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

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United Nations Palestine Liberation Organization, 1976-1990.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

April 9, 1976

Mr. David M. Blumberg
B'nai B'rith
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear David:

It is my pleasure to invite you to undertake the chairmanship of a Task Force on the United Nations for the Presidents' Conference.

AMERICAN JEWISH

It is my hope that this Task Force will develop a long range program for the Presidents' Conference in the realm of the U.N. We are convinced that the U.N. problem will continue to recur and intensify over the years and we ought not to respond to every single instance. We should, I believe, have a cohesive program and perhaps even a frontal attack in this effort. This is especially true in regard to Congress and the United States Allocation to the United Nations.

I want you to feel free to co-opt for the Task Force anyone you deem fit, although I would suggest that you keep it to no more than three or four people. Select either presidents or professionals, as you wish, and, of course, I am certain you will want to rely much on Bill Korey, he is after all the Jewish community's foremost expert on the U.N.

I would also suggest that you arrange for a meeting, either alone or with the Task Force, with Ambassador Herzog as one of your first steps in order to gain his view on the subject.

Rhea joins me in sending fondest regards to you and Janice and our warm good wishes for a joyous Pesach.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

cc: Ambassador Chaim Herzog
Mr. Yehuda Hellman

Atlanta Address/DMB

Tel. 725-2345
Telegraphic Address
"MALTADELUN NEWYORK"

Your Ref.
Our Ref. ADM 2/2/14
No. 23301



PERMANENT MISSION OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
249 East 35th Street
New York 10016,
New York

1 October 1976

Dear Sir,

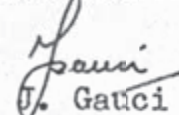
Thank you for your letter dated Sept. 29.

I am afraid I fail to see how you base your assertion that the Report of the "so-called Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" constitutes "nothing less than an appeal for the destruction of a member-state of the U.N.". There is no such suggestion in the report; on the contrary, the resolution by which Israel was established is singled out as particularly legitimate.

I also fail to see why the report is described as "unbalanced or distorted". It cannot be because it points out that the Palestinian people also have equal rights as human beings. Nor do I believe that such fundamental recognition is considered as tantamount to "acquiescence to evil on great moral issues".

I certainly agree with you, however, that at stake are the very principles upon which the U.N. rests.

Yours sincerely,


V. J. Gauci

Acting Permanent Representative

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

:bd1

H.E. Dr. Roberto de Rosenzweig-Diaz
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations
8 East 41st Street
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Henryk Jaroszek
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Polish People's Republic to the United Nations
9 East 66th Street
New York, New York 10021

H.E. M. Jose Manuel Galvao Teles
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Osman Olcay
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations
866 Second Avenue
2 Dag Hammarskjold Plaze
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Jakša Petrić
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the
United Nations
854 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM

H.E. M. Sérgio Corrêa da Costa
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✓ Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Huang Hua
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Zenon Rossides
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations
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New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mrs. Marie-Jo McIntyre
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Imre Hollai
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Rikhi Jaipal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
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New York, New York 10021

H.E. Mr. Chaidir Anwar Sani
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations
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H.E. M. Fereydoun Hoveyda
Permanent Representative to the United Nations / Permanent Mission of Iran to
622 Third Avenue the United Nations
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H.E. M. Blaise Rabetafika
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of the Malagasy Republic to the United Nations
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H.E. Mr. Joseph Attard Kingswell
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations
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CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

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AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

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

September 29, 1976

H.E. Mr. Henryk Jaroszek
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Polish People's Republic
to the United Nations
9 East 66th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Ambassador Jaroszek:

On the occasion of these High Holy Days of the Jewish calendar, which coincide with the opening of the General Assembly, we take the liberty of writing to you with a profound sense of urgency and concern.

Last year, the General Assembly adopted a heinous resolution which struck at the very heart of the Jewish people, their religion and tradition. The resolution defining Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination had the effect of sanctioning anti-Semitism and, thereby, opening the floodgates of hatred and bigotry which the U.N. had been called into existence to prevent. We shall never forget the evil which was perpetrated upon the civilized community by a majority of U.N. members.

The General Assembly action subverted the principles of the U.N. Charter even as it contaminated the program of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. For men of good will, the decision could only accelerate the growing disenchantment with certain trends of hostility and malice within the U.N. system.

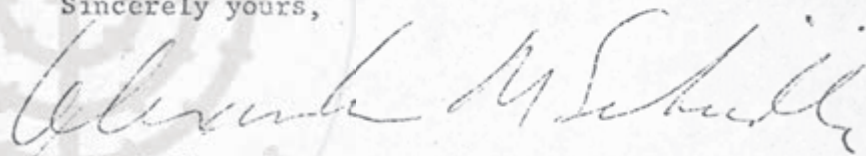
Such trends, regrettably, are continuing. They have been manifested at recent sessions of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and the U.N. Economic and Social Council, at conferences sponsored by UNESCO, at the Assembly of the World Health Organization, and at the U.N. Habitat Conference.

One expression of these trends, on the agenda of the General Assembly, is the report of the so-called Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

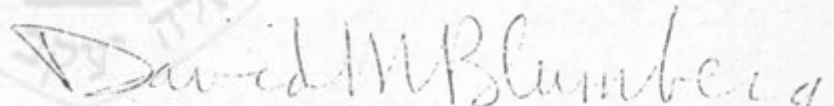
This unbalanced and distorted report constitutes nothing less than an appeal for the destruction of a member-state of the U.N., a state which the world organization was instrumental in creating. We are also very mindful of the possibility that the infamous resolution 3379 will be extended or applied in a variety of other General Assembly decisions.

Your Government last year voted for Resolution 3379. On other occasions, however, your Government has rejected anti-Semitism and has expressed sympathy for the Jewish people. It is with this awareness that we write to you in order to recall that acquiescence to evil on great moral issues only contributes to strengthening the forces of darkness. We respectfully urge your Government this year to oppose vigorously all efforts that would, directly or indirectly, malign and assault the Jewish people. At stake are the very principles upon which the U.N. Charter rests.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg, Chairman
U.N. Task Force



TELEPHONE 421-6934

PERMANENT MISSION OF
IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS

1 DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD PLAZA
885 SECOND AVENUE, 19TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

4th October, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I write to acknowledge with very many thanks the receipt of your letter of 29th September regarding the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The observations in your letter are receiving the closest attention of this Delegation and I should like to express our appreciation for the kind reference to our Government's position at the last Assembly.

Yours very sincerely,

Eamonn Kennedy
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Ireland
to the United Nations

Mr. David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organisations
515 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022.



MISSION PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR
EN LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
211 EAST 43RD STREET, ROOM 1902
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

October 1st., 1976

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

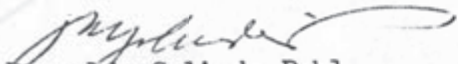
Dear Sir: .

I am in receipt of your and Mr. David M. Blumberg's
letter of September 29, 1976, contents of which I have read
with the utmost interest.

Mindful of your concern for the works of the United
Nations, it pleases me to inform you that I have already trans-
mitted to my Government for its consideration the contents of
the above-mentioned communication.

With my best wishes for a very happy New Year, I
am

Sincerely yours,


Reynaldo Galindo-Pohl
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of
El Salvador to the United Nations

jjw/-

LITERAL TRANSLATION

Permanent Mission
of the Dominican Republic before the United Nations

New York, NY
30 September 1976

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

Distinguished Sir:

.....received your letter of the 29th of the present
month of September relative to the Decade for the Fight
Against Racism and Racial Discrimination; also as to the
Arab-Israel conflict.

.....to Mr. David M. Blumberg, your amiable expressions
of recognition for the delegation of my country for your
position of defense of the legitimate rights of Israel, and for
opposing the declaration of Zionism as a form of racism and racial
discrimination. This position was firmly maintained by me and
by the components of the Dominican delegation at the past XXX
General Assembly of the United Nations, continuing the
instructions of government and also with complete personal
conviction

.....dev
..... peace
b.....defense of Human Rights, of ~~the-country~~ and of all
the legitimate rights of the peoples of the world.

Desiring also the most complete progress and....for the
Jewish people.....
.....

Dr. Alfonso Moreno Martinez
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

jj/

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

000316

New York, N.Y.,
30 de Septiembre de 1976.

Señor
Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler,
Director de la Conferencia de Presidentes de las
Principales Organizaciones Judías Americanas,
515 Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022.

Distinguido Señor:

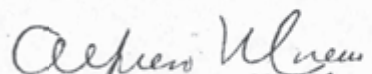
Me complace avisar recibo de su carta del
29 del presente mes de Septiembre relativa a la Década para
la Lucha Contra el Racismo y la Discriminación Racial; así
como al Conflicto Árabe-Israelí.

Le agradezco a Ud. al igual que al Sr. David M. Blumberg, sus amables expresiones de reconocimiento para la Delegación de mi país por su posición de defensa de los legítimos derechos de Israel, y por oponerse a la declaración del Sionismo como forma de Racismo o de Discriminación Racial. Esta posición fue mantenida firmemente por mí y por los componentes de la Delegación Dominicana a la pasada XXX Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, siguiendo las instrucciones de nuestro Gobierno y también con completo convencimiento personal.

Tenga la seguridad de que siempre actuaremos en defensa de esos principios, así como lo hacemos en defensa de los Derechos Humanos, de la Paz y de todos los legítimos Derechos de los pueblos del mundo.

Deseando siempre el más completo progreso y bienestar para el pueblo Judío, disfrutando siempre de Paz y Seguridad en una convivencia internacional rodeada de reconocimiento y de respeto,

Le saluda muy atentamente,

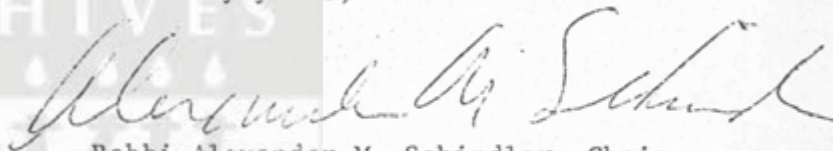

Dr. Alfonso Moreno Martínez
Embajador
Representante Permanente

AMM
MOM/zdt.

