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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 26, 1984

Dear Micah:

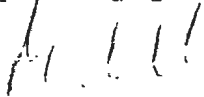
I am delighted to be able to confirm to you that Vice President Bush will be participating in the Capitol Rotunda Days of Remembrance program on April 30.

As we discussed, I am pleased to accept your suggestion that I provide welcoming remarks on behalf of President Reagan at the Kennedy Center program. To that purpose, I will secure a message from the President in commemoration of the remembrance evening.

As you requested, I will talk to you shortly regarding my views as to the appropriate participation of Judge Clark.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Marshall Breger, Esq..
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liaison

Mr. Micah Naftalin
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

cc: Marc Talisman
Hyman Bookbinder



United States Holocaust Memorial Council

January 26, 1984

Office of the
Senior
Deputy Director

Marshall Breger, Esq.
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Marshall:

Harve Mogul and I appreciated our meeting with you the other day. I am now preparing the materials you asked for concerning upcoming events of the Council.

At Sigmund Strochlitz's request, I am enclosing the programs of the Days of Remembrance National Ceremonies for 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983 (there was no 1980 ceremony as this came during the interregum between the wind-up of the Commission and the establishment of the Council).

Within the respective program books, the programs can be found, as follows:

1979, at page 19
1981, at page 8
1982, at page 6 for the White House ceremony; p. 14 for the Capitol Rotunda ceremony
1983, at page 1 of Sigmund's "Report from the Days of Remembrance Committee."

The official program book for the 1983 ceremony, which occurred during the American Gathering opening ceremony at the Capital Center, is now at the printer. The balance of the report (pp 2 & 3) provides some additional information about our Days of Remembrance activities, nation-wide.

Sigmund asked me to reiterate how gratified he was at meeting with you on yesterday.

Sincerely,

Micah H. Naftalin

Suite 832, 425 13th Street, NW Washington, DC 20004
202-724-0779

COPY
from ORM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 29, 1981

file
↓

MEETING: Days of Remembrance Observance
DATE: Thursday, April 30, 1981
LOCATION: Rose Garden
TIME: 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM

FROM: Elizabeth H. Dole

PURPOSE: To enable you to participate in the "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust" observance; conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which was established on October 7, 1980.

BACKGROUND: Established by Public Law 96-388, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council is tasked with providing appropriate observances on an annual, national and civic basis to commemorate the Days of Remembrance. They are also to plan, construct and oversee the operation of a permanent living memorial museum; as well as plan for carrying out the recommendations of the 9/27/79 Report of the President's Commission on the Holocaust.

President Carter addressed the first observance, held in the Capitol Rotunda, on April 24, 1979. He also spoke before the President's Commission on the Holocaust and guests in the East Room on the occasion of the submission of this 9/27/79 report. Yours will be the first Presidential participation in a Days of Remembrance observance to be held at the White House. The Jewish community considers your acceptance of this request to be a gesture of the highest order. This is a solemn, reverential observance and not a religious event.

PARTICIPANTS: See attached list.

PRESS PLAN: Full Press Coverage

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- 9:54 AM Welcome remarks by Jack Stein, Special Advisor to the White House, and invocation by Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN).
- 10:00 AM To offstage announcement, you depart the Oval Office and proceed onto dais for seating.
Remarks by Chairman Elie Wiesel, concluding in your introduction
- 10:09 AM You offer remarks and return to your seat upon completion.
- 10:17 AM Rep. Yates (D-ILL) conducts Candlelighting ceremony.
- 10:20 AM El Moleh and Kaddish Prayers, followed by thank you from Mr. Freedman.
- 10:23 AM You depart dais and return to Oval Office.

Attachments: Participants/Speech Text

PARTICIPANTS

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RONALD REAGAN

ELIE WEISEL, Chairman, United States Memorial Holocaust Council (also, Andrew Mellon Professor of Humanities, Boston University)

SENATOR RUDY BOSCHWITZ, Republican, Minnesota

CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES, Democrat, 9th District, Illinois

CANTOR ISAAC GOODFRIEND, Ahavath Achim Congregation, Atlanta, GA.

DR. ALFRED GOTTSCHALK, President, Hebrew Unity College,
Cincinnati, OH

MONROE FREEDMAN, Director, United States Memorial Holocaust Council

JACOB STEIN, Special Advisor to the White House

Note: In addition to the eight dignitaries that will be seated on the dais, the following Ambassadors will be in the audience.

Amb. Ephraim Evron, Israel

Amb. Peter Hermes, Republic of Germany

Amb. Jose Llado, Spain

Amb. Timothee N. Ahoua, Ivory Coast

Amb. Jacques Topande-Makombo, Central African Republic

Hon. Sergey B. Chetverikov, Counsellor to the Soviet Union

Numerous members of Congress are to be in attendance.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY REMARKS
APRIL 30, 1981

IT IS A PARTICULAR PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. THIS CEREMONY HAS MEANING NOT ONLY FOR JEWISH PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED, BUT FOR ALL OF US WHO WANT TO PREVENT ANOTHER HOLOCAUST.

JEREMIAH WROTE OF DAYS WHEN JEWS WERE CARRIED OFF TO BABYLON, AND JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED. JERUSALEM "WEEPS IN THE NIGHT, AND TEARS RUN DOWN HER CHEEKS," HE SAID.

2

TODAY, WE REMEMBER THE SUFFERING AND THE DEATH OF JEWS AND OTHERS IN WORLD WAR II. WE TRY TO RECAPTURE THE HORROR OF MILLIONS SENT TO GAS CHAMBERS AND CREMATORIA. AND WE COMMEMORATE THE DAYS OF APRIL IN 1945 WHEN AMERICAN AND ALLIED TROOPS LIBERATED THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS.

