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National Jewish Community Relations Council, Israel Task Force,
correspondence, newspaper clippings, and minutes, 1974-1983.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN
The DIOCESE of OHIO

THE RT. REV. JOHN HARRIS BURT, BISHOP

CHURCH HOUSE
9930 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115
TELEPHONE (216) 771-4815

December 5, 1975

Dear Dan:

I am enclosing three more statements on the U.N. resolution concerning Zionism. Except for the one coming from the NCC Christian Jewish Relations Committee they are not as forthright as I believe the situation demands. At the same time, I thought you ought to have them if they have not yet come across your desk.

Ever sincerely yours,


John H. Burt

Rabbi Daniel Silver
The Temple
26000 Shaker Blvd.
Beachwood, Ohio 44124

Enclosures

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, N. Y., Oct. 31 ----- Claire Randall, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ, today urged the General Assembly of the United Nations to turn down the resolution of its Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee which calls Zionism a "form of racism."

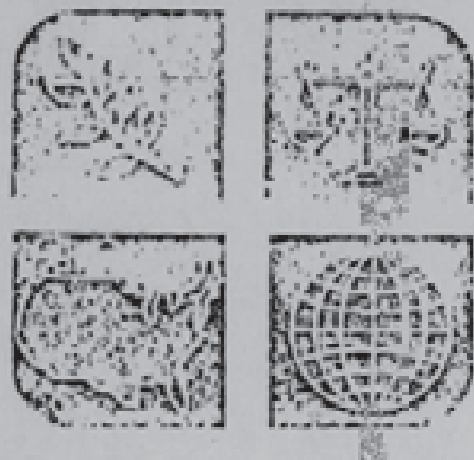
Her statement follows:

"The National Council of the Churches of Christ has consistently sought to support efforts toward reconciliation in the Middle East and has encouraged all parties to deal with the fundamental causes of the conflict there.

"Our Executive Committee has called upon Israel and the Palestinians to recognize the right of the other party to the same self-determination which they desire for themselves."

"I believe it is consistent with our position, regarding the Middle East, now to urge the United Nations General Assembly not to approve the proposed resolution that declares 'Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination.'

"Mutual recriminations will not help solve Middle-East problems nor contribute to peace. Furthermore, such an action on the part of this international body will undermine the struggle against racism, and has the potential for reviving an old form of racism, anti-Semitism, in many places in the world."



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

OFFICE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027 (212) 870-2228

Rev. W. Sterling Gary, President

Clare Rabbitt, General Secretary

November 11, 1975

Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary General of the United
Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Waldheim:

The Office on Christian-Jewish Relations of the National Council of Churches expresses its unqualified opposition to the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations which asserts, "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination."

By this uninformed and irresponsible equating of Zionism, the liberation movement of the Jewish people, with racism, the world body devoted to bringing peace among nations has succumbed to an act of political savagery, and has sown further discord among the member states.

As Christians committed to promoting justice and peace throughout the world, we affirm the right of the Jewish people to pursue their own national destiny, and we oppose those who would deny this people of the rights which they cherish for themselves.

Divertive actions such as this attack on Zionism bring us farther from a just solution of the Middle East conflict. Only by a concerted effort to solve the root problems of the conflict can we hope to bring about peace to the Middle East.

We therefore call upon the General Assembly to acknowledge the error of this resolution, and speedily to rescind it.

Sincerely yours,

The Rev. Isaac Rottenberg
Chairman

The Rev. William L. Weiler
Executive Director

STATEMENT BY DR. PHILIP POTTER, GENERAL SECRETARY, WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ABOUT THE RESOLUTION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ZIONISM IS A FORM OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE MAJORITY DECISION TAKEN BY THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARING THAT QUOTE ZIONISM IS A FORM OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION UNQUOTE.

WE REALIZE THAT THOSE WHO VOTED IN FAVOR OF THAT RESOLUTION MAY HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR OBJECTION TO SOME CONCRETE ISRAELI POLICIES OF WHICH THEY STRONGLY DISAPPROVE. SOME MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNWILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF ISRAEL TO COMPLY WITH U.N. RESOLUTIONS IN REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

HOWEVER, WE WISH TO STATE OUR UNEQUIVOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE EQUATION OF ZIONISM WITH RACISM, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- 1 - ZIONISM HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN A MOVEMENT CONCERNED WITH THE LIBERATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE FROM OPPRESSION INCLUDING RACIAL AGGRESSION. ZIONISM IS A COMPLEX HISTORICAL PROCESS EXPRESSING MANY DIFFERENT ASPIRATIONS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS AND IS SUBJECT TO MANY UNDERSTANDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS. NONE OF THESE CAN PROPERLY BE USED TO CONDEMN ZIONISM AS RACISM.
- 2 - ON THE OTHER HAND, RACISM AS COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY MEANS, ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITION PROVIDED BY A STUDY OF UNESCO, QUOTE ANTI-SOCIAL BELIEFS AND ACTS WHICH ARE BASED ON THE FALLACY THAT DISCRIMINATORY INTERGROUP RELATIONS ARE JUSTIFIABLE ON BIOLOGICAL GROUNDS...RACISM FALSELY CLAIMS THAT THERE IS A SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ARRANGING GROUPS HIERARCHICALLY IN TERMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE IMMUTABLE AND INNATE. IN THIS WAY IT SEEKS TO MAKE EXISTING DIFFERENCES APPEAR INVIOLEABLE AS A MEANS OF PERMANENTLY MAINTAINING CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN GROUPS QUOTE. (STATEMENT ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICES, UNESCO, 1967). THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ZIONISM IS OVERTLY RACIST IN THIS SENSE.
- 3 - THE ATTEMPT TO EQUATE ZIONISM WITH RACISM HAS THE SERIOUSLY DAMAGING EFFECT OF EXACERBATING THE ALREADY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BECAUSE IT DIVERTS ATTENTION NOT ONLY WITHIN U.N. AGENCIES BUT IN THE MASS MEDIA AND IN PUBLIC OPINION FROM THE OVERRIDING TASK OF RESOLVING THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST THROUGH THE PROCESS OF PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.

WE, THEREFORE, APPEAL TO THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

TO RECONSIDER AND RESCIND THIS RESOLUTION.

WE FURTHER APPEAL TO ALL THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND TO THE U.N.:

- 1 - TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPLEMENTING ALL THE PERTINENT U.N. RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

- 2 - TO FIND URGENTLY WAYS TO ENABLE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS TO NATIONHOOD AND STATEHOOD WHILE RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO EXIST PEACEFULLY WITHIN INTERNATIONALLY AGREED BOUNDARIES. ANYTHING WHICH DIVERTS THE ATTENTION FROM THESE ISSUES OR CAN BE UTILIZED TO SO DIVERT IT WILL ONLY MAKE THE ACUTE RISK OF NEW AND INCREASINGLY BROADER ARMED CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST MORE AND MORE IMMINENT.



December 18, 1975

Mr. Albert Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

I appreciate the opportunity to join the Task Force. As you can imagine, I have a number of questions about the meetings, both as to what transpires and what does not and should not transpire.

I would like the opportunity to sit down after our next meeting and spend a few minutes with you trying to acquaint myself with the dynamics of the situation. I would also like to read whatever records we have so that I can understand the parameters of our work and its background.

The enclosed crossed my desk. Is there any chance Kozmetsky is Jewish?

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp
Encl.

PROCESS WOULD EXTRACT HYDROGEN FROM WATER

The American Gas Association (AGA) has signed a \$250,000 cooperative funding contract with General Atomic Company for the development of a process applying nuclear energy to the production of hydrogen from water.

"Hydrogen is an excellent clean-burning fuel and is the most abundant element in the universe," said AGA President F. Donald Hart. "If an economic hydrogen-extraction-from-water process can be developed, hydrogen has a tremendous potential as a long-term future replacement for natural gas supplies."

In the process, known as thermochemical "water-splitting," ordinary water is subjected to a series of chemical reactions in which hydrogen and oxygen are produced. Chemicals used in the process are not consumed and can be recycled.

The General Atomic program at present is directed at chemistry and chemical engineering studies of selected thermochemical processes. It is expected that the most promising processes will lead to actual "water-splitting" apparatus, first with non-nuclear heat sources and later with a nuclear reactor.

AGA also has been funding a project at the Institute of Gas Technology, Chicago, on thermochemical hydrogen production since 1972. The thermochemical reaction sequences being investigated at IGT are closed-loop cycles that result only in the splitting of water. These "water-splitting" cycles require that the chemical reaction steps be driven primarily by heat derived from a nuclear reactor.

Energy for the reactions will be provided by General Atomic's High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor (HTGR), which is the only nuclear system available that operates in the required temperature range—above 1400°F.

Hart explained that General Atomic and IGT will be coordinating their work and cooperating in the development of a process to produce hydrogen from water using nuclear heat. He said this combined effort will produce the best results in the shortest possible time.

He said fuel savings that may be possible through the use of nuclear energy in the process could be "extremely significant in assuring the continued benefits of the widespread uses of gaseous fuels for residential, commercial and industrial purposes."



DR. GEORGE KOZMETSKY

GEORGE KOZMETSKY JOINS GULF BOARD

Dr. George Kozmetsky, Dean of The University of Texas at Austin College of Business Administration and Graduate School of Business, has been elected to the Board of Directors of Gulf Oil Corporation.

Dr. Kozmetsky, 58, has been Dean at the college since September of 1966 and also serves as a professor in the Management and Computer Sciences departments. A native of Seattle, Washington, Dr. Kozmetsky earned his B.S. degree in Political Science and M.S. degree in Business Administration at the University of Washington, and his Doctorate in Commercial Science at Harvard University.

He formerly taught at the University of Washington, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, and Carnegie Institute of Technology Graduate School of Industrial Administration.

Dr. Kozmetsky is a former president of the Institute of Management Sciences and a former consultant to the NASA Management Advisory Council. He also served as a member of the Presidential advisory committee on the National Data Center. Currently, he is a consultant to the Institute for the Future, the Policy Committee of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and the National Commission on Supplies and Shortages.

A co-founder and former executive vice president of Teledyne, Inc., Dr. Kozmetsky previously was a senior staff member in the advanced electronic laboratory of the Hughes Aircraft Company, served five years as director of the computers and controls laboratory, electronic equipment division for Litton Industries, and one year as vice president and assistant general manager of that division.

He serves as a board director for a number of other corporations including: Farah Manufacturing Company, Inc.; Datapoint Corporation; Heizer Corporation; United National Bank in Dallas; Amdahl Corporation; Fund for Multinational Management

CONTRACT FOR POWER

Delmarva Electric Company has announced a \$125 million contract for a new power station and terminal.

R. D. W. and W. W. Atomic, said a number of calculations are being made by Atomic in High Temperature

General Diego, is a Scallop No. Royal Dutch Corporation.

The Sunnyside plant, which will produce two 770,000 Btu/hr gas-cooled reactors for service in the late 1980s, has been delayed.

Weimer said that the project has been delayed because of the desire to have a gas-cooled reactor for service in the late 1980s.

REACTOR

General Atomic has announced a contract with the Office of Naval Research, Bangkok, for the design and construction of a 2000 kW gas-cooled reactor.

Mr. Krivitsky, General Atomic's vice president for all high temperature nuclear systems, said the project is being designed for use in a naval ship.

NEW PROJECTS WILL START

Two multi-million dollar projects to construct new plants are announced by General Atomic (GOACHEM).

The two projects are for a new styrene plant at Port Arthur, Texas, and the other for a new styrene plant at the other end of the state. The styrene plant at Port Arthur will produce 1 million cubic feet of styrene per day, according to the company. The styrene plant at the other end of the state will produce 1 million cubic feet of styrene per day, according to the company.

Fuel savings through a new process requires less than 10 percent more energy than the current process. Styrene is now produced in the United States by General Atomic.

At the Port Arthur plant, the new process is being used to recover heat from the reactor and convert it into polyethylene. The new process is being used by the Texas Gas & Electric Co. and includes a new process for recovering heat from the reactor.

NEW SELECTION

Cr. Gerald V. Vice President of Gulf Oil Corporation will be on the senior office staff. He will be responsible for the Gulf Oil Corporation's operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Bush, who is currently at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be responsible for the Gulf Oil Corporation's operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

He has a long history with the U.S. Navy and was a member of the Kennedy administration. He is currently the executive secretary of the Gulf Oil Corporation's Office of Corporate Affairs. He was previously the vice president of Little, Inc., and the vice president of the Gulf Oil Corporation's Office of Corporate Affairs.

National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

December 23, 1975

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

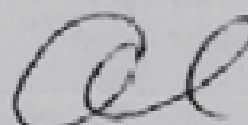
Dear Ian:

Both Ted and I very much welcomed your active participation in the meeting of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force, and we look forward to your continued participation as a regular member of this Committee. I, too, would welcome the opportunity to chat with you when you are in town for the next meeting, and once the date is set up, let's try to block out a period of time in advance of the meeting.

I don't know whether George Kozmetsky is Jewish. I have sent it over to Ben Epstein at the ADL. Perhaps, ADL might know.

Warmest regards.

Cordially,



ALBERT D. CHERNIN
Executive Vice Chairman

ADC:ZC

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*Representing Association of Jewish
Community Relations Workers*
Meyer Fine

cooperation in the common cause of Jewish community relations

December 26, 1975

Mr. Albert Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

I was approached yesterday by the Chairman of our local American Jewish Committee. They were interested in sponsoring a meeting for members of our black community which would be called by the one man here who signed the Basic manifesto. They propose to have Bayard Rustin as their speaker. I remembered our discussion at the last Task Force meeting in which you spoke of some future contact with Basic on precisely such a level. Have your meetings taken place and is Rustin willing to have Basic move in this direction?