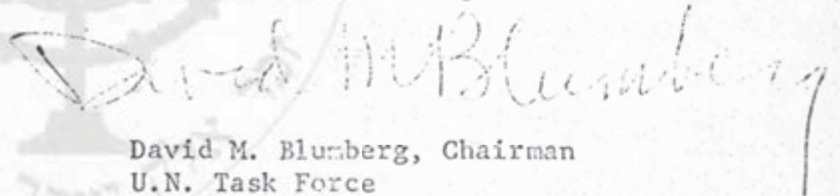
This unbalanced and distorted report constitutes nothing less than an appeal for the destruction of a member-state of the U.N., a state which the world organization was instrumental in creating. We are also very mindful of the possibility that the infamous resolution 3379 will be extended or applied in a variety of other General Assembly decisions.

Your Government last year played a positive role in opposing the endorsement of anti-Semitism, an act for which we are deeply grateful. We hope that your Government will similarly resist at this Assembly session all efforts that would, directly or indirectly, malign and assault the Jewish people. At stake are the very principles upon which the U.N. Charter rests.

Sincerely yours,

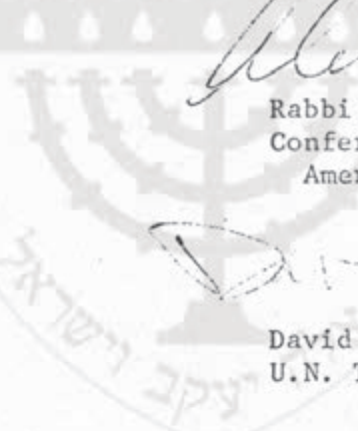
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alexander M. Schindler".

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David M. Blumberg".

David M. Blumberg, Chairman
U.N. Task Force

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES



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✓ Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Swaziland to the United Nations

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✓ Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

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✓ Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

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✓ Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations

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Room 16-J

New York, New York 10017

VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
885 Second Avenue
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✓ H.E. Mr. Peter Jankowitsch
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations
809 United Nations Plaza
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✓ H.E. Mr. Livingston Basil Johnson
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Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations
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✓ H.E. M. Edouard Longestaey
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✓ H.E. Dr. Saul F. Rae
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Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations
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Permanent Mission of the Central African Republic to the United Nations
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Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations
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Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations
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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations

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H.E. Dr. Guillermo Sevilla-Sacasa
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations
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ABSTAINED AND ABSENT FOR VOTE EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM

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Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

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Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma
to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations

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Dr. Mario Alemán

Alternate Representative to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations

866 United Nations Plaza

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Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Gabon to the United Nations
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Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations
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New York, New York 10022

H.E. M. George Papoulias
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations
69 East 79th Street
New York, New York 10021

H.E. Lic. Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations
405 Lexington Avenue
Suite 3220
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Donald O. Mills
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations
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New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Shizuo Saito
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Charles Gatere Maina
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Teboho J. Mashologu
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations
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Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations
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Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Nepal to the United Nations
711 Third Avenue / Room 1806 / New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Paulias Nguna Matane
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea
801 Second Avenue - 12th floor
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Dr. Francisco M. Barreiro
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations
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H.E. Dr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations
301 East 47th Street
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Narciso G. Reyes
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Philippine Mission to the United Nations
556 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10036

H.E. Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden III
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
919 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

H.E. Mr. T.T.B. Koh
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations
711 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Anand Panyarachun
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations
20 East 82nd Street
New York, New York 10028

H.E. M. Dabra Togbe
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations
112 East 40th Street
New York, New York 10016

H.E. Mr. Eustace Seignoret
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
801 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

H.E. M. Telesphore Yaguibou
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
✓ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Upper Volta to the United Nations
866 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

H.E. Dr. Simón Alberto Consalvi

Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations

231 East 46th Street

New York, New York 10017

H.E. M. Mutuale Tshikankie

Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire to the United Nations

866 Second Avenue

New York, New York 10017

H.E. Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda

Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations

150 East 58th Street

New York, New York 10022

H.E. M. Ion Datcu

Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the United Nations

60 East 93rd Street

New York, New York 10028

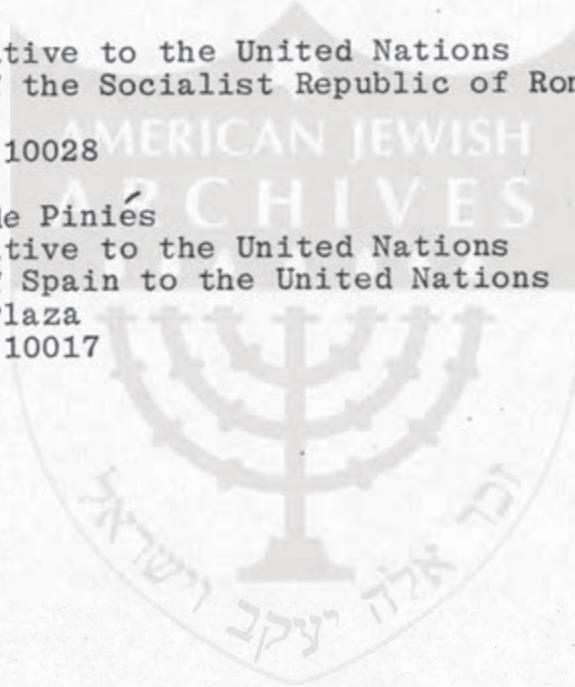
H.E. Sr. Don Jaime de Pinies

Permanent Representative to the United Nations

✓ Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations

809 United Nations Plaza

New York, New York 10017



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
OF MAJOR
AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE
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AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

American Israel Public
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B'nai B'rith Women
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United Synagogue of America
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Women's League for
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World Zionist Organization
American Section, Inc.
Zionist Organization of America

September 29, 1976

H.E. Mr. Henning Hjorth-Nielsen
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations
235 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Hjorth Nielsen:

On the occasion of these High Holy Days of the Jewish calendar, which coincide with the opening of the General Assembly, we take the liberty of writing to you with a profound sense of urgency and concern.

Last year, the General Assembly adopted a heinous resolution which struck at the very heart of the Jewish people, their religion and tradition. The resolution defining Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination had the effect of sanctioning anti-Semitism and, thereby, opening the floodgates of hatred and bigotry which the U.N. had been called into existence to prevent. We shall never forget the evil which was perpetrated upon the civilized community by a majority of U.N. members.

The General Assembly action subverted the principles of the U.N. Charter even as it contaminated the program of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. For men of good will, the decision could only accelerate the growing disenchantment with certain trends of hostility and malice within the U.N. system.

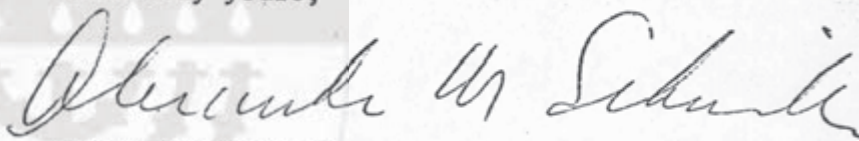
Such trends, regrettably, are continuing. They have been manifested at recent sessions of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and the U.N. Economic and Social Council, at conferences sponsored by UNESCO, at the Assembly of the World Health Organization, and at the U.N. Habitat Conference.

One expression of these trends, on the agenda of the General Assembly, is the report of the so-called Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

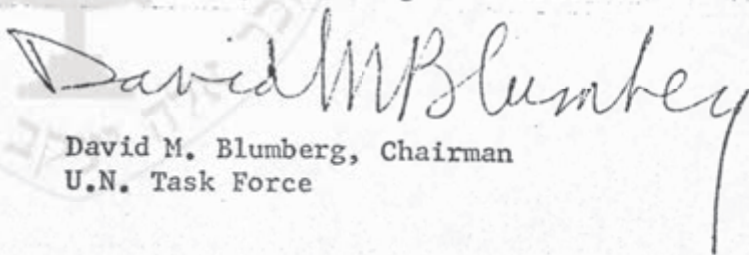
This unbalanced and distorted report constitutes nothing less than an appeal for the destruction of a member-state of the U.N., a state which the world organization was instrumental in creating. We are also very mindful of the possibility that the infamous resolution 3379 will be extended or applied in a variety of other General Assembly decisions.

Your Government last year did not vote for Resolution 3379. If resistance, even though passive, to the blandishment of open bigotry, had not gone unnoticed, still abstention or absence, when the issue is profoundly moral, only contributed to strengthening the forces of darkness. We respectfully urge your Government this year to oppose vigorously all efforts that would, directly or indirectly, malign and assault the Jewish people. At stake are the very principles upon which the U.N. Charter rests.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg, Chairman
U.N. Task Force

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Women's League for
Conservative Judaism
World Zionist Organization
American Section, Inc.
Zionist Organization of America

September 29, 1976

H.E. Mr. Paulias Nguna Matane
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea
801 Second Avenue - 12th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Matane:

On the occasion of these High Holy Days of the Jewish calendar, which coincide with the opening of the General Assembly, we take the liberty of writing to you with a profound sense of urgency and concern.

Last year, the General Assembly adopted a heinous resolution which struck at the very heart of the Jewish people, their religion and tradition. The resolution defining Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination had the effect of sanctioning anti-Semitism and, thereby, opening the floodgates of hatred and bigotry which the U.N. had been called into existence to prevent. We shall never forget the evil which was perpetrated upon the civilized community by a majority of U.N. members.

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Such trends, regrettably, are continuing. They have been manifested at recent sessions of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights and the U.N. Economic and Social Council, at conferences sponsored by UNESCO, at the Assembly of the World Health Organization, and at the U.N. Habitat Conference.

One expression of these trends, on the agenda of the General Assembly, is the report of the so-called Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

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Zionist Organization of America

November 22, 1976

H.E. Dr. Simon Alberto Consalvi
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations
231 East 46th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Consalvi:

We are surprised and distressed to learn of your favorable vote on the resolution in the Second Committee dealing with the living conditions of the Palestinian Arabs (A/C.2/31/L.13). This resolution is one-sided, imbalanced, biased, and in no way contributes to a peaceful and just settlement of Middle East issues. If there exists a serious question about the conditions of the Palestinian Arabs, far more appropriate would have been an inquiry into their situation in Lebanon.