THE TRAGEDY THAT ENDED 36 YEARS AGO IS STILL RAW IN OUR MEMORIES BECAUSE IT TOOK PLACE IN OUR LIFETIME. WE SHARE THE WOUNDS OF THE SURVIVORS. WE RECALL THE PAIN ONLY BECAUSE WE MUST NEVER PERMIT IT TO COME AGAIN.

IT IS RIGHT THAT WE REKINDLE THESE MEMORIES BECAUSE WE NEED ALWAYS TO GUARD AGAINST TYRANNY. OUR SPIRIT IS STRENGTHENED BY REMEMBERING, AND OUR HOPE IS IN OUR STRENGTH.

THERE IS AN AMERICAN POEM THAT SAYS HUMANITY, WITH ALL ITS FEARS AND ALL ITS HOPES, DEPENDS ON US. IT IS THIS RESPONSIBILITY, AS FREE PEOPLE, THAT WE FACE TODAY. IT IS THIS COMMITMENT, AMONG FREE PEOPLE, THAT WE CELEBRATE.

THE HOPE OF OUR CEREMONY TODAY IS THAT EVEN A TORTURED PAST HOLDS PROMISE IF WE LEARN ITS LESSONS. ACCORDING TO ISAIAH, THERE WILL BE A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH, AND THE VOICE OF WEEPING WILL BE HEARD NO MORE.

TOGETHER WITH GOD WE CAN BEAR THE BURDEN OF OUR NIGHTMARE. IT IS UP TO US TO ENSURE WE NEVER LIVE IT AGAIN.

#

HANDWRITING FILE

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY REMARKS
APRIL 30, 1981

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Signs the document will exist

M. M. M.

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#

Jan
4/20/82

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

APPROVED FOR
Date: *4/20/82*
Time: *1:30 pm*
Length: *25, 30 mins*
Date: *3/31/82* GJH

4/20/82

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

March 30, 1982

TO:

GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM:

ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST:

"Days of Remembrance" - White House Event
with Presidential Participation

PURPOSE:

To remember the Holocaust and pay tribute to
those who suffered and perished.

BACKGROUND:

The United States Holocaust Memorial Council
sponsored the "Days of Remembrance" event that
was held in the East Room on April 30, 1981.
It received excellent press coverage and the
White House received hundreds of letters from
Jewish Americans commending the President for
his participation. It is recommended that a
similar ceremony be held this year.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:

The President participated in the April 30, 1981
Days of Remembrance ceremony. (please see attached).

DATE:

April 20, 1982

DURATION: 25 - 30 minutes

LOCATION:

The East Room

PARTICIPANTS:

250 members of the Jewish Community and others.

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

Please see attached format.

REMARKS REQUIRED:

Remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Open Press

RECOMMENDED BY:

Edwin Meese III; Ed Rollins; Elizabeth Dole

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER:

Jack Burgess

- Rechecked w/ OPL
- They are very
much in favor
of it.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE - APRIL 30, 1981

THE ROSE GARDEN, THE WHITE HOUSE

9:54 a.m. Welcoming remarks by JACOB STEIN

STEIN introduces SENATOR DANFORTH

9:56 a.m. Remarks by SENATOR JOHN C. DANFORTH (R-MO)

10:00 a.m. Offstage announcement

The PRESIDENT departs Oval Office en route dais.
and is seated.
Greeted by ELIE WIESEL - shakes hands and WIESEL
proceeds to lectern.

FULL PRESS COVERAGE - AUDIENCE: 350

10:01 a.m. Remarks by ELIE WIESEL, Chairman, United States Holocaust
Memorial Council. Concluding with introduction of the
PRESIDENT.

WIESEL remains at lectern with PRESIDENT.
The PRESIDENT and WIESEL together for photos.
WIESEL returns to his seat.

10:09 a.m. PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

FULL PRESS COVERAGE.....

10:18 a.m. PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS conclude

JACK STEIN returns to lectern to introduce
CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY R. YATES (D-IL) for candle-
lighting ceremony.

10:19 a.m. CONGRESSMAN YATES remarks.

CONG. YATES calls each name, the person (six in
all) lights a candle and waits at candles to hand
lighter to next name called - then returns to his area.

STEIN to lectern to introduce CANTOR ISAAC GOODFRIEND
(El Moleh) and DR. ALFRED GOTTSCHALK (Kaddish)

10:23 a.m. El Moleh/Kaddish by CANTOR ISAAC GOODFRIEND and DR. ALFRED
GOTTSCHALK

STEIN to lectern to introduce MONROE FREEDMAN, Director,
United States Holocaust Memorial Council

10:26 a.m. Concluding remarks by MONROE FREEDMAN, Director, U.S. Holocaust
Memorial Council. FREEDMAN asks guests to stand in place
while PRESIDENT leaves. FREEDMAN invites guests to reception.

1964

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 27, 1982

FJR
me
yes

MEMORANDUM FOR GREGORY NEWELL

FROM: MICHAEL O. WHEELER *MW*

SUBJECT: Request for President to Address the
United States Holocaust Memorial Council

We see no foreign policy reason for the President to participate in the ceremony for the national commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust at the White House April 18-25, 1982, and defer to the domestic advisers as to whether or not there might be good political reasons for the President to participate or that the ceremony be held at the White House.

1964

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

March 26, 1982

Wheeler
MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

THROUGH: CHARLES P. TYSON *CT*

FROM: GEOFFREY KEMP *GK*

SUBJECT: Request for President to Address the
United States Holocaust Memorial Council

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum from Greg Newell forwarding a request from the United States Holocaust Memorial Council asking that the ceremony for the national commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust -- "Days of Remembrance" -- be held at the White House April 18-25 and that the President participate and deliver remarks.