W. O. Walker, publisher of the Call and Post, Cleveland's black newspaper, is the local contact.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Notes NJCRAC Israel Task Force Meeting, Dec. 15, 1975 - New York City

1. The request of National Council for Jewish Women of \$5,000 for academic colloquia on Israel's achievements in teaching disadvantaged children was discussed and approved. I am not quite sure why this project falls within the purview of the Task Force, but the agencies there seem to scratch each other's backs.

2. Staff spoke of a year-long failure to establish an effective speakers' bureau despite an allocation of \$150,000 and proposed that Basic and CCI and American Business Council on the Mideast be supported in their speaking activities. There was much unhappiness about the conservative cast of the businessmen's group, particularly from Ben Epstein and Naomi Levine. It was interesting to see that black is beautiful because Basic which a) had not agreed to this and b) includes conservatives as well as liberals was constantly held up as the kind of group "we like to work with" and Conservative is a bad word, the business group represents Zomwaldt etc. In the end there seemed to be agreement that the approach of sponsoring groups already in the field represented a short term possibility and that staff time might be made available to find other such groups.

3. Much unhappiness was expressed with the Jerusalem Conference on Jewish Solidarity. Naomi Levine indicated that she, Epstein and Gold had talked about making representation to Herzog that Israel should at least make an appearance on January 12 at Security Council. How this would be possible or improve the public relations picture was never made clear. Obviously, the Jerusalem meeting had left a number of American Jewish "statesmen" with their noses out of joint. Nobody had consulted them.

[Dec 15, 1975]

It was decided that a proposal to meet with Herzog on January 12 was inappropriate to this forum.

Nacmi Levine, particularly, expressed a feeling of crisis about January 12. She wanted massive ads, radio spots etc. She gave no indication what audiences should be addressed or content.

One idea that emerged in a discussion was the possibility of an Israeli Press Conference at the end of each day to counterbalance what was coming out of the U. N. and/or bring Eban over for some major appearances.

Ben Epstein agreed to develop some ads.

Dan Mann spoke of a project to develop ten or twelve short thematic advertisements a la Shenker which might run over a period of time.

Gold indicated that AJC would call together its advisory committee of public relations people to the Task Force to ask for advice.

It was suggested by Aronson and chairman that the following themes were appropriate at the moment.

- a) The Palestinians are not identical with the PLO.
- b) The U. N. meetings are being pushed by Russia to give it a more powerful presence than they would have at Geneva.
- c) The U. N. is a suspect forum.
- d) The Arabs have turned the core issue into the recognition of the Palestinian people when the core issue continues to be the refusal of the Arab countries to negotiate.

[Dec 15, 1975]

Proposal on a special program for Jerusalem and discussed comments on a bill by Humphrey to prohibit government aid on military sales to countries involved in the boycott was not raised.

12. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 1976 at 10 A. M.

General Impressions:

The staff and the chairman are determined and seemingly competent. The group has two major drawbacks: a) self-importance and b) narrow institutional loyalty. They push ahead with what they want to do or can do rather than with what needs to be done. Example: Naomi Levine seriously pushed Congress as a central film evaluation bureau. There is a man on her staff interested in this (Shaatz). She was acting as if a) Jewish Media project didn't exist and b) most of this material had not been listed and evaluated by embassy, local task forces etc. public relations. There is also a built-in distortion due to being too close to the situation. They see the trees, but not the forest, and react to the nuance of the moment rather than to broad general themes. For us to be effective we will have to a) bring in specific proposals. (I would suggest that we begin by developing an information bank submission) and b) find a way to make real to them the needs of the local communities and the realities in our community.

c) The U.N. is a suspect forum.

d) The Arabs have turned the core issue into a

Palestinian people when the core issue continues to be the

countries to negotiate.

National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

January 9, 1975

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
26000 Shaker Blvd.
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Dear Dan:

This is in reply to your recent letter to Al about BASIC. I talked to Bayard Rustin and he will be most happy to speak at a meeting such as you suggest assuming that W. O. Walker is willing to undertake the necessary arrangements.

Warm regards.

Cordially,

Arnold Aronson

AA: mh

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**Representing Association of Jewish
Community Relations Workers:**
Meyer Fine

cooperation in the common cause of Jewish community relations

DRAFT

January 13, 1976

Mr. Kenneth Rogat
President, American Jewish Committee
1300 National City Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Ken:

I am writing to let you know of the most recent in a chain of events that ~~CONCERN~~
~~us because it subverts~~
~~I believe have shown a lack of regard for the community process that has~~
~~been established through our Israel Task Force here in Cleveland.~~ As you
know, ~~ISRAEL~~ our Task Force was established after 1967, at which time it became
apparent that, at least in our own community, there was a vital need for
coordination and thoughtful planning in dealing with the most important
agenda item for many of our local organizations -- Israel. Our answer,
since emulated on the national level through the ^National Israel Task Force,
has been to establish a committee composed of at-large representatives and
representatives of organizations such as the American Jewish Committee,
American Jewish Congress, ~~Amer~~ Anti-Defamation League, Union of American
Hebrew Congregations, the Zionist organizations, B'nai B'rith Hillel Founda-
tion, and the Israel Student Organization.

I have placed this issue in the above context because I was most distressed
to learn ~~today~~ that Seymour Brief will be appearing on the WKYC television
show, Sunday Magazine, this coming Sunday, January 18. Seymour will be
engaging in an Arab-Jewish dialogue with Father James Meena, the pastor of
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church. I understand this "dialogue" is to

[Jan 13, 1976]

-2-

Kenneth Rogat
Cleveland, Ohio

take place in two separately taped episodes, at which time both Father Meena and Seymour Brief will independently respond to a series of identical questions. The very fact that this "dialogue" takes place with no prior consultation with the Israel Task Force is most disturbing, and becomes more so when one considers that Father Meena is the most irresponsible leader of the Greater Cleveland Association of Arab-Americans, constantly provoking open conflict within our community. A regular writer of vicious letters to the editor, Father Meena has gone so far as to confront United Torch Services (our local United Way) about rescinding their support of the Jewish Community

Federation and its agencies. I do not believe that anyone in Cleveland would

went to hear by ~~judge~~ Father Meena to be other than the rabble rouser that he is. ^{by dignifying his opinions in debate}

This presentation, as I mentioned, ^{is another incident evolving out} ~~will be the next recent in a series of~~

^{of the} ~~very unhappy situations in which a number of members of~~ (the American Jewish

~~Committee here in Cleveland have participated in~~ "Arab-Jewish Dialogue"

project which is coordinated through the Council on Human Relations. ^{but considerable part of} The

^{as evidenced by} ~~American Jewish Committee even discussed~~ the expansion of this effort at

^{last} its October Executive Committee meeting. Arabs who have participated in

this dialogue, including Father Meena, ^{have} ~~have~~ included many of the very most

irresponsible members of the Arab-American community, and this issue has

been a matter of continuing concern to us ~~over the years as the establishment~~

~~Members of this group have been responsible for the appearance of the paid~~

~~propagandist Fayer Sayegh at the Council on World Affairs meeting last October,~~

~~and for press coverage for Powsi El Asmar, an associate of Elmer Berger.~~ I

believe, personally, that the granting of respectability to irresponsible

[Jan 13, 1976]

-3-

Kenneth Rogat
Cleveland, Ohio

elements in our community can only do our cause damage. The argument that this dialogue has lessened conflict is patently not true. ~~The very fact that we have no opportunity to even discuss/participation in these matters is one that I find most distressing.~~ ^{Jewish}

It has been our understanding here in Cleveland that the American Jewish Committee chapter is in essence a chapter organization, with programming aimed at its membership. While Seymour Brief serves on the Israel Task Force, he has not chosen to attend most meetings. We have created a process which has included your organization, but without staff cooperation, it is hard to achieve thoughtful planning. The fact that I find most disturbing, however, is the damage all of these events have done to the cause in which we all believe most, namely, the good and welfare of Israel. I hope that here in Cleveland we have not already done too much damage to that cause.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
Chairman, Israel Task Force Committee

cc: Bertram Gold

ag

January 14, 1976

Mr. Kenneth Rogat
President, American Jewish Committee
1300 National City Bank Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Ken:

The enclosed letter from Arnie Aronson is self-explanatory. The Task Force would be pleased to coordinate such a meeting with the AJC but, frankly, I would like to begin after Sy Brief leaves town.

Frankly, I have had it with him. The latest incident involves his appearing on the WKYC TV Sunday Magazine this coming Sunday, January 18. He will be engaging in an "Arab Jewish dialogue" with Father James Meena, pastor of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church. This dialogue is to consist of two separately taped responses to a set of identical questions.

Sy's involvement takes place without prior notification or consultation of the Task Force, and is troubling. As you know, the Task Force was set up in 1967 for coordination and thoughtful planning in dealing with community relations vis a vis Israel. Father Meena is the most irresponsible leader of the Greater Cleveland Association of Arab Americans. His public statements are belligerent and his actions are designed to be provocative. Father Meena has gone so far as to confront the United Torch about rescinding their support of the Jewish Community Federation and its agencies.

Sy Brief has been a member of the Israel Task Force since its inception and has chosen not to attend most of our meetings. More to the point, he has made no attempt to talk over Israel-related projects and has constantly operated on his own. This has led to a number of lingering problems like the "Arab Jewish Dialogue Project." This project originally was part of the work of the Council of Human Relations, but at some time in the past it seems (without community consultation) to have become part of the program of the local Jewish Committee chapter. Certainly expansion of this program was discussed at your October Executive meeting. As you know from our conversations I,

[Jan 14, 1975]

personally, and the Task Force, by decision, have grave reservations about this project. Dialogue between open-minded people is useful. The pro-Arabs who participate in this dialogue, including Father Meena, represent many of the most active and vitriolic members of the pro-Arab propaganda apparatus. The dialogue has not produced any diminution of the belligerence of its members' letters to the editor nor has it reduced their promotion of forums and speakers which are part of the touring Arab propaganda circus. You can negotiate with an enemy, but dialogue is another matter.

When we spoke some months back I suggested that a member of the committee be appointed directly to our Task Force. Bob Gries, a former chairman of the chapter, has been active with the Task Force from the beginning, though in the last months he has been traveling a good bit and is not as much in evidence as we would like. Unfortunately, six or seven meetings have passed since our original discussion and I have not yet received a name.

Coordination and cooperation have been the key to the success of our community's effectiveness. I am convinced that Sy has done little to encourage such cooperation and that in many ways he is responsible for the sense of distance which has developed between us these last months - distance which you and I are determined to overcome. Frankly, I consider it fortuitous that he has received another assignment.



Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
CLEVELAND CHAPTER

CHAIRMAN
KENNETH L. ROGAT

CHAIRMAN, ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ROBERT D. GRIES

VICE CHAIRMEN
THOMAS W. ADLER
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HOWARD P. KASDAN

SECRETARY
ROBERT A. BLATTNER

AREA DIRECTOR
SEYMOUR BRIEF

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
MRS. RICHARD J. KOBLITZ

February 4, 1976

Daniel Jeremy Silver-Rabbi
The Temple
University Circle At Silver Park
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

In your letter of 1-14-76, you mentioned an enclosure from Arnie Aronson. This was not forwarded, and I would appreciate your sharing this with us.

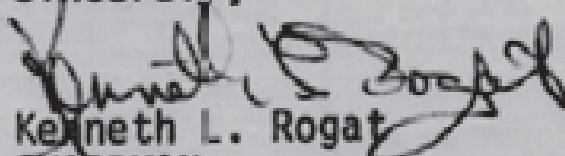
My reaction to your comments concerning the Israel Task Force are as follows:

I agree with the basic premise of notifications or consultation with the Task Force. The American Jewish Committee looks forward to close coordination in this area with the Committee and with you as its Chairman. However, as you are aware, the American Jewish Committee functions both nationally and locally with concerns of Israel. Thus we do have the right to differing perceptions. This can at times lead us to going our own way but only after the above steps have been taken with the Task Force.

As I discussed with Howard Rieger, please add Marvin M. Epstein, 4161 Hadleigh Rd., 44118, 382-6600, as a member of the Task Force. Also, I would strongly suggest that our new area Director, Dr. Leonard Hirsch, be appointed. Dr. Al Demb and Fred Wildau are already very involved and committed to the Task Force and the American Jewish Committee.

We look forward to coordination as the W.O.Walker meeting indicates. I believe you will have an excellent representation from our organization.

Sincerely,


Kenneth L. Rogat
CHAIRMAN

KLR/cs

cc: Howard Rieger

1220 HURON ROAD, SUITE 703 • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115 • TELEPHONE 216/781-6035

February 10, 1976

Mr. Kenneth L. Rogat
The American Jewish Committee
1220 Huron Road, Suite 703
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Ken:

Here is a copy of the letter to Al About BASIC. I thought
the meeting with Walker worked out alright.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

February 11, 1976

Mr. Albert Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

Sorry we could not manage to have a few minutes together. My son had come down from Cambridge and the late afternoon was our chance to spend two or three hours together before he went back to school. I look forward to an hour with you either before or after the next Task Force meeting. Will it be on the 3rd?