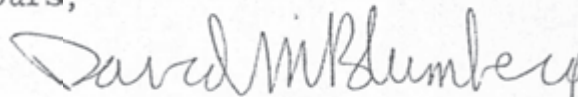
The fact that the resolution calls upon the Secretary-General to cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a terrorist group, indicates that it does not serve the purposes of justice or international law.

We hold the view that high moral principles ought to guide governments in their deliberations and votes in international forums. It is for this reason that we express our profound concern about your country's vote. This matter of high moral principle becomes all the more critical when the General Assembly discusses and votes upon the report of the "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People."

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force

AMS:DMB:jbj

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Zionist Organization of America

November 29, 1976

H.E. Dr. Johan Kaufmann
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the United Nations
711 Third Avenue
9th floor
New York, New York 10017

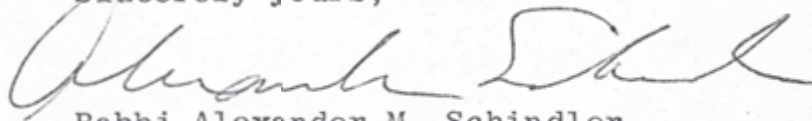
Dear Ambassador Kaufmann:

Permit us to commend you for the vote you cast in
the General Assembly last week on the biased report
of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable
Rights of the Palestinian People.

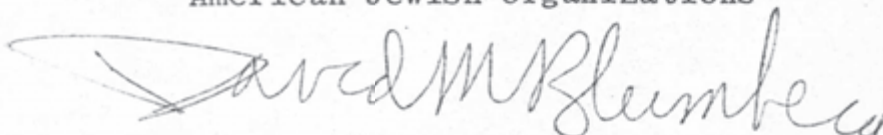
This misguided report is both an appeal for Israel
to commit suicide and a source of inspiration for
those seeking to prevent a just and peaceful Middle
East settlement. Not accidentally, the report avoids
reference to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338,
the cornerstones of such a settlement.

As the issue is a profoundly moral one, your posture
on it was most welcome. It has not gone unnoticed.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force

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November 29, 1976

H.E. M. Piero Vinci
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations
747 Third Avenue
35th floor
New York, New York 10017

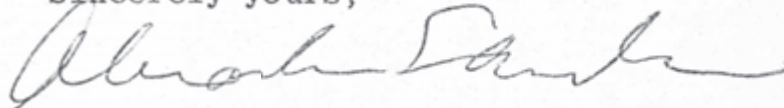
Dear Ambassador Vinci:

We are distressed by your abstention on the General Assembly vote endorsing the biased report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

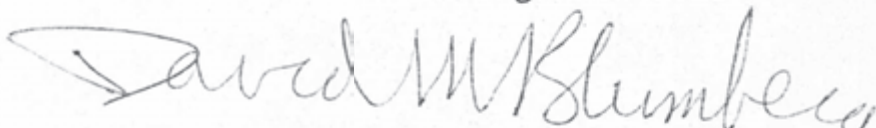
This misguided report is both an appeal for Israel to commit suicide and a source of inspiration for those seeking to prevent a just and peaceful Middle East settlement. Not accidentally, the report avoids reference to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the cornerstones of such a settlement.

The issue here was a profoundly moral one which goes to the very question of peace and of Jewish survival. It is for this reason that we would have expected a more forthright response from your Government.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force

AMS:DMB:jbj

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November 30, 1976

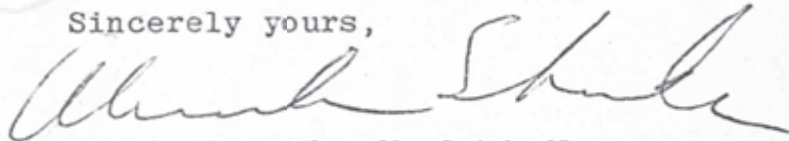
H.E. Mr. T.T.B. Koh
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Singapore
to the United Nations
711 Third Avenue
11th floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Koh:

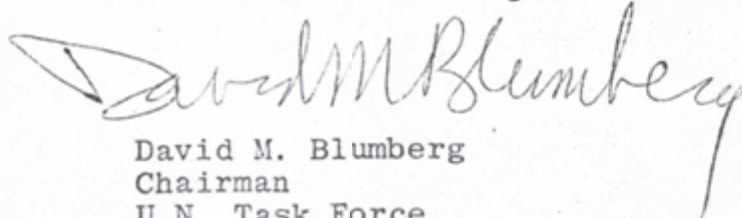
We are shocked and dismayed by the vote cast at the U.N. last week on the resolution endorsing the biased report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

This misguided report is both an appeal for Israel to commit suicide and a source of inspiration for those seeking to prevent a just and peaceful Middle East settlement. Not accidentally, the report avoids reference to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the cornerstones of such a settlement.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
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David M. Blumberg
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November 30, 1976

H.E. Dr. Simon Alberto Consalvi
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations
231 East 46th Street
New York, New York 10017


Dear Ambassador Consalvi:

We are shocked and dismayed by the vote cast at the U.N. last week on the resolution endorsing the biased report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

This misguided report is both an appeal for Israel to commit suicide and a source of inspiration for those seeking to prevent a just and peaceful Middle East settlement. Not accidentally, the report avoids reference to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the cornerstones of such a settlement.

Your favorable vote on the Committee's report is a disservice to peace and to the Jewish people. It will not be quickly forgotten.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of Major
American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force

AMS:DMB;jbj

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H.E. Sr. Don Jaime de Pinies
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations
809 United Nations Plaza
6th floor
New York, New York 10017

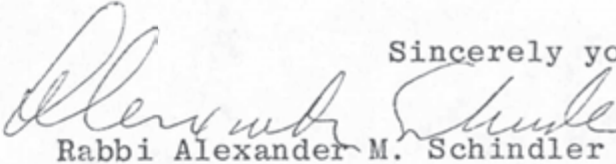
Dear Ambassador Pinies:

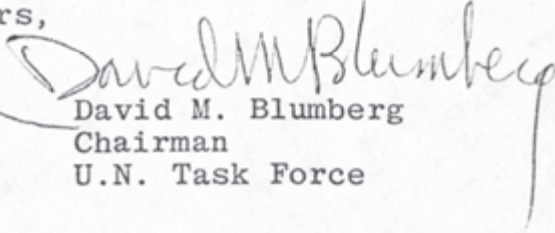
In examining the record of the U.N. General Assembly debate on apartheid, we were distressed to see that your Government voted in favor of the resolution which specifically singled out Israel for its relations with South Africa. This resolution was clearly one-sided, imbalanced and hypocritical. The fact of the matter is that dozens of other nations have far greater commercial and military ties to South Africa than Israel.

Moreover, the resolution was a disservice both to the struggle against apartheid and to the search for a peaceful and just settlement in the Middle East. Indeed, the resolution undermines the search for a peaceful Middle East solution and exacerbates tensions between states in the area.

The Jewish community of the United States cannot be but stunned by your Government's vote. We would very much hope that on future issues of a similar character which may arise in the General Assembly, your Government will choose to examine objectively, and from a profoundly moral perspective, all facets of the question. At the present time, we are very much concerned about the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. If that report is approved, it will constitute a severe set-back to any negotiations of a Middle East settlement. We trust you will vote to reject it.

Sincerely yours,


Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish
Organizations


David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force

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November 17, 1976

H.E. Mr. J.T.X. Muwamba
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi
to the United Nations
777 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

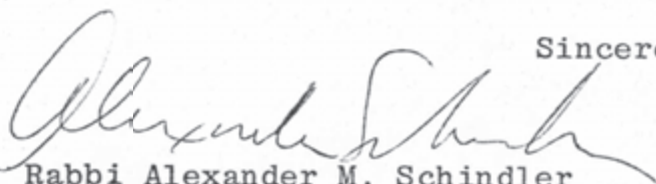
Dear Ambassador Muwamba:

In reading over the records of the U.N. General Assembly debate on apartheid, we were enormously impressed by the fervent moral quality of your perceptive remarks exposing the hypocrisy of the resolution which condemned Israel for its ties with South Africa. We wish to add our names to those of countless other Americans, Jews and non-Jews alike, who applaud your integrity in highlighting this sham at the U.N.

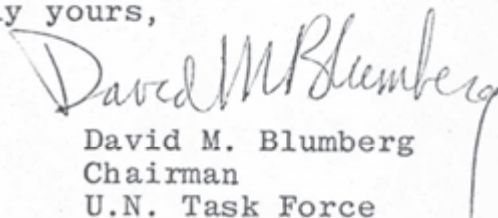
We trust that when the deeply moral issue concerning the one-sided and imbalanced report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People arises in the General Assembly, you will be equally eloquent in decisively rejecting it. All clear-thinking persons regard the Committee's report as a serious set-back to the negotiations for a peaceful and just settlement in the Middle East.

May we take this opportunity to once again commend your initiative and to affirm our organization's unalterable opposition to all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism.

Sincerely yours,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations



David M. Blumberg
Chairman
U.N. Task Force

AMS:DMB:jbj

Agenda Item 27: Question of Palestine
Statement made in explanation of our vote
on L.20, before the vote, in the plenary,
on 24 Nov. 1976.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to explain its vote on the draft resolution before us. The heart of the draft resolution lies in its operative paragraph 2. That paragraph takes note of the report of the Committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Secondly, it endorses the recommendations of the report, which it describes as a basis for the solution of the question of Palestine.

It follows that one's attitude towards the draft resolution depends upon one's evaluation of the recommendations contained in the report. The report contains two main recommendations. The first affects the rights of the Palestinian Arab refugees as individuals. The second affects the right of the Palestinian Arabs as a nation of people.