There is no compelling foreign policy reason why the President should participate or that it be held at the White House. Therefore, since the NSC Staff sees no foreign policy reason for the President to participate or that the ceremony be held here, I recommend that Michael Wheeler sign the memorandum to Greg Newell at Tab II deferring to the domestic advisers as to whether or not there might be good political reasons for the President to participate or that the ceremony be held at the White House.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize Michael Wheeler to sign the memorandum to Greg Newell at Tab II. *no need an ~~affirm~~ negative replies*

APPROVE ☒

DISAPPROVE ☐

Attachments

Tab I - Incoming from Greg Newell
Tab II - Wheeler to Newell memorandum

RECEIVED 22 MAR 82 18

TO 'CLARK'

FROM NEWELL, G

DOCDATE 20 MAR 82

DUBERSTEIN, K

15 MAR 82

YATES, SIDNEY R

05 MAR 82

KEYWORDS: HUMAN RIGHTS

AP

CONGRESSIONAL

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SCHEDULE CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE
VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST 18-25 APRIL AT THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR CLARK

DUE: 26 MAR 82 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

LORD

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(N /)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

3/24		transfer to Fe. 17		
Kemp	S	3/24 prepare memo to Clark		
	C	3/27 Wheeler's memorial offered to		mt. ci

DISPATCH

done dm 3/27

W/ATTCH

FILE

WH

(C)

dm

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MAR 22 1982

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 20, 1982

TO: ✓ RED CAVANEY - WILLIAM CLARK
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Ceremony for national commemoration of
the victims of the Holocaust - "Days
of Remembrance".
DATE: April 18-25, 1982
LOCATION: The White House
BACKGROUND: See attached.

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept ☒ Regret ☐ Surrogate ☐ Message ☐ Other ☐
Priority ☐
Routine ☐

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

The date of the actual ceremony is set at
4/20/82 and they would very much like to
have the ceremony in the East Room. This is the
#1 Jewish event of the year from a symbolic standpoint
+ we highly recommend. *[Signature]*

RESPONSE DUE 3-26-82 TO Fred J. Ryan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1964

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 20, 1982

CO 12 22 P 3: 07
TO: ~~WILLIAM-CLARK~~ - RED CAVANEY
FROM: GREGORY J. ~~NEWELL~~, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Ceremony for national commemoration of
the victims of the Holocaust - "Days
of Remembrance".
DATE: April 18-25, 1982
LOCATION: The White House
BACKGROUND: See attached.

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept___ Regret___ Surrogate___ Message___ Other___
Priority___
Routine___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 3-26-82 TO Fred J. Ryan

March 15, 1982

Dear Mr. Yates:

On behalf of the President, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for the March 5 letter which you cosigned with your colleagues who are members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. We appreciated hearing from you and receiving your request for a White House ceremony, with Presidential participation, for this year's Days of Remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust, to be held in April.

This is to assure you that your thoughtful request has been brought to the direct attention of the appropriate White House staff members for prompt and thorough consideration. You should be hearing further as soon as a determination can be made.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Sidney R. Yates
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

KMD/CMP/Lpt (KMD-5:21)

cc: w/copy of inc., Elizabeth Dole - for appropriate ACTION
w/copy of inc., Greg Newell - for appropriate ACTION
w/copy of inc., B. Oglesby - FYI ✓

WB RECORDS MANAGEMENT WILL RETAIN ORIG. INC.

(P's Comment - Why not we did it last year)

A

9

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 5, 1982

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

063593

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you in our capacity as members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, and as co-sponsors of the legislation passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress which established the Holocaust Memorial Council as a permanent part of the federal government.

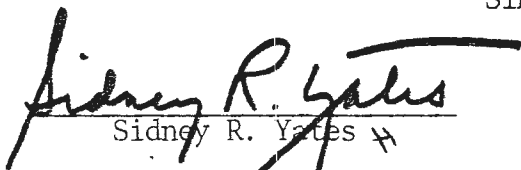
The first duty of the Council, set forth in that legislation, is the designation of an annual, national commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust, to be known as Days of Remembrance. This year, Days of Remembrance will fall on April 18 through April 25.

We consider it essential that the principal ceremony observing Days of Remembrance be in Washington, D.C., and that government officials at the highest level participate in the observance. We would like to request, therefore, that the ceremony take place in the White House (perhaps in the East Room or the Rose Garden) and that you might grace the occasion with your presence and with some appropriate remarks. Your participation and remarks during last year's ceremony were of great help in exposing the lies of those who deny that the Holocaust ever took place. We understand that the ceremony could take place any day between Sunday, April 18, and Thursday, April 22, at anytime during the day or evening, preferably on Tuesday, April 20, the internationally recognized Day of Yom Hashoah.

For millions of Americans of all faiths, the Holocaust is an event of deep emotional significance, and the effort to commemorate it is a deeply spiritual one. It would be uniquely appropriate, therefore, for you, as our President, to lead the Nation in expressing remembrance of the victims of tyranny.

Sincerely,

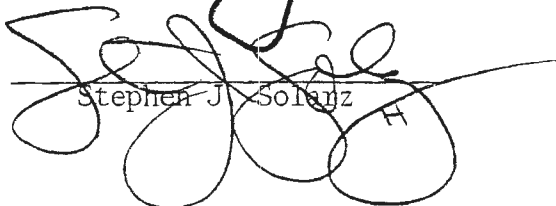
Mr.