I am enclosing two items. The first is a study done by Charles Levine of our Federation staff at the request of Cleveland's Task Force. It provides an analysis of the coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict in our two large daily newspapers over a two-month period. We get complaints and praise for individual articles and we want a kind of base line to judge what is actually happening. We propose to do a similar study each year. I call your attention to Table 2 which shows that less than one out of every four articles in this area was of local origin. The wire services and national columnists were the major sources of coverage for Cleveland readers. I would add to Table 2 that though only 11 of 267 pieces came from syndicated columnists, these pieces were longer, prominently featured and the only discussion in depth. The columnists involved are Novak and Evans, Reston, Von Hoffman, Wills, Kraft and Rowan. The generally negative emphasis of most of these men (Israeli intransigence or Jewish political pressure) must have its impact at least in that upper middle-class sector of the population that reads columns. Any improvement in the impact of the print media in Cleveland must begin with a recognition of the importance of these columnists and be directed towards them. This is a job we clearly cannot do at the local level.

[Feb 11, 1976]

The second item is a piece I did on Zionism. I spoke it originally in my pulpit and have used these ideas effectively with a variety of local non-Jewish groups. We have printed the piece and are mailing it to all those in our non-Jewish community with whom we have ongoing contact. Please feel free to use it in any way that you deem appropriate.

There was a letter to the editor in the Plain Dealer yesterday by a local Lebanese Christian which is of interest. The paper has printed a column by Clovis Maksoud and labeled him a leading Lebanese Christian. The letter told of Maksoud's Muslim wife, his left-Muslim politics in Lebanon, his connections with Arafat, his use to the PLO as a public relations friend, and his political ambitions. This little piece led me to wonder whether we are developing contacts with Lebanese Christian leaders who could be useful in providing background and biographical fact on the various Arabs who get trotted around. There is a remarkable innocence in the press and elsewhere about these people and we let them define themselves.

I hope that your meeting in Brussels is a useful one and that you come back hale and hearty.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

CC: Arnold Aronson
Howard Rieger

ZIONISM

A Response to the United Nations



Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
Chairman
Israel Information and
Education Committee
Jewish Community Federation
Cleveland, Ohio

ZIONISM

A Response to the United Nations

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
Chairman

Israel Information and
Education Committee
Jewish Community Federation
Cleveland, Ohio

There were 72 yes votes, 35 no votes and 32 abstentions. The 72 yeas represented the Communist world, the Arab world, and a significant number of states from the so-called Third World. The 35 no's were cast by the states of Western Europe, some of the countries of Latin America, the British Commonwealth and the United States. Abstentions came from the non-Communist countries of South-east Asia, a majority of the countries in South America, and a few of the newly independent sub-Saharan nations of Africa. The November 10 vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations, of course, had to do with the definition of Zionism "as a form of racism and of racial discrimination."

This decision was denounced as "outrageous" by our ambassador to the United Nations. Secretary of State Kissinger declared that the United States would act as if the vote had not been cast. If the near unanimity of editorial comment condemning this decision accurately mirrors the reaction of the American people, then we must say that our neighbors recognized the big lie for what it is and reacted intelligently to a crude and cruel display of power.

Veteran observers of the United Nations explained the vote as due to Arab initiative combined with Communist ideology; to votes bought by oil and promises of oil; to old-fashioned anti-semitism; to knee-jerking anti-Americanism and to ignorance. Zionism has become one of a number of shibboleths loose in our world — colonialism, imperialism, Zionism — which are part of a mindless litany chanted by angry folk to damn anything and everything they hate. Whatever the ugly reasons, the

vote was cast and this action has further weakened support of the United Nations in the West; not only because of its patent injustice, but because it commits the General Assembly to anti-Israel activity during a previously proclaimed "Decade Against Racism."

I was encouraged by the understanding of our neighbors and by their ability to recognize the big lie and the patent cynicism of this diplomatic maneuver; but if the many knew that the vote was wrong, few could explain why. There is much confusion as to the meaning of Zionism. There is a need for understanding which takes us beyond the currently popular definition: "Zionism is a program for the national liberation of the Jewish people."

Let me suggest a definition of Zionism based upon four themes: that Zionism is the natural outgrowth of Biblical thought, particularly of Biblical messianism; that Zionism differs from Biblical thought in one major respect, it is activist; that Zionism is a program for an unredempted world; and, finally, that Zionism is a program designed to rehabilitate the individual Jew, the Jewish people and Judaism.

God's initial summons to a Jew, to Abraham, required him to leave Ur of the Chaldees for a new land. Abraham was told simply: "Go to the land that I will show you, and be a blessing." Once Abraham had settled in that land God made a covenant with him. In return for his pledge of obedience God promised Abraham that this land "will be yours, and your seed forever."

When God confronted Moses at the Burning Bush, He placed two obligations upon him; to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt and to lead the tribes to the Promised Land. When the tribes of Israel affirmed God's word at Sinai, they accepted the bonds of a covenant relationship, inextricably bound up with land. God spoke. The people assented. God warned: "If you accept these commands you are duty bound to them; if you obey them it will be well with you, you will live in security on your land; if you are disobedient I will close up the heavens, there will not be rain; I will drive you off the land." Land is an essential category in the covenant's understanding of reward and punishment.

Biblical prophecy is best explained as an interpretation of Jewish history which elaborates a single insight: the fate of Israel and Judah are not determined by ordinary consideration of political power, but by the quality of national obedience to the covenant regulations. 'If ye are willing and obey ye shall be secure in the land; if ye be disobedient and sinful you will be driven off the land.' When Israel and Judah suffered defeat, the prophets interpreted the successive disasters as God's doing, consequent on the nation's sinful living. It was not that the army was weak, but that the nation had been disobedient. Once exiled for their sins, this people, accustomed to covenant thinking, expected to return if and when they showed themselves worthy. If they were repentant and proved themselves loyal God would forgive them and bring them back home.

ZIONISM (continued)

The word used in Biblical thought for repentance, *teshuvah*, comes from a root *shuv*, which implies both contrition and the physical act of returning to one's place. *Teshuvah* suggests etymologically as well as conceptually that repentance is both a moral stance and a posture which will lead to a return to the land. Exile was always *galut*, a state of alienation from God. To travel to the Holy Land is *aliyah* a going up; and to leave the land is *yeridah* a going down. One was closer to God in the land than off the land.

On Passover, our annual celebration of redemption, we end the Seder with the hope: "next year in Jerusalem." Our hope, indeed, all of Jewish messianism, is rooted in the concept of freedom and security on our land. Jews sanctified this connection of land and covenant, not simply out of piety and doggedness, but because it expressed their/our understanding of redemption. Judaism insists that redemption is possible in the here and now as well as in the world-to-come. We do not accept the image of life as an endless trial, a hapless burden, with all blessings reserved to come after life. Because of this considered theological position our promises must necessarily be understood in terms of a particular people in a particular place at a particular time. A well ordered society cannot exist in the abstract. Any redemption this side of the grave must involve a particular place and a particular people. I must add that even those traditions which looked upon this life as a *via dolorosa*, a way of tears, who believe that there can be no happiness this side of the grave, instinctively apply categories of space to heaven by turning it into a restricted subdivision reserved for like-minded folk.

Zionism grows out of Biblical thought, particularly out of Biblical messianism; but Zionism differs from Biblical thought in that it is activist. Zionism is not satisfied to fold the hands and say a prayer for the coming of the messiah. Zionism is not satisfied with liturgies of confession and breast-beating designed to convince God of our contrition. During every century after the destruction of the Temple, pious folk went up to Jerusalem to offer their prayers in the holy city for Israel's early return to Zion, for redemption. The *Avelei Zion*, or Mourners for Zion, believed that by offering devotion at the ruins of the Temple and exposing their misery they would move God to speed the coming of the messiah. Sons of a people inured to political impotence, it did not occur to them that they might buy a farm and cultivate the land and so hasten its redemption. Their faith, Biblical faith, knew that God was in full control of history. The prophets did not organize politically for the economic and social development of Judea; their political program was limited to summoning Jews to repentance and righteousness. If and when Israel lived obediently, God would let Israel live in peace.

Biblical and medieval thought is pious and submissive. "Not by power nor by might, but by My spirit." Modern thought is activist and eager to be up and doing. In many ways the social gospel of contemporary Christianity is a parallel development to Zionism. In both, man is seen as an active partner with God in the work of creation. Neither is satisfied that the poor will always be among us, that conditions must remain as they are until God intervenes.

During the General Assembly debate an Arab diplomat, Abdallah al-Sayegh, informed the Assembly that Arabs have no quarrel with Judaism. Arabs, he said, applaud Judaism, but Zionism is not an essential element in the Jewish tradition, indeed, it is a bastardization of that tradition. His proof? The existence of opposition to Zionism within the Jewish camp. Al-Sayegh claimed that the racism resolution simply repeated what "Jewish intellectuals" had often said. Al-Sayegh spoke with a forked tongue, but he was right to this extent: during the nineteenth century significant numbers of Jews were opposed to practical Zionism for reasons of orthodox piety. They were the heirs of those who had believed with every fiber of their being that God would bring the messiah and create the Jewish State on His own, in His time. Conditioned to impotence and to the concept of a supernatural redemption such pious folk looked on practical programs of renewal as either blasphemous or pointless. It was as if Israel no longer trusted God. Further, many had known at first hand the devastating consequence of earlier "Zionist" activities; more than once a charismatic had proclaimed himself to be the messiah and had raised people's hopes only to dash them when his apostasy proved false. But we must be clear on this. These pious folk were no less Zionist for all their fears of practical programs. They prayed every day for their return to Zion, and as the possibility of establishing a national home by political means emerged as a realistic possibility, the vast majority of these traditionalists fell behind it. It should be added that the first practi-

cal Zionists of the nineteenth century were orthodox rabbis from Eastern Europe, men like Yehudah Alkalai and Zvi Hirsch Kalischer, who argued that it was an act of strict piety to begin the reclamation of the Holy Land. They argued from the nature of *teshuvah*, repentance. We do not expect God to forgive us without evidence of a change of heart on our parts. Repentance must precede forgiveness. The initiative must be ours. Must we not show some initiative if we expect national forgiveness? Let our people go to the Holy Land. Let them establish farms and found cities and build schools. God will see that we are eager to please Him and He may turn towards us and complete our beginning.

Zionism is a natural outgrowth of Biblical thought; Zionism diverges from Biblical thought in that it is activist; and Zionism is a program for action within the context of an unredeemed world.

Until the second World War two political analyses were current among Jews. The Jews of the West, particularly those of France, England and the United States found themselves in a world which by contrast to the past seemed a paradise. The once excluded were now citizens. Instead of being locked into a ghetto they were free to move about. If you read the so-called theological writings of the newly enfranchised bourgeois Jews of the West, you will find many who believed that the messianic times were at hand. "In the 19th century civilization began," Isaac Mayer Wise. "In a matter of a few years universal peace will reign," Isaac Mayer Wise. "The old barriers between people are coming down," Isaac Mayer Wise. I do not pick out Isaac Mayer Wise to pillory him or to parody him. He is simply typical of tens of hundreds of bourgeois Jews who had escaped from oppression and who now found themselves in a dazzling world full of freedoms and possibilities. Such liberated Jews, with their growing bank accounts and enlarged sense of belonging, could not believe that their brave new world required Jews to give much thought to their Jewishness, much less to the creation of a Jewish National Home. This was a time for men of progressive attitudes to cooperate, not separate. They could not imagine Jews leaving the golden streets of New York or Cleveland for the barren wastes of a backwater province of the Turkish empire. They believed in the melting pot. Why erect fences? They believed in a universal brotherhood of men of good will. Why take Jews out of that community? They had just escaped from a state of their own, the ghetto. Why create a new Jewish State?

Yes, there was opposition within the Jewish community to Zionism. The bourgeois Jew of the West read his history as a drama of progress, beginning with the French Revolution, with liberty, equality and fraternity, and developing into the promise of America. The Zionist read the nineteenth century as a time of promises made and promises broken. The principalities of Germany which had emancipated the Jew under Napoleonic pressure locked them up again after the Congress of Vienna. Yes, the universities taught new ideas, but these included new theories of anti-semitism based upon pseudo-scientific theories of race. Far from receding, anti-semitism had grown over the years into a powerful political force. In Vienna, perhaps the most cultured city of the age, an anti-semitic party, so-labeled, which had only one plank in its platform, "to deprive the Jews of control of Vienna," won the mayor's seat and a majority of the city council. Nationalist parties throughout Europe began to popularize the theme that Jewish attitudes were subversive to the fundamental values of the nation. It was claimed that Jewish writers and artists introduced insidious ideas which subverted the purity and idealism of Germany or Austria or Poland or France. There was not less hate but more. The position of the Jew was not only insecure but hapless. If the Jew advanced, politically and socially, he incited envy and the envious used anti-semitism to eliminate competition. If the Jew failed to Westernize and remained an outcast he was pilloried as alien, a fossil, an anachronism.

Not all Jews were limited by their particular experience. A liberated Jew, the son of a privileged Austrian Jew, Theodore Herzl, clearly understood the bleak future for the Jew in Europe. Herzl was sent to Paris by his newspaper. There, at the cradle of liberty, he had his moment of truth. The headlines dealt with the Dreyfus Trial. The Jew Dreyfus, an army captain, had been convicted of treason on trumped-up charges manufactured by the high military eager to find a scapegoat for their own incompetence. Herzl was moved by this patent miscarriage of justice and transformed by the sight of tens of thousands of Frenchmen wearing black arm bands, marching down the Champs Elysees shouting "a bas les Juifs," down with the Jews; cursing the Jews as the arch enemy and anti-Christ. Then and there Herzl realized that anti-semitism was not simply a long-lived poison whose venom was

(continued)

ZIONISM (continued)

losing its sting, but a virulent and active disease for which there was no known remedy. Jews had to have a home of their own because Europe could never be a secure home. Jewish life would be crippled as long as it depended on Europe's diseased political environment. It was a time for action. "A people can be helped only by its own efforts, and if it cannot help itself it is beyond succor." It was a time to build a state. Herzl did not foresee *Mein Kampf* or Dachau or genocide; but he and his fellow Zionists attacked the naiveté of the bourgeois Jews who believed that the dark days were over. These were not messianic times. Jewish life had to be strengthened in Israel and out. "Zionism is a return to the Jewish fold even before it becomes a return to the Jewish land." Until the Jew had a place he could call his own, a national home where he would always be welcome, where his spirit could unfold naturally, his spirit would remain constrained and his political situation precarious.