In summary, the first recommendation is that all Palestinian Arab refugees, dislocated as a result of the 1967 war, should be allowed to return to their homeland in the shortest possible time. The refugees, who have been dislocated between 1948 and 1967, should be given a right to choose either to return to their homeland or to be paid compensation for their lost properties. The second recommendation is that an Arab Palestinian State, under the leadership of the PLO, be established in the West Bank and in Gaza.

The report deals exclusively with the rights of the Palestinian Arabs. It does not refer, in relevant respects, to the rights of Israel. The problem of Palestine is that both the Palestinian Arabs and Israel have legitimate rights. The challenge is to reconcile the competing rights of the Palestinian Arabs, on the one hand and of Israel, on the other hand.

The approach of my delegation is an even-handed one. We believe that an acceptable solution to the question of Palestine must, at one and the same time, vindicate the rights of the Palestinian Arabs and preserve the legitimate

accommodate both the Jewish State and an Arab State.

My Delegation can support the proposal to establish a Palestine Arab State in the West Bank and in Gaza. We can also support the proposal that the administrative control of such a State, should, at least in the first instance, be in the hands of the PLO. We understand, however, why Israel is perturbed by these proposals. Israel is perturbed because the PLO has never stated, in clear and unequivocal terms, that it is willing to accept the legitimacy of the State of Israel and to live in peace and amity with her. In this respect, we wish to recall what was said by Ambassador Fall of Senegal, the Chairman of the Palestine Committee, on 15th November.

Ambassador Fall said:

"The Arabs, for their part, must adopt a more realistic approach to the question and banish from their minds any idea of 'throwing the Jews into the sea'. They must abandon the subjective and emotional approach which has so far characterised their relations with the Jews. The State of Israel is a reality of our time and its existence cannot be denied."

We can support the proposal that the Palestinian Arab refugees have a right to choose either to return to their homeland or to be paid compensation for lost properties. At the same time, we understand why Israel finds this proposal difficult to accept. Obviously, Israel cannot be expected to accept the return of those who seek to destroy her. It is understandable should Israel insist on the right to admit only those who are willing to live at peace with her. In addition, since the refugees number, in their totality, approximately 1.5 million persons, their right to return must be phased and must be conducted in an orderly and organised manner. .

Therefore, whilst we can support the right of the Palestinian Arabs to a State of their own; whilst we can support the right of the refugees to return or to be paid compensation, we wish to make it absolutely clear that we also support the right of Israel to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. This being the case, our support for the report of the Committee is a qualified one. We believe that when the Security Council meets to reconsider the recommendations contained in the report, the Council must necessarily also take into account the legitimate rights of the State of Israel. As the language of operative paragraph 2 itself suggests, the report forms only "a" basis, not "the" basis for the solution of the question of Palestine. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 must have a rightful place in any comprehensive framework for the solution of the Middle-East question and the question of Palestine.

My delegation's affirmative vote must therefore be seen in the light of the above caveats and interpretation.



PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
1 UN Plaza, 26th Floor,
New York, N.Y. 10017

3 Dec 76

Rabbi Alexander M Schindler
Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organiza-
tions, and
Mr David M Blumberg
Chairman
UN Task Force
515 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022.

Dear Rabbi Schindler &
Mr Blumberg

Thank you for your letter of 30 November expressing shock and dismay at the positive vote which my delegation cast on the resolution concerning the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

I enclose a copy of the Statement which I made in explanation of my vote. I hope that after reading my Statement you will be less dismayed and less shocked at my delegations voting position.

Yours sincerely

T.T.B. KOH

(Mr. Kaufmann, Netherlands)

Turning now to the report of the Special Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like first of all to recall that the nine countries of the European Communities expressed reservations with regard to the constitution of that Committee. Those reservations concerned mainly the basis of the Committee's terms of reference. We were of the opinion, as Ambassador Vinci of Italy stated on behalf of our countries at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, that the texts on which the Committee's mandate was based, namely, resolutions 3376 (XXX) and 3236 (XXIX), singled out one of the aspects of the Middle East settlement and thus prejudiced the framework fixed in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Despite those reservations our nine Governments have considered with interest the report of the Committee of 20, since we believe that it represents an effort to give concrete expression to the rights of the Palestinian people, the implementation of which must constitute one of the fundamental elements of a settlement in the Middle East.

Our nine Governments are convinced that a balanced and realistic approach to the problem of the Middle East must take into account simultaneously all the aspects of the question, because all the component parts of a peace settlement are inseparable. As I have just pointed out, the mandate which was given to the Committee of 20 does not reflect this indivisibility. For we note that in summarizing the debate in the Committee the report mentions, in paragraph 52 (c), the principle of secure and recognized boundaries for all States of the region. In contrast, the recommendations of the report, which are the agreed result of the work of the Committee, which takes into account only two of the elements of a peace settlement, namely, the Israeli withdrawal and the Palestinians' rights. We regret that the third element does not appear among those recommendations. They suffer therefore from a fundamental imbalance, which is why we cannot endorse them.

The nine Governments of the European Communities believe that the implementation of the rights of the Palestinian people cannot be achieved except within the framework of an over-all settlement, which is the only formula capable of reconciling the legitimate rights and concerns of all the parties, because it does not separate the various elements of the problem.

(Mr. Kaufmann, Netherlands)

"... first, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force; secondly, the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967; thirdly, respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries; and fourthly, recognition that in the establishment of a just and lasting peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians." (A/31/FV.7, p. 22)

Those four principles are designed to cover all the aspects of settlement of the Middle East crisis, including those resulting from the 1967 conflict and the new awareness of the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

It is with regret that our nine countries note that no progress has been made in the past year in the search for peace in the Middle East. We are of the opinion that the situation in the Middle East requires the immediate resumption of negotiations with a view to finding an over-all settlement to the Middle East conflict, a conflict which continues to represent a serious danger to international peace and security. These negotiations must be based on the elements contained in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and on the principles which I have just outlined.

We wish to reaffirm that the nine Governments of the European Communities remain ready to make an active contribution to all the efforts to find a solution of the Middle East problem. In this respect, they have repeatedly stressed that they are ready to consider participating in a system of international guarantees.

In repeating that the Palestinian problem has a decisive weight in the search for peace in the Middle East, our countries wish to make it clear that the exercise of the right of the Palestinian people to the effective expression of its national identity might include a territorial base within the framework of a negotiated settlement. The exercise of that right must be compatible with the right of all the States in the region, including Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized frontiers.

(Mr. Raza, Pakistan)

My delegation commends the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and fully supports the recommendations contained in its report.

Israel must be made to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. Israel is under a binding obligation to permit the return of all the Palestinian refugees displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli hostilities. The inalienable right of the Palestinians has been affirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3236 (XXIX). In the meantime Israel should desist from the establishment of new settlements in the occupied territories.

The Security Council should be requested to reconsider its decision on the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and to prepare a time-table for the complete withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the areas occupied since 1967, in consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

So long as the Palestinians remain a stateless people there can be no peace in the Middle East. The establishment of an independent Palestinian State is the ultimate solution of the impasse in that war-torn area.

Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) (interpretation from French): On behalf of the nine member countries of the European Communities, I should like to state our viewpoint on the very important item before the Assembly.

The nine have repeatedly said what importance they attach to the question of Palestine. This problem is one of the central questions in the Middle East conflict. No peace settlement will be achieved unless a solution is found to that problem. In this context I should like to recall that the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Van der Stoep, stressed in the statement he made during the general debate that the countries of the Communities attached particular importance to the application of the following principles.



PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
747 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

2 December 1976

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

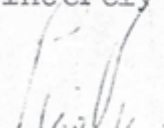
Dear Rabbi Schindler:

Thank you for your letter of November 29, 1976, whose contents I have duly noted.

May I inform you that the position of my Government on the issue of the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was outlined by the Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Mr. Johan Kaufmann, on 18 November 1976, when he spoke in the General Assembly on behalf of the nine member States of the European Community.

I enclose herewith, for your information, the text of the speech.

Sincerely yours,


Piero Vinci
Ambassador

cc: Mr. David M. Blumberg
Chairman, U.N. Task Force

enclosure



PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

800 SECOND AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

OXFORD 7-5500

23 December 1976

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
Conference of Presidents
of Major Jewish Organizations
515 Park Avenue
New York, New York

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

Dear Alex,

With the conclusion of the current session of the General Assembly of the United Nations I write to give credit where credit is due.

I recall raising the question of our problem in the United Nations and the necessity for support from the Jewish People, I recall too your immediate reaction and decision to set up the United Nations Task Force.

This Task Force under David Blumberg has filled a most needed want and has been successful.

I thought you would like to know this since your instinctive reaction has been vindicated.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

C. Herzog

The U.N.'s Double Standard On Human Rights

By William Korey

Reprinted from

The Washington Post

OUTLOOK

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 1977

The U.N.'s Double Standard On Human Rights

By William Korey

EVERY YEAR some 20,000 petitions detailing violations of human rights reach the United Nations. These petitions, euphemistically called "communications," constitute the tip of an iceberg. Gross violations often go unreported due to fear or the inability to forward petitions or the simple inability to write.

Some of the more vicious forms of abridgement of human rights, indeed, have been increasing in the past few years. A recent Amnesty International report documented examples of physical and psychological torture in some 60 countries. Beginning in 1965, terrifying instances of genocide — the destruction of an ethnic, racial or religious group — began reappearing.

All this despite the fact that specific articles of the United Nations Charter, adopted in a moment of universal optimism in 1945, require of member-states that they "take joint and separate action in cooperation" with the U.N. to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all with-

out distinction." All this despite the existence of the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, theoretically buttressed by 19 separate treaties binding contracting parties to observe different facets of human rights.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which should have assumed at least minimal functions for achieving compliance with the charter and the declaration, abdicated its responsibility for more than 20 years. In 1947, the Commission adopted a self-denying rule that "it has no power to take any action in regard to any complaints concerning human rights." Twelve years later the rule was reaffirmed by the Commission's superior, the Economic and Social Council. The literally hundreds of thousands of petitioners who have sent their complaints to the U.N. were advised that the body was powerless to "take any action."