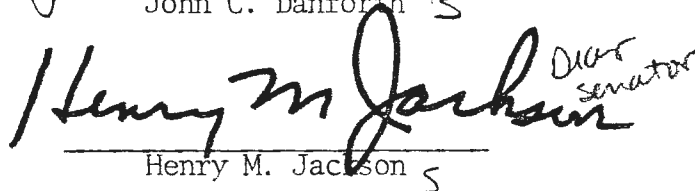

Sidney R. Yates #


John C. Danforth S

Dear Senator

Mr.


Stephen J. Solerz H


Henry M. Jackson S

Dear Senator

March 5, 1982

Mr. Bill Lehman
William Lehman H

Robert J. Dole
Robert J. Dole S Dear Senator

Jim James J. Blanchard
James J. Blanchard H

Claiborne Pell
Claiborne Pell S Dear Senator

Bill Bill Green
Bill Green H

Rudy Boschwitz
Rudy Boschwitz S Dear Senator

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 30, 1981

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE HOLOCAUST CEREMONY

The East Room

10:22 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I feel a little unnecessary because I don't know that anyone could say anything that would add to those words that we just heard. It is a particular pleasure for me to be here with you today. This meeting, this ceremony has meaning not only for people of the Jewish faith, those who have been persecuted, but for all who want to prevent another Holocaust.

Jeremiah wrote of the days when the Jews were carried off to Babylon and Jerusalem was destroyed. He said, "Jerusalem weeps in the night and tears run down her cheeks." Today, yes, we remember the suffering and the death of Jews and of all those others who were persecuted in World War II. We try to recapture the horror of millions sent to gas chambers and crematoria. And we commemorate the days of April in 1945 when American and Allied troops liberated the Nazi death camps. The tragedy that ended 36 years ago was still raw in our memories because it took place, as we've been told, in our life time. We share the wounds of the survivors. We recall the pain only because we must never permit it to come again. And, yet, today, in spite of that experience, as an entire generation has grown to adulthood, who never knew the days of World War II, and we remember ourselves, when we were younger, how distant history seemed, anything that came before our time -- and so the signs do exist, the ugly graffiti, the act of violence, the act of terrorism here and there, scattered throughout the world and not quite large enough in dimension for us to rally as we once did in that war.

I'm horrified today when I know that in here, that there are actually people now trying to say that the Holocaust was invented, that it never happened, that there weren't six million people whose lives were taken cruelly and needlessly in that event, that all of this is propaganda. Well, the old cliché that a picture is worth a thousand words. In World War II, not only do we have the survivors today to tell us first-hand, but in World War II, I was in the military and assigned to a post where every week, we obtained from every branch of the service all over the world the combat film that was taken by every branch. And we edited this into a secret report for the general staff. We had access to and saw that secret report. And I

MORE

remember April '45. I remember seeing the first film that came in when the war was still on, but our troops had come upon the first camps and had entered those camps. And you saw, unretouched -- and no way that it could have ever been rehearsed -- what they saw -- the horror they saw. I felt the pride when, in one of those camps, there was a nearby town, and the people were ordered to come and look at what had been going on, and to see them. And the reaction of horror on their faces was the greatest proof that they had not been conscious of what was happening so near to them.

And that film still, I know, must exist in the military, and there it is, living motion pictures, for anyone to see, and I won't go into the horrible scenes that we saw. But, it remains with me as confirmation of our right to rekindle these memories, because we need always guard against that kind of tyranny and inhumanity. Our spirit is strengthened by remembering and our hope is in our strength. There is an American poem that says humanity, with all its fears and all its hopes, depends on us.

As a matter of fact, it was the Pope at the end of World War II when the world was so devastated, and yet, we alone remained so strong, who said, "America has a genius for great and unselfish deeds, and into the hands of America, God has placed an afflicted mankind." I think that that was a trust given to us that we should never betray. It is this responsibility as free people that we face today. It's this commitment among free people that we celebrate.

The hope of a ceremony such as this is that even a tortured past holds promise if we learn its lessons. According to Isaiah, there will be a new heaven and a new earth and the voice of weeping will be heard no more. Together, with the help of God, we can bear the burden of our nightmare. It is up to us to ensure that we never live it again.

Theodore Roosevelt said that the presidency was a bully pulpit. Well, I, for one, intend that this bully pulpit shall be used on every occasion, where it is appropriate, to point a finger of shame at even the ugliness of graffiti, and certainly wherever it takes place in the world, the act of violence or terrorism, and that even at the negotiating table, never shall it be forgotten for a moment that wherever it is taking place in the world, the persecution of people, for whatever reason -- persecution of people for their religious belief -- that is a matter to be on that negotiating table or the United States does not belong at that table. (Applause.)