The final element in Zionism is its program for the rehabilitation of the individual Jew, the Jewish people and of Judaism. When the bourgeois Jew of western Europe and the United States looked about, he was satisfied. He had had a certain success. He had made it. The bourgeois Jew lacked a keen sense of *K'lal Yisrael*, of the unity of the Jewish people. He preferred not to look at the poor Jews of eastern Europe, who, unfortunately, had not had his advantages. They were a strange people. They spoke a jargon called Yiddish. He might send them charity, but he certainly did not want them as neighbors. They were not his kind.

When the Zionists looked at the Jews of the ghettos and of eastern Europe they, too, did not like what they saw, but they refused to put these Jews out of mind. Zionism expresses fraternity and mutual responsibility. The Zionists saw in the pale of settlement what Robert Coles and others have taught us to see in the ghettos of our western cities — men and women brutalized by a cruel and impoverished environment and by experiences which have rendered them incapable of fulfilling their potential as human beings. The Zionists did not try to hide the unfortunate characteristics of the huddled masses. Yes, many of them were far too shrewd; yes, many of them were idle, never having been able to earn a living; yes, many of them cringed when a muzik walked by; and yes, there was much in their home life which was not pretty. The Zionists saw the Jew as he was and the Jew as he might be. Zionism was proposed as a movement for the rehabilitation and spiritual renewal for the Jew. Hebrew instead of Yiddish. Schools on farms instead of the medieval heder. New role models, the Maccabees and the Biblical Judges to complement that of a scholar bent over his books. Until the second World War, most of the money raised by the Zionist movement was spent in Europe, not in Palestine. It was spent to purchase farms where young Jews could go and learn agriculture, to establish vocational schools where young Jews could learn the skills of a modern society, to establish community centers where young Jews could express the Jewish spirit in a modern context. Zionism saw the potential of the Jew to be a human being and was convinced that as a human being the Jew would not only be happier but be a better citizen of the world. Zionism was a program for Jewish renewal, but that hardly makes it racist.

Every program espoused by men of sensitivity for the renewal of their particular nation was espoused by one or another Zionist for the renewal of the Jewish people. Tolstoy told his fellow Russians to go back to the land and sweat the corruption of the city out of their souls with honest labor. Zionists like A. D. Gordon said to the Jew: "Labor is our cure. Centuries ago you were driven off the land. Life in the crowded cities has corrupted the Jewish soul. Let us go back to the land. Work with our hands. The poisons of the ghetto will be sweated out of our bodies by our daily labors under the sun. You will find your back straightening, your mind clearing."

The Jewish communities of Europe had known all the usual divisions between rich and poor; and all the usual abuses. Community was imposed from above rather than by democratic means. Zionism suggested programs to end all class divisions. Ben Zvi, Borochov and others wrote of true community, of an end to privilege, of socialism, of the *kibbutz*, of sharing labor and benefits.

Though secular learning had replaced medieval scholasticism and superstition in much of Europe, Judaism was still deeply enmeshed in kaballah and the superstitious overlay of medieval life. The Ahad Ha-Am's of Zionism looked upon the rebuilding of the national home as an opportunity to create modern cultural and academic institutions which would reshape and unlock the spiritual energies of an historically creative people. Theirs was the Zionism of "a great cultural institution in Palestine, attracting to itself a large number of gifted Jewish scholars working in a Jewish atmosphere, free from repression and not unduly subject to extraneous influences, becoming a source of new inspiration to the Jewish people as a whole and bringing about a true revival of Judaism and Jewish culture" — a Hebrew University.

Zionism was not created to solve a refugee problem. That need came later. Zionism was a reform of all of the institutions of a people determined to remain a people because ours is not yet a utopian age. Zionism was created to renew the Jewish people and to enlarge the possibilities of the Jewish spirit.

Al-Sayegh was right to this extent; in the West, particularly among those who had bettered themselves economically, Zionism was mistrusted and misunderstood. He was wrong when he implied that there is today any major division of mind among Jews about Zionism. Beginning when Great Britain closed the doors to Palestine in the 1930's and ending when the allied armies opened the gates of the death camps, a series of incredibly bitter lessons transformed all Jews into Zionists. Herzl's analysis made in the nineteenth century proved out in the twentieth. Jews emerged from World War II having learned two lessons: First, that we could not trust the good will of the West. Great Britain had closed the doors to Palestine precisely at the moment when Jews most desperately needed to come. The United States had kept its doors shut tight precisely during the decade when Hitler's refugees needed a place of refuge. Second, that anti-semitism had the power to turn people into efficient butchers of Jews. We cannot pursue Hannah Arendt's phrase describing the activity of Eichmann, "the banality of evil." These two lessons, hard-learned by many Jews, turned all who cared about Judaism into Zionists, committed to the renewal of the Jewish creative spirit, to the intensification of Jewish life, to Jewish learning and programs of identity, to the survival of Jewish people.

Today there is a fifth element in Zionism and it is this — pride of accomplishment. Jewish pioneers turned a parched, blighted land into a fertile place. Jewish vision erected in an empty medieval land remarkable institutions of culture and true community. What we saw in the Jewish national home was significant to us, not simply because of national pride, but spiritually, as a symbol of what is possible in our world. Israel was the microcosm. If our people, the castouts of Europe, could take an unwanted piece of the earth and turn it green and build on it a graceful civilization, then what was not possible for mankind given will and determination? In some mysterious way our commitment to Israel is a commitment through Israel to the possibilities of human life. Zionism is a statement of hope in mankind's future.



JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION
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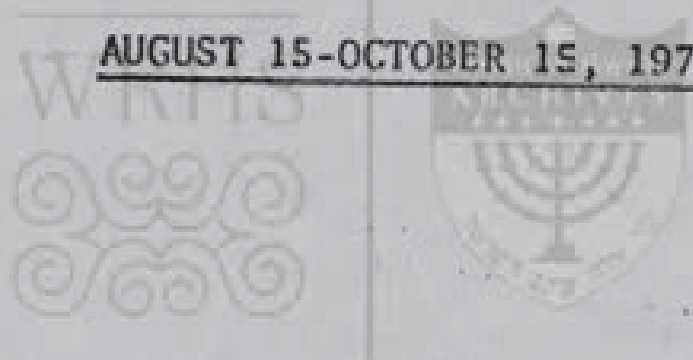
NEWSPAPER MONITORING PROJECT

A SURVEY OF DAILY NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF

THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT

IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

AUGUST 15-OCTOBER 15, 1975



JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

CLEVELAND, OHIO

FEBRUARY 6, 1976

NEWSPAPER MONITORING PROJECT
JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION OF CLEVELAND

PURPOSE

Jewish community relations organizations throughout the country are frequently called upon to interpret, comment upon, or help influence their local press, especially in relation to reportage of the Arab-Israel conflict. Classifying a given newspaper as favorable or unfavorable to the cause of Israel is, at best, a subjective process, often dependent upon the current front page analysis or the last round of letters to the editor. The Newspaper Monitoring Project was designed to analyze, through an adaptation of a well-known research tool,* the reporting methodologies utilized by the two daily newspapers of Cleveland, Ohio. The techniques employed and the resultant findings provide a useful tool for Cleveland and other local communities, as well as a challenge to the national Jewish community.

DESCRIPTION

The daily home editions of the Cleveland Press and the Cleveland Plain Dealer were analyzed during the period of August 15 - October 15, 1975. The survey included 115 individual newspaper issues and a total of 269 relevant articles. This period preceded the "Zionism-racism" episode at the United Nations and, in general, encompassed a relatively calm period of time. The chief Israel-oriented concern in the area was the formulation of the Sinai interim accord. Civil strife in Lebanon was also beginning to escalate; although this issue did not specifically involve Israel in all instances, enough cross-reference warranted the inclusion of pertinent reporting in the study.

*The method of content analysis is amply described in the research literature of the fields of journalism, political science and sociology.

PROCESS

Data recorded included: newspaper, date, headline, format (news article, editorial, etc.), derivation (wire report, local, etc), length of column inches, sources directly quoted (as to origin of speaker). There was maintenance of a daily tabulation of all data.

RESULTS

TABLE I -- TOTAL ARTICLE COUNT (See Appendices 1-6 for Selected Examples)

The primary question to be answered by the study was the extent and coverage of Israel-related material in the two newspapers. This phase of the investigation focused on the number of overall articles to appear in Cleveland related to the Arab-Israel conflict (2.34 articles was the average per paper; 4.68 total articles per day combined). News articles outweighed other categories, and about one in five appeared on the front page. Of every ten articles, 8.5 were either news or features, with editorials, letters and editorial columns accounting for the remainder

T A B L E I

COMBINED TOTAL (8/15-10/15 1975)

TOTAL ISSUES 115

ARTICLES N=269*

<u>CATEGORY</u>		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
News		208	77.3
(News, Non-1	155		74.5)
(Page 1	44		21.1)
(News Analysis	9		4.4)
Feature		18	6.7
Editorial		13	4.8
Column		14	5.2
Letter to Editor		16	6.0
		269	100.00

*The total N for each of the following tables will vary according to information that can be discerned from the articles.

TABLE TWO -- COMBINED DERIVATION

The second question addressed by the study was the source of coverage. A key finding of the study is that less than one of every four articles for the three-month period was of local origin. This clearly indicates the need for national information resources able, not only to respond to but also to address the syndicated columnists, newspaper chain editorial writers and wire service editors whose work is presented not only in Cleveland but in every other city and town in the United States. These issues are not adequately handled by an approach to the local newspaper.

T A B L E II

<u>DERIVATION</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Wire Reports	194	72.6
Syndicated Columnist	11	4.1
Locally Prepared	46	17.2
Letter to Editor	16	6.1
	<u>267*</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Since this is a local survey (albeit one with national implications), it is instructive to offer a characterization of the 25% of materials that were in fact of local origin. It should be pointed out at this juncture that the Press is a member of the Scripps-Howard chain and has a limited editorial writing staff. Most editorials which appear in the Press come from the national writers, though local staff can exert the power of selectivity and editing. The Plain Dealer is part of the Newhouse chain, but is quite independent, and all editorials are locally prepared.

In general, locally developed news articles, features and editorials, with rare exception, had no strong pro-Israel or pro-Arab orientation. There were some Cleveland-based articles on the Sinai accord and on local Jewish speakers; only one pro-Arab news article appeared, and it was not strongly stated. An interview with Arab propagandist, Norton Mezvintsky, appeared on the last day of the survey and represented the sole blatantly pro-Arab local piece developed (Plain Dealer).

Editorials were surprisingly mild and non-committal. Plain Dealer editorials ranged from pro-accord statements; to a call for no secret deals with any parties; to a criticism of Syrian intransigence. Press editorials followed suit, expressing optimism of the chances for peace; Daniel Moynihan's criticism of Idi Amin was lauded; and a sympathetic analysis of Israel's bargaining position was published.

Letters to the editor were strongly against American involvement, although not necessarily anti-Israel. The Plain Dealer had eight isolationist letters and the Press had four. The Plain Dealer had one anti-PLO and one pro-Israel letter; the Press had one pro-U.S. involvement in the accord and one anti-Israel letter. This period might be contrasted with the period following the U.N.-racism vote, during which time letters ran very favorably toward the Israeli and pro-Zionist perspective.

Finally, the Jewish Community Federation maintains an active community and public relations effort to provide information and orientation to the media through its Israel Task Force and Public Relations Committees. Federation provides opportunities for press conferences, visitation by Israeli spokesmen, annual Federation-newspaper meetings, meetings with individual reporters and related forums. Once again, these activities are aimed only at one-fourth of the problem and do not attack the remaining three-fourths of the news which is generated from beyond the community.

TABLE THREE -- COMBINED SOURCES QUOTED

The third question answered by the study relates to the sources used by reporters and editorial writers. The primary source is a variety of U.S. officials with the next two categories divided between official Israeli and Arab spokesmen and their respective supporters abroad. Arab sources were quoted about 6.5 more than Israeli supporters, but this most probably reflects the intensified activities in Lebanon as much as the Arab-Israeli conflict. Dr. Kissinger was the single most quoted source, accounting for 16% of all quotes; he was cited three times more frequently than President Ford.

T A B L E I I I

<u>COMBINED SOURCES QUOTED</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
ISRAELI	47	20.2
OTHER PRO-JEWISH	11	4.7
ARAB	62	26.6
OTHER PRO-ARAB	9	3.9
U.S. OFFICIAL	97	41.6
(Various Officials	48	49.5)
(Dr. Kissinger	37	38.1)
(President Ford	12	12.4)
OTHER	7	3.0
	<u>233</u>	<u>100.00</u>

TABLE FOUR -- OPINIONATED MATERIAL (See Appendices 1-4)

Difficult though it might be to classify a particular article as "opinionated," those articles which met these criteria were the fourth issue confronted by the study. By definition, any editorial, letter to the editor, or syndicated column was included in the range of opinionated material. More problematic, but nonetheless important, were articles that contained quotes or stated opinions which were exclusively favorable to one or the other side (i.e., an interview with an Arab propagandist passing through town with no balancing commentary by supporters of Israel).

About 70% of all articles surveyed fell into the neutral (i.e., non-opinionated) category, while 30% of the articles were interpreted as opinionated.