The General Assembly, under the impact of the African states, did create implementation organs, but only in two specific areas: decolonization and apartheid. Perma-

ment committees were established to receive communications from organizations and individuals, hold hearings with petitioners and publish reports on their findings. The effective functioning of these Assembly mechanisms made it clear, if proof was ever needed, that the "domestic jurisdiction" clause of the Charter constituted no obstacle to a determined majority. And it also demonstrated that the U.N. could develop an elaborate machinery for implementation when desired.

The Commission on Human Rights, too, succumbed to the thrust of the Afro-Asian bloc. In 1967, it created an Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on South African Prisoners and Detainees. Formal inquiry was to be made into the abridgement of the rights of prisoners in South Africa. And since then, the powerful Arab bloc has succeeded in adding Israel to the targeted Southern African areas as appropriate for formal inquiry.

Clearly, the machinery for human rights implementation is restricted to those areas in which the new majority has a direct political interest. The far broader gamut of human rights issues embracing all sectors of the globe is treated with deliberate neglect.

There is a sharply defined double standard in the U.N. world. Rights issues with which the majority are concerned — to which torture and arbitrary detention in Chile have now been added — merit the installation of compliance machinery; other rights issues warrant no action.

The double standard explains why the most egregious form of human rights violation — genocide — has been

neglected. Since 1965, at least five instances of genocide or massive ethnic killings bordering on genocide have occurred — in Indonesia against the Chinese in 1965; in Nigeria against the Ibos in 1968; in Pakistan against the Bengalis in 1971; in Burundi against the Hutus in 1972; and in Iraq against the Kurds in the last two years. No U.N. action was taken.

The wholesale expulsion of masses of Asians from Uganda in 1972 was noted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities but, by a vote of 14 to 1, it rejected a proposal to send a cable to President Idi Amin expressing concern. When the issue was again raised by Britain for inclusion in the General Assembly's agenda, an African spokesman denounced any effort that would have "an African State which is exercising its sovereignty to pass before the bar of justice of our Organization. . . ." Faced by this determined opposition, the British withdrew their proposal, and the Ugandan regime has gone on untrammelled to amass a record of human rights abridgements.

The double standard, together with the fierce ideological opposition of the Communist countries, also explains why the most imaginative suggestion ever advanced at the U.N. for implementation machinery in the broad human rights field has been repeatedly shunted aside. In 1965, Costa Rica first proposed appointment of a U.N. high commissioner for human rights who would have access to the complaint communications and would, with tact and "quiet persuasion," attempt to remedy serious grievances. The commissioner was to be a person

whose integrity and prestige was so great that his relative independence from the buffeting political winds at the U.N. would enable him to function effectively in a difficult job. The post was never created.

A similar fate overtook an effort to adopt a Declaration and a Convention barring all forms of religious intolerance to parallel the Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination approved by the General Assembly in 1963 and 1965 respectively. The idea of combating both religious and racial bigotry, significantly and ironically, was prompted by the extraordinary world-wide anti-Semitic swastika epidemic of 1959-60. But the Afro-Asian bloc, supported by the Communists, erected an artificial wall between the two forms of bigotry and then quickly moved to draft appropriate instruments on racial discrimination.

Promised instruments on religious discrimination evoke interest only among some Western delegates and the drafting process has been repeatedly delayed. Although work on this started in 1964, there still exist only a preamble and one article of a Declaration.

An effort was finally initiated to overcome the double standard at least with reference to "gross" violations of human rights. But the progress thus far is hardly encouraging. In 1967, the Economic and Social Council called upon the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to examine the "communications" on human rights violation, for the first time, and report to the Commission on situations which reveal a "consistent pattern" of gross violations.

The Sub-Commission initially performed the required function and suggested that such a "pattern" appeared in 1968 to exist in Greece and Haiti, but the Commission failed to act.

In 1970, the Economic and Social Council attempted to placate critics by resurrecting, with some modifications, the original proposal but enclosing it in virtually total confidentiality. The Sub-Commission was to appoint a 5-man Working Group which would examine the "communications" and determine which complaints "appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations." When approved by the Sub-Commission, the report was to go to the Commission which would decide whether to undertake a thorough study or, with the consent of the governments concerned, arrange for an investigation. In the meantime, the entire proceeding was to be shrouded in secrecy without even the complainants knowing what was happening to their petitions.

Since the Sub-Commission is the first and crucial stage of the new procedure, it is important to examine the character of the body. When created in the late 1940s, it was designed as a body of "experts" who would be relatively immune from direct political pressure of governments. This conception is widely divorced from current reality. As Prof. John Humphrey, former head of the U.N. Division on Human Rights, has testified, most Sub-Commission members take their instructions directly or indirectly from the regimes which nominated them.

The Commission itself has become "politicized," as President Carter suggested in his recent U.N. address.

Its most notable achievement at the spring 1975 session, for example, was a resolution censuring Israel for the arrest and conviction of the self-admitted transmitter of murder weapons to Palestinian terrorists, Archbishop Capucci, the Melkite Catholic vicar of Jerusalem.

The 1976 session was marked by an even more distressing resolution. Prompted by the Soviet Union, the Commission decided that the "right to life" took precedence over all other human rights. The cynical implication is clear: if a state arbitrarily determines that its "security" is threatened, it can suspend all other human rights — speech, religious exercise, assembly, emigration. The most recent session was distinguished by a refusal to take any action on the reported massacres in Uganda. (Last week the International Commission of Jurists reported that more than 100,000 people may have been killed by Ugandan security forces since Idi Amin became president six years ago.)

In 1973, the Sub-Commission actually approved eight human rights cases examined by the Working Group and forwarded them to the Commission. But the Commission in 1974 decided not to act. Instead, in closed session, it voted to set up a new 5-member Working Group from the Commission itself which would review in 1975 the eight cases and all subsequent cases filed by the Sub-Commission. An informed observer, Rep. Donald Fraser (D-Minn.), commented with irony that the oppressed in the cases listed would simply have "to withstand the oppression for another year." The 1975 session produced no action on those cases or on two additional cases. By

1976, the Commission had swept all these cases involving gross violations into the limbo of history.

The Reasons Why

HOW IS the disappointing record in the implementation field to be explained? Two interrelated factors throw light on the problem.

First was the illusory character of the assumption held by the U.N.'s founding fathers that liberal democratic values, nourished in a cooperative post-war atmosphere, would eventually prevail. Today, only 39 of the 147 member-states of the United Nations — as a Freedom House survey reveals — can be considered free societies in terms of political and civil rights. If the overwhelming majority of the U.N. member-states lack the fundamentals of a liberal democratic structure, it can hardly be expected that they will champion broad human rights objectives. In the Commission on Human Rights, only 9 of 32 represent free societies. Even Uganda is a member.

Communist countries from the very beginning, of course, held to a fundamentally different conception of the relationship between the individual and the state from that in democratic countries. At a world peace congress in Moscow in 1973, Leonid Brezhnev referred to "talk of freedom . . . and human rights" in the West as only an attempt "to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist countries."

A not too dissimilar view prevails among many of the developing countries. If they have opted for programs of modernization and industrialization, the usual method

chosen has been authoritarian. Thus, 18 of the 35 African states south of the Sahara are governed by military dictatorships; most of the rest are one-party states.

A revealing document is the official summary of the U.N.-sponsored "Seminar on the Study of New Ways and Means for Promoting Human Rights with Special Attention to the Problems and Needs of Africa," held in Tanzania in 1973. Protection of the rights of the individual was frankly acknowledged to be secondary to the needs of the state. As a result, "some violations of human rights were inevitable." Indeed, a number of African participants argued, "there was no point in talking about human rights as long as the serious economic problems had not been solved and that, on the whole, the international standards concerning human rights as set out in the various instruments of the United Nations were alien to African reality."

The strength of this view is augmented many times over as a result of the tendency at the U.N. for countries to group together and vote in blocs. With regionalism as the dominant political mechanism of the U.N. system, countries within a bloc have a stake in supporting overall bloc objectives and warding off embarrassment to others within the bloc.

A second reason for the reluctance to develop implementation machinery springs from the very nature of foreign policy-making in virtually all countries. As Prof. Richard Bilder has argued, the responsibility of a government official in foreign affairs lies, first and fore-

most, in the protection and promotion of his own state's interests, and not in advancing human rights elsewhere.

Further, many officials consider human rights to be a dangerous Pandora's box. If it were opened, no government would be safe from attack. For this reason, Nobel Laureate Sean McBride contended that there exists a "conspiracy of governments" to evade and avoid giving effect to the international rights of man.

Raison d'etat will preclude, for example, subjecting a friendly government to criticism in the human rights field at the U.N. A State Department official was especially candid when he told a congressional subcommittee two years ago that "it is obviously much easier for us to attach special weight to an adverse finding of an international body when that finding relates to a country with which we do not have a particularly close relation." Two former U.S. representatives to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Morris Abram and Rita Hauser, have said the State Department did not permit them to speak out on human rights violations in the Greece of the colonels and in Northern Ireland. Similarly, the policy of detente, under Henry Kissinger's guidance, required silence about Soviet non-compliance in the human rights field. William Buckley, U.S. representative on the General Assembly's Third Committee, learned that he was "to ignore Soviet infractions against the stated goals of the U.N. organization."

This attitude is, of course, antithetical to the Carter approach. Human rights are proclaimed as central to the new administration's posture in international affairs. As

both psychologically and administratively."

Observers were aware that a large number of the most active human rights non-governmental organizations are based in New York. Equally important is the presence at U.N. Headquarters of numerous newspaper correspondents whose disclosures and proddings have frequently prompted positive human rights action. The permanent press corps in Geneva, in contrast, is almost negligible. A high U.N. official commented at the time that the Division "will be more asleep" in Geneva.

Carter noted that the return of the 68-member Division to New York would permit its activities to be "in the forefront of our attention" and enable the press corps to "stimulate us to deal honestly with this sensitive [human rights] issue." However, the very character of the General Assembly and the attitude of its majority to human rights makes a favorable response to the President's recommendation most unlikely. A possible compromise is to require at least the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission to meet on alternate years in New York — as happened in the early 1970s.