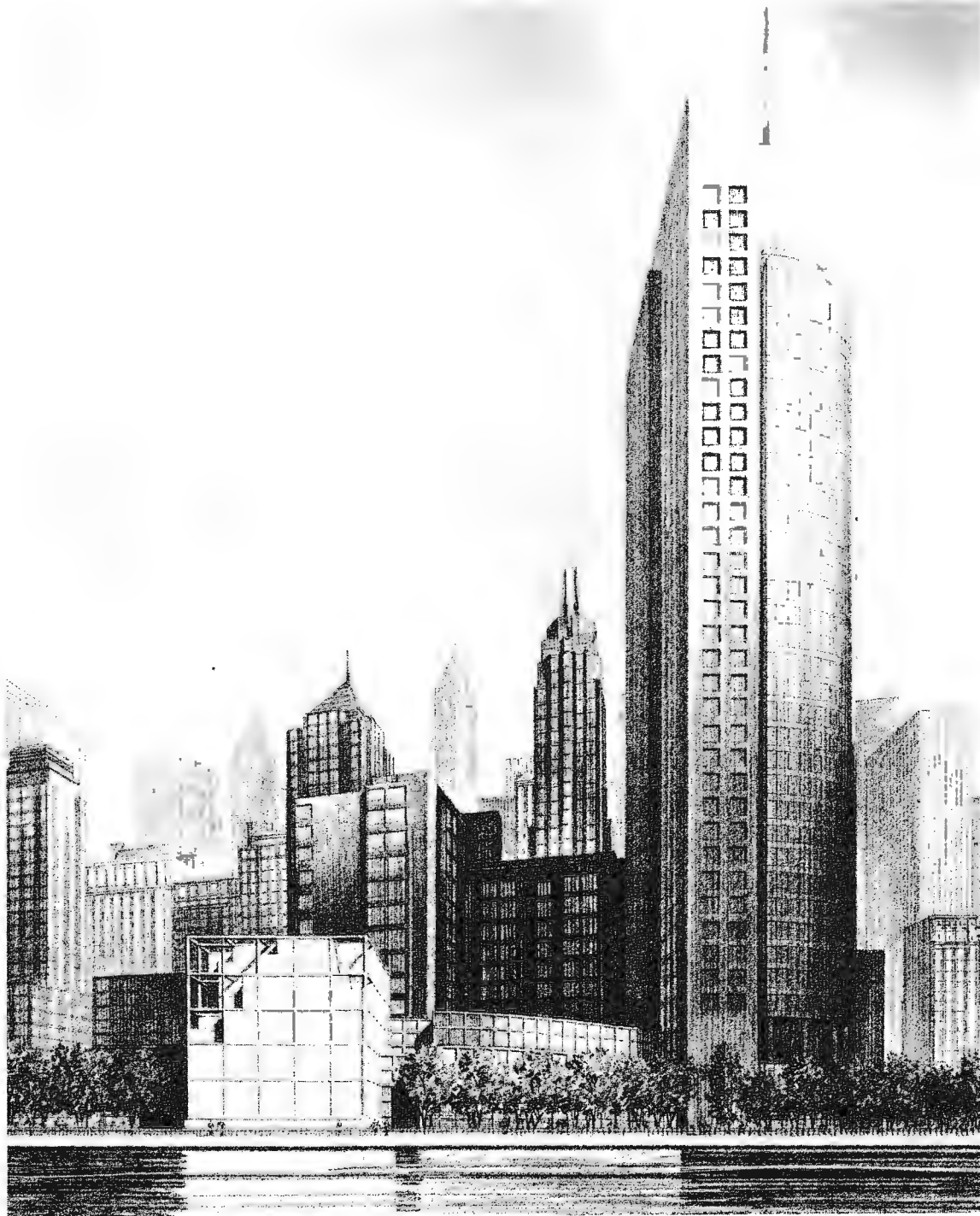
The Museum of Jewish Heritage

A Living Memorial
to the Holocaust

1-21-2018
open
(over)



Site of museum memorial in Battery Park City.



Rendering of museum and residential tower.

Introduction

Four decades ago, six million Jews, including one-and-one-half million children, were murdered systematically by the Nazis during the Holocaust. As they perished, countless innocent victims had one last wish—that the world would *remember* how they had lived, how they died, and the hopes that they cherished for the survival of the Jewish people and the Jewish spirit. Today, we pledge to meet that sacred obligation, to ensure the survival of these memories in perpetuity by creating The Museum of Jewish Heritage, a Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

The Museum will be a living memorial to the vitality and creativity of European Jewish civilization, and it forever will bear witness to the terror and tragedy of that world's annihilation. Moreover, the Museum will testify to the survival and renewal of Jewish life in America and Israel, for the Jewish communities in these two lands were nurtured by European Jewry and have become their principal heirs.

Standing on the shoreline opposite the Statue of Liberty, the Museum will educate and inspire visitors of all ages

and backgrounds, reminding them of the sanctity and fragility of human life. It will confront each successive generation anew, so that the lessons of the past may be marshaled to the cause of building a brighter future.

In conjunction with the development of the Museum, the Holocaust Commission will arrange for the construction of a 34 story residential tower which will help finance the Museum project.

This concept plan describes the basic facilities and functions of the Museum. Thus it lays the groundwork for what must be a unique institution dedicated to an unparalleled educational, cultural, and ethical vision.

The Museum will seek nothing less than to change the lives of all who enter. Visitors will explore the precious legacy of European Jewry and come to establish intimate links with a vibrant, dynamic world that is no more. They also will examine the record of the Holocaust, seeking to understand and interpret the events and issues of history's darkest hour. Finally, they will discover the continuity of Jewish tradition, which touches the lives of millions in America and Israel today because it first flourished for two millennia across the continent of Europe.

The Museum, therefore, will convey how ordinary and extraordinary human beings build and destroy, how the human spirit is capable of tyranny and heroism, and how the choices each of us makes in daily life truly affect the world and its destiny.

The Museum will answer the mandate issued by the New York Holocaust Memorial Commission, nominated by Governor Mario M. Cuomo and Mayor Edward I. Koch, who serve as Founding Chairmen of the Commission. The Co-Chairmen of the Commission are George Klein, Robert M. Morgenthau and Manfred Ohrenstein. Commission members include distinguished scholars and teachers, religious leaders, government officials, representatives of political and civic groups, prominent business figures, and accomplished creative and performing artists.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage will be located in Battery Park City, New York, adjacent to a four-acre park. Ground breaking is slated for the spring of 1987, and the Museum will open to the public in mid-1989.