T A B L E I V

<u>OPINIONATED MATERIAL</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Neutral	186	68.9
Opinionated	74	31.1

Of opinions expressed, the following were most frequently mentioned:

Pro-Accord	17
Anti-U.S. Role (Isolationist)	14
Pro-Jewish National Rights, Zionism	7
Anti-U.S. Money to Israel	3
Unbalanced or Unanswered Charges Against Israel	4
No Secret Provisions to Accord	3
Anti-PLO Terrorism	2
Israel Flexibility Praised	2
Golda's Analysis	2
Other Views	<u>20</u>
Opinionated Articles	74

TABLE FIVE --STATISTICAL COMPARISON OF CLEVELAND DAILY NEWSPAPERS

The chief significance of this study is to document exactly what is being printed in the two daily newspapers of one major metropolitan center over a two-month period regarding the Middle East. From a local point of view, it is also instructive to look at areas of difference between the two principal newspapers. Whereas all preceding data was "combined", thus representing the results of both publications, this section of the study will analyze points of divergence between the Press and the Plain Dealer

THE PLAIN DEALER HAD MORE COVERAGE THAN THE PRESS: 2.5 ARTICLES DAILY:

2.1 The Plain Dealer had much more news analysis; fully 8% of its news stories were analytical, as opposed to less than 4% of the Press. The Press put 25 out of every 100 pertinent news articles on page one, while the Plain Dealer put 17.5 on the front page.

THE PRESS HAD 5% LESS LOCAL ARTICLES THAN THE PLAIN DEALER

The Plain Dealer had 11% of all articles involved as letters to the editor, compared to 4.5% at the Press. The Plain Dealer had a pertinent editorial an average of once weekly; the Press, once every two weeks (this last point does not take into account the fact that the Press has only six issues weekly, as compared to seven for the Plain Dealer). In both cases, it should be pointed out again that over three-fourths of all articles are of non-local derivation.

THE PLAIN DEALER HAD FULLER AMPLIFICATION OF THE PRO-ISRAEL PERSPECTIVE

Approximately 31% of sources directly quoted by both newspapers were of Arab or pro-Arab origin. Israeli sources accounted for over 27% of the Plain Dealer articles, while the Press had less than 22% supportive of the Israeli position. Both newspapers quoted U.S. officials approximately 42% of the time, but Henry Kissinger was quoted 14% more frequently in the Press than in the Plain Dealer.

THE PLAIN DEALER HAD MORE OPINIONATED ARTICLES - 33%, AGAINST 28% FOR THE PRESS

The three opinions expressed most frequently were identical in both sources and are listed in the order of frequency:

1. The interim accord was a positive step toward peace.
2. The U.S. should curtail its role in the Middle East, curing its own ills at home first.
3. Jewish rights, or Zionism, should be secured.

TABLE SIX -- HEADLINE COMPARISON

As headlines often set the tone for an article, or even distort it (especially for those readers who do not get past the story title on their way to other sections), the study took this phenomenon into account. Shown on this table are ten headlines which report the same basic event:

T A B L E VI

RANDOM SAMPLING OF TITLES FOR SAME-DAY EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLAIN DEALER</u>	<u>PRESS</u>
8/21/75	Egypt Israel Reportedly Narrow Differences on Key Sinai Issue	Report Egypt Agrees on Key Peace Point
9/1/75	Israelis Approve Sinai Agreements, Initialing Today	Egypt, Israel Okay Kissinger Peace Pact
9/3/75	Sinai Accord Gains Support in Congress	Congress OK Is Expected for Yanks in Sinai
9/9/75	City Terror Again Rages in Lebanon	Lebanon Moslems Besiege Christians
9/12/75	U.S. Spies Failed to Realize '73 War Was Coming	State Department Denies War Tipoff
9/18/75	Fighting Erupts Again in Beirut	Moslems Seize Beirut in Fiery Street Battle
10/3/75	House Unit to Approve Yanks in Sinai Today	House Unit OK's Yanks in Sinai by 24 to 0 Vote
10/4/75	Sinai Documents are Released	Senate Questions Sinai Deals
10/4/75	Uganda's Amin is called a "Murderer" by Moynihan	Moynihan Calls Amin a "Racist Murderer"
10/9/75	Arabs Here Plan to Pray for Peace	Peace Prayers Set

CONCLUSION

The study results indicate that the Federation's local program with the newspapers appears to be adequate and is having some impact, as far as it is able to go. Nevertheless, the study also documents the fact that local input is severely limited due to the national origin of 75% of the news materials. Local communities might use a similar study to determine the character of their press and the efficacy of their media relations programming, but the assumption is made here that the situation in most communities will be of a similar nature. What is needed is a national program which will enable intervention on the level where major impact is necessary in order to complete an effective program of orientation for the newspaper industry.



MGMCLVT HSB
2-172021U093010 04/02/76
ICS MGMNCSA AIPA
00510 MLTN VA

 **Mailgram®**
western union



RABBI DANIEL J SILVER
THE TEMPLE
UNV CIR AT SILVER PK
CLEVELAND OH 44106

INFORMATION/ACTION MEMORANDUM

1. KISSINGER IN PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON C-130 SALES TO EGYPT FRIDAY DECLARED THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER MILITARY SALES TO EGYPT THIS YEAR. HE ADDED THAT C-130S SET NO PRECEDENT. SENATORS CASE, HUMPHREY AND JAVITS SATISFIED WITH THESE ASSURANCES AND NO RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF SALE TO BE INTRODUCED. BEYOND CONTINUED EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN AND POSSIBLE HEARINGS NO FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION EXPECTED TO BLOCK SALE.

2. STATUS OF FOREIGN AID FUNDING FOR ISRAEL DURING TRANSITION QUARTER STILL UNDECIDED AS CONFERENCE BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE IN DISAGREEMENT WITH HOUSE CONFEREES AGAINST FUNDING AND SENATE CONFEREES FOR. ISSUE TO BE REFERRED TO FULL HOUSE FOR ITS CONSIDERATION PROBABLY DURING WEEK OF APRIL 5. ADMINISTRATION POSITION IS NOW OPENLY OPPOSED TO SUCH FUNDING.

ACTION REQUESTED: WRITE, WIRE OR CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR ISRAEL IN TRANSITION QUARTER (\$550 MILLION) WHEN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT REACHES HOUSE FLOOR.

REMINDER: AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE, MAY 3 & 4, IN WASHINGTON ASSUMES GREATER IMPORTANCE GIVEN STATUS OF FOREIGN AID, SCRANTON UN STATEMENT, AND LEBANON SITUATION. URGE YOUR ATTENDANCE. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE YIGAL ALLON, HUBERT HUMPHREY, JAMES SCHLESINGER, AHARON YARIV. LETTER WITH UPDATED PROGRAM TO FOLLOW.

AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
EDWARD SANDERS, PRESIDENT
MORRIS J. AMITAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
22:48 EST

MGMCLVT HSB

MEMORANDUM

TO: Friends

Dated: March 14, 1976

FROM: Harvey M. Burg

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION OF JEWISH COMMITMENT AND MEMORY IN
MONTREAL AND AROUND THE WORLD-ON THE DAY BEFORE THE
SUMMER OLYMPICS OPENS

THE PROPOSAL:

1. Hold a demonstration and rally before the eyes of the world in Montreal, July 16, 1976, on the day before the opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympics.
2. Each North American Federated Jewish Community (and others) shall send eleven Jewish citizens to stand symbolically in the place of the eleven murdered at the Munich Olympics. Our slogan could be "Where Eleven have fallen, hundreds times eleven will stand in their place."
3. The themes of the rally should be commemoration of the deceased and demonstration of the faith and resolve of the Jewish people. I would propose a public rally no greater than one or two hours in length-characterized by dramatic statement and expression of commitment for that hour(s). Our presence will be symbolic of Jewish solidarity throughout the world. Montreal shall be symbolically and peaceably the battleground upon which we North American Jews will do battle.
4. Simultaneously, in Israel, in Europe, and perhaps elsewhere, similar demonstrations and rallies would be held.

BACKGROUND:

This year Israel will respond to the terror and obscenity of Munich 1972 by sending even a larger contingent of Athletes to the Montreal Olympiad. We North American Jews have a unique opportunity to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters by a dramatic, symbolic act. Suppose we, too, go to the Olympics. Suppose each organized Jewish Community in North America sent Eleven Jews to Montreal to stand with the athletes of Israel. A hundred times Eleven to take the place of the fallen. This could be a powerful message of

[Mar 14, 1976]

Jewish courage and determination-and of the strength we derive from memory.

As the 1976 Montreal Olympics approaches, each of us confronts private thoughts about the tragedy and shame of Munich 1972-about the loss of eleven men-about that much more torn from our hearts that day.

How do we deal with the cold facts of Munich? Clearly, our moral responsibility is to do something. Not to let Montreal 1976 begin with mere hollow reference to a sorrow of the past. I'm sure there are many good ways to act. I have been thinking of one for many months. I want to show the world how today we as Jews confront death and life as a single and whole people.

Eleven were felled at Munich. Suppose that each organized Jewish Community in North America send eleven delegates to stand as their proxy at the opening of the Montreal Summer Olympiad and to stand in support of this year's Israeli olympic team. Where eleven have fallen, let the world know that hundreds if not thousands will take their places.

Suppose a rally in Montreal on the day before opening day of the Montreal Olympiad-where the world press will be assembled. I do not want to interrupt the games, but I want to cry out from the pain and agony of the past. For the present and future, let the world know of our courage and determination.

Perhaps most important, by such a rally we Jews of North America can reach out to our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel, Russia, Syria, and everywhere, and say we remember, we love, we are one people. This summer the battleground will be in North America. We can respond with meaning and strength.

Judy Widetsky has suggested that if North American Jewry undertook commitment to such a Montreal Rally she could envisage communities throughout Israel sending delegations of Eleven to a central staging point in Israel for a simultaneously held rally. Perhaps Europe could do the same.

Here is yet another opportunity for KOACH- to give strength and be strengthened.

memo

**NATIONAL JEWISH
COMMUNITY RELATIONS
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

March 29, 1976

TO: Ben Epstein, Bert Gold, Naomi Levine, Manny Muravchik,
Al Vorspan

FROM: Albert D. Chernin

RE: Proposal for Memorial for Israeli Martyrs of Munich Olympics

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum we have received from Harvey Burg, who is an attorney, active with the CRC of the North Shore Federation (Lynn, Massachusetts). While we might not agree with the specific details of the proposal, I thought the general concept had some merit, and that we may want to consider whether there should be some form of manifestation in conjunction with the Summer Olympics that would memorialize the 11 martyrs of the Munich Olympics. Perhaps we may want to discuss this either in a subcommittee or at the next meeting of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force. What do you think?

In the meantime, I am sending a copy of it to Alan Rose to elicit his reactions.

✓ cc: Rabbi Daniel J. Silver -

Danny - Any reactions?

ADC:ZC
Enc.

April 1, 1976

Mr. Albert D. Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

The Burg proposal has some merit for Jews but little political or long term value. I am not a great believer in this kind of activity but I recognize that it does encourage some Jews.

I think it would be advisable if we were to contact ABC. They are obviously going to do a retrospective on the last Olympics. You might want to talk to them about how they could handle the terrorist attacks and the deaths.

For what it is worth, there is a fine sculpture dedicated to the Olympic Eleven in front of our JCC. A Cleveland boy was among the martyrs. Its basic form is a series of eleven broken Olympic circles. If a demonstration is arranged in Montreal this piece (if it can be transported) might provide an effective center.

As always,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

RONALD BROWN

13435 NORTH PARK BOULEVARD, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118 U.S.A. TELEPHONE: (216) 321-0566

May 25, 1976

TO: Rabbi Daniel Silver
FROM: Ronald Brown

RE: Idea for a Booth or a Display at State Fairs (Follow up on discussion
at Task Force May 25th)

While I cannot speak for the situation today, I did experience a Fair at Ramallah in the Administered Territory in 1972 for Arab farmers. It was sponsored by the Israeli Government. My guide at the Fair was an Arab agronomist, a graduate of Hebrew University. He spoke fluent English.

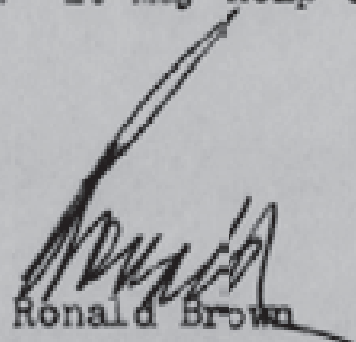
This Fair attracted about 3500 Arab farmers in one week. It was wholly instructional. It was a tremendous demonstration of what the Israelis were doing for the Arabs.

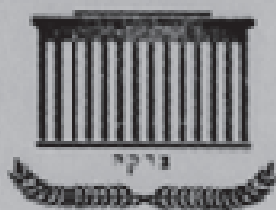
Here are some of the programs I witnessed at first hand:

1. An area of about 500 square feet on which was demonstrated the irrigation equipment for use in water-short areas - the water dropped exactly at the root of each plant. The Arabs were extremely interested in observing this and asking questions.
2. Instruction in how to alternate crops
3. Instruction in cultivating hilly land to avoid soil being washed away or eroded. I don't know the term but it might be described as circular cultivating.
4. Introducing a new strain of grain which would make it possible to harvest an additional crop each year.
5. A special offer by the Government to permit a group of farmers to join together to buy and finance a tractor or other equipment thru a long term, low interest loan from the Government.

Perhaps the Israeli Government has done other things for the Arab farmers.

The use of this kind of material may be an effective tool to win farming communities over to Israel and thus help to influence the decisions of their representatives in the Congress. It may help do a job in areas where there are not many Jews.