The President also proposed that the Commission meet more often — it currently meets for a 5-week session once a year — and that all nations extend to it their "fullest cooperation." But to the extent that the Commission is politicized, a longer session or more sessions will contribute little to removing the challenge of its selective morality.

The crux of the problem remains the depoliticization of the U.N. human rights program and on this the Presi-

dent said little. He did strongly endorse the idea of a U.N. high commissioner for human rights, but the limited time given the subject suggests that he is painfully aware of how difficult it will be to win majority support for the proposal. Until this type of institution is accepted by the General Assembly, however, any significant progress in the human rights field is doubtful.

Bridges to the Third World

WHAT becomes the principal task of those committed to human rights, in view of existing flawed structural realities, is resistance to any erosion of the basic norms already established by the U.N. (Several examples of such erosion have already taken place including the adoption of the resolution defining Zionism as a form of racism.) The task will require the United States to press its Western allies, all too often inclined to withdraw or abstain, to join in the battle for preserving human rights. A leading Dutch rights expert has emphasized that a principled opposition by a determined Western minority is as essential today as it was for the Soviet bloc during the 1950s when it warded off assaults by a U.N. majority against its ideological system.

Even more important tactically, in view of U.N. voting patterns, is the building of bridges to various elements within the Third World. The search for a common ground is by no means hopeless. Several African leaders have demonstrated interest in human rights and contempt for Idi Amin's excesses in Uganda. What is re-

quired is a sensitivity on the part of the West to two broad concerns: a) apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa, and b) assistance to overcome the serious economic deprivations in the Third World.

The congressional removal of the pro-Rhodesia Byrd amendment is a welcome development, as is the continued pressure upon the Rhodesian regime to alter its racist electoral system fundamentally. Vigorous articulation of our traditional contempt for apartheid is certain to evoke a positive response. Equally essential is the launching of a campaign against hunger buttressed by what Henry Kissinger has called a "strategy of development" — the creation of international agencies to provide balance of payment support, to make export earnings stable and to extend large-scale credits.

Even as it searches for a common ground, the United States would go astray badly were it to emphasize "human needs" at the expense of "human rights." Balancing off unmet economic needs against human rights violations would provide a bizarre calculus. The basic freedoms provide the means by which solutions to

"human needs" can be considered and acted upon. Indeed, our stress should be on integrating human rights objectives into the major U.N. economic programs. The so-called International Development Strategy prepared by the U.N. to achieve goals of the Second U.N. Development Decade, regrettably, carries not a single reference to the promotion of human rights. Neither does the key U.N. declaration on the establishment of the New International Economic Order. These serious gaps require filling both on a symbolic and a substantive level.

Foremost among our purposes in building bridges to the Third World is the educational objective ultimately of ending selectivity and the double standard. Imprisonment of dissenters, torture, expulsion, genocidal practices and denial of freedoms wherever they occur should be the concern of the international community and the target for exposure and elimination. At issue is the very credibility of the U.N. as an instrument for realizing what President Carter called "a more universal demand for fundamental human rights."



B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

MEMORANDUM

Date December 16, 1976

From Cheryl Sortor

To Ric Brown

Copy for information of _____

Subject MAILGRAM

The following Mailgram was sent today:

Congressman Andrew Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Warm and hearty congratulations and all good wishes on your designation as our nation's Ambassador to the United Nations. This is a critical post and I am delighted that a person of your sensitivity, great humanitarianism and profound commitment to human rights will be representing us in the council of nations. This appointment is a richly-merited tribute to your talents and abilities and one which I whole-heartedly applaud.

May you derive a full measure of personal satisfaction and fulfillment from your new responsibilities.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
Plaza 2-1616
Cable Address: COJOGRA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

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

For Immediate Release

Statement by Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Andrew Young is an outstanding choice as our country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He is a man of courage and intellect, of deep compassion and broad understanding. He will bring to his post not only these personal qualities but also a close knowledge -- based on his own leadership in the civil rights movement -- of the contributions of American Jews to the struggle for racial justice in America and of the aspirations of Israel's people to live in peace, in dignity and in security.

As a member of Congress, Andrew Young has compiled a distinguished record as a warm friend, ardent supporter and eloquent advocate of American economic and political support of Israel. He is a superbly qualified and greatly gifted American; he will, be, I am certain, a magnificent U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in the tradition of Arthur J. Goldberg and Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

X X X

12/15/76
JTA

January 4, 1978

Representative Andrew Young
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Young:

The latest UAHC publication, KIVIE KAPLAN: A LEGEND IN HIS OWN LIFETIME, was to have been a festschrift tribute to Kivie in his lifetime. Alas, fate decreed it to be a Memorial Volume. Knowing of Kivie's high regard for you, and I am certain the affection and esteem were fully reciprocated, it gives me great pleasure to send to you, under separate cover, a copy of this tribute for your personal library.

May I also take this opportunity to reiterate my warm good wishes on your selection to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. You come to your important new responsibilities with a close knowledge of the struggle for human rights and racial justice through your own leadership in the civil rights movement. As a man of courage, intellect, deep compassion and broad understanding, you will, I am confident, serve the cause of the United Nations with great dignity and distinction.

It is my fond hope that we will have an opportunity to meet in the not-too-distant future. Hopefully, there will be time in your certainly to be hectic schedule to arrange for a meeting with leaders of the American Jewish community. In my capacity as Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations I cordially invite you to meet with our leadership at a time convenient for you. As you can appreciate, our organization is deeply concerned with the welfare and security of Israel and her right to live in peace. We would warmly welcome an opportunity to share with you our concerns and our aspirations and to hear from you on this subject of major importance to the cause of world peace.

As President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, I look forward to having you grace a future Union function so that the leadership of the Reform movement can come to know you. I know that you have met many of our key people, including our Vice President and Director of Social Action, Albert Vorspan. He has been an avid and devoted proponent of civil rights and a champion of human rights and equality. We number many such leaders in the Reform Jewish community and it would be a source of great delight to welcome you to our midst.

Representative Andrew Young
January 4, 1977
Page -2-

Again, every good wish for the future. May you derive a full measure of professional satisfaction and fulfillment, as well as personal happiness, in your endeavors in behalf of humankind.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler



B'NAI B'RITH

B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL

June 28, 1977

DR. WILLIAM KOREY
Director

315 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016
(212) 689-7400

1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 393-5284

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

Dear Alex:

I don't know whether you've had a chance to read the special article that I wrote for the Washington Post (Outlook Section) on UN human rights. We have just now reprinted it and it strikes me that you might want to arrange for the sending of copies to each member of the Presidents' Conference. Let me know how many you would need.

Warm regards.

Cordially,



William Korey

WK/bk

Enc.

cc: Yehuda Hellman

July 6, 1977

Dr. William Korey, Director
B'nai B'rith International Council
315 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Bill:

I've been "on the road" and this is my first opportunity to thank you for the copy of your Washington Post article. It was thoughtful of you to share it with me.

Yehuda has undoubtedly been in contact with you in regard to the feasibility of obtaining copues for members of the Presidents' Conference and I will leave that to his discretion.

With every good wish and warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Yehuda Hellman

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
PLaza 2-1616
Cable Address: COJOGRA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

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

11 November 1977

H.E. Sr. Don Jaime de Piniés
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations
809 United Nations Plaza
6th floor
New York, New York 10017

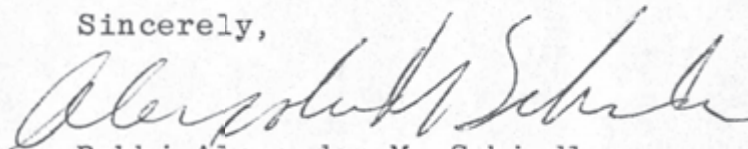
Dear Ambassador Pinies:

Permit me to express appreciation for the opportunity you provided Dr. Korey and me to discuss with you matters of deep concern to the American Jewish community. We very much welcome both your frankness and your positive sentiments.

It is our hope and expectation, based upon our conversation, that within the very near future Spain will establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel, and, thereby, join in the bonds which already link the Jewish State with every Western government.

It is our further hope and expectation that Spain will judge the various issues involving Israel at the United Nations on their specific, individual merits and vote accordingly. There can be no substitute for justice and fair play when the interests of humanity and democracy are at stake.

Sincerely,


Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman

cc: Dr. William Korey

AMS: jbj

bcc: H.E. Mr. Chaim Herzog
H.E. Mr. Obadiah Soffir

MRS. FRANK G. OPTON
150 EAST 69TH STREET, APT. 8-F
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

Dec. 13, 1976

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

Dear Rabbi Schindler :

Thank you for your conciliatory letter of Dec.1.
in response to my complaint about the anti-UN advertise-
ment in the New York Times of Nov. 28. I am still distressed
about this occurrence which, I am afraid, is counterproduc-
tive, as far as your organization is concerned. It surprises
me that anybody took it upon himself, herself or themselves
to publish this piece without consulting the leadership. I
hope the authors of the ad have been advised of my complaint.

I am glad to know that you share the desire to perfect
rather than destroy the organization of the United Nations.

Sincerely,


Eva K. Opton

January 27, 1977

Mr. Leo Nevas
East State Street
Westport, Conn. 06880

Dear Leo:

It was good seeing you and I am grateful to you for the introduction to Jim Leonard. I enjoyed our meeting and found it to be most helpful.

With fondest regards from house to house, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

January 27, 1977

Mr. James Leonard, President
United Nations Association of the U.S.
345 East 46th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Jim:

It was nice meeting you and I hope that we have many occasions to be together in the future. I enjoyed meeting you personally and found your conversation to be enlightening and on an institutional level I hope we can serve our mutual interests by meeting with one another to share concerns. I am deeply grateful to Leo Nevas for bringing us together.

The headquarters of the Union is the office in which I am generally to be found and you can always ascertain my whereabouts from my assistant, Miss Miller, for she knows where I am to be found twenty-four hours a day. Enclosed is the letterhead of the Presidents' Conference which lists the organizations affiliated directly with this group. In addition, we have a number of associate-member organizations from the fund-raising community which for technical reasons cannot join the Presidents' Conference directly but they do join with us on an associate basis so that the Conference can claim that 80% of the organizations of the American Jewish community are involved in the work it undertakes. The Executive Director of the Presidents' Conference is Yehuda Hellman (Pl 2-1616). Needless to note, if you have any further questions about this group all you need do is telephone me or Mr. Hellman.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you well and to express my congratulations on your new post. It will, I am certain, be a very exhilarating and fulfilling assignment.