Summary of Facilities

It should be noted that this concept plan consciously avoids reference to the detailed design of interior spaces, exhibition components, and educational and cultural elements of the Museum. The focus here is on the ways that facilities will function, the cognitive content and affective intent of the messages they will deliver, and the ways in which the various parts will be integrated within the larger whole. Even as these aspects of Museum planning are being concluded, work is proceeding on a next level of planning, in which a broad range of design solutions are being addressed.

It is understood that throughout the Museum, special emphasis will be given to the eyewitness testimonies of individuals who participated in European Jewish life in the early 20th century, those who experienced the Holocaust as victims, survivors, or rescuers, and those who struggled to build the American Jewish community and the modern State of Israel. These testimonies will serve to authenticate and personalize the record of life, death, and renewal that will be presented and commemorated in the Museum.

The Museum will be a multifaceted institution, aesthetically powerful in architecture and design, rich in state-of-the-art educational resources, and dynamic and creative in programmatic function. Encompassing some 150,000 square feet of interior space, it will include the following principal facilities:

Entrance Hall

This expansive area will convey in its architecture and interior design symbols of the Museum's thematic essence: the need to remember, the sanctity of human life, the beauty of European Jewish civilization, the tragic loss to the Jewish people and all of humanity engendered by the Holocaust, and the achievements and aspirations of Jewish immigrants to America and Israel. Informational displays and reception personnel will direct visitors to entry services [e.g. security, coatrooms, restrooms, and the like] and will explain the wide range of resources and programs available within the Museum.

Core Permanent Exhibition

"Remembering European Jewry and the Holocaust"

This exhibition will be the educational and emotional centerpiece of the Museum and will occupy nearly 75% of the total space allotted for permanent exhibitions. Here visitors will explore 19th and early 20th century European Jewish civilization and culture; they will learn about the distinctive characteristics of Jewish communities in each region of Europe as well as about the religious, communal, and cultural currents that touched the lives of Jews throughout the continent. Then visitors will see how the genocidal plans of the Nazis unfolded and the process by which the world of European Jewry was destroyed. This exhibition will conclude with the liberation of the concentration camps and killing centers at the end of the Holocaust, showing how this event set the stage for the struggle of survivors to rebuild Jewish life in Europe, Israel, and the Americas.

Memorial

This monumental hall will honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Rising to a height of 60 feet, its exterior

will serve as the architectural image of the Museum; inside will be a solemn, awe-inspiring space for personal contemplation and public ceremonies of commemoration.

Hall of Learning

In this area, visitors will be able to probe aspects of European Jewish civilization, the Holocaust, and Jewish immigration to America and Israel by consulting texts, still and moving images, and sound recordings stored in the Museum's computer and videodisc data banks. In addition, special presentations will allow visitors to explore in depth a number of important themes described more briefly in the Core Permanent Exhibition.

Supplementary Permanent Exhibitions *“Jewish Immigration to America”*

This display will present the story of Jewish immigration to the United States from 1654 until today, a theme of great historical significance and one not treated in any other major permanent presentation anywhere in the world. Here visitors will learn how the European Jewish civilization described in the Core Permanent Exhibition gave birth to the American Jewish community, whose ancestry derives predominantly from Central and Eastern European Jewry of the mid-19th to early 20th century, and in the last generation from survivors of the Holocaust.

The Museum site is uniquely appropriate—a short walk from the spot where Jews first landed on American soil more than three hundred years ago and across the bay from the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Nearby as well will be the boat pier for excursions to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, which will offer visitors to The Museum of Jewish Heritage options for richly rewarding complementary tours.

“Immigration to Israel”

This exhibition will trace the story of Jewish immigration to the Land of Israel from the late 19th century until today. Here visitors will discover how the age-old dreams of “Next year in Jerusalem” were translated into the ingathering of Jews from all over the world and the creation of the modern State of Israel. This presentation will complement the Core Permanent Exhibition by showing how modern Jewish nationalism had its origins in late 19th century Europe, how refugees from Nazi oppression struggled to reach Palestine and were assisted by the Jewish community there, and how survivors of the Holocaust have established new lives in the Jewish state.

Temporary Exhibition Gallery

This space will house historical exhibitions originated by the Museum or borrowed from other institutions.

Art Gallery

This hall will display artistic works, of diverse media, that document and interpret the world of European Jewry, the Holocaust, and Jewish immigration to America and Israel. Together with the Temporary Exhibition Gallery, this space will allow the Museum to develop exhibitions that travel to other museums, to host exhibitions originated elsewhere, and thus to reach audiences worldwide as well as to stimulate repeat visitation to the Museum.

Auditorium

Here, fixed seating for 300 to 400 persons will be available with facilities for lectures, conferences, films, stage presentations, and musical performances.

Education Center

Here, modular room configurations with movable seating will allow for youth and adult programming such as classes, seminars, and other activities involving groups of 20 to 100 persons.

Reference Library

Housing a basic collection of approximately 10,000 volumes with tables and carrels for individual study, this facility will serve, principally, the Museum staff and visiting teachers who wish to prepare curricular materials.

Videotaping Studio

This group of rooms provides for the process of interviewing visitors, and particularly survivors of the Holocaust, who will record testimony about European Jewish life, the Holocaust, and Jewish immigration to America and Israel.

Museum Shop

Here, relevant books, computer and audiovisual software, and teaching materials will be offered.

Sculpture Garden

Adjacent to the Museum building there will be a landscaped area with appropriate sculptures; it will be suitable to accommodate public gatherings and ceremonies.

The Main Path

The majority of first-time visitors to the Museum will proceed directly from the Entrance Hall to the main circulation path, whose components will be the Core Permanent Exhibition and the Memorial. Visitors will devote, on the average, approximately 90 minutes to this journey, which will proceed in a fixed order as follows: "Prologue," "The World Before," "The Holocaust," "Liberation," and the Memorial.