Ronald Brown



The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

1750 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115 • PHONE (216) 861-4360

April 2, 1976

Mr. Albert Chernin
Executive Vice Chairman
National Jewish Community Relations
Advisory Council
55 West 42 Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Al:

I want to communicate with you about the recent ADL disclosure concerning banks and corporations complying with the Arab Boycott. The ADL's March 11 press release included the names of two banks in the Cleveland area, Central National Bank and National City Bank. Once these charges were raised at the national level, we went to work to resolve the matter in a useful and beneficial fashion --but we had our problems. In the first instance, we were hampered by a lack of forewarning; there was almost no advance notice. Secondly, no plan for action had been developed. There was apparently little thought given at the national level as to the follow up by the local community. When we talked with the banks, it was not clear what our position should be on technical issues. The banks said that they were in compliance with the requirements of the national government. We had not been informed what these were, nor had we been informed what would be an optimum statement from the senior bank officers. Consequently, our contacts with the banks, though they have been fruitful and useful, have not been as effective or as beneficial as they might have been.

I would suggest that an agenda item be included at the next meeting of the National Israel Task Force on April 12, dealing with the specifics of the boycott issue. We would like to know what kind of statement should be issued by listed banks; we would like further information as to desirable bank policy in this area. We would also like the issue of national agency-local community relationships to be raised. Should there be communication with local communities before listings are released involving local institutions? Should we be offered position papers suggesting approaches to these institutions and follow up? I believe that by laying out both the specific and the general problem, much good will eventuate for our work. Sorry I'll not be at the meeting --I'll be in London-- but Howard will be there for us.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

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May 28, 1976

Mr. Albert Chernin
WJCRCAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

An idea came up at our local Task Force meeting which may have merit. It developed during our discussion of a project we have had for several years related to our local county fair and the Ohio State Fair.

A booth has been set up displaying Israel related materials - particularly materials dealing with agriculture. There is great traffic but we have lacked the photographic and technical resources to do a first-rate job. One of our members (see enclosure) remembered an excellent display which he had seen in Israel and the idea was tossed about of importing for a summer an effective agriculture-related display and personnel which could be scheduled at the various state fairs across the land. The schedule of these fairs is available years in advance. The agronomists who would accompany the exhibits could be scheduled to speak at local colleges of agriculture, granges, rural Rotary clubs, etc. The project would be designed to reach a segment of the population with which we have little effective contact. I have no idea as to cost. Much would depend on the support available from Israel. What do you think of the idea?

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp
Encl.

May 28, 1976

Mr. Ronald Brown
13435 North Park Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44118

Dear Ronald:

I have received your note on the booth and display at state fairs and will work it up into a proposal for the National Israel Task Force. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

July 1, 1976

Mr. Albert Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

It was good seeing you, even if briefly, in Louisville. I hope you will pardon the suggestions herein contained but I felt a number of opportunities were lost at the session. I tend to be action oriented rather than statement oriented and I found the long process of dotting i's and crossing t's tedious and terribly wasteful of time. It seems to me that if Kenen, Gruen et al have "I's" to do they should be shown the platform ahead of time. That is what I endured. What I missed was an opportunity for one plenum to share in the ongoing work of the Task Force and of local groups working on Israel interpretation. The morning seminars were useful, but you could attend only one. The staff met privately to share ideas and this meeting, I understand, was largely devoted to a proposed staff trip.

The non-professional delegates were never involved in the ongoing I and E work. They were given a lot of information - Dinitz, Landes etc. - but for most of them that means that they are better informed on the issues which face Israel's cabinet ~~about~~ in the nuts and bolts work, of handling particular community problems. I understand why no sense of the financial crunch which may be facing the Task Force was laid before this convention, but I feel that there should have been some public report of its activity and at least one public session at which someone summarized what needs to be done, what is being done and what no one is doing.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Orig to Rabbi Silver & Refs to HR

NJCRAAC National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

July 8, 1976

Rabbi Jeremy Silver, Chairman
Israel Task Force
Jewish Community Federation
1750 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Al Chernin shared with me your idea of bringing over a major agricultural exhibit from Israel to be used at state fairs throughout the United States. I took this up with several people, including Yaacov Levi of the Israeli Consulate in New York.

All agreed with your assessment that this is an excellent idea. Certainly it would bring Israel's achievements in agriculture to a vast audience hitherto hardly reached. By the way, you may be interested in knowing that several of the communities have projects in major state fairs. Most noteworthy is the Rivercade in Sioux City, Iowa which has its bicentennial theme, interestingly enough, Israel.

As you can well imagine, there are major problems in bringing such an exhibit. These problems include both cost and availability. Mr. Levi was doubtful that the Israel Government would be able to bear the cost of bringing such a project to the United States. Nevertheless, we agreed that he would contact the proper authorities in Israel to ascertain the availability of the exhibit and its cost.

Once we have this knowledge, we can begin to investigate potential funding sources and make a realistic assessment of the feasibility of the project. As soon as we receive the information, it will be shared with you.

B'virkat shalom,

Phil Horn

PH:hw

cc: Yaacov Levi

Albert D. Chernin

cooperation in the common cause of Jewish community relations

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JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

405 MARDI GRAS DRIVE P. O. BOX 12097 EL PASO, TEXAS 79912 584-4438

July 12, 1976

Mr. Al Chernin
Executive Vice President
National Jewish Community Relations
Advisory Council
55 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10036

Dear Al:

I hope all goes well with you and NJCRAC.

At your suggestion, I am writing this letter to outline the two possible NJCRAC projects that we discussed briefly at the Louisville Plenum. I am adding one that I mentioned to Ted Mann when he and I discussed the others at the end of the plenum. The additional subject I also shared with Robert Reinhard, the leader of our Media Workshop, and promised him a letter pertaining to it (Bob, I hope a copy of this letter fills the bill).

I trust these three needs can be presented to the Executive Committee.

Project #1: COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRO-ISRAEL EDITORIALS, COLUMNS AND OTHER MEDIA COMMENTARY.

Collection of pro-Israel editorials and columns from the local agencies and their distribution to these same local agencies is suggested. This should be relatively simple to do, and inexpensive, especially since you are already receiving and distributing some of these materials. The purpose of this project is to supply local agencies -- as local media might be carrying few pro-Israel articles -- with information and respected opinions so they may pass them on -- with NJCRAC encouragement -- to their Christian friends. (We have one such project under way.)

[July 12, 1976]

Granted, at the present time, we get an occasional pieces, usually out of a prestigious metropolis newspaper or national magazine, from the national agencies or the Israeli Consulate; but what of all those other editorials and columns -- from the hundreds of other cities and small or not so small towns -- that our local agencies have access to?

Project #2: "ISRAEL - ARAB CONFLICT" SPEAKERS' KITS

There is a great need for a speakers' kit on the Israel - Arab conflict. I am sure we are losing many potential speakers and audiences because the former do not have the time to research and prepare presentations and to fashion some catch-all answers to questions that might stump them. The need to speak effectively to as many people as possible -- especially with the new Arab efforts to undermine U.S. support of Israel -- hardly needs mentioning.

Project #3: MEDIA CENTER

As Rabbi Silver pointed out at the plenum, the local agencies can usually go just so far with their media. At a certain point it is often a national office of a newspaper or TV station that sets policy and it is that office which should be contacted -- if such contact is adviseable. For instance, (again, as the Rabbi informed us) some editors of a chain newspaper can refuse syndicated columns, but cannot demand them. If one of our editors is continuously running an anti-Israel columnist and we ask him to also carry a pro-Israel columnist and he informs us such a decision is not his to make, we do not have a "central media office" to contact for some possible action on a national level. Also local agencies should have a media center with which to coordinate their local efforts with those of national.

A media center is also needed to inform and guide local agencies in their dealings with the local media and to create and supply needed materials.

For instance, pertaining to information: I learned by chance that the Gannett Newspapers have a policy that their editors cannot accept trips to Israel or otherwise. Since we were getting ready to offer a trip to Israel to one of our editors, the information on Gannett was quite relevant. The information should have been sent out to all local agencies with Gannett papers.

As far as guidance is concerned: most local agencies must pursue their own course according to their own unique situation, but I'm sure many communities can benefit from the expertise of a man who specializes in media relations, who can help analyze each community's

(July 12, 1976)

problems and needs and suggest methods of dealing with them -- at the same time coordinating local efforts with national efforts.

As an example of materials needed: it was mentioned at the workshop that short TV spots were needed, not all pertaining to Israel or even Jews but promoting general good will -- that such spots were not only helpful in themselves, but also open the door to other films.

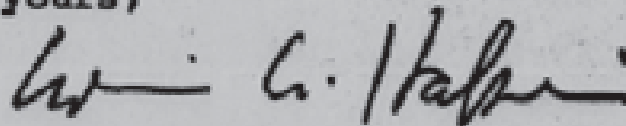
Many materials already exist, but most agencies -- especially the smaller ones, do not have the time to go over and preview all the films, etc. They need guidance on this from someone who has seen and evaluated them all and who can take the time to weigh a specific community's needs and media and how they would relate to the materials. This same professional would be well equipped to suggest what new materials were needed.

As it stands now, we have many national agencies all with good men capable of following up on needs pertaining to the media, but they have other responsibilities as well.

The righting of wrongs in the presentation of facts pertaining to Israel and the Arabs is so crucial that it demands -- as so many indicated at the workshop -- a central media office whose only responsibility would be to deal with the national media, help the local agencies deal with the local media and coordinate all related efforts -- when advisable -- of the national agencies.

I urge you to overcome whatever difficulties you might foresee in the establishment of this media office. Please do not imagine that the present system is adequate for the new challenges of today. Excuse these last strong words, but I am afraid you will equate our excellent supply of multi-talented staff in the national agencies with a special office concentrated solely on the media. Gentlemen, please, the need is overwhelming.

Sincerely yours,



Edwin G. Halperin, Co-chairman
Jewish Community Relations Committee
El Paso, Texas

c.c.: Theodore Mann
Robert Reinhard
Rabbi Silver
Irvin Schulman
Marv Zimet
Barbara Cole
Ken Given
Edwin Halperin
Barbara Cole
Ann Goodman

National Jewish Community Relations NJCRAC Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

July 14, 1976

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
26000 Shaker Blvd.
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Dear Dan:

I do appreciate your taking the time to share with me your reactions to the Plenary Session. I, too, regret that the Plenum did not provide an opportunity for you and me to schmooze.

The Joint Program Plan provides a unique opportunity for national and local agencies to come together once a year to project what they see as the major community relations developments and their implications for our programmatic goals and priorities for the coming year. It is for this reason that we devote such a substantial block of time to the adoption of the Joint Program Plan, although, I must admit, that we are changing the process for the development of the Joint Program Plan in order to avoid detailed discussion of specific language of the Plan as sometimes happens during the Plenary Session.

I quite agree with you that it would have been desirable to have been able to present to the Plenum the work of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force. In fact, that was what we had planned to do at the opening of the Session which was addressed by Simcha Dinitz. However, we had to drop the plan for Ted's delivering such a report when Senator Wendell Ford of Kentucky informed us that he wanted to remain for the Dinitz session. Considering the nature of the Task Force projects, we felt that it would be hardly politic for Ted to present a report of these projects in the presence of the Senator and also in the presence of the press. I am sure you appreciate our reasons for cancelling - most reluctantly - the Task Force report.

The five workshops on Israel were intended to enable communities in smaller group sessions to engage in "tachlas" discussions on desirable programming to be undertaken on behalf of Israel in the communities. That was one of the reasons we were so pleased that you agreed to present the work of the Cleveland Task Force in regard to the survey of the media. We think that the nuts and bolts work can be better handled through such workshops as

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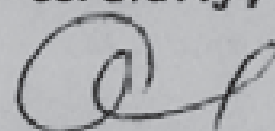
July 14, 1976

opposed to presenting them to a Plenary Session. It is our hope that the communities would be so well represented at the Plenum that they could provide for their participation in all the concurrent workshops.

In any case, we are also planning to distribute written reports of these workshops, so that those who were not present for a particular workshop or, for that matter at the Plenum, would still be able to derive benefits from the guidelines set forth in the discussions.

Warmest regards.

Cordially,



Albert D. Chernin
Executive Vice Chairman

ADC:ZC



National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN: LEWIS D. COLE, 564 GARDEN DRIVE, LOUISVILLE, KY. 40206

July 14, 1976

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle - Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Our recent Plenary Session covered so many topics at such a rapid pace that I am still trying to catch my breath. We did succeed, I believe, in dealing with many of the questions of greatest importance at this time for the welfare of the Jewish community. It was good to have your very helpful participation.

I greatly welcomed the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the NJCRAC during these past three years, and I am looking forward to working closely with our newly elected Chairman, Ted Mann. Of course, I was thrilled to have so many friends at my farewell Plenary Session in my home town.

While the large sessions and the major presentations had many special values, to my mind the face-to-face discussion in smaller groups confronting the very direct problems of application are absolutely essential. I am therefore particularly appreciative of your fine presentation in the Workshop on Monitoring the Mass Media with reference to Israel. I understand that your report on the Cleveland project, and the discussion which followed, helped clarify the issues in this important area.

Our staff is now busy preparing the Joint Program Plan for 1976-77 and reports of various meetings for dissemination. You will get copies as they become available.

It has always been my conviction that the NJCRAC process derives its special character from the broad and devoted participation of so many knowledgeable people from different agencies and areas of experience. Your continued

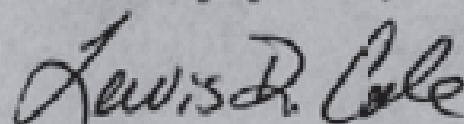
Rabbi Daniel J. Silver

July 14, 1976

active involvement is important, and we look forward to it. Our next Plenary Session is coming up very soon -- January 23-26, 1976, at the Carillon Hotel in Miami -- and I look forward to seeing you then, if not before.