With warm good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Leo Nevas
Mr. Yehuda Hellman

Chairman of the Association
James S. McDonnell
Chairman of the Board
McDonnell Douglas Corp.

Chairman, Board of Governors
Robert S. Benjamin
Chairman, Finance Committee
United Artists Corp.

Vice Chairmen
Kenneth R. Burroughs
Pres., Texas Division, UNA

Leo Nevas
Partner
Nevas, Nevas & Rubin

Jean Picker
Interchange Foundation

Robert V. Roosa
Partner
Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

Secretary
Ruth J. Hinerfeld
Vice Pres. and Int'l Relations Chmn.
League of Women Voters of the U.S.

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New York Chapter, UNA

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Yale Law School

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Manuel Seligman
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Robert M. Ratner
Executive Vice President

Joe Byrns Sills
Vice President, Chapter, Division
and Field Activities

Peggy Sanford Carlin
Vice President, Program Planning
and National Organizations

Louis J. Provenza
Assistant Treasurer

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA

345 EAST 46th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
Cable Address UNASAMER • (212) 697-3232



Honorary Co-Chairmen

Arthur J. Goldberg
Henry Cabot Lodge
Anna Lord Strauss
Charles W. Yost

National Chairman, UN Day 1976
(By appointment of The President of the U.S.A.)

Edgar B. Speer
Chairman of the Board
United States Steel Corporation

January 31, 1977

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

Dear Alex:

It was a real pleasure to meet you the other day, and I, too, am pleased that Leo had such a happy thought. There are going to be some pretty tense moments over the next year or two (or the next century or two) and it will be very comforting to have you to turn to for calm, thoughtful counsel.

Thank you very much for sending me the information about the Presidents' Conference and for your kind remarks about my prospective appointment. I expect to be talking to Andy Young shortly about arranging a meeting and I will be in touch with you again about this.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


James F. Leonard
President

JFL:mc



B'NAI B'RITH

October 20, 1977

B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL

DR. WILLIAM KOREY
Director

315 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016
(212) 689-7400

1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
(202) 393-5284

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

Dear Alex:

I believe that you will be interested in the following:

Yesterday, I was called by two key officials of major national Jewish organizations and asked whether B'nai B'rith or any Jewish organization had taken a position on U.S. withdrawal from ILO.

(As you know, because of the growing politicization of the latter -- but only partly related to anti-Israel resolutions and to resolutions granting PLO special status -- Kissinger, two years ago, gave official notice of USA withdrawal by November, 1977 unless a fundamental change in ILO will have taken place. This was prompted by George Meany and his AFL-CIO who have been increasingly disaffected by developments within ILO.

(The hoped-for changes did not take place and the Administration has to decide on whether to fulfil the Kissinger commitment. Opposition to withdrawal comes from our European allies, from the New York Times, from pro-UN forces, from the State Department bureaucracy, from the UAW, etc. The Cabinet is split with Secretary of Labor Marshall and Secretary of Commerce Kreps supporting withdrawal -- which coincides with the views of AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce -- and Secretary of State Vance and National Security Adviser Brzezinski favoring staying in.)

(The White House is confronted by a sharp dilemma which has to be resolved by November 5. Judging from the

above two calls, it probably is sounding out Jewish opinion on the subject.)

I advised both callers that while to the best of my knowledge no Jewish organization has taken a formal policy position on the matter, the prevailing, although unexpressed, attitude in the organized Jewish community is one that is sympathetically disposed to those supporting withdrawal. At stake, I explained, is U.S. credibility. If it reneges on this commitment, its muscle and leverage in all UN agencies (which are similarly faced by growing politicization) will be significantly reduced.

If Jewish organizations have not taken a position on this subject, I further said, it was because of two considerations. First, quite properly, the initiative belonged to the AFL-CIO and, to a lesser extent, to the Chamber of Commerce, both of which are represented in the tripartite structure which uniquely distinguishes ILO. Second, and more importantly, no one expected, until very recently, that the U.S. would fail to fulfil a firm commitment and, therefore, no one perceived the necessity of formalizing Jewish opinion.

When I meet with Ed Mezvinsky this afternoon, I shall apprise him of this perspective. Ed has evidently emerged as a contact point of the Administration with Jewish groups on UN matters.

At this stage of the game, and especially in view of the timing problem, I am uncertain but doubtful as to whether formalization of our position is appropriate or essential. There are a number of nuances with reference to both the issue itself and strategy related thereto which I have not gone into here. Should you seek greater elaboration, I shall be happy to comply.

Cordially,



William Korey

WK/bk

cc: Yehuda Hellman
Morris Amitay
Daniel Thursz

October 24, 1977

Dr. William Korey, Director
B'nai B'rith International Council
315 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your letter of October 20 in regard to the
ILO. I appreciate your keeping me informed on developments.

You handled the matter correctly and in accordance with
the situation as I understand it. If you feel any further
action is to be taken please let me know. Your guidance
is always helpful and I'll count on you to keep me apprised
of events as they transpire.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Schindler

cc: Mr. Morris Amitay
Mr. Yehuda Hellman
Dr. Daniel Thursz

TELEGRAM

NOVEMBER 30, 1977

DR. KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS
UNITED NATIONS BUILDING
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

WE VIEW WITH ALARM AND DISMAY YOUR PROPOSAL FOR STILL ANOTHER MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THIS ONE ON WHAT YOU DESCRIBE AS THE "NEUTRAL GROUND" OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THERE IS NOTHING "NEUTRAL" ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS, WHOSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS CONSISTENTLY ADOPTED THE MOST DEPLORABLE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS.

THE ONLY PURPOSE SUCH TALKS AS YOU PROPOSE COULD SERVE IS TO SABOTAGE THE MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE SO DRAMATICALLY LAUNCHED AT THE HISTORIC MEETING IN JERUSALEM BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY THE INVITATION YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO THE PLO. THIS ACTION SEEKS TO BRING INTO THE DIPLOMATIC ARENA THE MOST INCENDIARY ELEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, A BAND OF TERRORISTS WHOSE AVOWED PURPOSE IS TO DESTROY THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND WHOSE CONTEMPTIBLE TACTIC IS TO MAKE WAR ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS. BY ITS CHARTER AND BY ITS ACTIVITIES, THE PLO HAS DISQUALIFIED ITSELF FROM ANY PLACE AT THE PEACE TABLE. THIS WAS RECOGNIZED BY UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, WHICH LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN ANY MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES TO GOVERNMENTS. YOUR INVITATION UNDERCUTS THOSE RESOLUTIONS.

WE ARE SENDING A COPY OF THIS TELEGRAM TO SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG URGING OUR COUNTRY NOT TO ATTEND THE MEETING YOU HAVE PROPOSED OR ANY MEETING AT WHICH THE PLO IS PRESENT.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER
CHAIRMAN
CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR
AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED NATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

Office of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

29 November 1977

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY-GENERAL

The following statement was issued today by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim:

In response to the invitation of the Egyptian Government, I intend to designate Lt. Gen. Ensio Sillasvuo, Chief Coordinator of the United Nations Peace-keeping Operations in the Middle East, to be present at the meeting in Cairo.

As it turns out, the meeting in Cairo will probably have limited participation. In the light of this consideration and having in mind the urgent need for an early convening of the Geneva Conference, I suggest that consideration be given to the holding of a preparatory meeting at United Nations Headquarters, or any other generally agreed venue, of all those invited to the Cairo meeting. I believe that such a broadly based meeting, following on the Cairo meeting, could facilitate the convening of an early and constructive Conference at Geneva.

* * * * *

For information media - not an
official record

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

file

515 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

PLaza 2-1616

Cable Address: COJOGRA

2 December 1977

TO: Members associated in the Presidents Conference
FROM: Yehuda Hellman, Executive Director

In accordance with the decision made at the meeting of the Presidents Conference on Thursday, 1 December 1977, I am enclosing for your information a copy of Rabbi Schindler's telegram to U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, which was sent on 30 November 1977 and a copy of Dr. Waldheim's reply.



PRESIDENCIA DE LA REPUBLICA DE CHILE

SANTIAGO, 23 de Diciembre de 1977.

Señor
Rabino ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER
Presidente
Conferencia de Presidentes de las principales
organizaciones Judías Americanas.
N U E V A Y O R K

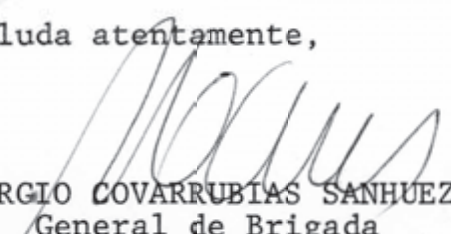
DISTINGUIDO SEÑOR PRESIDENTE:

Por instrucciones de S.E. el Presidente de la República, cúpleme referirme a su telex de fecha 9 de octubre pasado, en el cual expresa que un representante de la Organización para la Liberación de Palestina, OLP, el sacerdote católico Ibrahim Ayad, luego de una entrevista sostenida con el sr. Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile, expresó a la prensa que Chile le prometió "un total apoyo en la actual sesión de la Asamblea General".

Al respecto, cabe señalar que el sacerdote Ayad fue recibido por el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile, en su calidad de sacerdote, y no como "representante" de la OLP. Asimismo, puedo asegurar a Usted que en la entrevista señalada el sr. Ministro se limitó a escuchar los puntos de vista expuestos por el mencionado sacerdote. No hubo pues compromiso de ninguna clase de parte de nuestro país hacia la OLP, organización que no ha sido reconocida por Chile.

