registration will be denied or cancelled, if already granted, when all the rules and regulations are not complied with; when the principles and ends of the association or its activity proved damaging to public peace, national security, the moral code and traditional customs of the country" and "when the activities of the association were contrary to the aims and principles aforementioned or damaging to other religious organizations. Such breaches of the law will result in the prohibition to practice in the national territory, the loss of legal status and quality of subject to the law." As far as we are concerned, we agree with the interpretation given in La Nación newspaper in that what this decree has in mind is a small number of cults which do not include the Jewish faith. Therefore to give it an anti-Jewish connotation would be a gross mistake. But the ample faculties the law gives to the discretion of officials in charge of its implementation is a matter of serious concern. In this respect we subscribe the opinion of the morning newspaper La Prensa (March 4, 1978) that this law violates essential constitutional rights. It is obvious that a law is valid for what it says and when it is applied what counts is the letter and not the spirit or will of its inspirers. We have communicated our concern to outstanding officials of the Ministry and I believe that our objections and the Press comments mentioned above will lead to the adoption of measures tending to avoid the undesirable consequences the law might bring.

6.- Other subjects. As regards the question persons of Jewish origin under arrest, the government has agreed to allow them to have the spiritual assistance of the rabbis of our community. It is now up to the rabbinical authorities to implement this measure, and to demonstrate the existing harmony between the theory and practice of their spiritual ministry.

We cannot leave out of this account our preoccupation for the fate of Jacobo Timmerman. We are still ignorant of the charges laid against him, and we are prepared to accept the conclusions reached by the legal courts in our country. We have repeatedly voiced our concern, not only

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because the court that judged him declared him innocent of the charge of subversion, but also because Timmerman has conducted a brave struggle against anti-semitism and nazism, and because he has openly and wholly identified himself with the State of Israel and the Zionist cause. We can't forget his courageous stand against the anti-semitic statements subscribed by agents of the extreme Right and Left such as Rodolfo Puigros, Andres Framini, Julio Antún, Rodolfo Galimberti and many others. I believe I voice the unanimous will of this assembly in once more appealing to the national authorities on his behalf, since the clarification of his situation will be an invaluable contribution to the struggle against those who, alien to the interests of the community, use the name of Jacobo Timmerman to defile the Argentine image abroad.

"This is in short - concluded the president of the DAIA - a review of a complex and multifaced period. I believe we have achieved one of our main objectives, that is, to turn our institution into a dynamic force capable of fighting effectively for Jewish dignity whenever or however it is endangered. At least we have tried our utmost to reach this end. We submit our mandate to the judgement of the attendant delegates in this assembly who represent the large network of Jewish Argentine Organizations."

A warm burst of applause followed Dr. Resnizky's exposition and after the reading of the new list presented by the Ad-Hoc committee presided by Mr. Simon Edenburg, the Assembly gave a unanimous vote for the re-election of Dr. Resnizky as president of the DAIA.

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Buenos Aires, March 1978