With all good wishes for a pleasant summer, I am

Cordially yours,



Lewis D. Cole
Immediate Past Chairman

LDC:slm



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REGISTRATION

July 20, 1976

Mr. Albert Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of July 14. I understand the purpose of the planning exercise, but I am inclined to believe there is a good bit of "let's play Israel's foreign minister" in the whole procedure rather than getting down to the nitty gritty of what we as community agencies really can do.

The Israel issue is fundamentally different from other NJCRAC matters. When you deal with welfare or civil rights issues a forum is imperative in order that agencies can raise issues of purpose and goal. They leave your meeting and will work through already existing political and communal structures and can now do so effectively because they now have a clear set of purposes and priorities.

Israel issues seem to me to be of a fundamentally different order. We must create the political and communal structures; and policies are determined for us by Middle East realities and official Israel policy. I admit that it is good to talk these through but I am firmly convinced that for the next months, and probably years, what we really need is to discuss how to organize a media bank or how to divide community relations responsibilities between the national and local agencies, or how to separate out in our work the different politics to which we address ourselves etc. Dinitz or his counterpart speaks to every national Jewish body, but there is no forum which draws together practicing Israel Task Force types as much as your plenary. I know another plenary is coming up in January and I hope Ted and you will really weave some tachlis into it.

I am enclosing a piece which you may have seen from the house magazine distributed by the Marriott chain. Scherer is with the Christian Science Monitor and his interests obviously explain theirs.

[July 20, 1976]

We are about to embark upon an audio-visual project designed primarily for our Speaker's Bureau. We will draw together a library of photographs of Israel. Our new schaliach brought with him several thousand slides and we have a number of people who have made many trips and taken many pictures. We have asked our Speaker's Bureau (Roy Rosenbaum) to draw up a series of topics that could be presented to non-Jewish audiences and where the audio-visual might add impact. We thought, for instance, of a map and slide presentation on the Golan and southern Lebanon illustrating the reasons for Israel's military concern. If people on your staff have suggestions as to topics we might develop in this way we would be happy to consider them.

I hope this finds you in good health and with all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.



NJCPRAC National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

July 22, 1976

Mr. Edwin G. Halperin, Co-Chairman
Jewish Community Relations Committee
405 Mardi Gras Drive
P.O. Box 12097
El Paso, Texas 79912

Dear Edwin:

Thanks for your letter of July 12. I do appreciate your taking the time to share with us your thinking on material and programming that would be helpful to CRCs in their carrying out interpretive programs in regard to Israel. I want you to know that we will give your proposals the most serious consideration.

As a matter of fact, we have already moved on your request to make available to CRCs pro-Israel editorials and columns, particularly those that are carried in newspapers outside the New York and Washington, D.C. areas. You may have noticed that in Ted Mann's mailing of July 9 on the Security Council debate on the Uganda hijacking we reprinted editorials from the Detroit Free Press, Worcester, Mass. Telegram, the London Times and the Miami Herald. I have also worked out an arrangement with Irv Schulman whereby he will be alert to editorials that might be useful locally for reprint or op-ed purposes, and he'll be sending them on with greater frequency to CRC executives on some kind of regular basis.

We also will be exploring how we can provide on an ongoing basis valuable assistance through kits or other means to speakers going out to both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. As I indicated to you at the Plenum, we are sensitive to this need, but there are some difficulties in trying to respond to this kind of request. In any case, we will see what we can do to be helpful.

Regarding the problem of dealing with the national mass media, I want you to know that this is a matter that has been of deep concern to the agencies composing the NJCPAC Israel Task Force. It was this concern that led to the creation and funding of the Media Monitoring Service, directed by one of the top Middle Eastern pros in the field, Si Kenen. We saw this project providing two major services: (1) immediately providing rebuttal material to communities in reaction to adverse syndicated columns and (2) providing syndicated columnists both in person and through materials with background information that would deepen their understanding of Israel's needs and problems.

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Meyer Fine

July 22, 1976

project that would screen and evaluate the literally several hundred films from North America and other English speaking countries that are available in regard to Israel. However, I am afraid that the CJE Emergency Advisory Committee on Community Relations in the Middle East will not be able to provide the modest amount of funds (\$15,000) required by this project since a number of communities have thus far failed to contribute to the \$1.2 million goal that was set for the Israel project fund. This fund has raised approximately \$940,000. Nevertheless, we do hope that some way can be found to implement this important service.

In regard to your desire for guidance to local agencies on how they can deal with their local media, I do feel that the collective experiences of a number of local agencies plus the experiences of national agencies would be beneficial to local communities, and such experiences in dealing with the mass media are available through the consultative services of the NJCRAC. All that the community has to do is to ask, and we're ready to be of service.

In the final analysis, the key to doing a job with the media is the cultivation of relationships locally with appropriate members of the staff of local newspaper, radio and television stations. I know I don't have to tell you that such relationships are most likely to develop through contacts that are made in the absence of conflict or protest, in other words, when the community is not meeting with a local editor of a newspaper or television or radio station for the purpose of complaining about a specific statement, column or editorial. It means periodically seeking opportunities to meet with them over lunch or in some other easy, comfortable setting in which knowledgeable spokesmen for the Jewish community or visiting experts, particularly Israelis, can exchange views on issues of mutual concern. But, in this connection, I know I'm bringing coals to New Castle -- communities are very much aware of the potential of their own local relationships, and I am confident that El Paso, as in the case of other communities, will undertake the appropriate activities to carry out this kind of role.

In closing, I would also like to emphasize that while we are conscious of the need to develop a variety of approaches to the media on both the national and local levels, I think it is important not to lose sight of the fact that our surveys reveal again and again that the media in this country is overwhelmingly supportive of the State of Israel. This was a finding, you may recall, that was agreed to in the Joint Program Plan for 1976-77.

Again, it was good hearing from you. Warmest regards.

Cordially,

ADC:ZC

Albert G. Chernin
Executive Vice Chairman

cc: Barbara Cole
Theodore R. Mann
Robert Reinhard
Rabbi Daniel J. Silver ✓

July 22, 1976

In regard to the rebuttal role, the Task Force found that Si Kenen, for the most part, has met community needs. However, we were in all frankness disappointed about the effectiveness of the project in dealing with syndicated columnists. We have concluded that the principal difficulty in dealing with prominent national syndicated columnists of the calibre of James Reston, for example, or television commentators such as Howard K. Smith is that they are reluctant to meet with anybody except those who are primary sources of information, and even then such sources of information must be on the highest level. Accordingly, it is our view that columnists on this level are receptive to only meeting with people of the level of Golda Meir, Rabin, Allon or Dinitz. I might add that the Israel Embassy does carry on a vigorous and indeed effective program of this type with such columnists and commentators.

Our disappointment with this aspect of the Kenen project led us to redefine the role of his project, and refer this matter for further consideration to the newly created Communications Advisory Committee to the NJCRAC Israel Task Force. This Advisory Committee is composed of some of the leading PR, advertising and opinion molders in this country, and I know that they have been giving some serious consideration to this particular problem.

While stating all this, I want you to also know that the NJCRAC Israel Task Force does concur with Si Kenen's views that an effective way of dealing with columnists, who are published in the local newspaper, is through letters to the editor and when necessary, meetings with the editors. Those involved in the media field tell us that the ultimate responsibility for carrying such columns remains with the local publishers and editors, and is not to be handled on a national level.

The development of media material aimed at local newspapers is an ongoing responsibility that is conducted through the NJCRAC Israel Task Force, and is reflected in the kind of material, which was provided with the memo on the Uganda Security Council debate. Our experience demonstrates that a number of communities effectively use such material with their local press. I might add that I can speak from my own personal experience as Director of the Philadelphia JCRC in finding such material useful with the local media. Such material really cannot be effectively separated from the policy making role of the agencies and therefore cannot be delegated to a separate media center as such.

In regard to the desirability of short films for TV purposes, I call your attention to nine 2-minute films on Israel that have been prepared by the American Jewish Committee on behalf of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force, and those films have appeared on prime time news shows of a number of local television stations throughout the United States. I also note that it was suggested that it would be valuable to have similar kinds of films on topics that are not related to Israel, and in that connection the Anti-Defamation League has prepared TV film shorts, most recently, dealing with the Bicentennial.

We do share your view that it is not possible for agencies to review and evaluate all the films that are currently available. It is for that reason that the NJCRAC Israel Task Force authorized the American Jewish Congress to set up a



The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

1750 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115 • PHONE (216) 861-4260

September 2, 1976

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
26000 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44124

Dear Rabbi Dan:

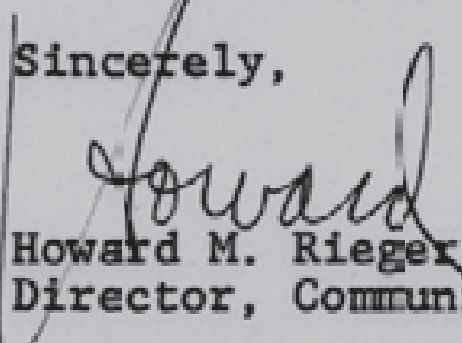
Enclosed you will find a draft of an Israel Task Force program budget that I prepared in response to the request from our Budget Subcommittee.

I have sent a copy to Elmer Rucker and, assuming that both of you feel this document is the right tool, we can then convene the Budget group a second time.

I have found it impossible, so far, to track down Mark Talisman, who continues to be on vacation, and therefore we have not been able to move that piece of our agenda along. I assume that at some point soon, I will be able to speak with him.

I'll be talking with you soon.

Sincerely,


Howard M. Rieger
Director, Community Relations

ag
Enclosure

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

PROGRAM BUDGET - ISRAEL TASK FORCE

July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976

The program activities of the Israel Task Force, translated into budget implications, account for approximately 50% of the \$30,000 that is available annually to the Committee for its operation. Approximately 50% of the funding supports staff, both secretarial and professional, through the employment of a community shaliach, a secretary for the Israel Task Force, and related expenses. The program phase of the budget, for convenience, may be considered in several categories, as follows:

INDIRECT SUPPORT OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERPRETATION IN THE NON-JEWISH COMMUNITY

Through the indirect "subsidization" of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the American Academic Association for Peace in the Middle East, the Israel Task Force has made available to a variety of opinion-makers, libraries and the media, important resource material in the form of the Near East Report, the Quarterly Academic Journal of APPME, Myths & Facts, and related material.

These expenses, for the fiscal year, amount to \$4,200.

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

The Israel Task Force has developed its own program of education and interpretation for the general and the Jewish communities. Included in this program are the composition, printing and distribution of several issues of "Highlights in the Middle East," sponsoring of communitywide meetings, such as the rally after the U.N. Zionist Resolution, entitled, "We Are All Zionists," the production of slide tape presentations, newspaper ads, and related distribution of articles of interest from a variety of sources in the media.

These costs have, during the last year, amounted to \$2,000.

ISRAEL PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

One of the important areas of activity for the Israel Task Force has been the provision of Israel experiences for young people, both Jewish and non-Jewish in our community. These programs have ranged from the Miami-Dade County High School in Israel, a program with a solid academic base in the school systems of the Eastern suburbs, academic programs in Israel sponsored by Kent State University, and a variety of other experiences. Intensive use is made of these students upon their return to Cleveland. The strength has been the linking of public schools with Israel programming and consequent impact upon local curriculum.

Another important aspect of this program has been to bring Israeli youngsters to Cleveland to serve in an interpretation program in the non-Jewish community, and also to send Cleveland emissaries to Israel for a similar purpose.

The total cost of this phase of Task Force activity for the fiscal year is \$6,000.

LIAISON WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

An important function of the Israel Task Force in Cleveland is to maintain liaison with similar bodies throughout the State of Ohio and, in fact, throughout the Middle West and at the national level. An important annual event has been the convening of the Ohio communities, as well as an annual Midwest Israel Task Force meeting.

Cost for these related programs has been \$800.

MONITORING OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

In addition to its activities in interpretation and education, the Israel Task Force has attempted to maintain contact and observe a variety of community activities, such as Arab-sponsored conferences, programs on the Middle East in the various universities, sessions of various service groups in Cleveland (Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.) and the provision of speakers where appropriate.

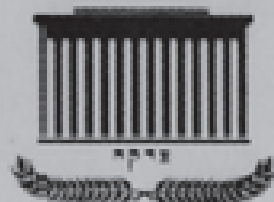
Cost of this program has been \$700.

MEDIA MONITORING

A regular process of monitoring of local and national printed media is an important part of the Task Force agenda. In addition, to local papers and the New York Times, regular subscriptions are entered in a variety of journals, for use as a resource in the person-to-person program, Middle East Highlights, and related uses.

Cost of this program has been \$500.

MISCELLANEOUS \$800.



The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

1750 EUCLID AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115 • PHONE (216) 861-4360

September 3, 1976

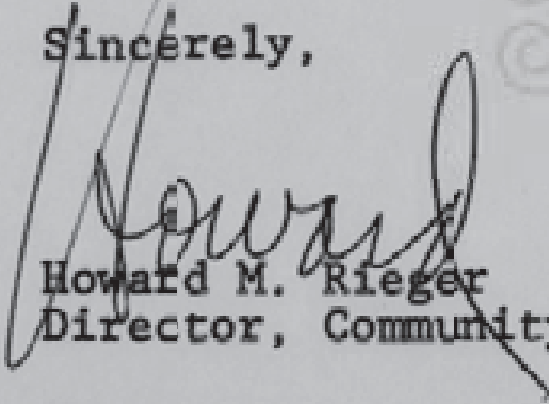
Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
26000 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44124

Dear Rabbi Dan:

Enclosed is a copy of an Evans and Novak column that appeared in the Plain Dealer on August 31. In view of the subject matter, do you think this warrants some response to the editor?