Lo saluda atentamente,




SERGIO COVARRUBIAS SANHUEZA
General de Brigada
Ministro
Jefe del Estado Mayor Presidencial

EDIE -- TEXT OF CHILEAN LETTER

Thanks AMS for his Telex of October 9, 1977. Basically says that Priest Ibrahim Ayad, who was to have been a "representative" of the PLO, did meet with the Chilean Foreign Minister, but only as a priest in the religious sense of the word, not ^{at} as a "representative" of the PLO. Assures that/this meeting, the minister limited himself to listening to the points of view brought up by the above-mentioned priest. There was no set agreement or compromise of any kind on our (Chile's) part to the PLO, which has not been recognized by the government of Chile. They gave this priest an audience with the foreign minister strictly because he was a clergyman of the Catholic Church. The priest told the news media that Chile gave him "total backing in the current session of the General Assembly," but this was not so.

C.C. Kory

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
PLaza 2-1616
Cable Address: COJOGRA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

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American Mizrahi Women
American Zionist Federation
Anti-Defamation League
B'nai B'rith
B'nai B'rith Women
Bnai Zion
Central Conference of
American Rabbis
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and Welfare Funds (observer)
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of the U.S.A.
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Congregations of America
United Synagogue of America
Women's American ORT
Women's League for
Conservative Judaism
World Zionist Organization
American Section, Inc.
Zionist Organization of America

28 July 1977

H.E. Mr. Donald O. Mills
Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations
866 Second Avenue
15th floor
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ambassador Mills:

We are shocked and dismayed by the favorable vote of your delegation in the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 22 July endorsing the admission of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the Economic Commission for West Asia.

United Nations bodies are composed of Member-States. To grant the PLO the status of a state makes a mockery of international law and further undermines the credibility of United Nations procedures. At the same time, it subverts efforts aimed at bringing about a full and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Permit us also to emphasize that the PLO has claimed responsibility for numerous cases of international terrorism, including indiscriminate slaughter. Moreover, its National Covenant calls for the destruction of a U.N. Member-State. Thus, the decision of ECOSOC can scarcely be seen as other than a profoundly illegal and immoral act.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations

David M. Blumberg, Chairman
U.N. Task Force

RAMS:DMB:jbj

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
Plaza 2-1616
Cable Address: COJOGRA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

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American Zionist Federation
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Bnai Zion
Central Conference of
American Rabbis
Council of Jewish Federations
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Mizrachi-Hapoel Hamizrachi
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Temple Sisterhoods
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Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
United Synagogue of America
Women's American ORT
Women's League for
Conservative Judaism
World Zionist Organization
American Section, Inc.
Zionist Organization of America

28 July 1977

H.E. Alfred A. Rattray
Embassy of Jamaica
1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ambassador Rattray:

We are shocked and dismayed by the favorable vote of your delegation in the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 22 July endorsing the admission of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to the Economic Commission for West Asia.

United Nations bodies are composed of Member-States. To grant the PLO the status of a state makes a mockery of international law and further undermines the credibility of United Nations procedures. At the same time, it subverts efforts aimed at bringing about a full and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Permit us also to emphasize that the PLO has claimed responsibility for numerous cases of international terrorism, including indiscriminate slaughter. Moreover, its National Covenant calls for the destruction of a U.N. Member-State. Thus, the decision of ECOSOC can scarcely be seen as other than a profoundly illegal and immoral act.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, Chairman
Conference of Presidents of
Major American Jewish Organizations

David M. Blumberg, Chairman
U.N. Task Force

RAMS:DMB:jbj

TMC8207

CONFIRMATION COPY OF TELEPHONED MESSAGE

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JAKN HL URDB 190 7521616WWW
NEWYORKNY 190/185 01 1314 COUNT PNCTNS PAGE 1/50

LT
THE RIGHT HONORABLE MICHAEL N MANLEY PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA
KINGSTONJAMAICA

SIR WE ARE SHOCKED AND DISMAYED BY THE FAVORABLE VOTE OF YOUR
DELEGATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON JULY
22ND ENDORSING THE ADMISSION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
(PLO) TO THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR

JJIO17500 PAGE 2/50

WEST ASIA STOP UNITED NATIONS BODIES ARE COMPOSED OF MEMBER- STATES
STOP TO GRANT THE PLO THE STATUS OF A STATE MAKES A MOCKERY OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND FURTHER UNDERMINES THE CREDIBILITY OF UNITED
NATIONS PROCEEDURES STOP88T THE SAME TIME , IT SUBVERTS EFFORTS AIMED
AT BRINGING ABOUT A FULL

JJIO17500 PAGE 3/50

AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST STOP PERMIT US ALSO TO EMPHASISE
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MEMBER-STATE STOP THUS , THE DECISION OF ECOSOC

JJIO17500 PAGE 4/35

CAN SCARCELY BE SEEN AS OTHER THAN A PROFOUNDLY ILLEGAL AND IMMORAL
ACT STOP

SINCERELY YOURS RABBI ALEXANDER M SCHINDLER CHAIRMAN CONFERENCE OF
PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
DAVID M BLUMBERG CHAIRMAN UN TASKFORCE

COL LT 22ND MEMBER- STOP88T , , , MEMBER-STATE ,

B'NAI B'RITH

August 19, 1977

B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL

DR. WILLIAM KOREY
Director

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Washington, D. C. 20036
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Ms. Marcella Martinez
Jamaica Tourist Board
866 Second Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Marcella:

It was most pleasant, as always to see you.

You asked that I provide you in writing with the essentials of our concern and I shall herewith abide by that request. (The details of B'nai B'rith's planned tour program to Jamaica will be sent you by Mrs. Bloom.)

The basic concern of the Jewish community is incorporated in the attached letter which was sent to the Jamaican Ambassadors at the UN and in Washington. A cable with the same content was sent to Prime Minister Manley.

I cannot too strongly emphasize the shock and dismay of the American Jewish community, including B'nai B'rith, when it learned of Jamaica's vote at ECOSOC concerning admission of PLO to ECWA. Cuba was the only other country in the Western hemisphere which voted favorably on the admission of the PLO.

The telephones in our Tour Department were constantly buzzing, once the news of Jamaica's vote appeared in the Anglo-Jewish press in the United States. Needless to say, the anger of the callers was such as to jeopardize large-scale participation in the major tour program to Jamaica that B'nai B'rith has scheduled for the winter.

The explanation that was offered to callers was that the Jamaican vote in this instance was not characteristic; rather it was something of an aberration.

It goes without saying, however, that another vote of the same kind would make our task extremely difficult.

The indicated explanation would neither be possible nor fall on responsive ears.

We are looking forward to a very successful Jamaica tour program and very much hope that political considerations do not intrude so as to complicate matters and seriously challenge the extensive travel schedules.

With warm personal regards.

Cordially,



William Korey

WK/bk

cc: Mrs. Zelda Bloom



EMBASSY OF JAMAICA

1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

TELEPHONE: 387-1010

REF. NO. 6/1/9.3

September 20, 1977

Dear Rabbi Schindler,

I am replying to your letter of the 28th of July, 1977 in which you raised questions about the vote of the Jamaican delegation on the matter of the admission of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to the Economic Commission for West Asia. I would have replied to your letter before but I was out of the United States for some time and only recently returned.

It is a source of satisfaction to me that Jamaica maintains friendly relations with the State of Israel. It is inevitable that two friendly independent sovereign states will hold differing views on a wide variety of issues and will from time to time find themselves opposing each other's viewpoint. Such differences of views, however, rarely affect relations between states founded upon mutual respect for each other's sovereignty.

It is well known that Jamaica has time and again publicly expressed its support for the continued existence of the State of Israel. By the same token, Jamaica has also expressed its concern for the rights of the Palestinian people. We do not consider that the vote taken by our delegation, regarding the admission of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to the Economic Commission for West Asia, in any way conflicts with our policy on these two important issues.

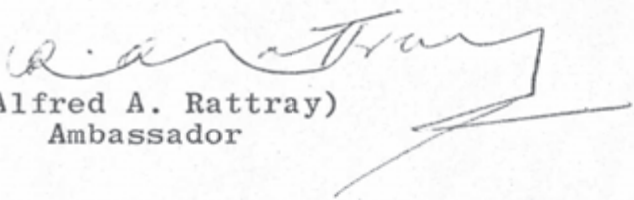
/I am

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

2

I am confident that the existing cordial and friendly relations, based upon respect for each other's sovereignty, between Jamaica and Israel, and among the Jamaican and the Jewish people throughout the United States will continue.

Yours sincerely,


(Alfred A. Rattray)
Ambassador



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

515 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
Plaza 2-1616
Cable Address: COJOGRA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS:

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

21 October 1977

H.E. Mr. Alfred A. Rattray
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Embassy of Jamaica
1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ambassador Rattray:

I wish to thank you for your letter of 20 September but I would be remiss in my obligation to truth and justice if I failed to respond to a key point in your explanation.

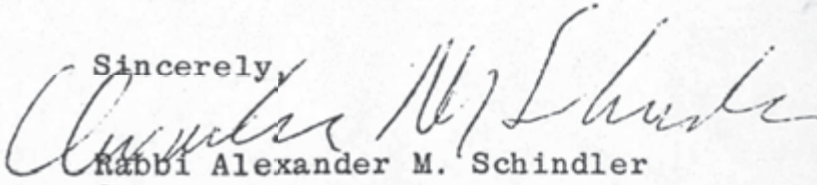
You refer to the rights of the Palestinian people and then, in the next sentence, you link the latter to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Who anointed this organization, dedicated to terrorism, to the role of representative of the Palestinian people? Certainly, the past and current P.L.O. leaders have never been elected by the Palestinian people.

Further, you state -- and it is a welcome statement -- that Jamaica is committed to "the continued existence of the State of Israel." But, certainly you are aware of the fact that the P.L.O., in its National Covenant and in various public statements, has called for the destruction of the State of Israel. Do you not find that this clear-cut position contradicts the above quoted assertion?

In this connection, may I note that the P.L.O. has rejected Security Council Resolution 242, the foundation for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The P.L.O. stands for terrorism, for violence (cf. what happened to Lebanon), for the destruction of Israel, and for the rejection of a basic U.N. position on peace. In view of this reality, I find it difficult to understand let alone accept your explanation.

Sincerely,


Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
Chairman