The "Prologue" will provide a highly dramatic introduction to the journey that is to follow. Here visitors will come to understand that they will be told a story that leads from life to death to memory and renewal. They will encounter in a personal way individuals and families who escaped, perished in, or survived the Holocaust, and thus they will be oriented to focus on the human dimensions of the history they are about to learn. Visiting time in the "Prologue" will be approximately five minutes.

"The World Before" will allow visitors to explore European Jewish civilization from two angles of vision—one geographical, the other thematic. These two complementary approaches, taken together,

will underscore the unity and interrelatedness of the Jewish people as well as the elements of diversity within their richly variegated society and culture.

The *geographical* presentation will survey significant historical, demographic, religious, communal, and cultural aspects of European Jewry's four major regions, i.e., Eastern Europe (Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Rumania, Slovakia, Northern Hungary), Central Europe (Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Southern Hungary), Western Europe (France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Denmark), and Southeastern Europe (Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia).

In these four major displays, visitors will explore the deep roots of the many and varied Jewish communities in different European countries, how those communities interacted with their neighbors, and the many separate yet ultimately interwoven legacies that they left behind. The displays will present original artifacts, documents, and still photographs together with explanatory text panels, maps, and the like; their design will allow visitors to get a quick overview in 10 to 15 minutes,

but those who wish to investigate and appreciate these worlds more deeply will find enough material to view for several hours.

The *thematic* presentation will offer a kaleidoscopic overview of European Jewry with emphasis on daily life, religion, community, and culture. It will show the homes and work, education and recreation of Jews living in diverse social and economic circumstances throughout Europe in the 19th and early 20th century. It will describe the religious life that flourished in European synagogues, schools, benevolent societies, and homes. Visitors will experience a sense of the observances of daily life, Sabbaths, seasons of the year, and the rites of human passage; they also will learn about the vibrant movements—Hasidism in its many varieties, neo-orthodoxy, reform, and conservative—that chose different paths to maintain Jewish tradition in an era of ferment and change. Visitors will explore communal structures, rabbinical and secular leadership, and political movements among European Jewry, the dynamics of developing Zionist parties, Jewish socialists, diaspora nationalists, and other groups that sought to confront the obstacles and embrace the opportunities that modernity raised for the Jews.

Finally, they will learn about the distinctive cultural milieu of European Jewish life, as well as the great contributions of Jews to the larger world of European science, arts, and letters. Thus, they will come to understand the achievements of rabbinical scholars, Hebrew and Yiddish writers, philosophers and historians of Judaism, synagogue architects and artisans, and Yiddish actors on the one hand, and the extraordinary role of such universally known figures as Kafka, Freud, Chagall, and Mahler on the other.

This thematic presentation likely will be a film program of approximately 30 minutes' duration and will allow visitors to view the program conveniently once they have explored the geographical displays for as long as they wish.

"The Holocaust" will describe the events and issues of the 1933-1945 period so as to convey the stark sequential process that resulted in the destruction of European Jewry.

While attention will be given to the Nazi rise to power, the development of the

Axis forces, and the history of the World War, the central focus here will be to describe and explain how the Final Solution was conceived, prepared, and ultimately implemented. Visitors will learn, first of all, how the Nazis defined the concept of "Jew" by legal decree and then used state powers to isolate and discriminate against the Jews, stripping them of legal rights and public positions, expropriating their property and businesses, and imposing a bureaucratic stranglehold on every dimension of Jewish life.

Then will follow a description of expulsion to ghettos and the circumstances of ghetto life in Reich-Protectorat and Eastern Europe. Finally, visitors will see how the Nazis systematically murdered Jews during mobile killing operations in the USSR and by deporting Jews from throughout Central, Western, and South-eastern Europe to concentration camps and killing centers; they also will learn how the Reich extended its program of brutality and murder against various groups of non-Jews.

Like the geographical displays in "The World Before," the exhibits in "The Holocaust" will be fully detailed, with original artifacts, documents, still photographs, and film footage as well as

explanatory materials. Here, a basic overview will require a visit of approximately 25 minutes.

"Liberation" will describe how the armed forces of the United States and the Allies freed the surviving prisoners of Nazi concentration and death camps. Visitors will learn here of the varying fates of those survivors—the many who died of starvation and disease soon after gaining their freedom, those who languished in Displaced Persons camps, and the circumstances of their eventual return to war-torn Europe or difficult journeys to reach new homes in Israel and the Americas. This final chapter of the Core Permanent Exhibition, then, will address the beginnings of a shattered world's attempt to heal and rebuild. Here, generations yet unborn may "locate" themselves within the history of survival, thus internalizing personal commitments to struggle and to hope.

The Memorial entrance will be immediately adjacent to the conclusion of the "Liberation" segment of the Core Permanent Exhibition. The interior of this chamber will be in itself a strong sculp-

tural statement, dominated by a powerful image evoking memory—perhaps an eternal flame. Here visitors will find a space conducive to reflection on the lessons of life and loss they just have confronted. They will pause for as long as they wish, some to offer memorial prayers, others to meditate in silence. All will find here a place quietly to remember, to respond, and to gather the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual strength to go forward.

Hall of Learning

In this area, visitors will be able to explore the myriad questions about European Jewry, the Holocaust, and Jewish immigration to America and Israel that may arise from their experience in the Core and Supplementary Permanent Exhibitions or from issues they have confronted outside the Museum. One area of the hall will be devoted to special presentations that will explore in depth themes that fall outside the chronological and geographic focus of the main circulation path or that will be treated in summary fashion in the main path and developed more fully here. These special presentations will include the following topics:

Anti-Semitism—a history of major concepts, proponents, events, and reactions from antiquity to modern times, with emphasis on the roots of Nazi ideology and precedents for discrimination against and persecution of the Jews.