I'll talk to you on Tuesday to find out your thoughts on this.

Sincerely,


Howard M. Rieger
Director, Community Relations

ag

Enclosure

HOW TO HURT U.S. trade

By Rowland Evans
and Robert Novak

WASHINGTON — Ignoring warnings of a new Middle East crisis, Congress appears set on a collision course with the Ford



Inside Report

administration by passing a new law to block any cooperation by U.S. business with the anti-Israel Arab boycott.

High administration officials who have been fighting an anti-boycott amendment to the tax reform bill all this year fear that its real objective is to satisfy Israel's growing concern over intimate commercial relationships now building between the United States and Arab states.

"Until the 1973 oil embargo, Israel had us all to themselves," one high official told us. "Now the Arabs are moving in and the Israelis don't like it."

Thus, Treasury Secretary William Simon recently testified on Capitol Hill that the administration has been under "pressure . . . to mount a confrontational attack on the Arab boycott." Such an attack would fail, he said, would "harden Arab attitudes," and would reduce U.S. influence in seeking a Middle East settlement, endangering anti-boycott progress already made. That progress has come in the area of anti-Jewish religious discrimination, once a key part of the loosely-controlled Arab boycott.

But what Sen. Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut — and nearly 400 cosponsors in both House and Senate — wants is a change in tax laws denying tax and export benefits to U.S. companies doing business with Arab states under boycott conditions. Their target: Arab discrimination against Israel, an enemy state.

Such economic pressures would short-circuit American companies doing Arab business (at a 1975 rate of \$5.5 billion in exports) and reroute it elsewhere.

The reason is that even though Egypt and Saudi Arabia are quietly reducing the impact of the 20-nation Arab League boycott against Israel, they perceive the Ribicoff amendment as blatantly anti-Arab, dictated by pro-Israel domestic politics. Worse, they regard it as highly irregular interference in their right to wage economic warfare against an enemy (Israel).

The fact that Israel's economic minister here, Ze'ev Sher, has lobbied for passage of the Ribicoff amendment and other anti-boycott legislation, top officials suspect, is evidence of the deep Israeli fear over tightening U.S.-Arab economic links.

Compared to the lobbying against the Arab boycott now being conducted by the Israeli embassy and American-Jewish organizations (including a federal court suit by the American Jewish Congress to end U.S.-Saudi economic cooperation), Arab lobby efforts against the Ribicoff amendment are small.

Ribicoff told us that if his amendment stays in the tax reform bill, now in Senate-House conference, and becomes the law, the Arabs will end their boycott, because the United States is "the only country" supplying "what they need."

But the Treasury officials who have encouraged the fantastic rise in U.S.-Arab trade since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war flatly disagree. A U.S. law forcing Arab countries to transact business with major suppliers of Israel, they predict, would have the opposite effect: transfer the multibillion-dollar Arab business elsewhere, reducing the flow of petrodollars back into this country at a time when Arab oil is desperately needed.

"The Israelis want this legislation to cut the economic ties between the U.S. and the Arabs," one high official told us. "This is not a religious question of anti-Jewish discrimination but hardball politics." If that view is correct, passage of a tough anti-boycott law will move the United States toward yet another crisis in the Middle East.

[with
Sept 3, 1976]

National Jewish Community Relations NJCRAC Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

September 3, 1976

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
26000 Shaker Boulevard
Cleveland, Ohio 44122

Dean Dan:

We missed you at our meeting yesterday, but Howard called to explain. I do hope that it will be possible for you to attend the next meeting of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force, although the date has not yet been set.

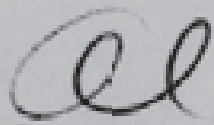
I am replying to your letter of August 17th regarding an evaluation of APPME.

To my knowledge there has been no evaluation of APPME, apart from its own internal assessments. I am sure that you appreciate the delicacy of the NJCRAC Israel Task Force presuming to undertake such an evaluation since APPME is not a project of the Task Force and accordingly is not directly accountable to us.

Nevertheless, I will refer your letter to Rabbi Israel Miller, whom Ted has appointed as his successor as Chairman of the Task Force, and to Ted Mann as well for their reactions.

Warmest regards.

Cordially,


Albert D. Chernin
Executive Vice Chairman

ADC:ls
cc: Theodore R. Mann
Dr. Israel Miller

cooperation in the common cause of Jewish community relations

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Representing Association of Jewish

Community Relations Workers

Meyer Fine



ISRAEL COMMISSION

ועדת ישראל של יהדות מתקדמת באמריקה

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 • (212) 249-0100

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Tracy H. Ferguson

CO-CHAIRMAN
Rabbi Leon A. Kronish

DIRECTORS
Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch
Rabbi Ira S. Youdovin

July 21, 1976

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I was delighted to learn that Arthur Lelyveld has appointed you to the Joint Commission on Israel. On behalf of our chairman and co-chairman, Mr. Tracy H. Ferguson and Rabbi Leon Kronish, and, of course, warmly for myself, may I extend a hearty baruch ha-ba.

There's no need to burden you now with a long catalogue of Israel Commission activities, most of which are already familiar to you. Suffice to say that I hope that your participation will be a source of naches to you, as it certainly will be for the Commission.

Please note that the next Commission meeting will take place on Sunday, November 14, 1976 in Jerusalem, immediately prior to the International Convocation of Progressive Rabbis and the Golden Jubilee Conference of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. If you are planning to attend these events, I hope that you will be at this historic Commission meeting as well.

The date of the next "stateside" Commission meeting will be announced shortly.

Have a good summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Shalom,

Rabbi Ira S. Youdovin
Director

ISY/dp

cc: Mr. Tracy H. Ferguson
Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld
Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser
Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch
Rabbi Leon Kronish

TASK FORCE ON JEWISH IDENTITY

Silver, Daniel Jeremy, Chairman

Haberman, Joshua O.
Rubinstein, Peter J.

Warshal, Bruce S.
Zimmerman, Sheldon

N
N RABBIS

(212) 734-7166

July 21, 1976

TO: Chairmen of CCAR Committees and Commission Delegations

Dear Colleague,

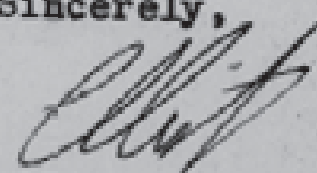
Enclosed is the current list of your committee, including any changes made by Arthur Lelyveld since the San Francisco convention. The second part of the listing is for corresponding members, if applicable to your committee.

During and after the convention, we received many requests from colleagues listed as corresponding members of committees that they be kept in closer touch with the inner workings of our committees. Our Constitution, incidentally, mandates that administrative committees should consult regularly with the entire open committee in their deliberations by mail.

I would like to suggest, therefore, that when circulating notices, minutes, etc. to your committee, they go through this office, and we will see to their distribution to the entire committee.

Very best wishes for a good summer.

Sincerely,


Elliot L. Stevens

/e

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*Ex-officio



NJCRAC

National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council

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

(212) 564-3450

September 9, 1976

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle - Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Dan:

I write to ask you to accept appointment as a community representative on the NJCRAC Commission on Israel.

As you know, key to the process of the NJCRAC is the work of our five Commissions. The Commissions are equally balanced between national and local member agency representatives. The Commission members from communities are critical to the effective working of the Commissions and, indeed, of the entire NJCRAC process.

In their respective areas of concern, the Commissions have the responsibility of identifying major problems for the Jewish community, deciding what should be done about them, formulating positions for the guidance of the agencies, recommending specific approaches and programs, and coordinating the activities of the agencies in carrying out those recommendations.

The Commission on Israel deals with the maintenance of American public opinion favorable to Israel and of U. S. government support for Israel, military, economic and diplomatic; combatting the Arab propaganda and the Arab boycott.

Rabbi Israel Miller of New York and Bernard S. White of Washington, D. C. have agreed to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Commission on Israel. The Commission is staffed by Dr. Gary S. Schiff.

In the coming year the Commission will meet in New York three times: Monday, October 25, 1976; May 2, 1977 and June 27, 1977 (in each instance the day following our

cooperation in the common cause of Jewish community relations

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-2-

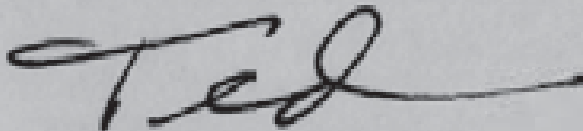
September 9, 1976

Executive Committee meeting). Commission members from communities are strongly encouraged to attend both the Executive Committee meeting as well as the Commission meetings, even though they may not be members of the Executive Committee. Because all five Commissions meet on the same day, we also urge you to sit in on a second Commission meeting that same day. Because of the need for continuity in our deliberations, it is hoped that all Commission members will attend the Plenary Session, our highest policy making body. The next Plenum will be in Miami, January 23-26, 1977.

To insure maximum community participation in the Commission process, community members are reimbursed for round trip coach fare incurred in connection with Commission meetings.

As soon as I have your acceptance, I will let your Commission Chairman know so that we may be in touch with you in due course.

Cordially yours,



Theodore R. Mann
Chairman

TRM:hw

cc: Howard Rieger



MAVANA
RAG-CONTENT

Com Israel

[1976]
September 15, 1976

Mr. Theodore R. Mann
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Ted:

I will be happy to serve on the NJCRAC Commission on Israel and I have noted the appropriate Monday dates in my calendar.

I wish you every manner of success in your new role as chairman and I will be pleased to serve you in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



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*deceased

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August 23, 1977

Rabbi Daniel J. Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We have recently been receiving an increasing number of requests for speakers at annual meetings, Federation dinners and other major community events.

Fully appreciating your busy schedule and many other obligations, I would very much like to include your name on a roster of available speakers which we are preparing.

Naturally, we will clear all speaking engagement requests directly with you in order to make certain that dates and locations are agreeable.

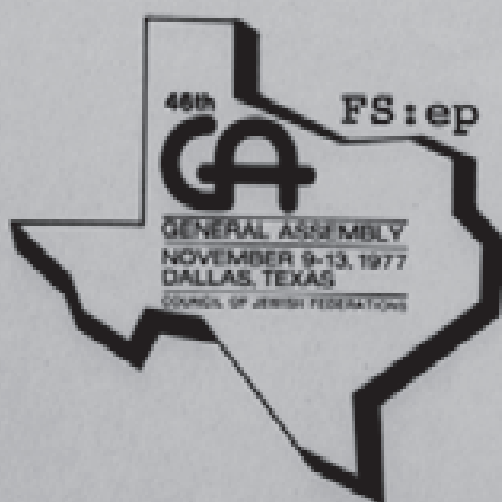
Your personal knowledge and experience in the Jewish communal field and your interest in CJF makes your inclusion on our speaker's list a top priority for us.

May I hear from you at your earliest convenience regarding this matter?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

FRANK STRAUSS
Director of Communications



August 30, 1977

Mr. Frank Strauss
Director of Communications
CJFWF, Inc.
575 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Strauss:

I would be happy to have my name listed in your roster of speakers for national Federation related meetings. I thank you for thinking of me. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

September 30, 1977

Mr. Albert Chernin
NJCRAC
55 West 42nd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Al:

I read with interest the report of our Task Force meeting of September 23. Any resemblance between that meeting and those minutes is purely coincidental.

I am glad to see that the Task Force is concerned with implementation. Unfortunately, I fail to see any notification of the passage of the resolution that a major portion of each Task Force meeting be devoted to the specifics of implementation. They ought not to be left to staff, spinning their minds at a typewriter.

With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

May 31, 1983

Mr. Charles Bromberg
NJCRAC
433 Park Ave, 11th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10016

Dear Charlie:

You asked for a series of suggestions as to the nuts and bolts work which I feel the National Israel Task Force should help organize.²

- 1) A list of the major religious business, labor, farm, civil rights and fraternal conventions at which statements on the Middle East might be put forth. Contact should be initiated with these groups in advance of their meetings and by the local community where the meetings take place.
- 2) There should be regular meetings with those who write on foreign policy for the small influential magazines: Harper's, Christian Century, Washington Quarterly, etc. It is probably futile to concern ourselves with the mass distribution news weeklies, but there are a number of influential special audience publications which should be cultivated.
- 3) A task force ought to be organized which would maintain close contact with the three major minority lobbies - black, Hispanic, and women. Those who have talking points with these groups should take leadership in this area.
- 4) I have recently completed a study of the Reform rabbinate and their reactions to last summer's events, and am enclosing a copy of that study. It seems clear from this group - and I suspect that it's true of Jewish liberals generally - that they get their material from a small number of sources (Moment, Present Tense, Shema, Christian Century. . .). Some thought should be given to a newsletter like the Near East Report which can phrase our issues for this particular and significant leadership group in terms that are instinctive to them.
- 5) The Task Force ought to collect and distribute information on programs which originate in the local communities and which might be duplicated with benefit. This newsletter would be sent

[May 31, 1983]

to local Federations and include comments on the effectiveness of the media presentation, speakers etc. as well as cautions and advice on programs, trips to Israel. . .

6) Part of each meeting of the National Task Force should be devoted to such nuts and bolts concerns. Policy discussions are important, but it's too easy to play statesman and forget a major part of our job is to make sure that we have done all we can to create ~~as positive a climate of opinion~~

I hope this finds you in good health. With all good wishes I remain

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp

Encl.