Bystanders and Abandonment of the Jews—a description of how news of Nazi genocidal plans and acts reached the outside world and how various leaders, organizations, and governments failed to respond adequately to this unprecedented catastrophe in the making.

The Righteous—an account and celebration of the heroic officials, like Raoul Wallenberg, and ordinary individuals who risked their lives to protect and rescue Jews during the Nazi era.

Resistance—a record of the many acts of physical rebellion and spiritual resistance, particularly in the ghettos, concentration camps, and killing centers, with descriptions of the extraordinary personalities who participated in such courageous efforts.

Crimes Against Humanity—a description of the post-war efforts to identify, apprehend, prosecute, and punish Nazi war criminals.

Liberation—a detailed account of how United States and Allied armed forces came to liberate the concentration and death camps, including videotaped testimonies by liberators and survivors. This presentation also will honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the struggle for liberation.

Alongside these special presentations, the study center will house a battery of information carrels [individual study stations] linked to the Museum's computerized data base and videodisc storage capabilities. Here, individuals and small groups will be able, easily and efficiently, to explore topics of interest at their own pace and educational level. Each carrel will be equipped with headphones for private listening and video display devices called "touch screens" [which allow viewers to select materials for study simply by touching words or images on the screen]. This sophisticated installation will allow visitors of all ages and backgrounds instantly to retrieve texts, still and moving

images, and sound recordings, including materials from the following pre-programmed collections:

Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony [organized by special arrangement with Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem]—translated from eight languages, these pages record the stories of some one-and-one-half million Holocaust victims and the names of one-and-one-half million more who perished. Here, as in the programs listed below, the Museum staff will be able to update records continually as academic research and eyewitness testimonies uncover new facts and evidence.

Bet Hatefutsoth Community Records [organized by special arrangement with Bet Hatefutsoth Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv]—these document the fates of some 3,000 separate European Jewish communities during the Holocaust, drawing from community registries, memorial books, eyewitness accounts, and modern research.

Video Testimonies—personal accounts by Holocaust survivors and other Jewish emigres from Europe, and Jewish immigrants to America and Israel, as recorded by the Yale University Archives, the Museum's own Testimony Archives, and comparable institutions around the world.

Documentary films and original film footage.

Recordings of European Jewish music.

Archival documents—in original languages and English translation.

An encyclopedic reference—text and images on persons, places, events, and concepts related to the world of European Jewry, the Holocaust, and Jewish immigration to America and Israel.

Collections and Other Resources

The Museum will be a living center for education about the lives of European Jewry, the Holocaust, and the renewal of Jewish life in America and Israel. It need not, and indeed should not, duplicate research capabilities already abundantly available in New York at many public and private universities, libraries, archives, and the like. Rather, the Museum will strive to work cooperatively with those

institutions, as well as with related organizations and facilities around the world. Thus, the New York Holocaust Memorial Commission will enter into agreements for joint projects with, for example, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in Washington D.C., Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, and Bet Hatefutsoth Museum of the Jewish Diaspora in Tel Aviv. Moreover, a number of New York-based Jewish and Holocaust-related organizations will establish offices and other facilities in the Museum complex. The Commission also will continue to call upon leading experts in a wide range of disciplines to play advisory roles in the development of new approaches to the tasks of preservation, education, and commemoration. Clearly, The Museum of Jewish Heritage will play a leading role in the development of an international network of educational and cultural institutions that study and memorialize European Jewish life and the Holocaust.

Conclusion

The Museum will touch the lives of millions and stand for generations. New Yorkers and visitors from across the nation and around the world will come here to learn and to commemorate. Each day, every facility will be alive with activity—tours of exhibitions, cultural events, educational activities for young and old, public conferences and ceremonies, professional seminars—challenging the hearts and minds of all who participate. They will emerge with a greater understanding of the Jewish heritage and a deeper commitment to promote justice and liberty for the entire human family.

The Museum also will sponsor many programs of outreach services that will extend its educational impact to many audiences throughout the City, the nation, and beyond. Traveling exhibitions, publications, teacher training institutes, and specially produced audiovisual and computerized materials are among the diverse resources that the Museum will make available to schools, educational and cultural organizations, and civic and religious groups who will help to further the Museum's important work.

The goals set by the Commission for The Museum of Jewish Heritage are indeed ambitious. We seek to ensure the survival of precious memories, to perpetuate the tradition and creativity of European Jewry, to bear witness to the catastrophe of the Holocaust, and to keep alive the ideals and hopes of Jewish civilization and culture. Surely, this Museum and living memorial can make a unique contribution now and in the future, so the world will never forget how the Jews of Europe lived, how they died, and the hopes that they cherished for the survival of the Jewish people and the Jewish spirit. The legacy and lessons we inherit require no less.

New York Holocaust Memorial Commission

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**New York
Holocaust Memorial
Commission**



United States Holocaust Memorial Council

February 17, 1987

Mr. Max Green
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Max:

I am writing to you in my new capacity as public affairs director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. As you may know, Richard Krieger is no longer executive director of the Council, but a note from you to him inquiring about the Soviets' role in our upcoming conference ("The Other Victims: Non-Jews Persecuted and Murdered by the Nazis") was passed to me for response.

As I know you are aware, Soviet citizens were also victims of the Nazi genocide. Their role in this conference will be limited to that topic. In that regard, the Soviets have donated archival documents to the Council, including important eye witness accounts of Babi Yar.

While we, too, are concerned about Soviet violations of human rights and international law, that is not the subject of the conference.

Give me a call if you have any questions (653-9220).

Sincerely,

Sam Eskenazi
Director, Public Affairs